

Upcoming Events

April 13th @ 12	Fruit Basket making party and activites for kids. Sign up sheet on bulletin board.
April 14th-17th	Gospel Meeting at the Hall church of Christ with different speakers. See bulletin board for more information.
April 19th @ 7PM	Area Wide singing at the Bethel church of Chirst.
April 26th-28th	Lectureship at the East Ridge church of Christ. See bulletin board for more information.

How can you determine if you are close with God or you are following from afar? An easy answer to this is yet another question, where are you when the saints assemble? If you are gathered with the saints and worshipping God at every opportunity you are following more closely than if you attend sporadically. With each passing service that a person misses it becomes easier to miss the next and the next. Another way to determine if you are following from afar is, how often do you study your Bible? Again, if you study and read about God more often than just the assemblies then you are striving to draw near to God. If we miss services regularly, rarely study God's Word then we may be following from afar.

It is very important that we follow God as closely as we can or we may find ourselves following Peter's example by denying Christ. We must not deny Christ before men. Jesus warned, "*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven*" (Matt 10:32-33). We should live each passing day drawing near to the Lord not following from afar.

Dale Barger

The Messenger

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#14



Elders

Greg Anderson.....
Dion Brown.....
Matt Brown.....

Deacons

Terry Denney.....
Tim Hawn.....
Mike Meloncon.....
Jack Pendergrass.....

Minister

Dale Barger

Service Times

Sunday Morning10:00AM
Bible Study
11:00 AM
Worship
Sunday Evening6:00PM
Wednesday Bible Study7:00PM

Following From Afar

The Apostle Peter was very zealous for the Lord. He was always ready to give an answer and would stand up for Christ. However, he stumbled and denied Christ during His trial. Jesus had just warned Peter that he would deny three times within the night. We know from reading the remainder of the account that Peter did in fact deny Jesus three times before the morning. We may wonder, what caused Peter to fall so far so fast? It may have started from the arrest. Matthew records, *"And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end"* (Matt. 26:57-58). This seems to be the beginning of Peter's denial of Christ.

When we evaluate the denial of Christ by Peter, we realize that it escalated severely. Notice each denial Peter made. The first denial, *"But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest"* (Matt. 26:70). The second denial, *"And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man"* (Matt. 26:72). Finally, *"Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew"* (Matt. 26:74). With each passing denial they became more intense. The first was only words. The second included an oath and the third denial included cursing and swearing!

Peter was following from afar. The Bible encourages us to draw near to the Lord. This example of Peter displays why we should follow closely rather than from afar. While Peter was near the Lord he had drawn a sword and cut off an ear of one of those arresting Christ! Then just hours later, he was cursing and swearing that he did not know Him. This may explain why James encouraged, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you"* (James 4:7-8). When we are close with God, we are stronger.

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Prayer Request

Glenda Swanger; Jean White Smith; Leona & Jimmy Roberts; Irene Melton; Roberta Collier; Steve & Julie Neely; Mildred Gilbert; Barbara Angel; Kate Walling; Mike White; Stanley Guinn; Dora Swafford; JoAnn Beach; Mary Harp; Barbara DeBord; Joyce Mears; Herb & Alice Hale; Belle Smith; Katherine Webb; Jack Pendergrass and Craig Mills.

Sick/ Updates

Eddie Lucious Howard has tumors in head; Patsy Kelly has been hospitalized recently in Erlanger; Karen Frazier Williamson been hospitalized recently from complications from shingles.

Business Meetings

Our monthly business meetings will be tonight following the evening services. Men will meet in the back and ladies in the auditorium.

Kids Party

Fruit Basket making party and activities for kids Saturday April 13th at noon. Sign up sheet on bulletin board.

Mid-Week Memory Verse

Memory Verse for mid-week bible study is 2 Cor. 2:11.

Gospel Meeting

Our spring gospel meeting will be May 5th-9th with Eddy Craft speaking. Please be planning for the week.

Women's Monthly Schedule

Prepare Lord's Supper for April: Gail Forsythe

For The Record week of 3/31/19

Attendance: AM 89; PM 59; Wed. 57; Contribution \$1,933

Happy Birthday!

Patti Anderson (7th), Barbara DeBord (8th), Jonas Barger (12th), Jack Pendergrass (13th)

Happy Anniversary!

Dion & Imogene Brown (8th)

Children's Bible Class

Children's Bible class begins tonight at 5:45.

Note: If there are any updates or additions please let Dale know.