

## Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Joyce Rush expressed desire to be a member here. Welcome, Joyce!
- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
  - Jimmy Woodall – Knee replacement surgery scheduled for 11-23
  - Carol Jarabek – Recovering from foot surgery
  - Perez family – In COVID-19 quarantine
  - John Wolfe – 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 & Parkinson's; in hospice
  - Rick Parks' parents – Roy has prostate cancer; Helen has dementia
  - Jimmy Woodall's sister – cancer
  - Dorothy Macon, Sandra Perez's grandmother – Dementia
  - Frank Wineinger, 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 22, 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. 5:1ff

**Sermon Topic** – Noah: Lessons from the Ark Hives...

### **Memory verse:**

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. – *Jn. 6:47*

## Digging Deep

By Frank Himmel (PATHLIGHTS, June 23, 2019)

At the end of His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus stressed the importance of acting on His teaching, not merely listening to it. He used two builders to make the point. “Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall” (Mt. 7:24-27).

In Luke’s account, Jesus said the wise builder “is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock” (Lk. 6:48). Consider the importance of digging deep.

Digging deep rules out following Jesus in a superficial way. Some are content to believe in Jesus in a broad sense while making no real commitment to living as He directs. Discipleship is not a surface-level acceptance of the Lord; it is yielding all in order to follow Him wherever He directs (Lk. 14:25-33). It is a “deep” commitment.

Digging deep suggests the depth of our faith. In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus likened some hearers’ hearts to shallow soil. The word readily produces a plant, but because there is no depth of soil (Mk. 4:5), it withers amidst affliction or persecution (v. 17). Since faith comes by hearing God’s word (Rom. 10:17), deeper faith can come only by digging more deeply into the word. “Therefore, leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity...” (Heb. 6:1).

Digging deep also points to thorough repentance. In Jesus’ illustration, the builder digs deep in order to remove everything that is unsuitable. He clears away the dirt and debris to get to the solid rock. From there he can begin to build. We may need to do a lot of clearing in our hearts and lives, too. Erroneous beliefs, bad attitudes, and sinful habits lie between us and discipleship. They must all be removed, shovelful by shovelful. We must examine every corner of our hearts and lives in light of the gospel and make whatever changes it calls for.

Discipleship is work. Don’t take shortcuts. Dig deep.

## What Is a Virtuous Woman, Really?

By Rebecca Fix

Who really is the “Virtuous Woman” in Proverbs 31? She’s smart! She’s strong! She’s capable! She has it all, and she does it all! Her husband has full confidence in her, and her children rise up and call her blessed.

Based on how chapter 31 begins, this passage may be primarily addressed to a man (King Lemuel) from his mother, and not even written for a female audience. “The sayings of King Lemuel, an inspired utterance his mother taught him” (v. 1). King Lemuel’s mother was writing to her son to inspire him to look for a godly woman, emphasizing what qualities were truly important. “Do not spend your strength on women, your vigor on those who ruin kings” (v. 2). This passage could be used as a standard for how women should be and what wise men should seek in a wife.

The virtuous woman appears to be an allegorical character, and if King Lemuel is really Solomon, how intuitive is this passage! With all the women Solomon had, did he take characteristics from all his wives and make a composite of the ideal woman? The text suggests she is an older woman with years of experience, indicating patience and hard work to master all of these skills and traits throughout her life.

Consider her attributes: “Her husband has **full confidence** in her (v. 11); “She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard” (v. 16); and “she is clothed with **strength and dignity**” (v. 17). Wives should honor their husbands, as this woman obviously did; doing so reflects well, not just on her, but her husband as well. He trusted her to make sound decisions independently, and she honored him.

The Hebrew word *eshet chayil* means “woman of valor” which is also mentioned in Ruth 3:11. “And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a **virtuous woman**.” In contrast, Ruth did not have servants, wealth, a husband, or children like the Proverbial Virtuous Woman, but Boaz still perceived her as a “woman of valor”.

The Proverbs 31 woman is her own person with her own abilities and skills. She is defined by respect, work ethic, wisdom, excellence, and godliness. Not her appearance, marital status, or number of children. She is not a maid. She loves her life, giving her all every day. Her family and friends love her, and she is a positive influence to those around her. Above all, she fears the Lord and puts God first. Who can find her indeed?