



Scottie Barner. Breast cancer.

Brandi Beavers. Health concerns.

The Beavers Children. Health concerns.

Debbie Brooks. Health concerns.

Sibbie Byrd. Nursing home. Health concerns.

Drew Clifton. Need of prayer.

Hester Hollandsworth. Health concerns.

Matthew Hollandsworth. Health concerns.

Steven Kelly. Cancer.

Ryan Kendrick. Special needs.

Rita Lawless. Health concerns.

Karen Lovell. Health concerns.

Paul Mays. Health concerns.

Ruby Mason. Health concerns.

Jaydan Patrick. Special needs.

Arnold Pigg. Liz's brother. Health concerns.

Carolyn Roop. Recovering from a recent stroke.

Joe & Marcia Shulam. Health concerns.

Kitty Shumate. Upcoming back surgery.

Virginia "Cookie" Spencer. Health concerns.

Sharon Teschendorf. Dementia.

Velvet Wyatt. Recovering from a broken arm.

Wayne Youngblood. Parkinson's & Dementia.

Caregivers.

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Collinsville Church of Christ

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Times We Meet:

Sunday:

Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Thursday:

Ladies' Class: 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Psalms Class:
12:30 p.m. on Facebook.

MARCH

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Auditing Our Time

There has been a great amount of press lately on the effort being made to identify wasteful and corrupt spending of taxpayer dollars. Billions and trillions of dollars will be identified as having been unwisely or corruptly used. When our government continually operates with trillions of dollars of debt, I am hopeful that some long-lasting good will come out of the audits taking place.

Since most of us live in the real world, we know what it means to budget! And at times we have to audit and adjust. We do so with our finances, but we also do so with our time and our priorities! One of the assets that God has equally entrusted to each of us amounts to 86,400 each day. That's the number of seconds in each day.

As Paul sought to encourage and exhort the saints in Ephesus, he encouraged them to make the best use of their time! When we find ourselves too busy to devote proper attention to Prayer, Bible Study, Worship or Christian Service – it's time to do a personal audit of how wise we are being with making the best use of our time.

"Auditing Our Time" Continues on Page 2...

“Auditing Our Time” Continued from Front Page... One of the stories I was made aware of came in connection with the stoppage of funding for USAID. A former Harding classmate founded MANA Nutrition that makes a special peanut butter paste for severely malnourished children around the world. Last week he received word that all his contracts through USAID had been canceled, leaving them with millions of dollars of product ready to be shipped, and labeled so that they could only be used for USAID contracts. On Sunday, after auditing and evaluating the proper use of those funds, their contracts were reinstated.

Do we have some priorities of life that we need to reinstate? In an effort to manage our time, have we in fact removed some disciplines that are in fact the “best use of the time” allotted to us?

May God help us to prioritize our lives properly! To Him be the glory!
—John Helbig



Free Church Pews

I recently saw an ad in the classifieds for free church pews. A local church was giving away 20 perfectly good traditional wooden pews with padded backs and seats. Now I’m assuming that they are replacing the wooden pews with nice padded folding chairs, as is the practice of many churches today. I would also assume that someone, somewhere is complaining that doing away with the traditional church pew would be detrimental to the fellowship of the congregation. Imagine someone saying, “The old-fashioned wooden pews promoted togetherness and fellowship. Individual folding chairs creates separatism and will destroy the unity of the church during corporate worship.” Such a thought is similar to one that circulated on social media a while back, in which some folks complained that the use of projected songs in lieu of hymn books would ruin the spiritual nature of congregational singing. “Give me that old-time religion.”

“Free Church Pews” Continues on Page 3...

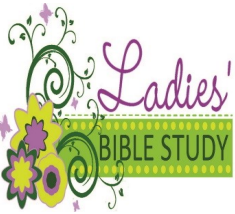




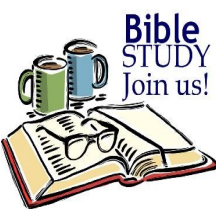
March Birthday!
29TH Jaydan Patrick



March Anniversary!
24TH Terry & Ruby Mason



Thursday Ladies' Bible Class!
Class starts at: 10:00 a.m.
Come early at: 9:30 a.m.
for coffee & donuts!



Thursday Mid-week Virtual Bible Class!
Virtual Class on Psalms, Thursdays around 12:30 p.m. on our Facebook Page.



Men's Breakfast
Our Next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Sat March 22nd! At a new time! Join us at Clarence's Steakhouse in Ridgeway at 9:00 a.m. for food & fellowship.



Game & Snacks Time
Our Game Time is back at a new time on Sat. March 22nd at 3:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring your favorite games & snacks to share.




5th Sunday Potluck
Following our Bible Study & Worship Gatherings on March 30th, we are hosting our 5th Sunday Potluck Lunch.



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“Teaching With Food” Continued from Page 5...

Don’t Lose Your Sense of Taste (15-24). The longest of the three illustrations regards accepting the invitation God extends to sit at His banqueting table in His eternal kingdom. Jesus illustrates how some inexplicably rejected the invitation to this “big dinner.” At the appropriate time, the call comes, “All things are ready, come to the feast” (cf. 17). But, notice the profoundly sad response: “But they all alike began to make excuses” (18). They chose finance and family, but these represent any excuse that keeps one from accepting the heavenly call (18-20). Then, the Master extends the invitation to any and all who will come (21-23). But, those who had no taste for what only the Master can give will miss out on what only He offers (24).

The first two stories illustrate the kind of character and ethics that should characterize a disciples. The third represents the kind of decision a true disciple will make. The culinary character of the stories should help it live in us. Jesus wants us to get and incorporate His lessons, so He makes them palatable. May we digest them and receive the intended nourishment. —Neal Pollard



Did You Know This About Ezra?

Although the book of Ezra bears his name, the prophet himself is not mentioned until the 7th chapter.

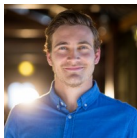
The book of Ezra shows how God fulfilled His promise to return His people to the promised land after 70 years of exile, but He did so in two separate waves.

The first was led by Zerubbabel around 538 BC. Chapters 1-6 of Ezra cover this.

The second was led by Ezra around 458 BC. Chapters 7-10.

That’s why Ezra is not mentioned until later. —Matt Clifton

“Free Church Pews” Continued from Page 2... Christians, especially older saints, should be very careful of letting long-time traditions become ill-focused doctrine. We are warned about religion based on personal preference of physical things or traditional ritual customs. “Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is” (1 Cor. 3:12–13). The foundation of our faith is built on Jesus Christ, and we serve the Lord under His perfect law of liberty (1 Cor. 3:11; James 1:25). When it comes to the physical nature of our service, it doesn’t matter if stand, sit on a wooden bench or lay on the floor, as long as we worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24) and serve our fellowman (Matt. 25:34-36; James 1:27) according to the inspired word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17). —Jay Launius



Dress With Respect

When I saw the President of Ukraine sitting in the Oval Office with the whole world watching, I couldn’t help but notice how out of place he appeared in the clothes he wore. He looked like someone going for a jog. He knew how important this meeting was. He knew how the President and everyone else would dress. His outward appearance said something right away about his attitude.

My mind went back immediately to Joseph. When the king of Egypt heard that he could interpret dreams, he sent for him. Joseph was in prison. Now he was about to appear before the most powerful man on earth. Did he walk into the palace of the king in the clothes he was wearing? No. The Bible says “he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh” (Gen. 41:14). This king expected a respectful demeanor and Joseph was on the same page.

Over forty years ago, I heard older preachers discuss dressing for worship. “Dress With Respect” Continues on Page 4...

“Dress With Respect” Continued from Page 3... I never heard anyone say a person’s clothes had to be expensive or look as nice as someone else’s. But they did answer the question with a piercing question: If you were going to appear before the President of the United States, how would you dress?

I have never seen a church announcing that every person who comes to worship must wear fine clothes. But I do see churches making a point about coming to their services in casual dress. Why? To appeal to a culture that is casual about almost everything. Now church services are so casual, so laid back, and so carefree that the fear of God is gone. Preachers tell jokes and elicit applause instead of preaching the gospel. Prayers are like casual talks with a buddy instead of reverent pleas before the throne of God. And, perhaps worst of all, the message to young people is that worship is more about them than God.

I doubt that any of these preachers who are so casual about worship will crack jokes to people standing beside them on the day of judgment. It is high time to take seriously these words: “Let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire” (Heb. 12:28-29).
—Kerry Duke



Teaching With Food

Jesus is the master teacher. One reason was His masterful use of stories. He could take the relatable events and situations and impart heavenly truths through them. Preachers joke that they can re-preach their sermons as long as they change the illustrations. We sometimes remember the “story” longer than the lesson. The best illustrations contain the lesson. Jesus does that in Luke 14, centering His thoughts on food or at least dinner parties. Notice three things He teaches through this commonly understood analogy.

“Teaching With Food” Continues on Page 5...



Matthew 13:10-17



1. “And the _ came and said to Him, ‘Why do You speak to them in _?’”
2. “For whoever has, to him _ will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken _ from him.”
3. Which prophet does Jesus quote in this section?
4. “For the _ of this people have grown _.”
5. “But blessed *are* your _ for they _, and your ears for they hear...”

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS ON PAGE 7!

“Teaching With Food” Continued from Page 4...

Develop a Taste for Humble Pie (7-11). Jesus was watching a pitiful, prideful act among His disciples. They were trying to pick out places of honor, apparently feeling pretty self-important and entitled. Jesus urged the very opposite approach to honor and recognition. He says it is better to take the lowest seat and to be asked to come up higher than to take a seat of honor and be asked to yield to one greater. Jesus asserts that reaching for greatness brings disgrace, but assuming a humble posture brings honor. He summarizes this principle, saying, “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (11).

Take Medicine to Avoid Heartburn (12-14). Jesus’ next illustration also focuses on what’s in the heart. This deals more with one’s motivation for hospitality. The worldly impulse is to do for those who can return the favor, to get something back from those you show kindness to. Jesus teaches them to extend kindness and hospitality to those who cannot repay you so that you can be eternally rewarded by God in the end. This is a basic heart issue, and Jesus dispenses the remedy.

“Teaching With Food” Continues on Page 6...