

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Carol Jarabek wishes to be a member here
- New website should be ready to launch very soon
- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - John Wolfe – lung cancer diagnosis
 - Bernida Wolfe – Iron infusion scheduled for 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 11, 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. 4:1ff
Sermon Topic – The “Gift” of Jericho

Memory verse:

Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! – *Ps. 106:1*

Fixating on What's Important: *Where Is Your Purpose?*

By Rebecca Fix

Ask young children what they know about the prophet Daniel, and you'll likely get an answer about him surviving the lion's den. Even though Daniel is just 12 chapters long, the book contains many amazing stories, prophecies, and lessons that both children and adults alike can appreciate.

Daniel is a wonderful example of someone who overcame adversity and submitted his life wholly to God. Hauled away from Jerusalem in what we might call human trafficking today, young Daniel was made to serve King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, but at least he was selected for the king's "talented and gifted program" where the participants were groomed for service in the royal palace. Despite his status in this elite placement, Daniel still suffered horrible things—experiences that might cause many today to fall into a deep depression, rebel and lash out in anger, or even turn away from God.

However, "**Daniel purposed in his heart** that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank" (Dan. 1:8). This one verse is a crucial part of the story that shows how Daniel was not willing to compromise his morals or values just because he was in another country or under difficult circumstances. Remember, the Jews had many religious dietary restrictions, but now Daniel was away from home, out from under the watchful eye of his parents or the priests to enforce God's laws. He could have followed the path of least resistance, and who would be the wiser? Instead, Daniel knew that obedience to God took precedence.

In Chapter 2, Nebuchadnezzar looked to all the "wise men" of the city to help interpret his dreams. When none could do so, the king called for the death of all the wise men. Daniel asked the king to give him time that he might obtain the interpretation. **He needed time to pray** to ask God for the answers, and **he also asked his three friends to pray as well**.

When bad things happen to us, what do we do? Do we seek council from God or ask our closest friends and family? "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 John 5:14). Too often, I have relied on others for advice or vented about problems to them because they're here and can respond immediately. But at other times, I gave it to God. Praying and giving it all to Him helped me and strengthened my faith. "Cast all your care upon

Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you" (Jer. 29:12). Let's remember Daniel, not just for his courage in the lion's den, but also for his faithful purpose in heart and dedication to prayer in the face of difficulties.

Careful to Answer

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

When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were called before the king and faced charges of refusing to worship the golden image he had erected, Nebuchadnezzar asked, "Who is that god that shall deliver you out of my hands?" Things looked pretty dark.

But they replied, "We have no need to answer thee in this matter" (ASV). The King James version reads, "We are not careful to answer thee in this matter" (Dan. 3:15-16). The thought seems to be we will not choose our words carefully—concerned lest we offend; we will not try to "talk our way out of" this situation. And they added, "Our God is able to deliver us" (if it suits His purposes to do so) "but if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

Several years back a preacher said John (the Immerser) "lost his head" because he "lost his head" — he was not tactful in his criticism of Herod. John had said, of Herod's marriage to his brother Philip's wife, "It is not lawful for thee to have her" (Matt. 14). John was not "careful to answer," someone might say. Well, he certainly was not trying to "butter up" the king. On the other hand, John and the captive Jews of Daniel 3, were very careful to maintain their faith in God and to court **His** approval. John lost his head, and the three Hebrews were thrown into the fiery furnace, but each gained more than he lost. We "have no need" for **any** man's approval as we have need for God's approval.

Jesus said, "Fear not those who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul, but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell" (Matt. 10:28).

We are not advocating crudeness! Daniel's brethren were respectful to the king; and love for souls will forbid our becoming a bully with the truth. Shouting, stomping pronouncements of Damnation are often signs of weakness, while genuine strength is accompanied by humility. But genuine strength speaks truthfully, directly and clearly, **regardless** of temporal consequences—and **because** of inevitable eternal consequences.