

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

- 2nd Sunday 2:00 p.m. Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- 2nd Saturday 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study—at Ranch House Restaurant, Columbus, MS
- 3rd Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study – (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars monthly meeting (TBA)
- Monthly Ladies Class- First Tuesday., TBA

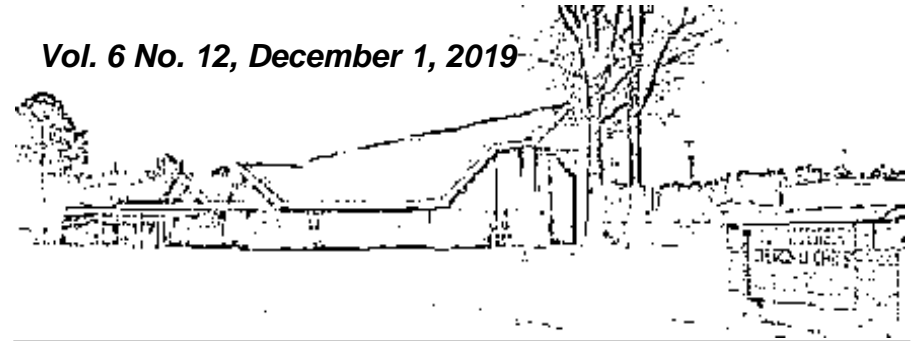
News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Eula Mae Harless, Joyce Manasco.
- **Limited Health:** Willena Woods, Wade McCrary.
- **Prayer Requests:** Frank and Joann Butler. The Barham family. The Logan Family.
- **Others to remember:** Steve Coburn, Jim Ratcliff, David Allen Williams, Jerry Paschall, Elbert Logan, Mike & Marion Butler.
- **Sick.** Lynette Coburn has a knee injury that will require surgery soon. Lee Gallop has been diagnosed with liver disease. Willena Woods was recently moved to Windsor Place Room 205.
- **Births:** Julie Reese Vibrock, daughter to Brooke and Randy Vibrock, was born November 26. Julie is in the neonatal unit at UAB and is progressing well. Brooke is also recovering well at this time. Please remember them in your prayers.

Contact Information:

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East Columbus Bulletin

Love Your Enemies

"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).

In recent years our society has become more polarized politically, morally, and spiritually than any time in my life. Paranoia coupled with bitterness has manifested itself in deeds and words of anger. Ironically, in a post-modern world that is supposedly "tolerant," the enemy of God's people is easily identified.

In the sermon recorded in Matthew 5 through 7, Jesus teaches the heavenly ethics that marks the character of God's people. In his logic of how one must treat others, Jesus proceeds from "turning the other cheek" to the principle of "doing good" and "praying" for those who mistreat us. These actions are summarized by one word: agape.

"Love" (agape) is active goodwill toward another. It involves

one's volition overruling one's emotions. Certainly one would not feel loving toward a persecutor, but goodwill must override the intuition to hurt. The disciple is commanded to seek the highest good of his enemies.

Jesus marks the enemy among those who "curse you," "hate you," and "despitefully use you and persecute you." These atrocities may include hurtful words, defamation of character, and physical harm. Your adversary may be a co-worker, family member, neighbor, or spouse. One is obviously not going to feel loving toward his enemies.

Agape will express itself in active good deeds. It will go beyond simple non-resistance (Matthew 5:38-42) and a refusal to retaliate. One is expected to "do good" – i.e. giving sacrificially of one's self that the other might live. If possible, one must conquer the enemy by destroying the enmity. These sacrificial deeds must be coupled with returning blessing for cursing and praying for God to turn their hearts to kindness.

Love is the badge of the Christian. It is by practicing this virtue that we become like the Father we are called upon to imitate. For even when we were his enemies, He gave his Son that we might live (Romans 5:8).

George Slover, Moment with the Master, 10-30-18

The Devil Always Goes to Church

Why would he not? He already has those who don't go to the Lord's assemblies. He cannot stand people listening

respectfully to the word of God. Jesus said, "when one hears the word of the kingdom...then comes the wicked one and snatches away the word that is sown in the heart" (Matthew 13:19). So, Satan has people outside the church already and his focus is to get those in the church to weaken and leave the faith. I've seen him work in assemblies to huddle a few together to undermine whatever he could. In the group they are not talking about how the lesson was scriptural and right, or how it helped their understanding and commitment. No! It was complaints like "How many lessons on authority or on the Pharisees must we endure?" "Did you see how he spelled that word?" "That is all he ever preaches, isn't it?" What is the wicked one doing? He is working to close the ears and minds of the churchgoers, because he does not want another sincere servant of Jesus defeating his work of damning souls to torment with himself. He wants all the company he can get. It pleases him to know that he ruined another lesson from God's word. He hates that there are many who read such posts as this and respect the word of God and appreciate it.

You see, preaching the truth and listening with introspection is God's way of ruining the work of Satan. Just expect him at church and work hard against him. Do not let him snatch the life-giving gospel from your heart. He will be so mad! You will be eternally glad! There is nothing more annoying to those in the dark than for someone to shine the light of God's truth, but there is nothing more important than that to those who will to have their eyes opened.

Terry Wane Benton