

I have told you before about my experiences in the military including my fall from the grace of God. That might sound dramatic, but it is true. I was not just hanging on by a thread. I was in every way gone from God. I stopped praying. I was not associated with the church. I did not read my Bible. I did not care. I was a part of the world and I questioned everything I had been taught to the point I was somewhat agnostic. So, when I “came to myself,” like the prodigal son (Luke 15:17), I had to start at ground zero. I was not just polishing off an existing faith that had gotten a little dusty from non-use. I was starting from scratch. This is why I can say my understanding of the church is different now than it was then. This is why I can say my faith is different now than it was then. It took being apart from God for me to realize how desperate life is without Him. My faith is my own now. My ideas and conclusions from Scriptures are my own now. My investigations were without bias and preconception. I set all that aside. I wanted to go wherever the truth would take me. And that journey from nothing led me right back to the church of Christ. I am saying now for the world to hear I love the church of Christ. You should too. And I want us to consider some reasons we ought to love the church of Christ.

1. My first reason is that the church of Christ is Biblical. When I started my search for the truth, I pledged that I would have the courage to go wherever the evidence led me—even if I ended up as something different than my parents religiously. I did not have to read the manuals of every religious group in the world to know what was right. I only needed to study the Bible carefully to find my way to the right church. For many that might sound like a pompous remark, but it really is not. If we accept the fact of God’s existence (Psa. 19:1), and that God created the world (Gen. 1-2; Exo. 20:11), and that the Bible is His inspired word (2 Tim. 3:16-17), then it would be contrary to His orderliness, His nature and authority to believe every religious group in the world meets with His approval. Even starting out where I was, I could see the inherent contradiction of more than one body of believers. It just did not make sense that Jesus would die and offer a plan of redemption only for people to serve Him in thousands upon thousands of contradicting religious bodies. The Bible is very plain that God “is not the author of confusion but of peace” (1 Cor. 14:33). If Jesus promised only to build one church (Matt. 16:13-19) then there was a way for me to know which one was right. I knew based on His promise that it would not even come down to a few “best of the best.” There would literally be one church that met the criteria. There would be one body of people identifiable by the standards of Scripture. This is the church of Christ. And this is why I love the church of Christ.

Continued next week...

North Hamilton Church of Christ

8310 Dayton Pike/PO Box 517 Soddy Daisy, TN 37384

(423) 842-1044

www.northhamiltonchurchofchrist.com

Schedule of Services:

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

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9 am-Noon



December 20, 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

“I love the church of Christ (Part 1)”

David B. Smith

Before I draw down on the main point of this article, I want to provide a little perspective. I was raised in the church of Christ. My parents were (and still are) both faithful members of the Lord’s body and I consider it a blessing to be raised with that background. I loved our Sunday routines. I loved our Wednesday routines. I loved Gospel Meetings and bible classes. I loved the people. Even in my early childhood education, I attended a school that allowed me further association with people from the church of Christ. It is fair to say that I have always loved the church of Christ. But the way I love the church now is different than the way I loved the church then. My understanding is different, as well as my devotion. My faith is different. My relationships in the church are different. I believe in each area that the difference now is better.

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

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	Don Thurman
Janet Lentz mother		

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

Sick and Recovering

- **Don Thurman**, Brother to **Nelda Eustice**, is facing a second back surgery to relieve pain caused by a tumor pressing on his spine. Please keep him in your prayers.
- **Tommy Leslie** and **Kaye Hopkins** have both improved after having Covid-19 and **Brenda Leslie** was able to escape without contacting the virus. They will stay out a little longer just to be on the safe side.
- **Joan Holloway** is still suffering with some leg problems. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Please continue to remember all those who are suffering currently.

Participating in Worship Service – December 20, 2020

AM Opening Prayer: Phil Philips
Leading Singing: Art Greer

AM Closing Prayer: Joel Laney
Lords Supper: Carrol Oxford

PM Opening Prayer: Bobby Haynes

PM Closing Prayer: Keith Herron

Sermon Topics

- **AM:** “I (saiah) Spy,” part 3
- **PM:** Can I save the world?
- Livestreaming continues in the fellowship room (masks mandated) for all services.

Attendance: Sunday 12/13 AM – 64; PM – 56; Wednesday 12/16 – 59

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

21 – Tabitha Williamson
22 – Dorothy Everett
24 – Andy Stewart

Anniversaries

20 – Bob & Jimmie Ruth Wilson
21 – David & Norma Griffith

Congregational Information and News

- **Ladies Bible Class Update:** LBC collected 20 toboggans to take to the Women’s Oncology Chattanooga and 20 for the Tumor Clinic. Thank you, ladies, for your participation in this effort.
- **Randy Hemming** passed away last weekend. Please keep his cousin **Kelly Hemming** and their family in your prayers.
- Be sure to ask **Carroll Oxford** about the slide down the hill in his back yard.

“ . . . Do not be afraid, only believe.”
Mark 5:36



