

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - John Wolfe – lung cancer diagnosis; in hospital with diverticulosis
 - 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 18, 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. 4:5ff
Sermon Topic – Calling Evil Good

Memory verse:

A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and a man of wicked intentions is hated. – *Prov. 14:17*

Thy Word Is Truth

By Robert F. Turner (PLAIN TALK, May 1979)

You'll be disappointed in my not beginning this article with reference to Pilate's question, "What is truth?" (Jn.18: 38), but I'm not going to mention it. Instead I'll let that remind you that there are devious ways to shade, warp, and avoid truth. As one country philosopher put it, "I'd tell the truth five or six different ways before I'd tell a lie." There may be times when silence is more in order than speaking the truth (Jn.19: 9), if the silence itself is not deceptive. But when truth must be spoken, it should be forthright, plainly stated, the product of an honest heart. There are few things more needful in our present society than genuine honesty.

We have lied to ourselves, that we know the truth, until we have crippled our hope of learning truth. Or, we have convinced ourselves (another lie) that there is no certain truth, so that even faith becomes a leap in the dark, an essential to avoid despair. Or maybe truth (?) is treated subjectively, every man to himself. We know that truth in the material universe is not so vacillating: $2 + 2 = 4$ to all men; but God is different.

Is He, as respects truth? His manifestations are **history**, occurrences in time and space. Jesus lived, "approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know" (Acts 2:22). He died on a cross: attested by the same sort of records that tell us all past events. And the tomb was empty on the third day following, despite the Roman Empire's efforts to seal it. His enemies could not produce the body on Pentecost, when to have done so would have cut the heart out of the message they despised. His followers did not deny His resurrection, though their steadfastness offered no earthly gain, and resulted in horrible deaths. They testified instead that HE LIVES. And their message was accompanied by many "signs, wonders, various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost" which, unlike "feel better" claims of our day, convinced experts of deception (Acts 8:9-24; 19:11-20).

We cannot **know** God, but we believe as the result of an **objective approach to evidence**. We accept as TRUE the message of His ambassadors because they demonstrated the source of their news to be Divine. Yes, many professed followers have not determined these matters for themselves; their faith is not well founded. But it need not be so.

TRUTH is available for the seeker! "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (Jn. 17:17).

Fixating on What's Important: *Is It Well with Your Soul?*

By Rebecca Fix

Life is unpredictable—joys and sorrows, blessings and worries can come to us unexpectedly. Horatio Spafford knew this all too well. He was a successful attorney, devout Christian and real estate investor who lost his fortune in the great Chicago fire of 1871. Not long after, his four-year-old son also died of scarlet fever. Spafford reasoned it might do his family well to take a vacation and find some peace from these devastating losses. He sent his four daughters and wife on to England while he finished up some urgent business and was to join them later. However, their ship sank while crossing the Atlantic. Upon arriving in England, Mrs. Spafford sent a telegram to her husband that began: "Saved alone."

How might any of us react upon hearing that all of our children perished in an accident? Under similar circumstances, Job's wife advised her husband to "curse God and die" (Job 2:9). Others might turn to alcohol or some other substance to drown their sorrow and misery. Instead, Horatio Spafford found a positive outlet for his anguish. As he set sail for England to meet up with his wife, he wrote the following:

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll.
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know
It is well, it is well with my soul.

We can only imagine Spafford's grief during this time. But unlike many, he chose to focus on hope and not loss. Following these tragedies, the Spaffords then dedicated their lives to helping orphans, the helpless, and homeless. The song "*It Is Well with My Soul*" has been around for more than 150 years and still teaches us the message of eternal hope. Regardless of whatever may happen in our lives, God is present and caring for our souls, and so long as we seek refuge in Him in obedience, we have that hope.

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (James 1:2-4).