

East Columbus Bulletin

Vol. 2, No. 07 – July 5, 2015



East Columbus church of Christ
811 Alabama Street, Columbus, MS 39702
Phone (662) 328-6227
website: eastcolumbuschurch.org

James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Worship/10:05 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship with Lord's Supper

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible classes for all ages

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- Second Sunday 2:00 p.m., Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- Second Saturday Men's Bible Study Ranch House Restaurant 6:30 A.M.
- Third Sunday Bible Study 6:00 p.m. location (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars meet each month - Time and Location (TBA)
- Bible Study at the Pines - 5 p.m. Mondays & 8 p.m. Sundays, Cady Hill Thurs. 6 p.m.
- CD's of sermons and Gospel Meetings are available by signing up in the back
- Recorded sermons and gospel meetings and other resources are also available at the church website <http://eastcolumbuschurch.com/> . Contact Steve Coburn if you need assistance.
- See bulletin board for Gospel Meeting announcements.

Prayer Requests

Home Bound Members: - Mike Butler, Annie McCrary, Jack Burks, Eula Mae Harliss

Others Limited by Health: - Frances Barham, Joyce Monasco, Joyce Ratcliff, Willena Woods

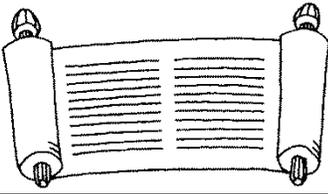
Sick - Burt Wheeler is continuing rehabilitation therapy in North Carolina. Harold Young, Lynette Coburn's father, continues at home under hospice care. Carol Briggs' mother Jeanette James is to have heart surgery in Memphis on July 7th. Shannon Bowen, daughter of Allen and Carolyn Jones is to have surgery on July 7th.

Recuperating – Melody Caulder had successful surgery last week. Allen and Carolyn Jones' daughter Robin had a good operation report from the doctor last week.

Elders: Jay McCrary and Jerry Paschall

Deacons: Clyde Hollis, Ed Williams, Don Zant

Preacher: Kevin Kay



1John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

Biblical love ...

The love most spoken of in the Bible is not the kind of love that most folks speak of today. It is not a feeling or passion that one falls into and out of at a whim. It is not a love that one initiates and cultivates by being closely and immediately associated with its object. It is far different from romantic love. It is even different from fraternal love that just kind of grows on one from close relationships with others. It is not that warm and fuzzy feeling associated with most "loves" that we speak of today. All of these "loves" may be fine in their proper place, but they are complicated feelings hard to control by reason and explain rationally.

For the most part, the love spoken of in the Bible can be commanded and taught. It is a far more rational, deeper and lasting love. The love of God and one's neighbor are great commandments to be obeyed (Matthew 22:36-40). Older women are told to teach younger women to love their husbands and children (Titus 2:4). It is a love commanded of husbands toward their wives (Ephesians 5:28). So, it is a love that can be taught and learned. It involves both intellect and will. It is the kind of love that we are commanded to have for our enemies (Matthew 5:44) and folks that we may not even know (1 Peter 2:17). It is a conscious commitment to do what is in the best interest of its object and the will to stick with that commitment. This kind of love has little to do with feelings, warm, fuzzy or otherwise. It is a choice that we make. Feelings of emotional love of various kinds and degrees may follow this love. But, this love is far deeper than fleeting feelings and emotions. Not the kind of love associated with warm fuzzy feelings. It is a deep love of principle, of commitment, and of the will to see the commitment through. To put it another way, it is always doing the right thing toward its object. It is the kind of love that will cause a Christian to go half way around the world to take the gospel (and maybe other things) to one that he has never seen nor heard.

The failure to understand this about love can cause one to miss out on loving God because he is expecting a conversion that will produce a highly emotional "warm fuzzy feeling" in his heart toward God. The same kind of feeling he has toward his best friend or family member. He needs to be taught what real love for God is all about. It is a thoughtful commitment to please, worship, and serve God in obedience Him. One may indeed develop a "warm feeling," but that feeling is not evidence that he loves God in the Biblical sense; that love is evidenced by his intelligent commitment to love God by keeping his commandments because He first loved him (1 John 4:19). In similar fashion, the love of our neighbor (brother or otherwise) that is commanded is not a "warm fuzzy - hand holding - neck hugging" type of love; it is a conscious commitment to doing him good and what is best for him. That emotion-ally expressive type of love may indeed accompany the love of commitment in many cases, but it is a different love than is commanded.

Again, the kind of love mostly spoken of in the Bible is a firm decision that one makes with the will to carry out that decision. When the song says, "I have decided to follow Jesus," it is just saying, in another way, "I have decided to love Jesus."

Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.