Announcements and Church News Our Stelz Activities

Jan Lavern recovering from elbow and wrist surgery; Emily George for sciatica; Penny Bevaqua- wrist surgery; Wayne Bishop- doing better; Teresa Broyles, Alison Harris and Vicky Lube-cancer trmt; Joyce Stanley, Kim Taylor, Fran Barclay, Nancy VanWinkle, health issues. **PRAYER REOUESTS FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS:** The Stewart's grandson Oliver had tonsils and adenoids removed last week: John Benson's friend Wendell for Stg 4 kidney cancer and broken kneecap; David Jones sister Vivian for a mascectomy; William Foster's- friend Miss Cookie for a stroke; Teresa Brovles- Step-mom Mary Jane Wright for a fractured skull and spine; Samantha Jones daughter Ariel, brother Eddie and son Joshua: Carol Mitchell- tumor on liver; The Stewart's-bro-in-law Russell Holt: Clifton Reynold's son Bryce; Susan Villoch's dad James/heart issue; The Kozola's son Tim; Carol Untied's-dad and Uncle David/health issues; Sam York-recent surgery; David Sain's-wife Phyllis; Yllka Bejo's-mother for broken hip; Van Stewart's -aunt, Linda Parsons; Dianne Stewart's-brother, Bobby Goodfield and sister Lynn Owens; The Stinglesniece's baby; Paula Davis'-niece/ lupus; Darrell Broking/for health issues;

PRAYERS FOR CANCER:

<u>Ranny Reeves</u> neighbor, Linda Wall; <u>Randall</u> Deily's- uncle; <u>Linda Hadsock's</u> niece, June McCray; <u>Carol Untied's</u> stepmother Emily; <u>Debbie Methvin's</u>-co-workers father Vasilos and Michele Fuguero; <u>Deb Adams</u> friends son, Jason; <u>Van Stewart's</u> sister Tracey and cousin Paula; <u>Ronnie Sommerville's</u> dad, Ron; <u>Mattie</u> <u>Simmons</u> friend William; <u>Sandy Caldwell's</u> broin-law Larry; <u>Kay Jessup's</u> friends, Lou and Rose Fiores also co-worker Marie Woleck. **INMATES:** Antwaun Thompson, Willie Newton & Tom George.

OUR SERVICE MEN: <u>Sam Wagner</u> and cousin <u>Mark Wagner</u> (Navy) <u>Austin Reyes</u> (Marine) <u>Matthew Holleran</u> (Army) **LADIES BIBLE CLASS**— This Friday, November 4th at 1:00pm in the small building.

<u>MEN'S FALL LECTURESHIP</u> – At the Eagle Lake Church of Christ on Saturday, November 12th from 9:00am to 2:45pm. If you have any questions see Charles. Flyers are in the foyer.

<u>**GOSPEL MEETING**</u>South Florida Ave. Church of Christ in Lakeland from November 13th– 16th. Flyers are in the foyer.

<u>**FALL FAMILY CAMP-**</u> At Weeki Wachee Christian Camp from November 11th to the 13th. Flyers and registration forms in the foyer.

<u>SYMPATHY</u>— Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of <u>Winston Sandlin</u>. Winston passed away last Saturday evening at home. Keep the family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

FOYER TABLE – The <u>Calendar</u> and <u>Schedule of</u> <u>Those To Serve</u> for November also the latest issue of the Christian Courier can be found on the table in the foyer.

<u>**TIME CHANGE**</u>— Daylight Savings Time ends next Sunday November 6th. Reminder to turn your clocks back one hour.

<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.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Announcements—James George Song Leaders—Joe Bonelli/Matt Pryor Opening Prayer—Van Stewart/Jesse Lancaster Lord's Table—Max Herman Closing Prayer—Dennis Cuckler/James George

Zackary Stewart—November 2nd



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From the Preacher's Pen

SURPRISED WHEN SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

With today's technology, Bible study has become easier and quicker than ever before. One innovation that expedites Bible study is the ability to search for anything in the Bible very quickly with Bible software. One can learn rapidly from some simple searches, and many people are very

surprised at what they find (or fail to find). For example:

- Search for the phrase "faith only" and you only get one verse: "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (James 2:24).
- Search for the phrase "faith alone" and you get zero results.
- Search for the phrase "grace only" or "grace alone" and you get zero results.
- Search for the phrase "**ask Jesus**" (as in "ask Jesus to come into your heart") and you get **zero results**.
- Search for the phrase "accept Jesus" (as in "accept Jesus as your personal Savior") and you get zero results.
- Search for the phrase "personal Savior" and you get zero results.
- Search for the phrase "the pastor" (as in "the pastor of a church") and you get zero results.
- Search for the phrase "into Jesus" and you only get one verse: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" (Romans 6:3).
- Search for the phrase "into Christ" and you only get one verse: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27).
- Search for the phrase "fallen from grace" and you get one result: "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" (Galatians 5:4).

More examples could be given, but does any of this surprise you? Does it surprise you that much of the modern "Christian" terminology is not found in the Bible at all, and sometimes the Bible says just the opposite? God commands men to do what the Bible says and speak as the Bible speaks (John 4:23, 24; 12:48; 14:15; Col. 3:17; 1 Tim. 1:10; 6:3; 2 Tim. 1:13; 3:16, 17; Titus 2:1, 8; 1 Pet. 4:11; cf. 1 John 2:3-6; 5:3; 2 John 9-11).

Friends, please be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11; cf. 1 Thess. 5:21). Although searches like those above can be helpful, do not merely perform random searches, but rather study the Bible in depth and in context, to determine the original meaning and any applications to your life. Jason Hilburn

SECONDHAND RELIGION

I wonder how many people rely on the "faith of their fathers" to hopefully get them to Heaven, without ever really seeking the Truth on their own. So many are reared under so many different beliefs. These opposing religions cannot all be right, yet how many truly objectively question what they have been taught their whole lives and honestly seek the Truth? (Proverbs 8:17; Acts 17:27; Hebrews 11:6). The sad fact is that most Dads and Moms in the world are wrong when it comes to matters of faith (Matthew 7:13-14). When it comes down to it, who would want to risk his eternal destiny by simply relying on "what Mom said"? (Matthew 16:26). What if Mom was wrong? Is it possible to be sincere, but wrong at the same time? "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). If you are about to breathe your last breath, will it be any comfort to say to yourself, "I hope Mom was right"?

We cannot go to Heaven on someone else's beliefs. We must study and arrive at our own convictions. We must arrive at a firsthand faith, which we truly believe and are willing by which to live (John 6:45; Matt. 10:38, 39). That "pure and undefiled religion" will only come from God's Word entering a sincere heart (Romans 10:17; Luke 8:15; James 1:27). In the book of Acts we read of Paul and Silas making their way to Berea, where the people "were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11). These people should be an example to us. Like the Bereans, we should also be willing to investigate what we have been taught to make sure it is correct. Paul instructed the Thessalonians to "prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:21). If what we believe is the Truth, it will still be standing after all the questions and criticisms have been brought forth.

Finally, we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). How can we truly love God in that way if our only reason to do so is because "Dad said we should"? When we really dig into God's Word, we learn that He first loved us, and the amazing magnitude of that love. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins...We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:10, 19; cf. John 3:16; Romans 5:8-10; Ephesians 3:14-21). We must have a firsthand religion, and if we seek answers in God's Word with an honest heart, we "shall know the truth, and the truth shall make [us] free" (John 8:32).





WE CANNOT TEACH THAT WHICH WE DO NOT KNOW



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