

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- New website should be ready to launch very soon
- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - John Wolfe – early lung cancer diagnosis; procedure on 10-7
 - Bernida Wolfe – Iron infusions scheduled for 10-9 and 10-16
 - 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 –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>

October 4, 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. 3:14ff
Sermon Topic – Believing a Lie

Memory verse:

Therefore you shall obey the voice of the Lord your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today. – *Deut. 27:10*

The Funeral “Way” to Glory

By Robert F. Turner (PLAIN TALK, Aug. 1966)

"There are two ways to heaven," a local wag quipped. "Trust in the Lord, or get bro. ____ to preach your funeral. He's never yet lost a case!"

Perhaps such "funeral salvation" led bro. Lovell to conclude that few church members really believe that denominationalism is mortally wrong. It is all right to preach that one must be a faithful member of the Lord's body, but in the presence of death our emotions take over, and we "funeralize" them right home to glory.

If someone says we have no right to "pass judgment" on the dead, to consign them to hell; I will remind him that consigning folk to heaven is also "passing judgment". Promise of the resurrection, and promise of heaven are distinctly different things.

Jn. 14: takes the worst beating of all scriptures. "Let not your heart be troubled"; "I go to prepare a place for you"; "I will come again, and receive you". Are there no qualifications here?

In the first place, v. 2 says the mansions "are" there, so Jesus didn't return to heaven as a carpenter—to build houses. Nor is He straightening furniture, and putting clean linen on the beds. Jesus' work on earth would soon be finished, and He had to return to a spiritual existence to make operative the scheme of redemption. He told Mary "touch me not", i.e., do not try to keep me here—to hold me to an earthly existence (Jn. 20:17; cf. 1 Jn. 5:18). The death, burial, and resurrection, with subsequent return to a spiritual existence, were all a part of the "going to prepare" (Note context, especially Jn. 13:20ff.). Man's heavenly "place" was dependent upon our Lord's filling His divine assignment in heaven's economy. This included: (1) becoming our High Priest (Heb. 7:26ff; 8:4); (2) and in the same vein, our King (Zec. 6:13; Jn. 18:36ff; Dan. 7:13ff); (3) sending "all truth" via the Holy Spirit (Jn. 16:7-15). By reading these citations carefully, you will see each assignment for the Savior demands His return to His place at God's throne.

But each thing accomplished by his return involves obligation on the part of those who would follow him.

He is High Priest to a "holy" and "royal" priesthood (1 Pet. 2:5-10). See the warning (v. 7-8) to those whose faith is not sufficient to cause them to obey the Lord? Jn. 14 does not promise a heavenly mansion to these.

He is King to those who hear (i.e., "heed") His voice (Jn. 18:37). We are called into His kingdom by obedience to the gospel (2 Ths. 1:8; 2:14; Col. 1:13; Mt. 7:21). Jn. 14 does not promise a heavenly mansion to all who die, but only to the faithful citizen.

Jesus returned to heaven, and sent the Holy Spirit, that we might have "all truth". It is by this truth that we are to be judged in the last day (Jn. 12:47-48). Christ was not a Judge while on earth, but he will return "in glory" to judge (Mt. 25:31ff), and woe to him who has nothing more than his "funeral promise" for protection.

Fixating on What's Important: *Loving Our Enemies*

By Bill Fix

I'd like to think we're at a point in our civilization where we don't have "enemies" by the conventional definition, so how can we apply Mt. 5:44 in a meaningful way today? "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

I submit to you that nothing gets folks riled up today quite like sports and politics. If you stop by a house that has a college rivalry "House Divided" welcome mat that displays two conference rival opponents, just ask both spouses there which team will win the big game this season. Similarly, ask a Republican and a Democrat who they think won the debate last week and watch the fireworks...

In many respects, some identify so much with their chosen "team" that anyone on the opposing team becomes their enemy, and we can get so carried away with the competition/rivalry that sportsmanship, respect, and human decency are forgotten. If the starting QB for your rival team tears his ACL, would you be happy that he's out for the rest of the season? When it was announced that the President tested positive for COVID-19 or that Justice Ginsburg had died, many who did not support one or the other posted their delight on social media, some even wishing for Trump's death or Ginsburg to burn in judgment. Even if done as a poor attempt at humor (and later deleted), is this what our society has become?

"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has not seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also" (1 Jn. 4:20).