

main parachute and the other was my reserve parachute. The reserve was for emergency situations. It was there in the event my main parachute failed to deploy. Most people never need the reserve, but it is better to be safe than sorry. See how that works? This is good advice in many situations in life.

What about religion? What about our faith in God or our service to Him? Do we believe in God's existence because it is better to be safe than sorry? Do we assemble each Sunday because we would rather be safe than sorry? Do we sing without the use of instrumental music in worship because it is better to be safe than to be sorry? Do we take the Lord's Supper every Sunday because it is better to be safe than to be sorry? You may not reason this way, but I know plenty of people that do. They are counteracting their doubt by selecting (what they assume is) the safer of two ways. Their decisions are based on what they think reduces the risk of more serious consequences. For example, belief in God is safer to them than atheism. If there is no God, then we will just die and cease to exist. If there is a God, then there are consequences for unbelief. Therefore, it is safer to believe than not believe. But is this how our faith should work? Are our beliefs and actions motivated by our desire to reduce risk or by something else? Let us examine the reason the "better safe than sorry" approach does not work for Christianity:

1. Suggesting we take the safer of two options validate both options. Consider the Lord's Supper as an example. Some only observe the Lord's Supper weekly because that is the safest of the options. "What if we are wrong about Acts 20:7 or 1 Corinthians 16:1-2?" "Let's just observe it every Sunday to be safe." "Better to be safe than sorry." This type of reasoning suggests that another option may be true but that we are taking the safest path to cover our bases. Throwing important matters into this line of thinking empowers two contradictory beliefs. Both beliefs are true if we accept this approach. We cannot and do not. This leads us to #2.

2. Christianity operates on objective truth not subjectivism. The church is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets" (Eph. 2:18). We are the pillar and the ground of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15). We know and obey truth because it makes us free (John 8:31-32). Therefore, we can all speak and do the same things (1 Cor. 1:10). For example, we observe the Lord's Supper each Sunday because this is the pattern in the New Testament. We believe in God's existence because this is what the evidence demands. We sing as a congregation using only our combined voices to teach and admonish because this is what God requires (Eph. 5:19). Our actions and beliefs are based on the authority of Jesus (Col. 3:17).

Instead of charting a course based on assumption or perceived safety, we must do the things authorized in the Bible. We must always act and teach in harmony with the objective answers from God. There is only one system of faith (Eph. 4:4-6). Accepting this will help us act in a spirit of confidence and not fear. Instead of asking whether something is safer we should believe and speak and do the things God has determined that please Him.

North Hamilton Church of Christ

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Schedule of Services:

Sunday 10:30 am, 5:00 pm; Wednesday 7:00 pm

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9 am-Noon



December 13, 2020

Elders:

Willard Elsea

240-9539

Art Greer

902-6295

Joel Laney

322-7828

Deacons:

Joe Anderson

Keith Herron

Brad Jones

Tommy Qualls

Chris Randolph

Curt Stewart

Justin Tripp

Toby Ward

Preacher:

David B. Smith

667-1987

"Better safe than sorry?"

David B. Smith

I have heard that expression used numerous times over my life and have probably said it as many times as I have heard it. After all, it is better to be safe than to be sorry. Right? There is no question it is good advice in some ventures. If you decide to climb a mountain then you might want to use a safety line. Even if you ended up not needing the rope, it is better to be safe than sorry. Part of my job in the Army was to jump from planes with parachutes. I carried two. One was me

Continued on the back....

Prayer List - Members

Nancy Birch	Bobby Wilson	Susie Hargis
Jenny Partin	Loretta Leffew	Judy Lusk
Tommy Grandfield	Barbara Castleberry	Kathy Castleberry
Molly Compton		

Prayer List - Friends and Family

Mike Bouldin	Fred Hafley	Tina Brown
Tony Miller	Steve Gaines	Steve Higginbotham
Tim Randolph	Bill Greer	Juanita Johnson
Janice Smith	Grayson Ledbetter	John Webster
Diane Stacy	Becky Eustice	Jan Burton
Ruth Fuller	Terry Driver	Carol Dodd
Tammy Hudson	Kathy Hamilton	Willie Langley
Clinton Miller	Kenlie Carr	Randy Hemming
Janet Lentz mother		

(See additional information on each of these on the bulletin board at either hallway.)

Sick and Recovering

- Our list of COVID 19 positive members is growing daily. Please pray that everyone recovers.
- **Kelly Hemming's** cousin, **Randy Hemming**, is currently in ICU on a ventilator due to COVID. Please keep them in your prayers
- **Molly Compton** was taken to the hospital (**Rhea Medical Center**) with a high fever, dehydration, and kidney infection. Molly is thankfully now at home. Please continue to pray for her.
- **Susie Hargis** began a new round of radiation last week. Keep her in your prayers.
- Please continue to remember all those who are suffering currently.

Participating in Worship Service - December 6, 2020

AM Opening Prayer: Freeman Cooper AM Closing Prayer: Willard Elsea
Leading Singing: Terry Pursley Lords Supper: Carrol Oxford

PM Opening Prayer: George Farmer PM Closing Prayer: Tommy Leslie

Sermon Topics

- **AM:** "I (saiah) Spy," part 2
- **PM:** Questions and Answers
- Livestreaming continues in the fellowship room (masks mandated) for all services.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

16 - Millis Jackson
17 - Pat Smith
19 - Nancy Nave

Anniversaries

16- Travis & Shari Fridell

Congregational Information and News

- **Ladies Bible Class Update:** Class will resume on January 5, 2021 with the new book.
- Please keep **Molly Compton** and her family in your prayers. Molly's grandfather, **Everett Roberson**, passed Friday, December 4, 2020.
- Big shout out and thanks to **Justin Tripp & Josh Elsea** for fumigating our building last Friday night.
- **John Blanks'** new address: 16 Stone Creek Blvd. McMinnville, Tn 37110
- Darlene Thomas' a friend of Joy Panter. Darlene's father passed away Friday, December 11, 2020. Please keep their family in your prayers.
- A very nice Christmas card & Thank you card was received from the Tumor Clinic. Each of the nurses wrote a special note with very nice comments. The card is posted on the bulletin board at the north entrance.

"He gives power to the weak,
And to those who have no might
He increases strength."
Isaiah 40:29



