

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - Berdida Wolfe: at Parkwest Hospital; received blood transfusion yesterday; endoscopy today
 - Olive Hall's brother Romel Cirineo passed away
 - Kim Self: Cancer and stomach ulcers
 - Angie Self: Arthritis and Parkinson's
 - Melissa Sutton, friend of Bill and Becky Fix: back surgery for chronic pain rescheduled
 - Darrell Austin's mother on hospice
 - Rick Parks' parents: Roy has prostate cancer; Helen has dementia, on hospice
 - Joann Larkin: Advanced dementia
 - Barb Agee's son (James)
 - 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

April 11, 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:
Petition/Prayer**

Sermon Topic – The Transfiguration

Please Do Not Take the Lord's Coffee Pot

By Bill Fling (TRUTH MAGAZINE, August 1962)

From Vancouver, B.C., a church bulletin carried this announcement:

"It is requested that no equipment or furnishings such as typewriter, coffeemaker, etc. be taken from the building without permission from the building committee."

The Lord's church in many places is using some strange pieces of equipment. Of course, the church has a legitimate need of communion trays, a meetinghouse, a place for teaching Bible classes, a baptistery and other things to carry out the commands of the Head of the church. These have been used for years by faithful churches.

Within the last few decades, however, some unusual pieces of chattel have been acquired by various churches. A church in San Francisco has ping pong tables; one in Long Beach has a gymnasium; and others have baseball bats. Several churches now have recreation rooms (sometimes called "fellowship halls") with coffeemakers, double-door refrigerators, restaurant-type gas ranges, and drawers of silverware.

My question is: What command of the Lord do these things contribute to? What authority do churches have with these things and the activities they represent? As an individual Christian, I can serve coffee to friends, play on a ball team, or buy a stove; because they come within the scope of my personal responsibility. But the church has no authority from Christ to do such things. Or is there a Bible command for congregational socials, "entertaining yourselves in pies, punch and playful songs?" Did Paul write, "when ye come together to take tea, tell tales' and joke jestingly?" Did Jude say to "earnestly root for the church ball team?"

What church in the New Testament had a "chariot racing team" or "playtime schedule for persecuted saints?" Did Jerusalem have a "Fun, Fellowship and Frolic" program? If not, how can a church, which claims to follow their pattern, have coffeemakers, ping pong tables, and such like. IN THE ABSENCE OF A COMMAND TO EXPEDITE, WE CANNOT ARGUE FOR EXPEDIENTS. They must abandon the pattern if they want things which are not in the pattern.

Many grownups are wanting to play like children and expect the church to subsidize and supervise it. One of the sins of Israel was "They rose up to play" (1 Cor. 10:7.). Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, p. 188, says "play" is PAIZO (Gr.) "properly, to play as a child,

hence denotes to play as in dancing and making merry." This was connected with idolatry and methinks fun and pleasure have become idols to some (II Tim. 3:4).

During the digression of 100 years ago, a little old lady protested the bringing into the church building of the first piano. They put it in, but she took an axe to it one night and chopped it up. She said it had "no business there." We need some little old ladies to chop up some other things today "which have no business" in the Lord's church.

Fixating on What's Important: Ants

By Bill Fix

A few weeks ago, our house became home to a few more animals, but these were not the furry, four-legged "man's best friend" variety. Our son got a small ant farm, which has taken up residence in our kitchen, and my wife and I have found ourselves watching these critters a little more than we had originally expected. After some initial observation, it is incredible how much the colony of ants works together to acquire and transport food, organize the farm, and tend to their fallen brothers.

Although we don't ever see them sleep, I understand ants do—in what amounts to about 250 one-minute power naps a day. Consider this fact in conjunction with the proverb: "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep—so shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man" (Prov. 6:6-11).

The proverb writer encourages us to be active, making provision for the future, even without a micromanaging boss dictating our every move. And while human beings need sleep to function (not a bunch of one-minute power naps), we can easily spend too much time sleeping or playing, instead of doing the work that needs to get done. We understand this on a personal level for our jobs or doing projects at home, but isn't it true for the work of the church as well? Are we making spiritual provision for the future, spending ample time in prayer and Bible study? Are we seeking opportunities to share the gospel with our friends and neighbors? Or do we act as if we need an overseer to keep us on task with these matters?