

<u>Times of Services</u>	
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
9:00 a.m. Bible Study	7:00 p.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Worship	
<u>Other Study and Worship Opportunities</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pines/Cady Hills Bible Study -Sun. & Thurs. at 7:00 p.m. • Young Bible Scholars –To be announced. • Lady’s Bible Classes at YMCA – To be announced. • Sunday Sermon is recorded and placed on Darrell Powell’s Facebook page and can be viewed later when posted. • Second Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study – 3:30 p.m. TBA • Third Sunday – Trinity Care Home Service - 1:30 p.m. (NEW) • Fourth Sunday Song Service following 10:00 a.m. sermon 	
<u>News and Notes</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer Requests: Patsy Chunn, Jim Ratcliff, Wade McCrary, Doug Wheeler, Steve and Lynette Coburn, Mike Butler, Lee Gallop, the Andy Elliott Family, Mike and Marilyn Lavender, and Elizabeth Wilson. • Sick: Lee Gallop is recovering from health issues and cataract surgery. Patsy Chunn has had successful surgery and will be is undergoing cancer medications. Benny Parker is recuperating from recent surgery. Marion Butler is having lung infection issues. Mike Butler is homebound with multiple health issues. • Births: Evelyn Frances Wilson, arrived 11/10/22. Parents are Elizabeth and Caleb Wilson, grandparents are Andy and Desire’ and Andy Wilson. • Baptisms: Dylan Haas was baptized on November 18. Dylan is the son of Ellen Haas and grandson of Ed and Nancy Williams. We welcome him to our spiritual family. 	
<p><u>Contact Information:</u> East Columbus church of Christ, 811 Alabama Street, Columbus, MS 39702 Minister – Darrell Powell Website: eastcolumbuschurch.org Facebook: East Columbus church of Christ Editor - Ed Williams at 662.323.9502 or glenedwilliams@yahoo.com.</p>	



East Columbus Bulletin

Are You Satisfied?

When talking with people concerning religion, I hear this statement, “I’m happy and satisfied with my religion!” It is true that religion is to bring happiness and contentment, but let me raise some questions about this statement that is often made. What is it about “your religion” that gives this satisfaction? Is it because it is in harmony with truth – the Gospel? Is it because you were raised to believe this way and you have accepted it without examination because it is the faith of your parents? Is it because you like the people where you attend and your loyalty to them gives you this satisfaction? Is it because of a certain social status you have where you attend that produces satisfaction?

But you may be thinking, “Why are you asking these questions? Isn’t one religion as good as another?” To this question we give a definite NO! The word religion means, “To bind back or again.” Religion is for the purpose of binding the sinner back to God – to unite the sinner with God. Only the religion of Christ can do this! The N.T. speaks of “One Faith” or one religion (Ephesians 4:4-5). It is the faith or

doctrine of Christ, the Gospel, outlined in the N. T. If what you believe is not in harmony with what the N.T. teaches, your faith is vain – useless as far as binding you back to God (Matthew 7:21-23).

But you ask, “Why do I feel so good in what I believe?” Our feelings are based upon what we believe to be true. Our knowledge may be faulty, but if we believe it to be true, it is true and we feel good. We react happily or adversely, by what we believe. An example of this is found in the Old Testament. When Jacob was told, by his eleven sons, that his favorite son, Joseph, had been killed by a wild beast, he believed it and would not be comforted (Genesis 37:29-36). But all the while, Joseph was alive in Egypt. But to Jacob, Joseph was dead and his faith in this produced the grief he experienced. Paul said, “I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day” (Acts 23:1). Yet, he had persecuted and killed Christians before he himself became one. How was it possible for him to have a good conscience while doing what was wrong? Because he acted in harmony with the faith that he had. He said, “*I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.*” What he believed – thought he should do, he did and as a result he had a good conscience. He later wrote, “*I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief*” (1 Timothy 1:13). Jesus told his apostles that the time would come “*that whosoever killeth you WILL THINK that he doeth God service*” (John 16:2). Faith in such action would produce a feeling that they were doing God’s will, but were they? Solomon said: “*There is a way THAT SEEMETH RIGHT unto*

man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 16:25). That which may seem right, that produces a good feeling, may lead to eternal condemnation. Yes, you may feel good, you may be completely satisfied with what you believe – and be lost!

But you ask, “How can I know I am a Christian?” Paul wrote, “*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God*” (Romans 8:16). The Spirit, through the Gospel, has revealed what one must do to become a Christian: faith in Jesus Christ (John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6), repentance from sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 17:30), confession that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:9-10), and baptism (immersion) in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). If you have done this, the Spirit unites with your spirit in declaring you a child of God. If you haven’t done this, but followed the teachings of men, you may be satisfied, you may feel good, but you are in a lost state according to the Scriptures! Our feeling good and being satisfied is based upon our knowledge of and obedience to truth (Acts 8:26-39). Feeling good is not a proof of our salvation – but is a result of it! Are you a New Testament Christian?

Bill Pierce via Search for Truth (Iuka, Illinois), 11-6-22

1Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*