

## Serving This Week:

### Sunday Morning

**Announcements:** Brian Horner  
**Song Leader:** Kyle Richardson  
**Opening Prayer:** Dan Smith  
**Lord's Supper**  
**Presiding:** Howell Todd  
**Serving:** Eric Horne  
Ken Grandstaff  
**Preaching:** Brian Horner  
**Closing Prayer:** Ken Grandstaff

### Sunday Evening

**Opening Prayer:** Howell Todd  
**Preaching:** Brian Horner  
**Closing Prayer:** Dan Smith

### Wednesday Evening

**Opening Prayer:** Howell Todd  
**Devotional:** Brian Horner  
**Closing Prayer:** Kyle Richardson

### Serving Next Sunday:

**Lord's Supper:** Howell Todd  
**Preaching:** Howell Todd  
**Opening Prayer:** Ken Grandstaff  
**Closing Prayer:** Dan Smith

**To all our visitors - Welcome!**  
**We hope you will come back**  
**and worship with us soon!**

### TEAM MEETINGS

**Correspondence** - Sunday evenings after worship see Kyle Richardson.  
**Visitation/Bible Study** - For assignments see Brian Horner.  
**Member Care** - Regarding Member needs contact Kyle Richardson.  
**Flower Request** - Please call Lynda Ann Sparkman: 444.0938(h) 587.8187(c)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Potter's Food Drive:

Toilet Paper  
Chunk Pineapple  
Shortening

### Men's Business Meeting:

Tonight after worship.

### Pantry:

Please let Howell know of anyone in our community who needs help!

### God's Plan of Salvation

**Hear** the Word  
(Rom 10:17)

**Believe** in Jesus  
(John 8:24)

**Repent** of your sins  
(Luke 13:3)

**Confess** faith in Christ  
(Rom 10:10)

Be **Baptized** for forgiveness of sins  
(Acts 2:38)

Live **Faithfully**  
(1 Cor. 15:58)

### Daily Bible Reading

Day	Scripture
<b>Sunday</b> ( <i>Epistles</i> )	1 John 4-5
<b>Monday</b> ( <i>The Law</i> )	Deuteronomy 23-28
<b>Tuesday</b> ( <i>History</i> )	Nehemiah 5-13
<b>Wednesday</b> ( <i>Psalms</i> )	Psalms 140-145
<b>Thursday</b> ( <i>Poetry</i> )	Song of Sol. 1-4
<b>Friday</b> ( <i>Prophecy</i> )	Revelation 1-11
<b>Saturday</b> ( <i>Gospels</i> )	Acts 21-24

## Bethel church of Christ

2427 Sparta Pike, Lebanon TN 37090

<http://www.bethelcoc.net>

December 16, 2012

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

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

Paul wrote in **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10**, "*But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;*"

It seems Paul is saying here that brotherly love ought to come naturally to the child of God. As His children we have become partakers in His nature. We know that God is love, and as His children we also are to love each other. Brethren, the command here is not to "accept" one another or to "put up with" one another. It is not even to "know" one another or to "like" one another. The command, and yes it is a command, is to "love" one another. Love is often misunderstood. Many people think that love is an emotion. A number of songs that have been written about love speak of it as an emotion. Love is not an emotion. An emotion is an involuntary feeling in response to a person or event. Love is an intellectual exercise. Love must be cultivated. The way you learn to love someone is not by changing that person to meet your standards but by learning to practice love in spite of yourself. It has been said that love conquers all, but one must first conquer the envy, prejudice, resentment, or pride in himself before he can truly learn to love.

So it is with brotherly love. We are to love each other as God loves us. It is easy to love God, right? Well, it may not be as easy as many think. God has stated that if we do not love our brother, we do not love Him (**1 John 4:20-21**). You see, we love God because He first loved us (**1 John 4:19**). That's easy enough. It is not hard at all to love someone who loves you. But look at how God loves us:

*"But God commandeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* (**Rom 5:8**)

God did not wait for us to meet his expectations before He loved us. He loved us when we were dirty, vile, wretched sinners. He loved us when He couldn't abide with us because of our sin. He loved us even when we rejected Him. He loved us so much that He sacrificed His Son on a cross

(continued from page 1)...

for us so He might once more abide with us.

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." (John 14:34) So you see, we are to love each other as Christ has loved us. We were practicing love, but they needed to increase more and more. Their love for all brethren must pass the boundaries of Macedonia. The love that they had for each other was not enough, for it could not have been the love with which Christ had loved them. That is perfect love. Let us so love. There is no room in God's kingdom for jealousies, grudges, or any lack of love between brethren. Perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18).

Michael Grooms  
Highland Heights church of Christ

### The Emotional Effects of Sin

Mental illness is undoubtedly one of the major health problems of our society. It has been estimated that at least half of those persons in hospital beds are there partly because of their emotional problems. Dr. S.I. McMillen, author of "None of These Diseases," has made the statement that "medical science recognizes that emotions such as fear, sorrow, envy, resentment and hatred are responsible for the majority of our sickness. Estimates vary from sixty percent to nearly one hundred percent." What are some of the emotional effects of sin?

First, sin separates a person from a being of absolute purity, God (Isaiah 59:1-2). No one can live a fulfilling life and enjoy true happiness as long as he is separated from his creator.

Second, sin saddens. The prodigal son was in a state of depression until he "came to himself" and was reunited with his father (Luke 15:1).

Third, sin scars. Even when a person knows he has been forgiven of his in, he may continue to carry the burden of his sin. Long after his conversion, Paul still referred to himself as he "chief of sinners" (1 Tim 1:15).

Fourth, sin sours. Carrying the burden of sin can often cause a person to become negative and overly critical of others.

Fifth, sin sickens. Sin, along with its consequences and feelings of guilt, can produce heart problems, ulcers, and emotional difficulties.

Sixth, sin scars. When sin is left uncorrected it allows the heart to become hardened. Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus concerning those persons who were "past feeling" (Eph. 4:19).

Rod Halliburton  
Whites Creek church of Christ

### To The Faithful

It is amazing how much of our writing, preaching, and teaching is directed to the weak and unfaithful. I want to reverse that in this article. This is to the faithful.

Vocabulary is not large enough to tell you faithful people how much you are appreciated. It matters not how much times the elders ask you to meet to worship or work, you will be there. It matters not, in fact, what distractions Satan throws at you, you will not forsake the Lord. I know that you have no more time that anyone else, but I thank God that you understand what must be given to him. You always manage to find the time to serve Him with the best of what you have.

When our leaders present you with a new program or a new challenge, I don't wonder about what your response will be. You always support every program with your time, talent, and money.

But you know, I love you eve more because you demand NO personal attention. I don't have to worry about you not being regular and faithful in attendance. You are an example and an inspiration to everyone here. You make the work of the leaders much lighter. THANK YOU FOR BEING SO GREAT!

Bulletin Digest, via Fairfield, IL

### Remember in Prayer

#### Shut Ins:

Fannie Bell Warren  
Janelle Arrington  
William Wells

#### Others:

Hollis Cluck  
Muril Todd  
Karen Hudson - cancer  
Christy Garrett  
The Bryan Family  
Annie and JW Smith  
Margie Taylor  
Priscilla and Patrick Graves  
Jessica Richardson  
Dan Smith  
Diane Grandstaff and family  
Joe Allen  
Linda Kay Edwards - surgery recovery  
Edna Forbes  
Janice Garrett  
Carol Goins - Mary L.'s sister  
Lila Kirk  
Wanda Gates - cancer  
Kathy Greer  
Jeff Greenblatt - auto accident

Please call to inform us of News items or Prayer Requests: Kyle Richardson (495-7106) Dorothy Jean Smith (444-5437)

### December Birthdays:

13 - Lila Kirk  
17 - Howell Todd  
26 - Dorothy Jean Smith

**"I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable."**

Psalms 145:1-3