



# East Columbus Bulletin

## Times of Services

### Sunday

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

### Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

## Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- The Pines/Cady Hills Bible Study -Sun. & Thurs. at 7:00 p.m.
  - Young Bible Scholars – TBA @ the Wilsons
  - 2nd Tues. Lady’s Bible Classes – Trinity Care Home 11:00 am
  - First Sunday Benevolent Group B meets directly after worship at the front of the auditorium.
  - Monthly Ladies Class @ YMCA - 1:15-2:15 p.m.
  - Third Sunday – Trinity Care Home Service - 1:30 p.m.
  - Fifth Sunday Singing – TBA
  - Neighborhood Bible Study – TBA
- Powell’s Family Service, all invited – 3:00 p.m. Sundays
- Our Gospel Meeting – October 20-24, Jarred McCrary

## News and Notes

- **Prayer Requests:** Patsy Chunn, Jim Ratcliff, Wade McCrary, Doug Wheeler, Mike Lavender, Mike and Marion Butler, Lee Gallop, the Andy Elliott Family, Janette Clements, and Rebecca Powell. Cindy Nutt requests our prayers for her grandchildren and family. Ellen and Dylan Haas ask for prayers for their family. Prayers are requested for John Lavender, Mike and Marilyn’s son John has kidney and heart disease issues.
- **Sick:** Jim Ratcliff continues to battle health issues. Andy Elliott continues to deal with back injury issues. Jerry Paschall’s mother, Edna Margaret Allan, suffered a stroke on July 4<sup>th</sup>. She is still having health issues as a result. Lee Gallop is recovering from broken ribs after a fall and recuperating at Windsor.

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## The Prospect of Persecution

*“Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, ‘There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king’s laws, so that it is not to the king’s profit to tolerate them. If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed’ ” (Esther 3:8,9).*

ONE OF THE UGLIEST REALITIES OF HUMAN HISTORY IS THE PERSECUTION OF GROUPS OF PEOPLE. Perhaps we shouldn’t be surprised at this, since strife is the first and most obvious result of sin (Gen. 3:12; 4:8; 6:11; etc.). Still, it is a sad fact in this world that discord between groups of people often results in persecution. As we see in the example in Esther, the pretext for persecution is usually the charge that some group has become a threat to “us.” Wanting to get rid of the Jews, Haman knew exactly which argument to make to the king: “It is not to the king’s profit to tolerate them.” In other words, they are a menace to our society, so do away with them.

The group seen as disadvantageous to society may be a religious or ethnic group, or the difference may be racial, ideological, or economic. The particular difference doesn’t matter. All it takes is for one group to acquire enough power that it can look upon another group as being “others” and exercise its power to marginalize them, if not exterminate them altogether. This is simply a fact of the world we live in.

Christians are certainly not the only ones who have ever been persecuted, and sadly, they (nominal Christians, at least) have sometimes been the persecutors. But anyplace where Christians are seen as being socially disadvantageous, persecution can happen.

So if you obey the gospel of Christ, you should take seriously the prospect of persecution (Acts 14:21,22). In the United States (at least for the time being), it is not likely that you would be in physical danger, but as Christians become a shrinking segment of the population — and our views become despised by the mainstream culture — it is likely that you will be mocked and demeaned. And it may be that this is, for many of us, the threat we fear most of all. Many people would die for the Lord who would not stand up to the threat of social shame. So let us pray for the courage not only to be put to death for the Lord but also to be detested and made fun of.

“A man who has faith must be prepared not only to be a martyr, but to be a fool” (G. K. Chesterton).

Gary Henry — WordPoints.com

### **An Accurate Definition for Love**

Can you come up with an accurate definition for love in two or three sentences?

It's not easy. No matter how we define love, our definition always seems to be lacking. Trying to define love can be like describing chocolate to someone who's never heard of nor tasted chocolate before. We may have trouble defining it, explaining it, and even finding it, but we know deep down inside when we see it and that we need it.

In 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul wrote one of the most famous descriptions of love. He doesn't give a dictionary definition but instead a description of how love is displayed. The love Paul describes:

- Giving over getting
- Commitment over feelings

- The long haul over the short term

The scripture is clear. You can see this love displayed in patience, kindness, humility, forgiveness, integrity, and ongoing perseverance. This kind of love survives and stands the tests of time and troubles.

Does this describe the love you're seeking? More importantly, does this describe the love your showing?

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

Zeke Flores, Facebook post 5-26-17

### **Why me?**

If the blind man of John 9 asked, “Why me?” the answer would be “that the works of God might be displayed in you.”

If the paralytic from Mark 2 asked, “Why me?” the answer would be “that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”

If Paul, in 2 Corinthians, asked, “Why me?” the answer would be  
1) to learn to “rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead” (1:9), and  
2) “so that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (12:9).

“Why me?” need not be a negative question, but it does need to be self-reflective.

It can lead to an answer demonstrating selfishness and bitterness, or it can lead to a God-glorifying response that demonstrates reliance on God. Which it shall be is up to us.

Doy Moyer

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