

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - Bernida Wolfe: cirrhosis; back at home
 - Jean LeQuire: Updated address
5824 Sunset Canyon Dr., Hixson, TN 37343
 - Kim Self: Cancer and stomach ulcers
 - Angie Self: Arthritis and Parkinson's
 - Joann Larkin: Advanced dementia
 - Barb Agee's son (James)
 - Rick Parks' parents: Roy has prostate cancer; Helen has dementia
 - 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

www.hwy70church.com

March 14, 2021

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 – Legal Principles and the Bible: Mediator

Sermon Topic – The Credible Story of Jonah

After Burial, What Then?

By Robert F. Turner (PLAIN TALK, November 1969)

In the biography of Daniel Sommer, by William Wallace, my attention was captured by Sommer's impression of southern churches of Christ. He said they fought the sects, and were firm on the **burial** of baptism, but were weak on the **resurrection** to a new life. (You may have to chew on that one for a while, as did I.)

He clearly meant that we put a lot of effort into getting people to be baptized, but did not emphasize sufficiently the NEW life, the NEW creature and CHANGED life, that must follow the death and burial of the old man. He may have struck a most needful chord.

Our burial with Christ is not the end, but is done with a view to the NEW life ahead. Note carefully the context of Rom. 6. Shall we continue in sin?... God forbid. We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live therein? We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **so we also walk in newness of life.** (emph, RFT) Our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away. Even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus. (Through vs. 11, AS)

One might almost say that Paul's argument in Rom. 6 concerns chiefly the DEATH to sin, and RESURRECTION to a NEW life; and that the BURIAL part, which we so often emphasize, is more or less incidental to his purpose. This is not to say the burial is of no consequence (the very words Bapto, and Baptidzo, mean immerse, dip, etc.), but while we are making a legitimate use of this portion of Rom. 6:4, would it not be well to stress the point that Paul stressed here.

Life cannot be a vacuum. We have poorly taught and done an injustice to a convert who is led to believe that getting rid of his past sins is the essence of Christianity. He cannot properly count the cost with such an understanding (Lk. 14:28ff). Jesus warned of the vacuum concept in his lesson re. the unclean spirit, cast out of a man, who found his old abode empty (nothing **good** in his former place), and so he taketh with himself seven other spirits more evil than himself, and they enter in and dwell there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first (Mt. 12: 43-45).

There is a great need to prepare the potential convert for the new life that must follow his baptism. We err in trying to shield him from the problems

of the future. If we are properly working at such problems, and our attitude toward them is what it should be, this would serve to encourage the prospect—show him just what wonderful, sacrificing, and dedicated people we are. But if we hide our carnality (or **try** to hide it) and are hypocritical about our struggle with sin, we practice deception, and lay the ground-work for **another** weak church member, having no NEW life.

A Christian is something different. If we could teach people to BE what they ought to BE, then they would DO what they ought to DO.

Fixating on What's Important: BBQ

By Bill Fix

One of my favorite foods is barbecue. But having lived in different states, I've learned that "Barbecue" means different things in different parts of the country. Here in East Tennessee, it usually means pulled pork. In Texas, it means brisket. Other places like Memphis, St. Louis, and Kansas City all have regional differences for what qualifies as the preferred meat, how it is seasoned, and how the sauce (if any) should taste. I love KC style, but I won't touch a Carolina mustard-based sauce. And I pity the folks up north who call firing up the grill for burgers or hot dogs "barbecuing". For shame!

Over the past 2,000 years, many have treated the Lord's church like they would BBQ: You do it your way, and I'll do it mine... I think such and such just sounds (tastes) better... The reason there are so many churches around today is because man has historically inserted personal preferences into worship, church organization, and doctrinal issues, instead of simply going back to Scripture to see how Jesus established His church. If the church belongs to Him, and we are doing things in His name, then we should operate the way He instructed us. "...On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). "...Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ..." (Eph. 5:23-24). "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Col. 3:17).

Insisting on "book, chapter, and verse" isn't merely a style or personal preference, like a sweet BBQ sauce instead of a hot and spicy. It's the pattern we see in Scripture: "These (the Bereans) were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11).