Announcements and Church News

<u>Alison Harris</u>– unable to be out; <u>William McRoy</u> – not feeling well; <u>Debbie Adams</u>–Needing further tests; <u>Penny Bevaqua</u>– wrist is healing; <u>Alison Harris</u> for cancer; <u>Teresa Broyles</u> for cancer trmt; <u>Joyce Stanley</u>, <u>Kim Taylor</u>, <u>Sandy Caldwell</u>, <u>Fran Barclay</u>, <u>and Nancy VanWinkle</u> for health issues.

PRAYER REOUESTS FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS: Carol Untied's-nephew, Andrew for recent cancer surgery and her dad, Tony and wife Emily for health issues. John Nickel- recent liver biopsy; Sam York- In the hospital in Missouri; Kadie Richmond's dads wife, Shirley/covid; David Sain's wife Phyllis health issues: Mattie Simmons brother Joe recovering from surgery; Kay Jessup's co-worker Debbie for covid; Yllka Bejo's-mother; Les Vasterling's- father/Hospice care; *Kim Taylor's* mother, Jayne in the hospital; The Bernhardt's relative Rustin/colon issues; Dianne Stewart's brother, Bobby Goodfield; Van Stewart's aunt Linda Parsons/health issues; The Stingles niece's baby; Paula Davis' niece for lupus; Carol Mitchell's mother, Mary; Darrell Broking-health issues.

PRAYERS FOR CANCER:

<u>Pat Ledford's</u> nephew Chase; <u>Freeman Cooper</u> former member; <u>Debbie Methvin's</u> co-workers father Vasilos; <u>Van Stewart's</u> sister Tracey and cousin Paula; <u>Ronnie Sommerville's</u> dad, Ron; <u>Mattie Simmons</u> friend William; <u>Sandy Caldwell's</u> brother-in-law Larry; <u>Kay Jessup's</u> friend, Lou.

INMATES:

Antwaun Thompson, Willie Newton & Tom George.

OUR SERVICE MEN:

 Sam Wagner
 and cousin Mark Wagner
 (Navy)

 Austin Reves
 (Marine Corp)

 Remember
 OUIT
 Shuttelins

 At Home: Winston Sandlin

<u>Ladies Bible Class</u>— Will be meeting on Friday, March 18th at 1:00pm in the main building. See Vicki Herman for any questions.

<u>Gospel Meeting</u>— South Florida Ave church of Christ in Lakeland, March 27th-30th. Flyers are in the foyer.

<u>Sympathy</u>—Our deepest sympathy is extended to <u>Dawn McFarland and family</u> for the loss of her sister, Debbie last Monday. Please keep Dawn and her family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their dear loved one.

Our deepest sympathy to <u>*Kim Taylor and family*</u> for the loss of her mother, Jayne Walters last Friday, March 4th. Remember Kim and family in your prayers as they mourn for their loved one.

<u>*Time Change*</u> Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday the 13th. Just a reminder to change your clocks an hour forward on Saturday night.

<u>Thoughts to Ponder</u>

Keep your head and your heart going in the right direction and you'll not have to worry about your feet.

A good way to forget your troubles is to help others out of theirs.

<u>**Reminder</u>**—Weekly sermons are available on CD, our website and livestream on Facebook and YouTube Sundays at 10:30 & 5:00pm and Wednesdays at 7:00pm. If you need the Bulletin, Christian Service List, Calendar or Directory call the office at (727) 446-4808.</u>

Those Serving Today

Announcements—James George Song Leaders—Matt PryorJames George Opening Prayer—Joe Bonelli/Matt Pryor Lord's Table—Mark Bernhardt Closing Prayer—Bob Hadsock/John Benson

s Anniversaries This Week

Jim and Emily George—March 6th



James George

Office: 727-446-4808

Preacher: Charles Broyles

Cell #: 423-240-9075

The Bible



From the Preacher's Pen

Guide, Guard and Direct Our Paths

Dan Jenkins

It is remarkable how often we use the same phrases as we pray. There is nothing wrong with repetition, as long as it is not vain repetition (Matt. 6:7). Over the years I have heard others pray that the preacher might "have a happy

recollection of the things he has studied." I heard it for years but was unable to know what a happy recollection was. I sometimes wondered if the person praying those words knew what he was saying.

Another phrase I heard as a youth (it often preceded the words about asking all this in the name of Jesus) was that God would "guide, guard and direct our paths." It is very possible that those who said these words thought God would whisper in their ears or give them "holy hunches" about whether to turn left or right at the next intersection.

We do need to rely on God to direct our paths but not in the way many think. One passage which helped me to understand how God "guides, guards and directs us" is found in the book of Proverbs. It appears that Solomon literally has his children in mind as he writes this book. The phrase "my son" is found 21 times in this book. It is found 15 times in the first seven chapters. The wise king is trying to impart wisdom to his son.

In chapter six, he tells his son to remember his father's commandments and his mother's law. He uses the words "lead" and "keep to" in the way many once prayed using the words "guide, guard and direct." "When you roam, they will lead you; when you sleep, they will keep you... for the commandment is a lamp and the law a light" (Prov. 6:22-23).

Think of how these words about listening to the father apply to us listening to our Father. We ask our Father to guide, guard and direct us, and His commandments become a lamp and a law to direct our paths.

Now note one other admonition Solomon gave his son regarding his teachings. "Bind them continually upon your heart; tie them around your neck." The father's words can never guide, guard and direct the son if the son does not remember. Wherever the son went, he took his father's words with him to lead him in the right way.

Isn't this a beautiful picture of how God can guide us and lead us in the paths of righteousness. "The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple...the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes" (Psa. 19:7-8). So, as you ask God to help you walk close to Him, realize that when we bind His words on our hearts and tie them around our neck these very words become a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Letting Him guide, guard and direct demands Bible study.

TRUE CHRISTIANS DON'T REJECT RELIGION Jason Hilburn

Those who have had bad experiences with "religious people" or a certain church should not use such experiences as an excuse to totally reject religion in general. Some say they reject "organized religion" and do not "attend church" but still follow Christ. Is that possible? The word "religion" is not a bad word, as many people seem to think. James used the word in a positive way (Jam. 1:26, 27). Christ Himself was a religious person who had a "custom" of regularly assembling with others of like faith (Lk. 4:16-19). The apostles and early Christians regularly gathered to encourage one another and to worship (Acts 2:36-47; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:18, 20, 33; 14:23; 16:2), and Christ commands all Christians to faithfully assemble with other Christians for these purposes (Heb. 10:23-31; cf. 1 Cor. 14:37).

Christ shed His blood for His church (Acts 20:28), so to say the church is not important is to say Christ shed His blood in vain. Christ's church was in God's eternal purpose, and faithful membership in it is necessary for salvation (Eph. 3:9-11; 5:23; Rev. 2:8-11). Christ's followers are supposed to love one another enough to die for one another (1 Jn. 3:16), so refusing to assemble with Christ's followers while claiming to follow Christ is hypocritical and contrary to what Christ Himself commanded (Heb. 10:23-31; cf. 1 Cor. 14:37). Those who use this excuse either have not studied God's Word enough to know His will, or they willfully reject what they know Christ commanded (Heb. 10:26).

There can be bad apples in any group of people (like Judas among the apostles), but that does not mean every apple is bad. None of us are beyond the possibility of committing a sin, but that does not mean there are no sincere Christians, or that nobody can be faithful. We simply must repent and do what God commanded us to do to be forgiven and faithful (Acts 2:36-42; 8:12-24; 1 Jn. 1:6—2:6; 5:3). We should therefore love and appreciate others who have repented and are faithful, instead of having a negative attitude toward them. As for those who are not faithful to Christ, we should love them enough to teach them how to be faithful, but we may have to move on if they make it clear they refuse to be faithful (Mt. 7:6; 10:14,15; 28:18-20; Acts 13:44-46; 18:6; 19:8-10). If we refuse to repent and be faithful, we should not call ourselves Christians, followers of Christ (Lk. 9:23; 14:25-35; Rev. 3:1). However, if we are faithful, we will be faithfully assembling with others who are faithful in our area and practice pure and undefiled religion before God (Jam. 1:27).

KEEP REVERENCE IN YOUR HEART!

The fear of the Lord is that reverence we feel as we live daily in the presence of God. The fear of the Lord is the root of right living and wise conduct. (Proverbs 1:7) I Love you!

The fear of the Lord is that understanding of God's greatness and power, and man's accountability towards Him. Solomon wrote of those who did not choose the fear of the Lord. "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord." (Proverbs 1:28 -29) Many sinners have stopped their ears and hardened their hearts to God's word. The fear of God will cause you to choose godliness instead of evil. God commanded, "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil." (Proverbs 3:7) He also said, "In mercy and truth atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil." (Proverbs 16:6) There is no experience more humbling than to come face to face with your own sins. One who thinks he knows everything will never come to fear God. Watch and pray constantly against the spirit of self-conceit. "The fear of the Lord leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; he will not be visited with evil." (Proverbs 19:23) A godly life is a happy and satisfied life, here and hereafter. The fear of the Lord produces a true life. True life, genuine satisfaction and freedom from sin are all blessings of the fear of the Lord. -Charles Box