



Brandi Beavers. Health concerns.

The Beavers Children. Health concerns.

Kevin Collins. Donna’s cousins husband. Hospitalized following a car wreck.

Renee Collins. Cousin to Donna Patrick. She was in a very bad car accident this past week. Her husband Kevin was in a bad accident last month.

Sibbie Byrd. Nursing home. Health concerns.

Drew Clifton. Need of prayer.

Matthew Hollandsworth. Health concerns.

Linda Hughes & Family. Aunt to Donna Patrick. House fire.

Nadia Hurley. Friend of Brad & Jordyn. She been in and out of the hospital with seizures. She possibly has Lupus & Tachycardia.

Axel Keller. Dixie’s grandson (Mark’s stepson.) Had colon removal surgery. Isn’t doing well.

Rita Lawless. Surgery this past Friday. Surgery went well and they didn’t have to take anymore tissue than they had planned. They removed all the cancer. They are currently waiting for the pathology report to see if her margins are clear. This could take a couple of weeks.

Jimmy Ligon. Recovering from neck surgery.

Karen Lovell. Scheduled for joint fusion surgery on March 20th at UVA in Charlottesville. Before then she will have another CT scan and a series of nerve injections.

Paul Mays. Health concerns.

Ruby Mason. Recovering from a recent fall.

Jaydan Patrick. Special needs.

Sharon Teschendorf. Nursing home. Dementia.

Thomas Turner. Son of a friend of Brandi. Thomas is 5 years old and has been diagnosed with AML leukemia. He’s receiving treatment and will need a bone marrow transplant.

Charlotte Wyatt. Recovering from a mild stroke.

Caregivers.

Our Country, Military & Leaders.



Family of Billy Ashworth. Longtime friend of Pete. Billy passed away on December 23rd. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Family of Kenneth Moore. Recently passed away after battling cancer.



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The Collinsville Church of Christ
Collinsville, Virginia

CCLI: 11375622
CCLI STREAMING+: 20990706
CVLI: 505488461



2115 Daniels Creek Rd
Collinsville, VA 24078
www.ccocva.org
(276) 647-8454

Times We Meet:


Sunday:

Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Thursday:

Ladies Fellowship: 9:30a.m.
Ladies Class: 10:00 a.m.





Focusing on the New

This time of year people are focused on “new” things: New presents under the tree. A new year ahead. New opportunities to improve. And while Christianity is an ancient religion, there are many things the faith of Christ offers that are new.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 the apostle Paul states a bold principle about becoming a Christian: “Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” The way of Christ promises—and delivers—a newness to which nothing in the world compares.

New Life (2 Cor. 5:17). When a person is born again according to the pattern given by Christ Himself, then they become a new creation. Being “born again” (John 3:5) is the start of a new life in Christ Jesus that never ends.

New Direction (2 Cor. 5:7). Walking as children of light (Eph. 5:8), our focus shifts from worldly things to spiritual things (Col. 3:1). Our direction is now pointed toward heaven!

“Focusing on the New” Continues on Page 2...

“Focusing on the New” Continued from Front Page...

New Goals (2 Cor. 5:13-15). When we become Christians, our goals in life change. We are now focused on living for God, and upon saving souls (Matthew 28:18-20)!

New Existence (2 Cor. 5:1). Since a Christian is alive in the spirit, we know we have citizenship in heaven (Phil. 3:20).

What an amazing gift we have in Christ Jesus! Let’s use this new year ahead to focus on the new life, new direction, new goals, and new existence God has given us through the blood of Christ.

—Matt Clifton

As the End Approaches



Perhaps it is because I am getting older, but it is hard to believe that another year I about to come to an end. To a four-year-old child, it takes “forever” for him or her to turn five. If you are 54, that time to 55 seems like a few months. If you are 74, it seems more like a few weeks!

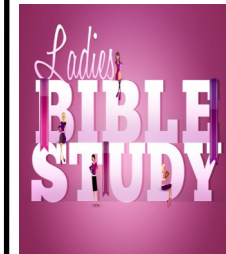
Just days before His death, Jesus spoke of the approaching end of Judaism and temple worship, and He gave eight signs that would be manifested before that time came. The eighth sign was that when the gospel would be preached to the world, then there would be an end (Matt. 24:14). In His trial, He told Caiaphas that starting that day of His trial the high priest would see the one he was killing coming and ruling in power (Matt. 26:24). When Paul wrote Colossians, he said that the eighth sign happened (Col. 1:23).

It should not surprise us that both Peter and James talked about this end. James said that the end was at hand and that the Judge was standing at the door about to bring judgment (James 5:8,9). Peter affirmed that the end was at hand (1 Pet. 4:7).

“As the End Approaches” Continues on Page 3...



January Birthday!
31ST MATTHEW
HOLLANDSWORTH



Ladies' Bible Class!

Ladies Class resumes in normal schedule this Thursday, January 8th!
Coffee & Donuts @ 9:30 a.m.
Class @ 10:00 a.m.



January Men's Breakfast!

Our next Men's Breakfast will be on January 24th! Join us at 9:00 a.m. at Clarence's Steakhouse for food and fellowship.



On The Lighter Side...

“That’s a great place to work!” shouted a young man after coming home from the first day at his first job. “I get two weeks paid vacation!”

“I’m so glad,” said his mother.

“Yeah.” added John. “I can’t wait to find out where they send me!”

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On The Lighter Side...

I ate a salad for dinner! Mostly croutons and tomatoes. Really just one big, round crouton covered with tomato sauce. And cheese. Fine, it was pizza. I ate a pizza.



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Time of Renewal

It is hard to believe we are at the end of one year and the start of a New Year. The Old Testament describes the Jewish New Year as the Feast of Trumpets, a day of rest, remembrance, and repentance, as commanded in Leviticus 23:24-25 and Numbers 29:1. The New Testament does not mention a “New Year” as the Old Testament does for the Jews. There may be many reasons for this, but one is that Christians are to be continually renewed. Rom. 12:2 puts it this way, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God is, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

The Christian is to be continually renewed by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5) and the blood of Christ (1 Jn. 1:7) and to live in such a way that our lives are transformed and our minds are renewed. Although God does the renewing, it requires cooperation on our part. If a Christian is to be transformed and experience spiritual renewal, we must put ourselves in the places that will bring spiritual renewal.

We should draw together with fellow believers, finding encouragement and being uplifted in worship and Bible study (Hebrews 10:24-25). The Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7) is more than a ritual; it is a meaningful opportunity to remember and renew our love for the Savior. Singing praises and heartfelt prayer (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 6:18) not only honors God but also refreshes our spirit. Serving others with our gifts and abilities (Galatians 6:10) brings joy and fulfillment, knowing our actions are pleasing to the Lord.

Spiritual renewal is not confined to a single day—it is a daily discipline. However, New Year’s Day serves as a powerful reminder of our need for renewal. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 reminds, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

Let us welcome the New Year as an opportunity to renew our minds, our hearts, and our commitment to living transformed lives for Christ. —Mark T. Tonkery

“As the End Approaches” Continued from Page 2...

Had you lived in that first century, you would have seen the signs being fulfilled as God destroyed the temple and brought about the end of Judaism. Thankfully, Peter then gave encouragement as to what to do when the end was at hand.

The application of Peter’s encouragement can impact us every time we see an “end” coming. As you age, you can see the end of your life approaching so rapidly. You attend the funerals of others (some even younger than you), and Peter’s words seem so appropriate. In a similar way, the end of 2025 would be a good time to see what Peter emphasized.

First, Peter says to be sober, to be serious (1 Pet. 4:7). As a new year approaches, it would be wise to give serious thought as to how much you have grown spiritually. Are you closer to the Lord as this year ends than what you were when it began? Give serious thought to the direction of your life.

Peter then says to be watchful in prayers. As the end approaches, spend time praying about dealing with temptations that surround you. Seriously pray about your life.

Then Peter says that as the end approached there should be fervent love for each other. This love covers many of those awkward times of dealing with others. He specifically mentions hospitality. How much have you gone out of your way sharing times with others? As the end approaches, should you change how much time you spend with your brethren?

Take time to read verses 10 and 11. You will be amazed seeing 2 other applications of what to do as the end approaches. There is an end approaching—be serious!

—Dan Jenkins



Can We Understand God’s Word?

It isn’t uncommon today to hear someone say that it is impossible to understand the Bible. It seems to me that this is a reflection on God. Is God not powerful enough, smart enough, and loving enough to give us a Book we can understand? Certainly, He is. The problem, therefore, when it comes to understanding the Bible, lies with men, not with God. We shouldn’t make the Bible harder to understand than it is. Here is a simple, easy-to-remember overview of the New Testament:

Think of Matthew through John as the “Belief Section.” These four books were written to inform us of the life of Christ and to produce faith in our hearts (John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31).

Think of the Book of Acts as the “Unique Section.” Acts is unique in that it is the only book of the Bible that gives an example of a person becoming a Christian. There are 10 such examples in Acts. Some examples include more details than others. Studying Acts, you will find that belief is mentioned in 6 examples, repentance in 1, confession in 1, and baptism in all 10. But since the Lord requires all who are in sin to believe, repent, confess, and be baptized, we safely conclude that all who were saved in the book of Acts did all these things.

Think of Romans through Jude as the “How to Live Section.” These books were written to instruct Christians how to live in Christ. While studying this section, it will be helpful to remember that these books were written to those who had become Christians already (see the book of Acts for how they became Christians).

Then, think of the Book of Revelation as the “Victory Section.” This book was written to encourage Christians to remain faithful to Christ that they might receive eternal life (Revelation 2:10).

There you have it—all the New Testament. If you can keep these simple divisions in mind, you can understand the Word of God.

—Mark Lindley



Bible Quiz: Matthew 21:40-46

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS ON PAGE 7!

1. “Therefore, when the owner of the __ comes, what will he do to those vine-dressers?”
2. “He will __ those wicked men miserably, and lease *his* vineyard to other vine-dressers who will render to him the __ in their seasons.”
3. “The __ which the builders rejected has become the chief __.”
4. Jesus was speaking about the chief __ and __.
5. The multitudes took Jesus to be a __.



Did You Know This About 1 Thessalonians?

Many Christians have a fascination with the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that is a fact that has not changed since the beginning of the church in the first century.

In 1 Thessalonians, the apostle Paul mentions the second coming of Christ in every single chapter.

For example, in the first chapter he mentions waiting for God’s Son from heaven. In chapter two, he talks about how joyful it will be for him to see those he had taught in the presence of the Lord at His coming. Then in chapter three, he mentions the coming of the Lord Jesus with all His saints. The Thessalonians were worried about their brothers and sisters who were already dead missing the coming of Christ, so Paul explains in chapter four that the Lord will raise them from the dead and they will all meet Him in the air together. And finally in chapter five, he talks about the Lord coming as a thief in the night.

Do you have your mind on the return of the Lord? —Matt Clifton

