



CENTERVILLE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Todd Parsley

"From Where I Sit"

FAITHFULNESS

**"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."
Revelation 2:10**

One of the most challenging verses and Christian responsibilities in the bible is found in James 1:19, there God instructs us to be "*slow to anger.*" Scripture does not say to never, ever be angry, but God clearly directs us to be slow to get there. We read in other verses of the Lord's expectations for us to exercise self-control (Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Pet. 1:5-7).

So, how? How can I be "*slow to anger*"? The book of Proverbs states, "*A quick-tempered man acts foolishly*" (14:17), but "*he who is slow to anger is better than the mighty*" (16:32). Then the bible reveals these insights: "*The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger*" (19:11). "*He who restrains his lips is wise*" (10:19). "*The slow to anger calms a dispute*" (15:18).

Romans 12 presents the practical responsibilities of the one who is "*a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God*" (v. 1). Putting these principles of Romans 12 into practice will enable a faithful Christian to be slow to anger: Do not think of oneself "*more highly than you ought to think*" (v. 3). "*Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another...continuing steadfastly in prayer...bless and do not curse...Be of the same mind toward one another...Do not be wise in your own opinion...Repay no one evil for evil... live peaceably with all men...give place to wrath... overcome evil with good*" (12:10-21).

The book of James teaches us that "*the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God*" (1:20), therefore, anger ought to be very slow in developing in our hearts, as we "*lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls*" (1:21). How can we do that? "*Be swift to hear.*" "*Be...slow to speak*" (1:19). Be "peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits" (3:17).

How can I be "*slow to anger*"? By letting God and His Word work on my heart! In a world today that is rooted in anger and violence, may we as God's children be that quiet, peaceful, calm voice. Next time you are tempted to speak out in anger or post on social media in frustration and anger. Stop! Hear God and be willing to submit to the good that lies within us as Christians.

May we always show the love of God in that we do and say! God Bless -Todd



The Shepherd's Pen

The theme for 2021 is **FAITHFULNESS!** Faith is a God-given concept, and it has been a vital part of His will from the beginning. It has been stated, it is better to walk in the dark with God than to walk alone in the light. Those who have had an active, obedient faith have pleased God, but those who have not, have displeased Him. The Hebrew writer wrote in chapter 11:6, "*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*" There are two things involved in the kind of faith that pleases God. (1) **Must BELIEVE that He is.** (2) **Must diligently SEEK Him.** One of these is useless without the other. Many have believed in God, but never found salvation. Why? Because their faith never proceeded any further and they did not seek God. We must have a faith that seeks Him. What is meant by seeking Him? The remainder of chapter 11 answers this question. A long list of faithful heroes is given that pleased God by faith. These individuals believed that He is and diligently sought God by obeying Him. We must do the same today! The faith that saves is the faith that obeys. Anything short of this has never pleased God. What kind of faith do you have? Have you allowed your faith to lead you to repent, confess Christ, and be baptized for the remission of sins? Is your faith motivating you to daily seek to please Him? This Sunday we will have our Budget Presentation for 2021. We again want to thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support. We are excited about this Sunday and looking forward to seeing you. Let us all be an encouragement, enthusiastic, and engaged! *Your Elders*

Carter's Corner



I AM THANKFUL that our youth activities are going to begin again very soon. By all indications, it appears that the governor's mandate on groups meeting will end this week, and we should be able to resume youth activities next week. There is no January calendar, so we will kind of shoot from the hip next week as we try to plan some activities to close out the month. I am optimistic that things will continue to improve with this virus in the weeks ahead, and we will be able to have a normal remainder of the semester.

ON SUNDAY MORNINGS our Bible class has begun a study on the book of Hebrews. Hebrews is one of my all time favorite books of the Bible, and it is my favorite book to teach to young people. The message of Hebrews is one that is always relevant to the people that read it, but I feel that it is more relevant than ever with all the things going on in our country. The Jewish-Christians who received this letter were clearly struggling with pressure and persecution in their world to turn away from Jesus. I believe that we all can understand the same challenges that the original audience had in our world, as Christians today are beginning to face more pressure and persecution themselves. I am thankful that the Hebrew writer penned this beautiful letter to challenge and encourage us to continue looking to Jesus, who is greater than anything else in this world. I encourage all of you to read the book of Hebrews in the coming weeks so that we can all do a better job of, "fixing our eyes on Jesus," in the days and weeks ahead.

In Him, Carter



Matthew Dotson

Moments That Matter

Hello friends! It's been a few weeks since I've written to you, so I wanted to take a few moments to share some updates with what has been happening with our Young Adult Ministry recently.

We just finished a Sunday morning Bible class series titled "*Dating and Marriage in Young Adulthood.*" Over the course of nine weeks, we examined the *pressures, priorities, and practicalities* that come with trying to find a Godly mate during this challenging time of life. I was thoroughly impressed by the thoughtfulness of our young men and women, and I'm glad to know their focus on their faith remains strong. A special thanks goes to Jeremy Qualls for helping teach the class, and to many others who offered their input and advice.

Our college students have stayed busy during their break! On November 24 we hosted a "*Welcome Home*" Pancake Party at the Lodge with a great crowd in attendance. This past weekend we enjoyed the "*YAM Night-O-Fun*" in the Fellowship Hall with a devotional, volleyball and an award-winning movie. The highlight of the winter break, however, was the all-day Christmas Extravaganza on December 12. We celebrated the season from 8:00am until 10:00pm! Our group was especially thankful to Jeremy and Meredith Qualls, Philip and Alice Anne Jacobs, Kristen Garland and my lovely wife, Cecily, for hosting our three meals. I'd also like to thank Dane Gilbert for letting us use his golf course (DGC Tallgrass--you should all go play it sometime!), and my mother, Susan, for allowing us to use her home for the infamous "Eggs on the Edge" challenge! Our Young Adult Ministry is blessed to have so many people within our congregation who love and support them!

One passage we kept coming back to in our dating/marriage class was the well-known 1 Corinthians 13. In this text the apostle Paul gives us a perfect description of what *true love* is supposed to look like. Among other things, "*Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy or parade itself...and it never fails*" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). Whether it be the love between a husband and a wife, the love between two friends, or the love between us and our God, may we remember, in all of our moments, what Godly love is and what it isn't. In this continuously challenging season of life, may we keep loving God and loving others. God bless, Matthew

Sympathy

...We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Melinda DeVore who passed away. To her husband Glenn DeVore, mother-in-law Shirley DeVore, brother Gary (Becky) Gatewood we extend our deepest sympathy.

Thank You

Kathy McDonald writes: Thank you for the Sunshine Basket and the Christmas Caroling. This has been a hard year for me and I so appreciated being thought of. God Bless you all!"

Bobby Roder writes: "Thanks for the Christmas goodies...I enjoyed it."

Doug & Billie Sue True write: "Thanks so much for the Sunshine Bag. We really did enjoy it."

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

CONTRIBUTION

Jan. 17: \$ 10,080.37
Camp: \$ 238.00
Budget: \$ 12,976.00

Scholarship Checks



Scholarship checks have been mailed to the appropriate schools for the 2021 Spring Semester. *If you have any questions please contact the church office.*

Nursing Home

Life Care Center:

Betty Davis, Sue McNabb, Bobby Breece, Pearl Gordon, Betty Claud, Addie Bell Nash, Georgia Moss, Larry Talley

St. Thomas Hickman Nursing Home:

Winnie Aydelott, Martha Bates, Francis McClanahan, Sybil Jenkins

THE POWER OF PRAYER

...Chuck Gilbert has returned home.
...Ruth Reece is recovering from a mild heart attack.
...Kim Boehms is showing signs of improvement at St. Thomas West as she is recovering from Covid.
...Ellieana Demary, infant daughter of Trevor & Lauren, has returned home.
...Gage Dotson is recovering from shoulder surgery.
...Jessie Seagraves will have surgery January 28th.
...Please continue to pray for Alden Chilton as she struggles with brittle bone disease.

Home:

Mildred Bridges, Margie Willis, Lonnie & Marilyn Gilliam, Bobby & Joyce Mayberry, Claudine Morrison, Dorris & Margie Claud, Floy Gatewood, Floy Lyell, A.J. & Willie B. Coates, J.W. & Sue Roder, Troy Parks

Recovering from surgery or other illness: Donna Gaspard, Ritchie Teet, Randy Hammer, Don Luther, Jim Thrasher, Randall Rummage, Teresa Carroll, Lovada Burklow, Loudean Qualls, Mark Chessor, Jimmy Copley, Norma Aydelott, Dot Dickens, Jesse Seagraves, Aubrey Dickens, Alden Chilton, Wanda Dotson, Reba Horner, Dan Elkins, Kitty Pharris, Ann & J.C. Wells, Ruth Reece, Ann Spencer

Hospice: Bobbie June Kittrell

Please Pray For Those Who Are Dealing With Cancer: Buster Peters, Jim Gossett, Gail Kincade, Orpah Easley, Diane Hubbs, Steve Higginbotham, Everett Kelley, Thomas Gaines, Colleen Polk, Michael McCarley, Allan Newton, George Peterson, Cletus Carroll, Lonnie Gilliam, Elizabeth Givens, Phil Shelton, Ann Luran Plunkett, Jimmy Jenkins, Susan Hardy, Jimmy Copley, Gwen Rogers, David Talley, Jerry Shepard, Jimmy Mathis

Robert Gilmer
Poplar Estates
1310 Rosewood Drive
Columbia, TN. 38401

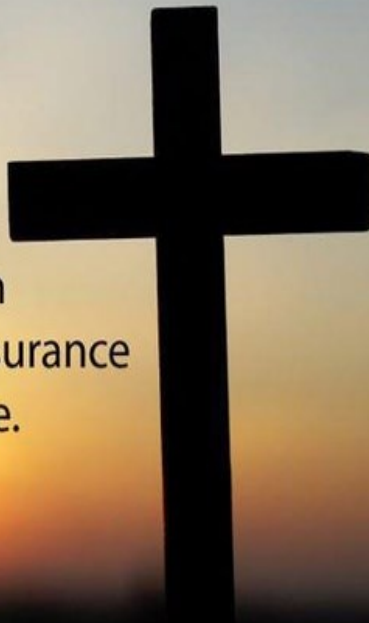
Marge Gilmer
Poplar Estates
1310 Rosewood Drive Memory Care
Columbia, TN. 38401



Faith

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

- Hebrews 11:1



People of the Bible

K	Q	F	Q	N	I	V	S	H	D	R	A	M	B	G
E	M	C	O	K	O	G	R	A	Z	N	X	L	M	H
E	V	P	Y	J	A	M	H	J	M	Q	E	Z	N	S
R	L	P	A	B	A	J	O	I	M	S	I	Z	D	T
S	S	M	R	N	B	Y	G	L	A	A	O	J	A	R
D	E	I	J	O	R	N	F	E	O	N	R	N	V	E
S	E	S	T	A	A	B	T	Y	U	S	H	Y	I	T
L	K	H	O	H	H	S	U	S	E	J	Y	Q	D	E
L	H	A	J	M	A	Q	W	T	U	E	H	Q	M	P
E	P	X	H	N	M	D	P	B	P	P	V	A	V	I
J	O	S	H	U	A	A	D	A	E	V	D	E	X	E
Z	H	R	M	J	U	K	W	S	U	A	C	D	X	A
J	O	H	N	L	T	T	O	W	E	H	T	T	A	M
U	L	H	T	U	R	J	G	B	N	P	D	L	P	C
T	Q	F	R	V	F	K	S	J	Y	J	T	T	O	I

ABRAHAM	ADAM	DAVID
ELIJAH	EVE	GABRIEL
JAMES	JESUS	JOHN
JOSEPH	JOSHUA	MARY
MATTHEW	MOSES	NOAH
PAUL	PETER	RUTH
SAMSON	SOLOMON	

**PLACE
STAMP
HERE**



Great *is*
Thy Faithfulness

**Prayer Week Of
January 24**

**S.M.W.
Bill McDonald**

**S.M.D.
Randy James**

**S.E.W.
Marshall Spencer**

**S.E.D.
Eddie Boone**

**W.E.B.S.
Philip Jacobs**

**W.E.D.
Cameron Wright**

**Preside
January 24:**

Luke Worsham

**Read Scripture
January 24:**

Stephen Dotson

**Elder's Prayer
January 24:**

Gary Gatewood