

The Northwood Messenger

Telephone 205-339-6122

Sunday, January 8, 2012

www.justchristians.info

We Welcome Our Visitors

Visitors are a special part of our service and we are so glad to have you here today. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and include any way that we may be of service to you.

Say A Very Special Prayer

As has been announced, Mark Eason, the son of Peggy and Nelson Eason is in the hospital with several health issues. The most serious is that his heart stopped for a considerable time this past week. There are more details on the prayer list. Be sure to say special prayers for Mark, his wife Janice, and the entire Eason family.

Bible Drill Tonight

The Bible Drill class for the Junior/Senior High classes will meet after tonight's service. All students in this age group are invited AND encouraged to attend.

New Duty Roster

The duty roster for January is posted on the bulletin board. Many of us have returned from traveling, so please check the duty roster to see if you have any conflicts with the schedule. Please let James Mullinax or Grant Mann know if you cannot serve.

Last Week's Attendance and Contribution

Sunday AM—130 Sunday PM—114

Contribution—\$3,967

Wednesday—99

Volunteer Sign Ups

Many volunteers have already signed up for preparing the Lord's Supper and locking up the building for 2012. If you have not signed up yet and wish to, please check the bulletin board and fill in the months that you wish to take care of. Remember it doesn't have to be a family or individual. These duties can also be taken care of by a Small Group. If a Small Group signs up for a month, then four individuals or families will have just one week to serve. Please consider these important duties and help where you can.

Bulletin Articles

Ever wonder where the bulletin articles come from? If you notice, they are written by David or Justin or are reprinted from bulletins of other churches. Wouldn't it be great if all of our articles came from the members of our congregation? Not only would it be encouraging to other members, but the writer would greatly benefit too.

IGLESIA DE CRISTO

Lugar de reunion (4601 Northwood Estates Drive, Northport, AL 35476)

Para clases biblicas llamar al telefono. (205) 296-7208

Sergio Herrera: Siervo de Cristo Horario. Domingo. 2:30 a 4:30 pm.

Les invitamos a que vengan a escuchar la palabra de Dios en español. Tal vez usted ya sea religioso o tal vez no. Pero de todas maneras le invitamos a escuchar y a observar de cómo adoramos a Dios y como enseñamos la palabra. Y tal vez después de escuchar y meditar en esto, usted tenga alguna pregunta, sugerencia o comentario. Trataremos de escuchar con atención y respeto y contestar con la Biblia abierta con amor y humildad. TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS.

“God’s Beautiful Plan For Us” Justin Roberson

Sunday	January 8
Song Leader	Presnell
Speaker @ Table	Roberson
Lord’s Supper	Scheiner
Assist	P. Davis
Assist	Delk
Assist	J. Huggins
Assist	P. L. Davis
Assist	A. Arrowood
Prayer	Eason
Announce- ments	Roberts
Closing Prayer	Oliver
Sunday	January 8
Song Leader	Roberson
Prayer	Ligon
Lord’s Supper	P. Davis
Assist	Delk
Announce- ments	Roberts
Closing Prayer	Richardson
Wednesday	January 11
Song Leader	Holt
Invitation	Roberson
Closing Prayer	W. Smith
Audio/Video	Smith

When I go on vacation I don’t necessarily have to plan every moment in fact, it is kind of nice to have the flexibility to make an unplanned pit stop or explore an interesting new place. In other aspects of life however it is not just good to have a plan but necessary, such as retirement and education or jobs. The funny thing is even when we do plan things to a “T” it sometimes doesn’t work out. But that’s life and life, while joyful and fun, can also be hard at times. We need answers, hope, assurance and stability.

This could only come from the God who knew us before we were born and had a plan for us then. Consider this passage:

- “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I set you apart” (Jeremiah 1:5).

God had a plan for us before we were even born. That plan involves God allowing us to be “free, moral agents” who make choices, one of which is to follow His plan. Just knowing we are a part of a greater plan, in fact the plan of the Lord of Heaven and Earth, should stir our hearts and motivate us every day.

Notice in 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15 a few things we need to do to be a part of God’s plan that he had for us from the beginning:

- Have we been set apart by the spirit? (Acts 2:37-41)
- Is the Spirit dwelling in us? (cf. Rom. 5:5; 8:9, 11; 1 Cor. 6:19; 1 Thes. 4:8; 2 Tim. 1:14; 1 Jn 3:24).
- Have we believed the truth? (Mark 16:15-16)
- Have we been called by the Gospel? (Romans 1:16)
- Are we holding fast to the teachings of the apostles? (Acts 2:42, Rev 2:10)

Finally, God prepares us for use in his ultimate plan by giving us examples to learn from. Let us consider and learn from these 3 examples:

From the experiences of Joseph (Genesis 50:19-21) we learn that there are times when difficult things will happen to us in our life, but God certainly can mean it for good. In fact James 1 teaches us that trials make us complete. Difficulties in life prepare us to be a part of God’s plan.

From the experiences of David (Psalm 22:1-11) we learn that God wants our complete trust not just in good times but also in bad. He knew us at our birth and brought us out of our mother’s womb; He was there for our forefathers in Israel who trusted in Him. He will be there for us. There will be those who will ridicule us for our trust in God, but we must trust God to be a part of His plan. He has proved He is trust worthy by never breaking His promises and sacrificing His Son all for us (John 3:16).

From the experiences of Jesus (Mark 6:1-3), we learn that rejection even among our own is going to happen if we are a part of God’s plan. God wants everyone to be saved (2 Peter 3:9,) but when we teach others, not everyone will accept and obey it. It does truly hurt when our own family or people where we are from won’t obey God’s word, but remember it did happen to Jesus. We should continue to work hard to spread the Gospel but be prepared for rejection to be a part of His plan. God bless you.