

## Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
  - John Wolfe – Recovering from successful hand surgery; early lung cancer diagnosis
  - 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; now in hospice care
  - 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](mailto:fix.bill@gmail.com)



<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchofChristRockwoodTN>

### November 8, 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. 4:25ff

**Sermon Topic** – Opportunity

#### **Memory verse:**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding. – *Prov. 3:5*

# On the Run!!!

By **Dan S. Shipley** (PLAIN TALK, Nov. 1978)

Did you ever wear yourself out on one of those hurried vacation trips to some far away place? The kind where you don't take time to enjoy the beautiful scenery and points of interest along the way? The kind that makes you glad to get back to work because you need the rest? It occurs to me that many of us live like some of us take vacations: in a hurry! We are an on-the-run people, a fact the business world has capitalized upon. They have made it possible for us to eat on the run, shave on the run, and even cook while on the run. Trouble is, as with the vacation, we run past some things that deserve our time and attention.

Like, for instance, the parents who run past their children on the way to work, on the way to parties and club meetings. No time to play catch, hear their problems, help with their projects—no time to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). On the run! — no time to pray with them; help them with Bible class lessons or talk about spiritual subjects. Sure, we have spending money for them; cars for them; clothes for them—just no time for them!

On the run! Not enough time to be a dependable and active member of the Lord's church. Too rushed to prepare for Bible class and often too rushed to even attend. Or, if not, then too tired from being too rushed all the previous week. We're on the run! So, keep the sermon short, songs few, and prayers brief. No time to meet the visitors, inquire about the sick or visit with brethren. The cafeteria lines are getting longer, the ball game starts at One—gotta run! On the run! No time for visiting and encouraging the new convert, no time to show our love and concern for those just beginning to walk in newness of life. Too busy to call on our weak brethren. We see them slowly but surely sinking in sin, getting weaker every month. Maybe someone else will go. So we keep on the run. We run past brethren who are infirmed, shut-in, aged, lonely and troubled. But we're no respecter of persons, we run past the sinners too. We pass up wonderful opportunities to teach and influence the lost as though Jesus had said nothing about the value of souls, or about lifting up our eyes to fields white unto harvest (Mt. 16:26; Jn 4:35).

On the run! Too busy! No time! BUT IS THAT REALLY OUR PROBLEM? I think not. I think it is a convenient scapegoat to excuse ourselves. THE REAL PROBLEM IS NOT SO MUCH A LACK OF TIME AS A LACK OF FAITH! As free moral agents, we still determine

what will have priority in our lives; most of us still do about what we want—and TAKE the time for what we want. What we need is to quit deceiving ourselves! Our time is not something we just happen to have or not to have—it is a resource to be invested **as we choose**. "Look therefore carefully how ye walk, not as unwise, but as wise; redeeming the time..." (Eph. 5:15,16). Time is to be our slave, not our master! Careful and wise living means using time in view of eternity. Slow down! Take time to smell the roses—and prepare for heaven!

## Fixating on What's Important: *Time*

By **Bill Fix**

Brother Shipley's article in this bulletin was written approximately the same time I was born. And while I can't speak to how much Americans may have been "on the run" in 1978, I do know the same still rings true today, if not much more so. Aside from the essentials like running to work, school, or grocery store, we each may have other commitments like haircuts, medical appointments, extracurricular activities, workouts, etc. that all need scheduling. And our weekends may even book up a month in advance as we fit in all our recreational and entertainment "needs" ...

Add to this the never-ending barrage of emails and text messages that demand our attention, and it's a wonder we get anything accomplished at all. It's too easy to say we don't have time for this or that, but that isn't true. We all have the same 24 hours in a day—we just set our priorities differently and fail to MAKE time for certain things or people. (And this author is most definitely guilty of that.)

How are you doing? Do you bemoan the lack of time we have in 21<sup>st</sup> century American society? Do we make excuses for not praying or studying our Bibles enough while staying up to date on the news, our social media, and mindless entertainment? Are we too busy to talk about God with our friends and neighbors? Are we waiting for the "perfect opportunity" to jump on us instead of making our own opportunities? And if the perfect opportunity did come along, would we be too busy to notice?

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil... Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm" (Eph. 6:11, 13). This instruction is a command, and it is not contingent on us "having enough time" to do so. Putting on the armor demands time, attention, preparation, and perseverance. Let's be ready!