

Serving This Week:

Sunday Morning

Announcements: Howell Todd
Song Leader: Ken Grandstaff
Opening Prayer: Dan Smith
Lord's Supper
Presiding: Howell Todd
Serving: Eric Horne
Austin Horne
Preaching: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Austin Horne

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer: Austin Horne
Preaching: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Wednesday Evening

Opening Prayer: Kyle Richardson
Devotional: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Serving Next Sunday:

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

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

Pantry:

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

New Year's Eve Party:

Dec 31 @ 7:00 PM. Finger foods and games. Bring your friends!

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
Sunday (<i>Epistles</i>)	2 John
Monday (<i>The Law</i>)	Deuteronomy 29-31
Tuesday (<i>History</i>)	Esther 1-5
Wednesday (<i>Psalms</i>)	Psalms 146-148
Thursday (<i>Poetry</i>)	Song of Sol. 5-6
Friday (<i>Prophecy</i>)	Revelation 12-17
Saturday (<i>Gospels</i>)	Acts 25-26

Bethel church of Christ

2427 Sparta Pike, Lebanon TN 37090

<http://www.bethelcoc.net>

December 23, 2012

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

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

Worshiping With Shigionoth

Look again at the title of this article and you will see a Biblical word, but one few would understand. Who or what is this Shigionoth that was part of the worship instructions given to the Jews. It is found in the introductory words of the seventh psalm in the King James Version—Shiggaion of David, which he sang unto the Lord concerning the words of Cush the Benjamite. My immediate response in reading this is, "That's Greek to me," when actually, it is Hebrew. No one is sure where or when these introductory words have their origin. The only other time the word is found in the Bible is in Habakkuk chapter three. It is in this passage where the fullness of the meaning of this word is found. Look at the context of the only time this word is found in the actual text of the Bible.

The last verse of Habakkuk chapter two says, "The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him." Some have used this verse to prove we should not talk to each other in worship or to prove that boisterous children should be kept quiet in worship, but this ignores the context. The prophet, in the first chapter, questions why God has not acted immediately to the evil that is around him. In chapter two, God answers him and shows that God is sovereign and does things in His way and according to His schedule. God always reacts to evil; He just does not use man's "timeline" to do it. The chapter ends with the words, "Let all the earth keep silence before Him." He is God; He is just; He is sovereign. Our responsibility is to stand in awe of Him, to see Him on His throne and to honor Him.

Then, the very next verse begins with the words, "A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, on Shigionoth." This chapter is filled with affirmation of the majesty and power of God and how He has His way in the all of His creation. He governs lightening, the mountains, the hills and the rivers. Then, the prophet shows that He governs the nations and brings righteous judgment on them. Habakkuk's reaction is found in verse 16. "When I heard, my body trembled; my lips quivered at His voice." How can one see the Lord in His holy temple, silently think about it, and not be moved!

Slow and Steady

Seldom is anything accomplished, and done well, through haste. It takes slow and steady determination, hard work and persistent in nearly every aspect of our lives. Church and personal spiritual growth; family, friends and neighbor relations; civic activities, and hobbies all prosper from a slow and steady approach. Let me give you a few examples.

Those of you who have played golf with me know that I am not a tour caliber player. However, I have gotten better over the years. It did not happen overnight. One does not become a great outdoorsman, chef or craftsman without a lot of time and energy invested into those activities. The relationships that I am involved in only get better with time and energy. I love my wife more today than I did nearly 18 years ago when we were married. As time goes, I become a better father and friend. I know that through trial and error, hard work and dedication I will become a better man. However, I still have a lot of growing to do.

In the two and a half years I have been here at Point Pleasant, we have seen growth. We have overcome problems. We are involved in more and have more things happening, but are we where we need to be? It will take a lifetime of slow and steady growth to be what God wants us to be.

How is our service? How is our faithfulness? Do we know the Bible as well as we should? Can it be that some of the things we used to think to be true are not? Do we need to continually keep an open Bible and an open heart before us? Is not this what took place when Apollos was taken aside by Aquila and Priscilla and taught "more perfectly" (Acts 18:26). Was Apollos offended by their attempt to teach him and correct him? Don't you think Apollos might have had a special place in his heart for their love and help?

The Bible likens our lives here to a farmer who plows his field with patience and determination. Those who look back are not fit to be called His children (Luke 9:62). Paul said he had not yet reached the pinnacle of perfection, but he "pressed on" with steady determination (Philippians 3:13-14). He also tells us to be of the same mind and of the same judgment (Romans 12:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10).

There is one glaring exception to this "slow and steady" rule. Those who are not right with God should not procrastinate in reconciling with the Creator of their souls. Note the example of the Philippian Jailer and his family who, upon hearing the Word of God, "straightway" or "immediately" were baptized in obedience to Christ (Acts 16:33). The verbiage here means literally, "it was done at once."

If you are not a baptized child of God today, done put it off, do it now! If you are a child of the King and you have not run with patience the race set

before us, come back to God. Act immediately to be reconciled to the Creator of your soul. Then you can face eternity slow and steady, with persistence and determination. Be faithful!

Tim Dooley

(continued from page 1)...

So what is the meaning of Shigionoth? Evidently, it is an instruction about praising God and means that this prayer/song of Habakkuk was to be sung with vigor and excitement! This is the natural response when we see His greatness, and Habakkuk, "the song leader," urges God's people to worship with vigor and excitement!

What about you? Let me suggest that when you sing "There is a God, He is alive . . . The great I Am," that you do it with Shigionoth. Worship God with all of your heart! "Selah."

Dan Jenkins

December Birthdays:

13 - Lila Kirk

17 - Howell Todd

26 - Dorothy Jean Smith

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)

"Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly! Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King! Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!

For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation. Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples, to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute on them the judgment written! This is honor for all his godly ones. Praise the LORD!"

Psalms 149