

Warners Chapel Church of Christ

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"The churches of Christ salute you" Rom. 16:16

A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU

December 15, 2019

Spiritual Apathy is Not Acceptable

Those to whom the letter of *Hebrews* was addressed were rebuked for their spiritual apathy (Hebrews 5:9-6:3). The inspired author expressed a desire to present some meaty principles regarding the priesthood of Melchizedek, but the Christians were not spiritually ready for that teaching. At this point the Holy Spirit tells these people "you have become dull of hearing" (Hebrews 5:11). These Christians had stopped listening. They no longer found spiritual learning to be interesting. They had become apathetic. That is, they no longer cared to continue growing in their spiritual maturity. While there may be some areas in life where it is good for us to be satisfied, that should never be said with regard to spiritual strength. We must never be so satisfied with our spiritual maturity that we no longer care about growing. The reality is, that if we become apathetic we will not be able to stay where we are in regard to spiritual strength. We will begin to decline in our maturity. One is either growing in spiritual maturity or declining in spiritual maturity.

The writer of this rebuke spoke of solid food belonging to those who are spiritually mature, and milk belonging to those who are not (Hebrews 5:12-14). A child's physical development is pictured here. A newborn baby requires milk and cannot eat solid food. But, as the baby matures and teeth come in, the child becomes capable of solid food. Spiritual milk in this context represents "the elementary principles of Christ," and is for those who are "unskilled in the word of righteousness" (Hebrews 6:1; 5:13). This is not a bad thing for those who are new Christians. This is a terrible situation for those who have been Christians many years. It is important that we never lose site of the fundamentals of the faith, but it is also crucial that we mature and develop in our faith and knowledge.

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How then do we mature and develop? Obviously, Bible study is required. Putting ourselves in positions to hear more Bible teaching and preaching will help us grow in our understanding. But we must not leave it to that alone. We must be willing to pick up and read our Bibles with a view toward personal application as well as knowledge development (Acts 17:11). When we will take the Word of God and apply it to the decisions and actions of our lives we will mature and grow. The writer of Hebrews puts it this way: “solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their sense exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:14).

There is great danger in becoming so dull of hearing, one does not grow to be able to take in the solid food. The *Hebrews* author speaks of some who have become Christians, have fallen away, and have become so stubborn in their fall, they refuse to repent (Hebrews 6:4-6). Words cannot express the enormity and horror of such a tragedy. For someone to become a Christian, be saved by the mercy and grace of God, then become so dull of hearing they stop growing, fall away, and won't come back, is for someone to lose their soul eternally. To discard the hope, peace, and comfort that comes from faithful maturing Christianity is to throw away what is more important than anything else. We must not let this happen to us. We must not fall away, but if we are not going to fall away we are going to have to be growing and maturing. If one is not growing and maturing, he is dying. This applies to the new Christian as well as the one who has been a Christian for a number of years. This applies to the parents who are raising their children as much as it applies to preachers of the Gospel. Yes, even, or especially, preachers must continue to mature, grow, and develop until the day they die.

Develop a hunger for truth. Stoke the fires of curiosity in your mind. Take in a strong desire to grow in wisdom and knowledge. See the Word of God as great treasure that reveals the mind of God to you. See the Holy Bible as an amazing book from God that gives you perspective and purpose. Know the Scriptures as that which produces hope and joy within your life. Never forget the milk, but never stop growing in your ability to take in the solid food. May God bless you as you develop a growing love and an insatiable appetite for His Word.

~Kevin V. Rutherford



READ THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2019

December 16 - Revelation 7
December 17 - Revelation 8
December 18 - Revelation 9
December 19 - Revelation 10



December 20 - Revelation 11
December 21 - Revelation 12
December 22 - Revelation 13

OUR SICK

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Bill Carothers was released Wednesday from the hospital after undergoing heart ablation surgery on Tuesday. Thanks to everyone for their prayers.

Dora Lundgren underwent surgery for Ovarian Cancer this past Monday. The surgery was successful and she is expected to be released from the hospital on Friday (Dec. 20th). Please pray for Dora. She is expected to begin chemo in the near future.

Todd Hinson will undergo kidney surgery on December 19th. Please keep him in your prayers.

Please pray for **Mattie Pharr** who is having stomach problems at this time.

Prayers were requested for the **David Wamer Family** - all are sick.

Noah and Isaac Woodbury were reported to be running fevers this past Wednesday.

Update on Karen Clemmons' brother, **Eric Drews**: He had to start Dialysis, still having difficulty breathing and his fever is back. **Thank you for you for your prayers.**

Jackson Wall - child in daycare where Nancy Minor works, is still experiencing severe headaches and other issues related to his having had a brain bleed. Continue to pray for him.

Also: a father of another student at the daycare, **Tony Nichols**, has been diagnosed with stage 3 Rectal Cancer. Please pray for him also.

Please continue to remember **Susie Steen**, the mother of Sandra Church's son-in-law. Please continue to pray for her and **Andy Goodwin**.

Prayers are requested for **Lucy Hilburn**, a member at the South Fork church of Christ. She was released from the hospital Monday evening only to be re-admitted Tuesday evening.

SHUT-INS

Mary Ellen Dull
D. J. Harrison

Ernestine Martin
Carolyn Minor

Please remember the shut-ins in your prayers

**THE PRAYER LIST IS AVAILABLE ON
THE CREDENZA IN THE FOYER.**



~Memorial Service for Sister Betty Smith~

The Memorial Service for Sister Betty Smith, Jeanie Tate's mother, will be held at the Broad Street church of Christ in Statesville, December 15th at 3 p.m.

Welcome

WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU VISITING WITH US THIS MORNING. WE INVITE YOU TO RETURN THIS EVENING AT 6:00 P.M. FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE AND AT 7:00 P.M. EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING FOR THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY.

WARNERS CHAPEL EVENTS

The Tuesday Evening Class has been cancelled until January.



SOUTHWEST FOOD PANTRY

Suggested Items for the month of December:

Canned Meat: chicken/tuna

*Laundry detergent, hand dishwashing liquid, and soap would be greatly appreciated at any time.

LIVELY STONES

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:5

As we will soon approach a new year, each of us should examine ourselves to determine whether or not we are "lively stones" that are part of a spiritual house. If we are not seeking to do God's will by being present with the other "stones" and participating actively in the work of the church, can we really be considered "lively stones". If we are haphazard in our service to God, never giving up anything personally in time or resources, are we offering "spiritual sacrifices" or just passing on the crumbs that fall from our tables? Think on these things and resolve to be more pleasing to God in the coming year.

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study - December 8, 2019	142
Sunday Worship Service:	166
Contributions for December 8, 2019	\$9,042
Daily Bible Readers:	30
Chapters Read:	502
Sunday Evening Worship Service:	122
Wednesday Evening Bible Study, Dec. 11, 2019	118

Lord's Day Appointments For December, 2019

Serving the Lord's Table For December

Preparing Communion for December:
Making Announcements on Sunday:
Making Announcements on Wednesday:

Steve Tesh

David Elam Allen Cooper
Tommy Ridings
Gina Harper
Andy Santiago
Clayton Workman

Lord's Day Appointments - December 22, 2019

DEVOTIONS:	OPENING PRAYER:	SONG LEADER	SCRIPTURE READERS
Scripture - Gene Ruark Song Leader - Gene Southern Prayer - Caleb Rutherford	Morning - Charley Belch Evening - Aldine Cloud	A.M. - Steve Tesh P.M. - David Shoaf Wed. - Song Request Gene S. & David S.	A.M. - Darryl Cook P.M. - Mark Clemmons

Greeters for December:

Gene and Debbie Southern

Opening and Closing Building:

Sunday: - December 22 ~ Randy Warner

Wednesday: - December 18 ~ Randy Warner

Lord's Day Appointments - December 15, 2019

DEVOTIONS:	OPENING PRAYER:	SONG LEADER	SCRIPTURE READERS
Scripture - Brad Hoots Song Leader - Steve Tesh Prayer - Kevin Rutherford	Morning - Wayne Allen Evening - Rodney Brown	A.M. - Charley Belch P.M. - Justin Little Wed. - Clayton Workman	A.M. - Carl Cooper P.M. - Tommy Rose

Opening and Closing Building:

Sunday: - December 15 ~ Colin Robertson

Wednesday: - December 18 ~ Colin Robertson

Greeters for December:

Gene & Debbie Southern

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - Nursery open for small children during all services.

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes 10:00 AM

Morning Worship 10:50 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY: Mid-Week Service 7:00 PM

“GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE” at 10:30 p.m. each week night on Cable 8
SEARCH PROGRAM - Sunday Mornings at 7:30 a.m. on Cable 68

WARNERS CHAPEL CHURCH OF CHRIST
8999 LASATER ROAD
CLEMMONS, NC 27012

ELDERS

DEACONS

Tim Allen
Todd Hinson
Steve Tesh
Andy Santiago

Randy Warner
Keith Warner
Mark Minor
Jason Allen
Jody Everett

Gene Southern
Shawn Thomason
Mark Roy
Adam Warner
Jacob Woodbury