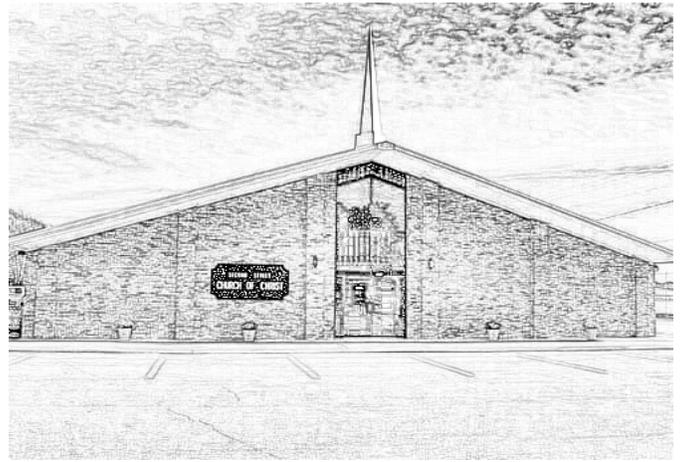


# Second Street Church of Christ



December 13, 2015

## *When the Time is Ripe*

### MINISTER

Adam Cozort

662-663-0231

### Office

662-454-9429

P.O. Box 126  
Belmont, Ms. 38827

### SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Bible Class....9:00am  
Sun. Morn. Worship.10:00am  
Sunday Evening.....5:00pm  
Wed. Evening.....7:00pm

***Endeavoring to keep  
the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace.  
Ephesians 4:3***

We often wonder what the world is coming to; just how long will evil progress in our world? The Bible ought to be at the forefront of our focus when we have such questions. That God wrote the Bible is evident from many of its characteristics, one of which is its controlled way of describing evil in the world. There is no shocked helplessness at the evil acts of men, but rather a reminder that God is in control over the kingdom of men and works according to His own timetable (Daniel 4:25).

Just as farmers wait as long it takes for their crops to mature before they harvest them, God waits until the time is ripe to punish wicked nations. Often we can become anxious and impatient about evil, wondering when God will deal with it. Men in the Bible did this as well. Jeremiah questioned how long God would allow the wicked to prosper (Jeremiah 12:1-4). Habakkuk knew that God was of purer eyes than to behold evil (Hab. 1:13), but was troubled because to him it seemed that God was idly looking at wrongdoing (Hab. 1:2-4). John saw the souls of them who were slain under the altar crying out, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" (Revelation 6:10), an evident representation of God's sense of justice being so sensitive that innocent blood screams out to Him (cf Genesis 4:6).

God will punish when the time is ripe. In Genesis 15:16, God promised Abraham that his descendants (Israel) would inherit the land where Abraham was sojourning (Canaan), when the iniquity of the present inhabitants (the Amorites) was full. However, before that time Israel would be a servant in the land of Egypt until the time was right for God to judge them (Genesis 15: 13-14). God had plans to bless Israel and to punish Egypt and the people of Canaan, but it was all according to His time.

When will the iniquity of our nation be full? God alone knows. He sent His Son to save the world "when the fullness of time was come" (Galatians 4:4). Revelation 14:13-20 portrays an angel being sent forth with instructions to reap the earth with a sharp sickle gathering God's people for deliverance and the wicked for punishment. The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 came when the time was ripe. Jesus' parable of the wheat and the tares in Matthew 13:24-43 gives a glimpse of the harvest that will take place at the end of time.

God harvests when the time is ripe for individuals and nations. He will issue His last and great harvest at the end of time. It is up to us to make sure we are prepared for the reaping when the time is ripe.

Mark Day  
Flatwoods church of Christ  
Flatwoods, KY  
Bulletin Digest

# Announcements

**Welcome Visitors!!** You are our honored guest, and we are glad you came our way! We invite you back to our evening services at 5:00 and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 pm.

**No Bear Stuffing** until February.

**Trays for December** Bonnie Holcomb

**Scripture and Song** followed by fellowship meal tonight.

## Spend Time With Your Kids!

In the diary of Brooks Adams is a note about a special day when he was eight years old. He wrote, "Went fishing with my father; the most glorious day of my life." Through the next forty years, there were constant references to that day and the influence it had on his life.

Brooks' father was Charles Francis Adams, Abraham Lincoln's ambassador to Great Britain. He also had a note in his diary about the same day. It simply said, "Went fishing with my son; a day wasted."

Bulletin Digest via House to House, Heart to Heart

## Are You Open?

Sometimes I forget that it is a holiday and drive to the bank to deposit a needed check, only to see a sign on the door that reads "Closed." Frustrating.

On one summer night a few years ago, my wife and I were craving some Maggie Moo's Ice Cream. We made the thirty-minute trek from our home in Maryville to the nearest Maggie Moo's, only to see that the neon sign that read "Open" was not lit up. They were closed. Disappointing.

On one occasion, my gas light came on during a stretch of the interstate where exits were few and far between. As more and more mile markers swept by, I began to get nervous. When I came to the next exit, I got off and made my way to the nearest gas station. The sign on the door said, "We're Closed." Troubling.

Now, there is something that is far more frustrating, disappointing, and troubling than a closed bank, ice cream shop, or gas station, and that is a heart that is not open to God. What is the sign on the door of your heart saying to God? Open 24 hours? Closed?

As you are contemplating your honest response to this question, keep three things in mind: (1) God will not come into your heart uninvited (Rev. 3:20); (2) opening your heart up to God involves giving your entire life to God, not just one or two days a week (Rom. 6:5-14); (3) once the door closes on your life or Jesus returns, you will not be able to exchange a closed sign for an open one (Luke 13:22-29).

Jacob Evans Pulaski Street church of Christ Lawrenceburg, TN Via Bulletin Digest

## Eight Gifts That Do Not Cost a Cent

**The Gift of Listening.** But you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

**The Gift of Affection.** Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back, and hand-holds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

**The Gift of Laughter.** Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

**The Gift of Written Notes.** It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

**The Gift of a Compliment.** A simple and sincere, "you look great in red," "you did a super job" or "that was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

**The Gift of Favor.** Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

**The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition.** The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone. Really, it's not that hard to say, "Hello" or "Thank you." Read Luke 6:38!

Bulletin Digest via Findlay church of Christ Sparta, TN

# ELIJAH'S MISCALCULATION

*Learning from the prophet's mistake*

## INTRODUCTION

- ◆ Elijah is one of the central prophets of the Old Testament.
- ◆ Much of the latter section of 1 Kings and the beginning of 2 Kings is devoted to his work.
- ◆ In the New Testament he is the prophet most often used to represent the spokesmen of the Old Testament. (Matthew 17)
- ◆ In spite of this, he was not immune to the feelings of discouragement that often plague us.

## THE SETTING

- ◆ Elijah is living in a very difficult political and religious climate.
- ◆ Ahab and Jezebel are on the throne of Israel. (1 Kings 18:29-33)
- ◆ Jezebel had outlawed worship to God and attempted to kill every prophet of God she could find. (1 Kings 18:4)
- ◆ At Mt. Carmel, Elijah defeats 450 prophets of Baal and Jezebel sets out to kill him. (1 Kings 18)

## THE MISCALCULATION

- ◆ Elijah is forced to run for his life. (1 Kings 19:1-4)
- ◆ He is so discouraged he prays to God that he would just die. (1 Kings 19:4)
- ◆ He is alone, running for his life, hiding in a cave, and beginning to believe he is the only one trying to do what is right. (1 Kings 19:9-10)
- ◆ God shows his power to Elijah and reveals to him that there are still 7,000 who are faithful. (1 Kings 19:11-18)

## THE APPLICATION

- ◆ It is easy for us to become discouraged like Elijah. ("Nobody," "everyone else," etc.)
- ◆ However, we must understand that we are not alone and there are others seeking to serve God as well. (Just like those 7,000)
- ◆ Not everyone is greedy, materialistic, self-gratifying, and uncaring about God and his Word.
- ◆ Let us learn from Elijah's miscalculation so that we do not make the same mistake.

## **Come into His Presence with Singing**

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God! It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him, bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithfulness to all generations" (Psalms 100:1-5, RSV).

One of the over-riding messages of Psalms 100 is that we sing to bring our hearts, our minds and our spirits into the presence of God. "Come before him with joyful songs" is another way of saying verse two. Our worship of God should be one of gladness. There is a joy that overwhelms us as we come into God's presence. It excites us so much that we want to shout our thanks to the Lord. In our thanksgiving, we recognize that the Lord is good and his "steadfast love endures forever."

Why do we sing in worship? One main reason is that it brings us into the presence of God, Himself.

## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday

**Bible Study**      **9:00am**  
**Worship**        **10:00am**  
**Evening**         **5:00pm**

### Wednesday

**Bible Study**      **7:00pm**

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*I was glad when they said unto me, Let  
us go into the house of the LORD.*

**Psalms 122:1**

The process for becoming a Christian  
is the same as it was over 2000 years  
ago! To become a Christian, one must:

*Hear the Gospel - Rom. 10:17*

*Believe the Gospel - Heb. 11:6*

*Repent of Sins - Luke 13:3*

*Confess Christ - Rom. 10:10*

*Be Immersed Into Christ - Acts 2:38*

*Live a Faithful Life - Rev. 2:10*

None of these alone will make you a  
Christian. These commands are from  
God and must be obeyed from the  
heart to become a Christian.

### Prayer List



Paula Wanner	Matthew Horton
Norma Taylor	Joey Pierce
Craig Pierce	Buddy Saylor
Faye Metts	Billy Joe Payne
Becky Raper	Barbara Blackman
Phillip Pharr	Kristy Phillips
Cathy Alexander	Drake Ross
Faye Johnson	Gerald Nunley
Elle Sander	Barbara Livingston
Flora Wanner	John Tate
Tommy Garrard	Lou Dodson
Mary Gilley	Marilyn Pharr
Jeanie Ivy	Eddie Woods
Debra Wren	Jessie Coke

### *December Birthdays*

*Flora Wanner 12/3*  
*Faye Johnson 12/15*  
*Steve Holcomb 12/21*  
*Dorsa Sparks 12/25*  
*Jan Higginbottom 12/26*  
*Joe Horton 12/29*



### Sympathy

*Whitworth Family*