

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - Jean LeQuire – Potential COVID exposure; preventive quarantine; hand/wrist still swollen/painful from fall
 - Kim Self – stomach ulcers and weekly Chemo treatments
 - Carol Jarabek – cataract surgery went well
 - Sonya Ayers – surgery went well; recovering at home
 - Angie Self – arthritis and Parkinson's
 - Joann Larkin – advanced dementia
 - Barb Agee's son (James)
 - Bernida Wolfe's father – Positive for COVID; also dementia and Parkinson's
 - Jimmy Woodall's sister – cancer
 - Sandra Perez's grandmother – Lewy body dementia
 - Sandra Perez's uncle – stage 4 cancer

THE GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear Gospel – Rom. 10:17; Acts 8:30-31
- Believe – Heb. 11:6; Mk. 16:16
- Repent of & Turn from Sins – Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess our Faith – Rom. 10:10; Mt. 10:32
- Baptism – Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Live Faithfully – Rev. 2:10

Let us draw near with a **true heart in full assurance of faith [Believe]**, having our **hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience [Repent]** and our **bodies washed with pure water [Baptism]**. Let us **hold fast the confession [Confess]** of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to **stir up love and good works**, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. – *Heb. 10:22-25*



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>

September 6, 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. 2:4ff

Sermon Topic – “I Really Enjoyed that Sermon...”

Memory verse:

Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust. – *Ps. 16:1*

Staybility

By Dan Shipley (June 1977)

The man in Christ is exactly where he needs to be. That is where he needs to stay. Remaining in that relationship takes what I have chosen to call STAYBILITY—staying with what is right at all times and at all costs. For a lack of staying-ability many Christians have turned back to a wrong life, liberalism, or false-religion.

Staybility is needed in the time of temptation. None are exempt from the allurements and enticements that would pull us away from the Lord. Joseph wasn't. Yet he exemplifies the kind of staybility we all need in asking, "how then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9). For him, and often for us, staybility may mean fleeing. If so, we'd best quickly take the "exit" provided by the Lord (1 Cor. 10:13). Many temptations come as the result of keeping the wrong kind of company (1 Cor. 15:33). Staying with the Lord may require leaving evil companions. As Paul warns, "be not deceived". Many Christians are. They think their indiscriminate mixing with the world won't hurt, but it always does. Ever so gradually, resistance to temptation is weakened; spiritual values become diluted; what seems like staying is drifting—and often so deceptively as to be denied. Accordingly, staybility is complimented by honest self-examination (2 Cor. 13:5).

Staybility is needed when things go wrong between brethren. Here, it may mean staying instead of leaving, as brethren often do. Those who jump up and leave at the slightest rumble prove themselves undependable and are likely to become church "floaters" or spiritual dropouts. Staybility means longsuffering, kindness, forbearance, love, and forgiveness—none of which can be expressed by the impulsive quitter. Personal differences need not mean division, and will not where there is staybility in humility! Those with super-sensitive feelings will seldom be without something to take offense at in the midst of fault-laden brethren. But leaving changes little more than the scenery. Staying (staybility) can help them and their weak brethren to be stronger if they so will it and work at it.

Staybility is needed in times of discouragement. Most will admit to being vulnerable here. Much of it comes from dwelling on past failures, sins and weaknesses; in remembering what is best repented of and forgotten. Bad yesterdays cannot be relived so, with Paul, we need to be "forgetting the things which are behind, and (be) stretching forward to the things which are before..." (Phi 1. 3:13). The staybility is strengthened by forget-ability.

But even then, discouragement can come from elsewhere. It may come from brethren who know better but won't do better; it may come from the criticizers and complainers; or it may even come as the result of feeling unwanted or unneeded. Like Elijah, we may feel like throwing in the towel. But God says, "STAY"! "be not weary in well-doing"; "be steadfast, unmovable". He wants for us a staybility that is above the influence of men and circumstance. And He deserves it!

Fixating on What's Important: *Prioritizing Priorities*

By Bill Fix

“The chief cause of failure in life is sacrificing what we want at the most for what we want at the moment.” I remember reading this quote in college, and I immediately committed it to memory because I saw it as a great explanation of why we often fall short of whatever goals we have:

- The individual sacrificing weight loss goals by avoiding the gym and enjoying too many “cheat days”.
- The driver sacrificing personal safety by replying to a text message while driving.
- The college student sacrificing learning by skipping class to sleep off a hangover.
- The professional sacrificing job security by being too easily distracted while working from home.
- The philandering spouse sacrificing one’s marriage vows for a lustful one-night fling.
- The Christian sacrificing an eternal home in heaven by letting earthly goals and wants take precedence.

It can be difficult to balance family, work, health, recreation, and our goals in each of those areas with our spiritual duties. “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you” (Mt. 6:33). Christians are commanded to keep our priorities in line with God at the head of the list. “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:1-2).

As we make plans and schedule time, we can’t leave God the leftovers, or we risk alienating what is most important. “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it” (Mt. 10:38-39).