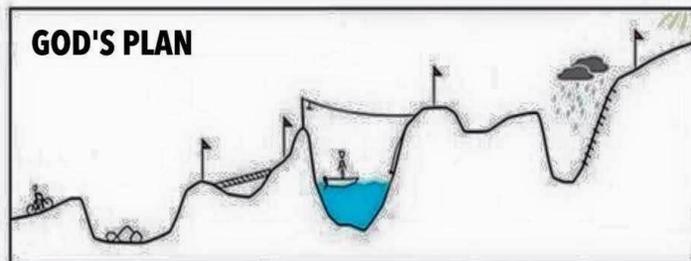
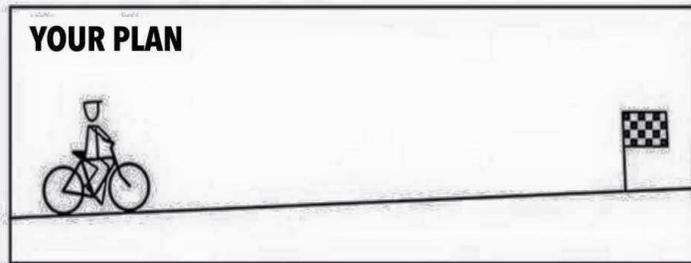


Announcements & Prayer Requests

- 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



JAMES 1:2-4

Consider it all joy when you encounter various trials, because the testing of your faith produces endurance... so that you may be lacking in nothing.



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

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

August 30, 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. 2:1ff

Sermon Topic – Joseph, a Story of Divine Providence

Memory verse:

By this we know love because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. – *1 Jn. 3:16*

Bigger Than God

By Dan Shipley (July 1974)

Nothing in this world is more important to our well-being in the next than having a right relationship with God. **Getting right** with God is the supreme and urgent need of every sinner and **staying right** with God is the most pressing need of every saint. Accordingly, whatever is allowed to come between one and his right relationship with God is extremely serious and needs to be recognized and treated accordingly. In terms of influence, that which hinders a man in serving God becomes bigger than God Himself. When that hindrance is attributable to people, it can only mean that certain individuals exert even a greater influence than God. Whether out of regard for man or a reaction against man, none is bigger than he who is allowed to come between one and his being right with God.

Take, for instance, the kind of allegiance to parents that hinders some in obeying the gospel. When honoring them becomes more important than honoring God, and when loyalty to them means disloyalty to the Lord, then they are made bigger and more important than God Himself. It is not often that a choice must be made between following God or parents, but when it does, God says, he that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me (Matt. 10:37). No living and loving parent would ever think of coming between his child and God. Those who would allow a deceased parent to do so dishonor both God and parent. Any person, parent or otherwise, whose favor is more coveted than God's, and who is able to influence more than God, has to be the world's biggest man.

But such bigness may be accorded to enemies as well as kinsmen and friends. Such is the case when sinner or saint allows his personal feelings toward certain Christians to hinder his serving the Lord. How many non-Christians have blamed their plight on the hypocrite in the church? Without realizing it, they actually compliment the hypocrite by allowing him to have more influence on what they do and become than God. They even allow the hypocrite to determine where they will spend eternity! No hypocrite deserves such influence!

Neither does the preacher or other Christian who becomes a hindrance to ones following Christ. Not a few have quit the church over conflicts and misunderstandings with the brethren. Others have compromised their convictions and gone into liberalism over similar personal differences and feelings of being mistreated. Are our ties with God and truth so fragile and unimportant? Getting away from men must never be at the price of

leaving God and truth, yet spite and pride have become the seed of apostasy for many a disgruntled brother. It's as though Jesus had not said, do good to them that hate you, bless them that curse you, pray for them that despitefully use you (Lk. 6:27,28) or had not instructed us concerning sins between brethren (Mt. 18:15-17). Allowing any man, whether friend or foe, to come between me and God is to make him bigger than he should be and is to acknowledge him as being more influential than God. May God save us from such big men and from the attitudes that make them big.

Fixating on What's Important: *Controlling the Controllables*

By Bill Fix

Writing this a few hours after mowing the lawn, I sure do look forward to the day when I can assign lawn mowing to my son... While I don't "enjoy" cutting the grass, especially in the Tennessee humidity, there is one detail I most appreciate about mowing—being able to see immediate progress in a job being accomplished. Many types of other work today are difficult to gauge progress and effectiveness, and we often feel like we're spinning our wheels until we finish, or someone offers an "atta boy" ...

While in college, I spent two "glamorous" summers selling books door to door. It wasn't easy, but the hardest part was keeping my mind straight. If I focused on how many new orders I had or didn't have as the day went on, I got distracted. Because I couldn't control how many people bought books or how much they ordered. What I could manage, however, was how many hours I worked and how many doors I knocked. If I controlled the controllables, then I would have a good day.

I fear our work as Christians can often be hard to measure, especially depending on the criteria we are considering. Are we counting how many people we have baptized or converted? Trying to measure how much we've grown in the faith during the last year or decade?

Our job is to preach the gospel or sow the seed. In the parable of the sower, Jesus said, "Behold, a sower went out to sow" (Mt. 13:3). He sowed seed wherever he went. Some ground was good, and other ground was not, but either way, he did his job. Jesus didn't call him a gardener, farmer, or producer—his job was to sow seed. Paul wrote, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (1 Cor. 3:6). We won't lead people to Christ or let God give the increase if we never plant the seed. Let's control our controllables and focus on sowing the seed.