

NEWS & NOTES

THE SICK: *Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home. ~ Buffy Wallen's grandmother and James McConnell's aunt, **Nadine Thompson**, is in the Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home in Killen. ~ Eric White's father, **Jim White**, continues his cancer treatments. ~ Judy Williams' mother **Flossie Kazzaire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette ~ **Jerry Dickey** is continuing to receive cancer treatments. ~ **Frances Resse**, Aric Butler's grandmother, in Brookings, Oregon is very sick with lung cancer. ~ **Others on the sick list include:** **Virginia Lovell** has Pneumonia and nodules on her lungs. Test should be back soon to determine what they are. ~ **Helen Trousdale**, is not well enough to get out. ~ **Ronnie Phillips, Audrey Goode, Rocky Rose, Rodney McCrary, Joshua Andrews, Daniel Clemmons.**

Traveling: There may be many that will be traveling during this holiday season. Let us keep them in our prayers that they will return to us safe and sound. ~ The **Word** family will be in Florida. ~ **Andrew and Marissa Gatlin** will be visting family.

Other News: There is a directory update on the table in the foyer. ~ Don't forget to arrive this afternoon at 3:30 PM for our evening worship.

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP: Tonight after our evening service will be the meeting time for "Group C". If you are in this group, be sure to attend this meeting.

FOR THE RECORD: (Week of December 14th)

Sunday:	
Bible Classes	97
Morning Worship	116
Evening Worship	79
Wednesday:	
Bible Classes	76

Schedule of Services

Sunday
 Bible Classes9:45 AM
 Morning Worship10:45 AM
 Evening Worship6:00 PM
 3rd Sunday Evening.....3:30 PM

Wednesday
 Bible Classes7:00 PM

Elders
 Michael Clemmons...(256) 247-0836
 Scottie Goode.....(931) 565-3391

Deacons
 Jimmy Glass.....(256) 247-0571
 Eddie J. Hammond...(256) 247-3038
 Mark McIntyre.....(256) 729-8316
 Steve Parker.....(256) 247-7843
 Phil Pressnell.....(256) 232-8509
 Rocky Rose.....(256) 247-0011
 Brian Word.....(931) 565-3799

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Return Service Requested

Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation..." **Romans 1:16**

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Anderson church of Christ
 5900 Highway 207
 Anderson, Alabama
 Visit Us On The Web
 Anderson-church.org

Men Privileged To Serve For the Week of Dec 21st:

BIBLE CLASSES

Song Leader – Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading – Jimmy Glass
Deuteronomy 31:9-13
Prayer – Michael Clemmons

MORNING WORSHIP

Song Leader – Phil Pressnell
Prayer – Cecil Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding – Scottie Goode
Assisting – Steve Parker
Serving – Daniel Clemmons,
 Brian Blakely, Brad Hammond, Jim Phillips
Closing Prayer – James Word

EVENING WORSHIP

Song Leader – Ronnie Phillips
Bible Reading – Rodney McCrary
Deuteronomy 31:14-21
Prayer – Kevin Chancellor
Lord's Supper – Scottie Goode,
 Steve Parker
Closing Prayer – Jimmy Glass

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASSES

Song Leader – Eddie J. Hammond
Prayer – Rocky Rose
Bible Reading – Phil Pressnell
Deuteronomy 31:22-29
Invitation – Aaron Andrews
Closing Prayer – Scottie Goode

Join us for a

GOSPEL
 SINGING



This Afternoon
at 3:30 PM.

The Prodigal Son

Gary Bagwell

Just imagine a young boy or girl being lost. Think of all the sleepless nights of the parents and the kinfolks. It is frightening isn't it? Oh, but what a great jubilation when you find that child and he is all right. One can't begin to imagine the thoughts, despair, concern of losing a child or the joy, happiness or elation of finding that child, unless he has experienced it for himself. I have friends who did experience this, so I can relate to it on a small scale. There are some lessons we can learn from the parable of the prodigal son - let us look at those.

The very first lesson I learn is that young people (teenagers) many times want their freedom. The attitude is, "I know what is best for me, so I want my own way. I want to have my freedom. Mom and dad, I no longer need you or want you telling me what to do. I am old enough now to make my own decisions." Please notice in this parable though he wanted his freedom and he never needed his father anymore he asked his father for the portion of goods he had coming (money; the share of his estate). "I want my money (what is mine). I am leaving home for greener pastures." That was the prodigal son's first mistake. In Proverbs 1:8-9, Solomon said, "Heed the instruction of thy father and forsake not the law of thy mother. For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck." The first lesson to be learned then is that young folks should listen to their parents!

The second lesson I learn from this parable is that parents are not always to blame when children go astray. There is nothing within this parable that places the blame on the Father. Another example of this is Samson's parents. Manoah and his wife (as far as we know) brought Samson up right and yet he went into sin. Judges 13-16 tells us of

Samson's evil ways. When godly parents, those who fear the Lord, bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and still their children go astray, it is not the fault of the parents. Children have volition and even the right kind of teaching and training does not take this away.

The third lesson I see, is that sin is not as beautiful as it appears. The prodigal's attitude was, "I am leaving home; I have to have my freedom." But, one day he came to himself. After he had spent all his living and the famine came, he then realized for the first time what it meant to be in want, hungry and destitute. He had too much month left at the end of the money. He said, "My father has plenty, even the servants are taken care of and I perish with hunger." Sin is expensive. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

Fourthly, I see true forgiveness in this parable. The boy's father was willing to forgive him even though this young boy had brought shame and reproach to the family name.

Notice verse 20 - "the father saw the son coming home yet a great way off. He had compassion on him, he ran and fell on his neck and kissed him." The son made his confession to his father - how he had sinned against heaven and against his father and how he was no longer worthy to be called his son. "But the father said to his servants, bring forth the best robe and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet: and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat and be merry: for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. And, they began to be merry." None of this ever would have happened if the prodigal son would have only listened to his father and heeded his advice.

The father in his parable is like God our Father who stands by at all times waiting to receive us if we have sinned

and if we will confess our sins and then repent of them. He will pardon us and treat us as though we have never sinned - as he did his son in this parable.

In conclusion (a word of caution to the young people), make sure you "honor your father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:2-3). Be friends with your parents, get to know them, love, them, respect them. If they are Christians, you have two of the most wonderful blessings God could have given you. Do not take them for granted and hurt them by doing things that would cause them heartache and grief. As you grow older and have your own family, you will realize what it means to be a parent and what a tremendous responsibility it is. Be grateful for godly parents; obey them and tell them you love them often. The prodigal son had to live with the mistakes he had made and the memories even though he had been forgiven. Be respectful to parents and heed their advice. God will bless you for it. *Guardian of Truth XXXII: 12, p. 363 - June 16, 1988*

Do You Act or React?

By Sidney Harris

I walked with my friend, a Quaker, to the newsstand the other night, and he bought a paper, thanking the newsie politely. The newsie didn't even acknowledge it.

"A sullen fellow, isn't he?" I commented.

"Oh, he's that way every night," shrugged my friend.

"Then why do you continue to be so polite to him?" I asked.

"Why not?" inquired my friend. "Why should I let him decide how I'm going to act?"

As I thought about this incident later, it occurred to me that the important word was "act." My friend acts toward

people; most of us react toward them. He has a sense of inner balance which is lacking in most of us; he knows who he is, what he stands for, how he should behave. He refuses to return incivility for incivility, because then he would no longer be in command of his own conduct. When we are enjoined in the Bible to return good for evil, we look upon this as a moral injunction - which it is. But it is also a psychological prescription for our emotional health.

Nobody is unhappier than the perpetual reactor. His center of emotional gravity is not rooted within himself, where it belongs, but in the world outside him. His spiritual temperature is always being raised or lowered by the social climate around him, and he is a mere creature at the mercy of these elements.

Praise gives him a feeling of euphoria, which is false, because it does not last and it does not come from self-approval. Criticism depresses him more than it should, because it confirms his own secret shaky opinion of himself. Snubs hurt him, and the merest suspicion of unpopularity in any quarter rouses him to bitterness.

A serenity of spirit cannot be achieved until we become the masters of our own actions and attitudes. To let another determine whether we shall be rude or gracious, elated or depressed, is to relinquish control over our own personalities, which is ultimately all we possess....The only true possession is self-possession.

Thought To Ponder

The cross of Christ is God's last and endless word. There the prince of this world is judged, there sin is killed, and pride is done to death, there lust is frozen, and self-interest slaughtered, not one can get through. - *From Charlottesville Beacon*