

## Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
  - Kim Self—stomach ulcers and weekly Chemo treatments; bloodwork indicates Chemo is working
  - Carol Jarabek – cataract surgery went well; cataract surgery for other eye scheduled for 9-4
  - Sonya Ayers – surgery scheduled for 8-31
  - Angie Self—arthritis and Parkinson's
  - Joann Larkin—advanced dementia
  - Barb Agee's son (James)
  - Sandra Perez's grandmother—Lewy body dementia
  - Bernida Wolfe's father—dementia and Parkinson's
  - Jimmy Woodall's sister—cancer
  - Sandra Perez's uncle—stage 4 cancer

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The only thing more important than the memorization of God's word is...

**the application of God's word.**

*"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*

– Jm. 1:22

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**Many tend to use prayer as a last resort,  
but God wants it to be our first line of defense.**

*"And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."* – Jm. 5:15-16

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**The tongue has no bones but is strong enough to break a heart...**

*"But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God."*

– Jm. 3:8-9

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# CHURCH OF CHRIST

## *Invitation*

*'Therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'* – Mt. 22:9

Address

5080 Highway 70 East  
Rockwood, TN 37854

Assembly Times

Sunday Bible Study – 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship – 11:00 AM

Please text/email any announcements, questions, or concerns to Bill Fix, (865) 934-9239 or [fix.bill@gmail.com](mailto:fix.bill@gmail.com)

: <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchofChristRockwoodTN>

### August 23, 2020

***We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and members. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please let one of us know.***

**Adult Bible Class** – Eph. 1:15ff

**Sermon Topic** – Is COVID-19 a Sign of Final Judgment?

**Memory verse:**

I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me, you can do nothing.

– Jn. 15:5

# Ambulance Projects

By Curtis Wubbena (Dec. 1981)

Truth is what all men need, yet don't always want. Man's compromise is a "different gospel". Paul had to deal with this when he wrote the local churches of Galatia. "I marvel that ye are so quickly removing from him that called you in the grace of Christ unto a different gospel" (Gal. 1:6). His response was, "...there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema" (Gal. 1:7-8). When Paul called the "different gospel", "not another Gospel" (Gal. 1:6-7), in essence he damned **all** false gospels. What "good tidings" could exist in a perversion of truth?

Some local churches today are trying to hold and build membership by using "different gospels" to create interest. Innovations and unscriptural projects, which are directed at human rather than spiritual needs, are to accomplish these tasks. Brethren, the denominations have tried and have failed using similar efforts. We need to learn that carnal measures cannot produce spiritual effects. The Lord's church has no authority to provide for the social activities of its members.

In short, such programs may be appealing to some, but don't cure sin-sick souls. The poem, "The Parable of the Dangerous Cliff" says it well.

*'Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed,  
Though to walk near its crest was so pleasant;  
But over its terrible edge there had slipped  
A duke, and full many a peasant.  
The people said something would have to be done,  
But their projects did not at all tally.  
Some said, 'Put a fence 'round the edge of the cliff';  
Some, 'An ambulance down in the valley'.*

*The lament of the crowd was profound as was loud,  
As their hearts overflowed with their pity;  
But the cry for the ambulance carried the day  
As it spread through the neighboring city,  
A collection was made, to accumulate aid,  
And the dwellers in highway and alley  
Gave dollars or cents-not to furnish a fence  
But an ambulance down in the valley....*

As the poem continues, we learn of one who questions the ambulance service. He wonders why they don't solve the problem instead of soothing the victims. The "majority" replies, "He would end all our earnest endeavor. He's a man who would shirk this responsible work, but we will support it forever. Aren't we picking up all, just as fast as they fall, and giving them care liberally?"

False gospels are ambulances to hell! Teaching and abiding in unadulterated truth is the only cure for a sin-sick soul. Let's get rid of these "ambulance" projects and use that neglected Gospel fence!

## Fixating on What's Important: Changing God's Word

By Bill Fix

A few weeks ago, I heard a comedy skit on a radio program that talked about a "Queen James Bible." As I listened to the preacher caricature rail against a new Bible translation that edited out all references to homosexuality so as to prevent homophobic interpretations, I assumed it was all a made-up joke. Until I got to my office and googled it and discovered the Queen James Bible is a real thing that is readily available.

This is just another example of man adapting God's word to fit whatever agenda that may be convenient so that we don't have to repent of sin and "be transformed by the renewing of [our] minds" (Rom. 12:2). Two thousand years ago, Paul warned against Jewish Christians who tried to bind parts of the Law of Moses on Gentile converts, calling it a perversion of the gospel (Gal. 1:6-9). As time has passed, the particular issues may change, but the net result remains—false teachers changing God's word while "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

Whether redefining marriage and divorce, justifying instrumental music today from the Old Testament, or rationalizing an expenditure of church funds based on what we think might be a "good work," many religious folks today are adding to or subtracting from what the church has been authorized to do. Who is man to change God's word? "But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, 'Why have you made me like this?'" (Rom. 9:20).

Let us always remember the warning from John: "If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life..." (Rev. 22:18-19).