

### Times of Services

#### Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
11:00 a. m. Worship

#### Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

### Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 2:00 p.m. Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study –Ranch House Restaurant
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study 6:00 p.m. (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars monthly meeting (TBA)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing (TBA)

### News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Eula Mae Harliss
- **Limited Health:** Joyce Monasco, Willena Woods, Wade and Doris McCrary .
- **Others to remember:** Marion Butler, Steve Coburn, April Green, Marilyn Lavender, Jim Ratcliff, David Allen Williams, Doris Young (Lynette Coburn's mother), & Vickie Stevens (wife of Tim Stevens). Aaron Butler, grandson of Mike and Marion Butler suffered a broken arm that required surgery.
- **Prayer Requests:** Kyle Green has been diagnosed with chiara, the same condition that April Green has. Please pray for effective treatment and for the family. Leo Briggs, newborn grandson of Dan and Carol Briggs, will be having surgery in October. Please pray for an effective surgery.

### Contact Information:

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**Preacher :** Kevin Kay

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## East Columbus Bulletin

### How Far Will You Follow Another Person?

How are you building your personal faith? Jesus exhorted us to be like the man to “who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock” because every foundation will be tested in the floods of life! **(Lk 6:48-49)** Every person has a foundation upon which they make their decisions and live their lives. Unfortunately some have not seriously looked at what is the real basis of their lives.

Satan has many “alternatives” to what he mockingly would call a “radical ultra-legalistic religion” (There are also many other labels you might insert here). Satan seeks to keep the words of God from the hearts of men. Jesus simply pointed out that the foundation that is built on Him involves serving Him as an absolute Lord and that means handling His delivered words as the only source of direction in our lives. **(Lk 6:46; Jn 17:8, 20)** Any approach that does not involve a principled, careful approach to the words of Christ is a rejection of Jesus as Lord. The approach you take towards the words of Christ is the very attitude you take towards the Lordship of Christ. “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him -- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” **(Jn12:48)** The influence of Satan urges people to avoid what he calls “legalism” which is in fact a direct attack upon Jesus as Lord.

### **How Satan Uses Relationships**

One of the most powerful weapons Satan has is human relationships. Jesus plainly warned any who would seek to be His disciple that he must put God first. “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.” **(Lk 14:26)** I cannot think of a more difficult test than this. Abraham's faith was great because he was willing to sacrifice his only son. This was a “flood” that

tested the foundation of faith Abraham had built. The words of Jesus will lead each of us to similar conflicts. Have we built a faith that will cost us something? Is it a faith that follows God and not men?

**(Gal 1:10)**

### ***The Challenge of Choosing a Mate***

Outside of the decision to become a Christian, the decision as to who you marry is one of the most important choices you will make. Do you want to go to heaven? If you are serious about that then your choice will produce a relationship where both husband and wife are “heirs together of the grace of life.” **(1 Pt 3:7)** You will find one who is a Christian and will help you go to heaven.

When one foolishly allows their hearts to become attached to one who is not a Christian, there will be a great test of faith. On one hand there is the desire to please [the] one you love but then there is also the direction that Jesus gives to His followers. Most who choose to marry a non-Christian fall away from the Lord.

### ***The Power of Rationalization***

It is amazing to see those who were once enlightened to justify that which cannot be justified by God’s word. I knew of a Christian woman who dated a non-Christian for many years. The young man was dedicated to a denomination that taught a gospel that was not the gospel of the Lord. She proclaimed to her closest friends and to her parents that she would not consider marrying her boyfriend until he was baptized into Christ for the remission of sins **(Acts 2:38)**. Time passed and the desire to marry increased. What kind of foundation was built in her life? Would an honest recognition of what God’s word teaches be combined with a refusal to compromise, even if it meant losing a dearly loved boyfriend?

Unfortunately, in this case, rationalization provided an “easy” solution. Just proclaim that salvation is by faith alone apart from any conditional promises (that would include confession and baptism) and presto, the young man was a Christian all along! His denomination was right all along! Now faithful Christians become despised because they represent a threat to her rationalizations. She now views those who say: “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” **(Mark 16:16)** as legalists and also guilty of many other things she may choose to imagine. Legalism is now defined to condemn those who carefully apply God’s word. It now becomes easy to cast away like trash any relationship that stands in the way of her self-created “reality.”

It is amazing how one person’s change of loyalty can now test many other Christians. Sadly, parents can suddenly change what they claim to believe because they refuse to pay the price in losing a relationship with a child! The child is now leading the parents! The child must be justified in her actions! It now becomes easy to deny the Bible teaches any binding law and also easy to discard and slander

faithful brethren.

Real discipleship demands a stand upon truth regardless of relationships. “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.” **(Mt 10:34-36)**

### ***Test Your Heart to Know Who is First***

A proper foundation will always direct you to the words of Christ regardless of how hard the consequences may be. Paul urged the Corinthians to ask this question and consider the consequences: “Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? -- unless indeed you are disqualified.” **(2 Cor13:5)** When human relationships tempted the Galatians to accept a false gospel and to cause them to regard Paul as an enemy **(Gal 4:16)**, Paul knew the battle was to have this foundation built again in those he loved. “My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you” **(Gal 4:19)**

A good heart will always be willing to be tested by God’s word. Satan wishes men to rationalize and then quickly cut off all who disagree. When you compromise and make a relationship more important than God, rest assured that your relationship is about to change with the people of God. It is much “easier” in the short term to “live in the world of throw-away people” than to have your decision tested. Your new relationships will urge you to separate from Christians. “They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them.” **(Gal 4:17)**

Sadly when one learns to create their own reality and live in the land of “throw-away people” there is no stopping point. It now becomes easy to go as far as agnosticism and even atheism.

### ***Questions to consider***

1. Am I willing to follow the Bible without compromise? **(Lk 6:46)**
2. Am I willing to have good hearted brethren study with me about my decisions? **(Acts 17:11)**
3. Am I making excuses for my actions by blaming my brethren of having a bad attitude? **(Rom 3:4)**
4. Am I becoming comfortable with those who “sit in the seat of the scornful”? **(Ps 1:1)**
5. Am I becoming bitter towards my brethren and even looking down on them in pride? **(James 3:14)**
6. Am I teachable? Am I willing to admit I am wrong? **(Rev 2:10)**

Larry Rouse