



## Contact Us:

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## Meeting Times:

### Sunday:

Bible Study .....9:45 AM  
Worship .....10:40 AM  
Care, Inc. Service .... 2:30 PM  
Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

## Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

## Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

John Barnum

## Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

## Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children  
Gospel Broadcast Network  
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)  
Mission Printing  
Rohan Jones, Africa  
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study  
the Bible to know more about  
Christ and His Church.

## Man's Responsibilities

In view of Solomon's warning (Eccl. 12:13-14) to "*Fear God and keep His commandments,*" it seems prudent for us to consider what responsibilities he has given man throughout the book.

First, Solomon has instructed man to **enjoy life**. While many today have an "it's all about me" and a "go for the gusto" philosophy, Solomon offers a legitimate reason to find joy in one's life. There is much to enjoy: food, companionship, work – but all based upon a positive relationship with God. This theme occurs seven times in the book: 2:24-26; 3:12-13, 22; 5:18-20; 8:15; 9:7-9; 11:8-9. This joy cannot be hedonism, because it is given by God.

Second, Solomon has instructed man to **be wise**. There are some definite negatives to wisdom (1:18; 2:12; 4:13-16; 9:13-16; 10:1). However, there are numerous advantages. Wisdom itself is good (2:26), it improves the quality of life (7:11-12) and gives strength (7:19). It even can help one in a difficult situation (8:1). It is important to wise men that they help others to become wise (12:9-12).

Third, Solomon has instructed men to **worship God acceptably**. Men throughout the centuries have foolishly approached God in a way that was unacceptable (Lev. 10:1-2; Isa. 1:10-17; Micah 6:6-8; Matt. 15:8-9; John 4:23-24). Proper worship involves a recognition of God's presence (5:1-2). It also includes careful consideration of one's words and promises (5:4-6).

Fourth, Solomon has instructed men to **remember God**. He specifically noted that God should be remembered as judge (11:9; 12:13-14) and creator (12:1). These terms establish God's power and authority, and demand more than a simple mental acknowledgement. They demand action and genuine devotion (12:13).

Fifth, Solomon has instructed men to **have a good work ethic**. In a world filled with laziness and gluttony, this message still applies today (9:10; 10:17-18; 11:4-6). It is God's plan that man work, and work hard. Those who are looking for a "free ride" will not be able to fully appreciate God's plan for his life and will ultimately destroy himself (4:5). However, it is possible for one to be a "workaholic" and fail to have the kind of balance God desires (4:6).

Sixth, Solomon has instructed men to **fear God**. This concept is central in all of the wisdom literature (Job 28:28; Ps. 111:10; Prov. 1:7; 9:10), and is a recurring theme in Ecclesiastes (3:14; 5:7; 7:18; 8:12-13; 12:13). This admonition calls upon men to have a healthy view of God's awesome power and authority, in contrast with man's weakness and helplessness. It includes more than respect, but a terror of facing an angry God in the Day of Judgment (Heb. 10:31).

Seventh, Solomon has instructed men to **recognize their limitations**. Far too often men become arrogant and self-sufficient. Such entails the thinking of fools. Rather, Solomon has demonstrated that there are many things that men do not know (11:2, 5-6) or understand (11:5). Equally, there are many events that are beyond man's ability to control (8:8).

*Denny Petrillo* (Bear Valley Church of Christ Weekly Bulletin, Oct. 13, 2019)

# A Consuming Fire

The Lord cannot be approached any way we choose. He can only be approached on His terms. Israel was forewarned that if they approached Him on their own terms, there would be negative consequences.

For example, the garment to be worn by Aaron, the high priest when he entered the Tabernacle, had a golden bell attached:

*...and its sound shall be heard when he goes into the Holy Place before the Lord, and when he comes out, so that he does not die (Ex. 28:31-35).*

Aaron and his sons were to wear linen undergarments designed to cover their naked flesh so when they went into the tent of meeting, or when they came near the altar to minister in the Holy Place they did not die (Ex. 28:40-43). When they offered a food offering to the Lord, they were to wash with water “so that they may not die.” “They shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die” (Ex. 30:20).

There are other texts containing warnings that could be included, but let’s take a look at some examples.

When Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron, offered “unauthorized fire” at the tent of meeting, fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them (Lev. 10:2), much in the same way the same fire consumed the burnt offering described in the previous chapter. The Lord then said, “Drink no wine or strong drink, you or your sons with you, when you go into the tent of meeting, lest you die” (Lev. 10:9).

When Israel left Sinai they began to complain in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes.

*and when the Lord heard it, his anger was kindled, and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp. Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the Lord, and the fire died down. So the name of that place was called Taberah, because the fire of the Lord burned among them (Num. 11:1-3).*

When the Lord’s anger was kindled against the people, he would, on occasion, strike them with “a very great

plague” (Num. 11:33). On another occasion, a man broke the Sabbath day by gathering sticks. They didn’t know what to do with him so they brought him to Moses. Moses inquired of the Lord, and the Lord said:

*The man shall be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp.” And all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him to death with stones, as the Lord commanded Moses (Num. 15:32-36).*

You get the point.

Fred Hoppe worked around high voltage much of his life. He worked for the city of Pasadena, the city of Anaheim, and for Hampton Tedder. We sometimes refer to him as “crazy Fred” for his sense of humor, but Fred is nothing but serious when it comes to work. Fred has conveyed in specific terms I have forgotten how dangerous the environment was he worked in. But I have not forgotten how careful you must be when you enter one of these rooms or manholes. I worked in a few manholes myself. One wrong move and someone dies. Several did die in Pasadena.

Although no exact parallel can be drawn, I see some parallels. If you approach a high voltage power supply without the necessary precautions, you may die. For the ancient nation of Israel, if you entered the tabernacle or Temple God without the necessary precautions, you will die. Some did. Remember Nadab and Abihu. Remember the Sabbath breaker. Remember the number of times a plague broke out in the Israelite camp. Remember those who were bitten by serpents and died.

The writer of Hebrews looks back at the days Israel tested the Lord in the wilderness and writes:

*Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3:12-13).*

And later he exhorts them to be grateful for the kingdom they had received and to offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for ...our God is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:29).

*Steven Lloyd (The Southwesterner, Dec. 2, 2019)*

## Television

In Search of the Lord’s Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

## Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

## Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org  
Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

## God’s Plan for Redeeming Man

**Hear** Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

**Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

**Confess** Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

**Repent** of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)  
Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

**Live faithfully** (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

## Bible Reading Schedule

[video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/](http://video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/)

**Dec. 29** Zechariah 6—10

**Dec. 30** Zechariah 11—14

**Dec. 31** Malachi (video)

**Jan. 1** Matt. 1—4; Ps. 1 (video)

**Jan. 2** Matt. 5—7; Ps. 2 (video)

**Jan. 3** Matt. 8—10; Ps. 3 (video)

**Jan. 4** Matt. 11—12; Ps. 4

**Jan. 5** Matt. 13—15; Ps. 5

*“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

*(2 Timothy 2:15)*



### Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Last week 27 contacts were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ **New Year's Eve party**, Tuesday evening, 6:00pm until whenever. Bring finger foods, games, etc.
- ◆ **Wednesday evening** will be a **special prayer service** of thanksgiving and God's blessings on the new year.
- ◆ **We need a volunteer to make cards for Sunday Night for the Master, one Sunday each month.** It requires about an hour on Sunday afternoon. **Do you have an hour a month you can give to this good work?** Please see Cindy McCaghren or Don Smith for more information.
- ◆ **Ladies Bible Class** is cancelled until after the holidays. Normal schedule will resume January 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 15-18—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Richard Massey.

## The "If-Thens" of the Prophets

Working your way through the major or minor prophets, where God is rebuking His people, it can become tedious to read. However, as one reads along, a reader will invariably come across an "if-then" statement. A good Bible student will note and highlight these if-then statements because they indicate **application** of God's word to the people to whom they are being spoken. These if-then statements are landmarks NOT to be ignored.

They can and will remind us of:

**God's infinite goodness.** Like a parent not wanting their child to make a choice that would lead to difficulty, God offers, in His goodness, an understanding of good choices and bad choices—of positive ends and negative ends. **If** we appreciate His goodness, **then** we will choose what's right (Isa. 1:18-20).

**God's limited patience.** God is always good, but God's patience with people who continually choose what is wrong will not last forever. He allowed the Northern Kingdom of Israel to continue in its sinful ways for almost 200 years. He allowed Southern Judah to continue for about 150 years after the North was taken captive. His patience had a limit—**if** we see the time He's given us to repent as evidence of His patience with us, **then** we will conform to His will (2 Pet. 3:8-9).

**Our choice to trust and obey.** As was mentioned, some things in the prophets are hard to read and hard to understand. However, the simple message is that God will bless His people if they obey, and He will punish His people if they choose not to obey (See Deut. 28:1, 15). **If** we choose to trust and obey Him, **then** we can count on His presence and blessings in our lives.

**The simplicity of God's word.** The prophets preached time and time again to a people who had set their minds to do the things with which God was not pleased. Even in the twilight evenings of Judah's last days, King Zedekiah called the prophet Jeremiah to know what he should do (Jer. 38:14-17). Jeremiah answered as he had for so many years: if-then (Jer. 38:17-23)! Today, God's message through Jesus is simple: **if** we obey the Gospel, **then** we will be saved (cf. Mark 16:15-16; Gal. 6:7-10; Rom. 10:9-10).

*Andy Baker* (The Reminder, March 24, 2019)

## Celebrate

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)*

**January Birthdays:** Rachel Smith (15), Bruce Blassingame (16), Bennie White (16), Tom Wilcox (17), Mattison Churchwell (25), Vernon Zier (28), Charles White (30).

**January Anniversaries:** None.

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



## Records

	Dec. 15, 2019	Dec. 22, 2019
Bible Class	38	65
AM Worship	52	70
PM Worship	33	31
Wednesday PM	35	21
Contribution	\$1,839	\$2,040

# Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work," (Titus 3:1)

	This Week: 12/29/19	Next Week: 1/5/20			
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<b>December 2019</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Allen & Linda Griffith <b>Clean Building:</b> James & Cindy Fuller  <b>January 2020</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Ken Maninger <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Mike & Patti Bannister <b>Clean Building:</b> Mike & Patti Bannister		
<b>Greeters</b>	Tom & Carol Wilcox	Allen & Linda Griffith			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Joe Dennis			
<b>Communion</b>	James Fuller*, Coyce Reed Don Smith, Vernon Zier	Allen Griffith*, Kevin Ross Chase Churchwell, Caleb Dennis			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Rafe Smith			
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum			
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	John Barnum	Ryan Rudloff			
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Joe Dennis	James Fuller			
<b>Communion</b>	James Fuller	Allen Griffith			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Randy Huckaby	John Barnum			
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	January 1 Prayer Night	January 8 Joe Dennis	January 15 Rafe Smith	January 22 Don Smith	

## Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

### Studies for the week of December 29, 2019

Sunday Class ..... 1 Corinthians 8:2  
 Wed. Class ..... New Year's Prayer Service

<p><b>Proverbs of Contrast: The Immoral Woman (Part 1)</b>                      Sexual promiscuity is rampant in our society, but it is nothing new. Solomon's generation struggled with the same issues, some 3,000 years ago. "Sexual predators" prey upon the young and gullible as easy targets with which to satisfy their lusts. A "sexual predators" can be male or female, and the lust can be heterosexual or homosexual. In Solomon's discourse, the "predator" is an "immoral woman", and the potential victim a young man, Solomon's own son.</p> <p><b>I. Why Avoid the Immoral Woman?</b>                      This question is laughable to the average single male: "Avoid her? I just want to find her!". A key idea for Solomon is: "For surely there is a hereafter" [an end] (23:18). Solomon wants his son to focus on the "end" of sexual immorality (5:4).</p> <p><b>A. She will ruin your reputation and make you look like a fool</b> (5:9, 23; 6:32).                      1. "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches" (22:1).                      2. The infamy of sexual sin can be long lasting (6:33).</p> <p><b>B. She will get you addicted to a sin from which one rarely returns</b> (2:19; 5:22-23).</p> <p><b>C. She will rob your body of its health and give you an early funeral</b> (5:11; 6:33).</p> <p><b>D. She will rob your mind of its peace</b> (5:4-5, 9; 6:33).</p> <p><b>E. She'll destroy your soul</b> (spiritual desires) (6:32).                      1. Adultery is a sin that tends to kill the soul, and to extinguish all its good affections and dispositions.                      2. "I was on the verge of total ruin, In the midst of the assembly and congregation" (5:14).</p> <p><b>F. She will steal your wealth and possessions</b> (5:10; 6:26).</p> <p><b>G. She will rob you of your best years</b> (5:9).</p> <p><b>H. She will lead you to be abhorred by the Lord</b> (22:14; Heb. 10:31).                      1. She will lead you to an early death (2:18; 7:22-23).                      2. She will send you on your way to hell (5:5).</p> <p><b>II. How Does Solomon Describe the Immoral Woman? (Part 2)</b>  <b>III. What Are the Immoral Woman's Tactics of Seduction?</b>  <b>IV. What is the Best Defense Against an Immoral Woman? (Part 3)</b></p>	<p><b>The Model Walk: A Life of Purity (1 Thess. 4:1-8)</b>                      This begins a major new discussion in 1 Thessalonians – the model walk (life) of the Christian. The model Christian walks to please God.</p> <p><b>I. The Earnest but Tender Exhortation</b> – walk to please God, and do so more and more (1-2).  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If we please God, we will be accepted by God.</li> <li>• If we do not please God, we will not be accepted by God.</li> </ul>                     A. The tenderness is seen in the words "urge" and "brethren".                      B. The strength of the exhortation is seen in the following facts.                      1. The Christians had been taught how they must walk and please God.                      2. Paul reminded them that they knew what commandments [they] gave [them].                      C. We must walk and please God, and we must grow in our Christian walk day by day, more and more.</p> <p><b>II. The Commandment: God's Will Is Your Sanctification</b> [moral purity] (3-5).                      It can be stated no clearer: "This is the will of God". Sanctification – moral purity – is the will of God. We are to be set apart to live pure lives before God. This means three things.                      A. Sanctification means abstaining from sexual immorality [fornication].                      1. "Sexual immorality" means all kinds of immoral sexual acts.                      2. The Christian is not to give his/her body to an immoral person.                      B. Sanctification means that a person knows how to control his own vessel.                      1. Note that the believer is to know, to possess his or her body and spouse in sanctification and honor (the word "how" is not in the Greek text).                      2. The point is strong: it is unthinkable that a Christian would engage in sexual immorality, that he would bring dishonor to his Lord and to his spouse, family, and himself.                      C. Sanctification means resisting the passion of lust.</p> <p><b>III. The Reasons for Purity</b> (6-8).                      A. Immorality defrauds and cheats a brother.                      B. Immorality shall be avenged by God.                      C. Immorality is not God's call; holiness is (For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness).                      D. Immorality is a sin against God.</p>
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