

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Joel and Sandra Perez placed membership with us. Welcome!
- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - Kim Self – stomach ulcers and weekly Chemo treatments
 - Angie Self – arthritis and Parkinson's
 - Joann Larkin – advanced dementia
 - Barb Agee's son (James)
 - Bernida Wolfe's father – completed COVID quarantine & doing much better; also dementia and Parkinson's
 - Rick Parks' parents – Roy has prostate cancer; Helen has dementia
 - 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 20, 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. 2:19ff

Sermon Topic – Paul's Experience in Paradise

Memory verse:

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
– *Ps. 121:2*

Year of Our Lord 4192

By Robert F. Turner (PLAIN TALK, Nov. 1980)

The land was patched with brown and green, and thin vines clung to stunted trees that seemed to struggle upward. Many valleys and low pockets where contaminated soils had settled were still raw and barren. A few were marked with flags and warnings of radioactive spots; for centuries of waning and washing were necessary to purge the land of a curse its once proud warriors had brought upon it. But on a round green hill a temporary camp had been established, and students now prepared for another day of research in the ruins of an earlier civilization, long vanished.

A professor of Archaeology led his class into a large excavation in the side of the hill. Color-coded stakes and signs marked the eras they passed as they climbed down. Finally, they reached the lowest level where crumbling remains of a once-magnificent building had been exposed. Various objects, surprisingly preserved by a deep layer of ash, had been carefully cleaned and left in their place for more accurate identification. A broken marble cornerstone lay to one side, inscribed: FEL...HIP HAL..

"This is Late-American," the professor said. "Ante-Hydrowar, perhaps. The building was probably a place of worship in that period, and may have been destroyed by one of the bomb blasts that brought the Americo-Russian period to a close."

One of the students pointed to a hooded metal table, half buried beneath the rubbish, and asked, "And what is that, Sir?"

"We are not certain," the archaeologist replied. "We think it may have been a type of food warmer, known as a 'steam table.' In other ruins similar tables have been found next to large urns — thought to have contained a liquid called 'coffee.'

"You see," the professor continued, "although little is known for certain about the religion of the Americans, we deduce from evidence found in such temples that they worshipped a God called 'Fellowship.' An important ritual, related to that worship, was called, 'Coffee and Doughnuts.' BUT THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT THOSE PEOPLE THOUGHT SERIOUSLY OF THE SOUL."

Fixating on What's Important: *Knowing What We "Need" to Know*

By Bill Fix

Today's lesson about Paul's experience in Paradise (2 Cor. 12:1-4) is a good example of a passage that may leave us with more questions than we have answers. Doesn't it seem like the Bible often does that to us? In this passage, don't you wonder what Paul really saw, or why it happened? Or why Paul says he was forbidden to talk about what he observed?

We may also wonder where God came from. Or how the earth looked before the flood? What happened to the ark of the covenant? What all did Jesus tell the apostles during the forty days he was on the earth following His resurrection? What work did the other apostles do in building the early church, as Acts focuses mainly on Peter and Paul? What became of the Philippian jailer? Did King Agrippa ever become a Christian?

As human beings, we want to know about the world around us, our history, and the reasons behind much of it. And without the Bible, man would have many questions about how and why we are here that would otherwise be mysteries. Instead, God has revealed many things to us, and He did so for a reason. "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deut. 29:29). God has given us knowledge and the ability to find answers so that we can obey Him!

Are there still many things He did not reveal about Himself, judgment, heavenly things, or the innerworkings of life itself on this earth? Obviously, but our lack of understanding on those things is inconsequential. We know what we need to know. "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (Jn. 8:32).

We may have questions about spiritual things or even a specific passage that can't be answered definitively, but if we search the scriptures, we should at least find the answers we need. "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power..." (Eph. 1:17-19).