

Thankfully, people saw their way out of such an iniquitous view of God. He is certainly angry with sin but patient with the sinner (2 Pet. 3:9). He does not rejoice when we are injured or down. He even declared it. “For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies” (Ezek. 18:32; 33:11). God is happy with our success. He desires the best for us in every way. He is not gleeful in our suffering.

Our view of others should reflect our heavenly Father’s. Sadly, it often does not. As much as we denounce the Edward’s approach to the divine nature, we sometimes adopt it in the way we view and speak of others—specifically when our opponents suffer misfortune. Have you seen a little of that lately? Have we been personally guilty of that? Are we gloating over the suffering of others? Are we gleeful when we see harm and ruin come to people with whom we disagree? Do we laugh when our enemies struggle? Do we chuckle when they trip in life? I understand that loving and praying for our enemies is a tough thing to do. We all struggle with it. But let us all understand, we are wrong to rejoice in the misfortune of others. If we complain about the “angry God” presented by Edwards, then we cannot be guilty of the same.

The Bible teaches us to avoid this behavior. “If I have rejoiced at the destruction of him who hated me, or lifted myself up when evil found him...indeed I have not allowed my mouth to sin by asking for a curse on his soul” (Job 31:29-30). “Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles” (Prov. 24:17). “He who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished” (Prov. 17:5). “But you should not have gazed on the day of your brother in the day of his captivity; nor should you have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; nor should you have spoken proudly in the day of distress” (Obadiah 1:12). “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep” (Rom. 12:15).

It is easy to be bitter when we feel injured and just as easy to rejoice when those we hold responsible for our stress fall in a pit. But we must remember that God is not gleeful in our suffering. If God doesn’t, we should not gloat and laugh either. Let us exercise compassion toward all people, even those with whom we disagree.

North Hamilton Church of Christ

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Schedule of Services:



October 11, 2020

“God is not gleeful over our suffering” David B. Smith

Back in the eighteenth century, many adopted a view of God that was out of balance. In his now infamous (at the time it was famous) sermon, *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*, Jonathan Edwards painted a portrait of a God that was angry. He was ready and eager to condemn. We all walked on a tight rope suspended over Hell, prone to lose our footing at any moment. One transgression would do us in forever. He was gleeful in our suffering.

Continued on the back....

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

<u>Prayer List -- Members</u>		
Nancy Birch	Bobby Wilson	Susie Hargis
Jenny Partin	Loretta Leffew	Judy Lusk
Tommy Grandfield		
<u>Prayer List - Friends and Family</u>		
Mike Bouldin	Fred Hafley	Tina Brown
Tony Miller	Steve Gaines	Steve Higginbotham
Tim Randolph	Bill Greer	Juanita Johnson
Janice Smith	Grayson Ledbetter	Bessie Smithson
Diane Stacy	Becky Eustice	John Webster
Ruth Fuller	Terry Driver	Jan Burton
Tammy Hudson	Kathy Hamilton	Sherry Phipps
Mary Ellen Phipps	Kenlie Carr	Carol Dodd
Clinton Miller		
(See additional information on each of these on the bulletin board at either hallway.)		

Sick and Recovering

John Blanks is recovering from his pacemaker surgery. He is a bit sore but that was expected. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

Gene Grindstaff has been diagnosed with the Covid 19 and is quarantined at this time. Please keep him in your prayers.

Diane Walker requests prayers for a friend and co-worker who is beginning chemo and has only one kidney. In addition, she would appreciate cards which can be mailed to **Susan Crounover**, 95 Sherry Drive, Ringgold, GA 30736.

Brenda Laney is recovering from surgery she had last Thursday. Please keep Brenda in your thoughts and prayers.

Participating in Worship Service – October 4, 2020

Leading Singing: Terry Pursley Opening Prayer: Chris Randolph
 Lord’s Supper: Ken Wilson Closing Prayer: Joel Laney

PM Opening Prayer: Tommy Leslie PM Closing Prayer: Millis Jackson

Sermon Topics

- **AM:** “Stages of the Cross” part 2 – Hebrews 10:1-4
- **PM:** “Did You Hear?” – Proverbs 16:28
- Livestreaming continues in the fellowship room (masks mandated) for all services.

Attendance: Sunday 10/4 AM – 133; PM – 99; Wednesday 10/7 – 87



Kindness Begets Kindness



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays: Today – Teresa Smith; Tuesday – Joe Anderson; Wednesday – Chris Courtney; Friday – Susie Hargis; Saturday – Alayna Courtney.

Anniversaries: Thursday – Ben & Kelsey Battles; Saturday – George & Patricia Farmer.

Important Dates for Your Calendar

- October 11-15 – Gospel meeting at Lafayette, GA with Larry Acuff. See flyer on bulletin board for details
- Friday, October 16, 2020 – Virginia Creeper Trail ride. See Willard or Joel if interested.
- Sunday, November 1, 2020 – Special contribution toward Fellowship Building fund.
- Wednesday, November 4, 2020 – Children’s Home to pick up our contributions.
- There will be a meeting after the morning service today for anyone who has volunteered or is interested in volunteering to help with the **drive-thru trunk or treat** which will be held on October 31.
- **Sympathy** is extended to **Melba Phillips** in the recent passing of two of her cousins.
- **MEN:** Remember to check the monthly duty roster on the bulletin board and let Chris Randolph know in advance if you are unable to handle the duty assigned to you.
- A personal Evangelism Campaign will be held at the Riverbend Church of Christ in Dalton, GA, October 18-22. It is presented by our friends at House to House/Heart to Heart. A flyer is on the bulletin board if you are interested.
- **Member News:** The **Wards** spent last week camping in Pigeon Forge and traveling to Kentucky to visit the Creation Museum and The Ark Encounter. **David, Ashley, Evie Rose and Graceley** paid a visit to the Ark Encounter on Friday and said it was amazing and the girls had a great time. **Tom and Kaye Greer** visited their son Travis and his family last weekend in South Carolina. Then traveled to Florence, AL, to visit the Wachahpi Commemorative Wall before going on to Oxford, MS for a visit with their granddaughter Melanie, a law student at Old Miss. After a trip to Huntsville for lunch with their grandson Matt, **Art and Gloria Greer** spent the past week in Winchester, TN, with some of their “old” college buddies.
- Please forward any info for the bulletin to nhcocbulletin@gmail.com or you can text or call Gloria at 902-6235.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.” Prov.3:5-6