

## Who is at the Controls?

By Allen Webster

**MEN** (continued from last Week)

In the New Testament, Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, but he was too much of a people-pleasing politician to stand by his decision (Matthew 27:2–26). Many rulers believed on Jesus but would not confess Him, “for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42–43; cf. 5:44). Even Barnabas gave in to peer pressure and disassociated himself from Gentiles (Galatians 2:13).

We must strongly resist the pressure to conform to the world’s mold (Romans 12:1–2). Evil companions are bad for good morals (1 Corinthians 15:33), so we should stay away from them as much as possible (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Pitching tents toward Sodom has left behind the smoking ruins of many families (Genesis 13:12; 14:12; 19:16, 24, 26, 31–36). Any who love the opinions of father, mother, wife, children, brothers, or sisters more than Christ, cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:26; cf. 18:29–30). Men do not have a safe guideline for crossing the chasm that divides earth and eternity (Matthew 7:13–14).

### MESSIAH

A third choice is to allow Christ to rule life. He stands knocking at the door of every heart (Revelation 3:20), but He will never force entry (cf. Luke 24:28–29). He drafts no soldiers, and presents no subpoenas for His mediatorship (Matthew 22:37; 2 Corinthians 5:14). One who comes to Jesus must renounce all (Revelation 12:11), take up his cross, and follow as closely as he can in the Master’s steps (Luke 14:26–27; 1 Peter 2:21–22).

The choice is difficult, but it is never regretted (2 Corinthians 7:10). His truth sets us free (John 8:32); His life is abundant (John 10:10); His rule is not burdensome (1 John 5:3). Joshua gave God his life (Joshua 24:15) and was never disappointed. Paul gave Christ his heart and never looked back (Acts 9; 2 Timothy 4:6–8; cf. Luke 9:62).

The truth is, “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other” (Luke 16:13).

Who is at your controls?

## Prayers and Concerns

- ♦ Pray that all students, teachers, bus drivers, administrators, and school personnel have a safe year that is conducive to learning. Pray that bullying will cease to be a problem and kindness will prevail.
- ♦ Melinda Abraham will have an EEG test Tuesday in Springfield and will wear a heart monitor trying to rule out or find the cause of her health problems.
- ♦ Terry Pennington, cousin of the Rackleys, has been given just a few weeks to live. They have stopped cancer treatments because they weren't working.
- ♦ Dale Strong is taking chemo pills and iron infusions when needed.
- ♦ Remember those with health issues—Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Lloyd Ellis, Ruth Strain, Coe Hamm, Vicki Boland.
- ♦ All those battling cancer—Dale Strong, Terry Pennington, Pat McKaig, Ricky Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Donna Shipley, Dawn (Chris Lemburg’s sister), Jana Crisp, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Dan Harvey.
- ♦ GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Delphia Holmes, Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.
- ♦ Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piepergerdes.

## Blessings

- ♦ Lisa Goodnight got to return home yesterday after her brain surgery.

Teachers are needed for the 4-5 year old class and 3rd—5th grade class. It could be Sunday morning or Wednesday night. Please see Vicki if you can help.

Before you speak to me about your religion, first show it to me in how you treat other people; before you tell me how much you love your God, show me in how much you love all His children; before you preach to me of your passion for your faith, teach me about it through your compassion for your neighbors. In the end, I'm not as interested in what you have to tell or sell as I am in how you choose to live and give.

*Kindness*  
doesn't cost a thing,  
yet it's the richest gift  
you can give.



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| Birthdays |                  | Anniversaries |                               |
|-----------|------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 8-9       | Paul Wade        | 8-29          | Bill and Aleta Collins (66)   |
| 8-10      | Lisa Goodnight   | 8-29          | Chuck and Amy Myers (34)      |
| 8-12      | Gunner Hambelton | 8-30          | Hope and Corey Hillhouse (23) |
| 8-18      | Marsha Crisp     |               |                               |
| 8-22      | John Hill        |               |                               |

| Date                   | Event                                                               | Details                                                         |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| TODAY<br>after service | Basket Dinner before<br>Nursing Home singing<br>and devotional 1:30 | Stay to eat first then<br>meet in GHCC party<br>room, 200 hall. |

### Where to look in the Bible when you . . .

need rest and peace . . . . . Matthew 11:28-30  
 worry . . . . . Matthew 6:19-34  
 are lonely or fearful . . . . . Psalm 23  
 need peace of mind . . . . . John 14:27, Philippians 4:6-8  
 are disappointed by people . . . . . Psalm 27  
 grow bitter or critical . . . . . 1 Corinthians 13  
 have sinned . . . . . Psalm 51, 1 John 1  
 are discouraged . . . . . Psalm 34  
 feel God seems far away . . . . . Psalm 139  
 think the world seems bigger than God . . . . . Psalm 90  
 are sick . . . . . Psalm 41  
 feel sorrowful . . . . . John 14, Psalm 46  
 are in danger . . . . . Psalm 91  
 want courage . . . . . Joshua 1:1-9  
 need assurance . . . . . Romans 8  
 forget your blessings . . . . . Psalm 103  
 are looking for joy . . . . . Colossians 3  
 leave home to travel . . . . . Psalm 121  
 think of investments . . . . . Mark 10:17-31  
 need guidelines for living . . . . . Matthew 5-7, Romans 12  
 need rules of conduct . . . . . Exodus 20:1-17  
 need to know God's will for your life . . . . . Proverbs 3:1-6

### August Worship Assignments

#### Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

8-16 Mark Lane  
 8-23 Don Luna  
 8-30 David Stevens

#### Communion & Closing Prayer

Titus Smith  
 Halbert Smith  
 Waylon Strong

**Song Leader: John Abraham**  
**Greeters: Don and Barbara Luna**

# The Family News

August 16, 2026

## Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

[www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org)

*A Place to Call Home*

*We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.*

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***Compassion in Action***

#### Wednesday

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

#### Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

Worship God by Singing Praises

Communion Service

Song before Sermon

Sermon and Invitation

Invitation Song

Closing Song and Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

*We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.*

#### Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835  
 Don Luna 417-712-1945  
 David Stevens 417-679-4700  
 John Abraham 870-421-5632

#### Deacons

Dana Crisp 417-331-5090  
 James Langston 870-315-4355

#### Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

**Ministers:** Every Member—Each One of Us