



P.O. Box 216
Troy, TN 38260
Church: 536-4611
Ron (cell): 731-796-5752



SUNDAY SERVICES

9:30 am — Bible Study
10:30 am — Worship
6:00 pm — Small Group Discussions

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

6:30 pm — Bible Study

WORSHIP SERVICE

January 13, 2019

712 "Jesus Is Coming Soon"
555 "Seek Ye First"
794 "Unto Thee O Lord"
532 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"
Shepherd's Prayer
464 "Because He Lives"
Communion
Contribution
39 "Awesome Power"
538 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

Scripture Reading

Sermon

"Knowing You"



THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 13, 2019

Worship Leader: Tim Spain
Lord's Supper: Kevin Dobbins, Jeff Nicks,
Christ Gooch, Jamie Clark, Jerry Ross,
Jimmy Smith, Rick Yates
Scripture Reading: Brian Clark
Sermon: Ron Newberry
Closing Prayer: Greg Ferguson
Elder Available After Worship: Chris Gooch
Children's Church: Annette & Kevin Dobbins
Attended Nursery: Rachel Clark
Nursery Next Week: Jenny Newberry



PRAYER LIST

◆ **OUR CHURCH FAMILY:** Mary Johnson, Sue Wilkerson, Vernelle Sellers, Vallie Burden, Anita Nicks, Bobby Johnson, Betty Hill, Aaron Tittle.
OUR COMMUNITY: Yates Graham, Scott Albright, Hudson Hayes, Debbie Jordan, Mary Hepler, Debbie Bowling, Evelyn Williams, Carl Ivey, Michelle Cook (Brian Clark's boss), Shawn Weaks, Jean McCullough, Barbie Hardy
OUR RELATIVES & FRIENDS: Erica Albritton, Alan Jones, William Gardner, Hazel Williams, Terry Grady, Louis Woods (cousin of Aaron Tittle), Adam & Jennifer Cooley, Katie Harris, Clinton Battles, Jason Elliott; Kimberly & Giovanni Rodriguez, Tresa Mudd (Autumn Garrigus's mom), Dwight Baggett, Philis Wilkinson (Amy Hawkins' mom), Bob Yates, Thomas Aker
THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY: Jay Thomas, Thomas Booker, Chris Mays, Rebecca Gooch, Claire Lloyd, Brady Moore, Dakota McCord, Matt Hester, Clayton Fowler, Brady Moore, Chris Floyd, Eb McCage
MISSIONS WE SUPPORT:
◆ Baja California, City of Children, China, Guyana, Zambia.



January 13, 2019



The Church and Morality: Moral Decline (1)

In this week's article I want to discuss the alarming moral decline we have witnessed in our culture. Let me remind you that I am gleaning a number of thoughts from the book by David Wells, *Losing Our Virtue*.

"The traditional virtues of this culture are being lost, its vices multiplied, its values degraded – in short, the culture itself is unraveling." (Robert Bork, the onetime Supreme Court nominee.) Surveys for years confirm that not only is Bork correct, Americans *believe* that he is correct. In other words the moral decline in America is no longer an arguable issue. Even those in denial have had to acknowledge that there is a serious moral predicament in America.

Frequently the argument is made that even during the time high moral standards reigned (specifically the Victorian era) there was rampant sin. Since sin is a universal problem and one that transcends time, it is easy to draw the conclusion about the sinfulness of man regardless of the era in which he or she may have lived. Those in the strictest moral cultures fell woefully short of their ideals. They were filled with hypocrisy because they preached one thing and did another. Whether they were technically hypocrites or not is not as relevant as the point that they did indeed fail to live up to what they determined to be a moral code for life. They were sinners – like all of us!

All of that is an accurate assessment of that time. What is overlooked is the implication of one particular question: Is it worse to fall short of moral ideals or to have no moral ideals to violate? Which is preferable, an age in which high standards are not attained or an age in which there are no standards? Which is more desirable, a time where hypocrisy is prevalent because they did not live up to their moral principles or a time when hypocrisy is not possible because there are no moral principles to violate.

The broad acceptance of vulgarity in our American culture and the generally acknowledged "right" one has to his own personal lifestyle no matter how deviant it may be has left us culturally with few behaviors deemed morally wrong. Morality has been dumbed down. It has been a concept without substance.

The secularization of our age has decimated any moral consensus that was once present. Our moral core has been removed. God has been marginalized. God has been relegated to the periphery of life and therefore has little relevancy to the average American. Both our public and private worlds have lost their center. Traditional culture, which addressed issues of morals, is dying and, if not already beyond resuscitation, is at least on life support.

This tension between law and freedom has always existed. Technically we have the freedom to do that which is not illegal. In other words, if something is not illegal it is permissible. That is indicative of our generation. Law tries to control and regulate freedom; freedom seeks to be free with no controls. They are always in tension. What spans the gulf between law and freedom? It is called *character*. Character is that which regulates freedom in the absence of law. Character maintains a healthy balance between law and liberty. Character compels us to do or not do certain things even though they might technically be legal. If we are to ever reclaim the moral high ground in our culture, we must find a way to rebuild the character of our people.

- Ron

THOSE TO SERVE January 20, 2019

Worship Leader: Tim Spain
 Lord's Supper: Jeff Nicks, Landon McCage,
 Jim Robertson, Frank Roberson, Tyler
 Kendall, Tyler Bolton, Josh Scott
 Scripture Reading: Kevin Dobbins
 Closing Prayer: Keith Connor
 Power Point: Tim Spain
 Greeters (side): Jeff & Sissy Nicks
 (back): Wade & Christy Henson

DAILY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

January 13 Job 35-37
 January 14 Job 38-39
 January 15 Job 40-42
 January 16 Genesis 12-15
 January 17 Genesis 16-18
 January 18 Genesis 19-21
 January 19 Genesis 22-24



FRAGILE

I was reading Psalm 103 the other day and verses 13 and 14 struck me with a fresh insight. Here is what the writer said: "As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust."

What struck me was that last statement that he knows how we are formed and he remembers that we are dust. I know we all know that man was formed from the dust of the earth as Genesis explains the creation of humans. But there seems to be more here than just the substance from which we are made. The context of these verses is about the fragility of mankind. The next two verses say, "As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more."

The earlier part of the Psalm speaks of our forgiveness. Is there a connection with God's forgiveness and our fragile nature? Is the implication that God deals with us gently because he knows how fragile we are? I believe that's a message that needs to be appreciated. I also believe it's an attitude that needs to be incorporated in our dealings with one another: deal gently with other people's faults because they are fragile too.



ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Date	Time	Event	Location
January 17, 2019	6:00 pm	Super Seniors Outing	The Grecian Steakhouse in Dyersburg
February 15-17, 2019		Winterfest	Gatlinburg, TN
April 18-22, 2019		Medical Mission Trip	Colonet, Mexico



SUPER SENIORS—Correction

The next Senior Outing (on Thursday, January 17), will be at the Grecian Steakhouse (not the Majestic Steakhouse) in Dyersburg. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 6:00 pm. There's a sign-up sheet posted at the Information Station.

PRAY

"God bless you all for the calls, cards, visits, love and especially the prayers. We are so blessed to be part of this church family. Thankfully we are on the mend, but still need your prayers. Love and God bless, the Tittle Family."



