

Serving This Week:

Sunday Morning

Announcements: Howell Todd
Song Leader: Kyle Richardson
Opening Prayer: William Glover
Scripture Reading: Mel Hebert
Lord's Supper:
Presiding: Howell Todd
Serving: Aaron Hebert
Robert Glover
Preaching: Mel Hebert
Closing Prayer: Dan Higgins

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer: Dan Higgins
Preaching: Mel Hebert
Closing Prayer: Howell Todd

Wednesday Evening

Opening Prayer: Brian Horner
Devotional: Mel Hebert
Closing Prayer: Dan Higgins

Serving Next Sunday:

Pres. Lord's Supper: Dan Higgins
Preaching: Brian Horner
Opening Prayer: Mel Hebert
Closing Prayer: Howell Todd

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men will meet tonight following worship service.

Tonight following worship will be a brief meeting about VBS.

Our Gospel meeting is almost a month away. Ask what you can do to help!

Rome's Gospel meeting is today thru Wed.

Please call to inform us of News items or Prayer Requests that need to be in the Bulletin:
Kyle Richardson - 495-7106
Dorothy Jean Smith - 444-5437

GROW TEAM MEETINGS

Correspondence - Sunday evenings after worship *see Kyle Richardson.*

Visitation/Bible Study - For assignments see *Brian Horner.*

Member Care - Regarding Member needs contact *Mel Hebert: 443-7779.*

Flower Request - Please call *Danise Fisher: 237-3239*

Bethel Church of Christ

2427 Sparta Pike, Lebanon TN 37090

<http://www.bethelcoc.net>

August 9, 2009

Sunday Bible Study: 10 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 AM

Sunday Evening Worship: 6 PM
Wed Bible Study: 7 PM

The Future of the Church is Bright

There is an abundance of bad news in our world today. If you turn on the news programs, it seems they focus solely on disasters and turmoil in our world. Some in the church are the very same way. They focus only on the negative. Instead of noticing what is going right with the church, they tend to focus only on brotherhood problems and try to point out things going wrong with the church. If you listen to these folks you would think that the future of the church is pretty grim, but I believe the future of the church is bright! The following are some reasons why I believe this.

The future of the church is bright because of the source that planned it. In Ephesians 3:10-11 the Bible speaks of the church being in God's eternal purpose. The church existed in the mind of God before the world was ever created. When we follow God's rulebook for the church, the Bible, the church will run like a well oiled machine. It is only when we depart from it that problems arise.

The future of the church is bright because of the sacrifice that purchased it. Acts 20:28 tells us that Christ purchased the church with His blood. No denomination can claim that! 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 tells us that we as Christians have been bought with a price. Christ paid the ultimate price for us, so as Christians we are valuable to God. Because of this, our future is bright.

The future of the church is bright because of the sword that protects it. Hebrews 3:12 tells us that the word of God is powerful. The comparison is made to a two-edge sword. This powerful sword protects the hearts of those who read and obey it. In Psalm 119:11 the Bible says, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee."

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Following God's word protects us from the dangers and disappointments found in sin.

The future of the church is bright because of the seed that perpetuates it. Luke 8:11 says the seed is the word of God. When the seed of the Gospel is planted in a heart today, it produces the same things that it did in the 1st century, a New Testament Christian. That is why it is so important that we be out sowing the seed of the Gospel with our friends and neighbors. You can't produce a crop without planting a seed, and you can't produce a Christian without sowing the word of God.

The future of the church is bright because of the salvation promised it. We don't just have a hope of heaven as faithful Christians, we have a promise from God. John 14:1-3 says that Jesus has gone to prepare a place for the redeemed of all ages. He has prepared a place and He has promised to come back again and receive us into that place, if we are faithful to Him. This promise ensures that not only will the future of the church be bright here on earth, but that it will be bright for all eternity.

I am not suggesting we ignore brotherhood problems or issues. There is a place and a time to discuss problems in the church and how to deal with them. However, let us be resolved to focus more on what is going right in the Lord's church and never forget that its future is truly bright.

Randle Evans, Cadiz, KY

Wrong Peter

In a Bible class of three year olds, the teacher asked, "And who was Matthew?" There was no answer. She then said, "Well, who was John, certainly you remember him?" Still no answer. "Now, come on children," said the teacher, "you're letting me down.

Surely someone knows who Peter was now speak right up!" A soft voice came from the back row, "I fink he wuz a wabbit."

- Via Bulletin Digest



Remember in Prayer

Shut Ins:

Vallie Andrews
Fannie Bell Warren
Janelle Arrington

Others:

Bradley & Betty Glover
Hollis Cluck
The Pfaffs - Missionaries
Diane Chopay
Vickie Wade
Craig Cook
Judy Higgins
Muril Todd
Karen Hudson - cancer
Diane G.'s mother - asthma
Charles Grisham
Christy Garrett
Bonnie Richardson - cancer
The Entire Bryan Family
Mrs. Litchford

August Birthdays

14 - Evelyn Graham
25 - Dan Higgins
26 - Mel Hebert

August Anniversaries

31 - Bob & Danise Fisher

Daily Bible Reading

DAY	MORN.	EVE.
Sunday	Job 9-10	PR 19
Monday	Job 11-12	PR 20
Tuesday	Job 13-14	PR 21
Wednesday	Job 15-16	PR 22
Thursday	Job 17-18	PR 23
Friday	Job 19-20	PR 24
Saturday	Job 20-21	PR 25

This Week's Bible Trivia:

Q - What books in the Bible do not contain the name of God?
Check back next week for the answer!

Last Week's Trivia:

Q - What two disciples did Jesus nickname "Sons of Thunder"?
A - James & John. (Mark 3:17)