

The Church of Christ Bulletin

**“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”
-Ecclesiastes 12:13**

**VOLUME 25
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JANUARY 14, 2018

SHEPHERDS

*Boyce Edwards
Lee Fisher
Zachary Petties*

DEACONS

*Jacob Bryant
Rey Cruz
Roger Deem
Gaylen Williams*

PREACHERS

*Dan Carter
Boyce Edwards*

TREASURER

Trevor Heilman

MONTHLY SUPPORT:

*Cherokee Home
For Children
Cherokee, TX*

*Christian Homes &
Family Services
Abilene, TX*

*Foster's Home
For Children
Stephenville, TX*

*Sunny Glen
Children's Home
San Benito, TX*

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

BIBLE CLASSES _____ 9:30 A.M.

WORSHIP _____ 10:30 A.M.

EVENING WORSHIP _____ 5:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

CLASSES/WORSHIP _____ 7:00 P.M.



What Does 'Here I Raise My Ebenezer' Mean in the Familiar Hymn?



It is very important that we think about what we sing in our worship to God if we want to be pleasing to Him. God commanded singing as worship, and not entertainment. Paul taught, Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord (Colossians 3:16). Since the songs we sing should teach and admonish, we risk vain worship if we sing words that are in conflict with scripture. The phrase, Here I raise my Ebenezer, is the beginning of the second verse of the familiar hymn, O Thou Fount of Every Blessing. This hymn, written by Robert Robinson in 1758, stresses the joy of Christianity and the Christian's need to rely on the Lord. Robinson chose the phrase, Here I raise my Ebenezer, from 1 Samuel 7:12, because it reminds God's people how He delivered Israel from danger.

Chapters 4 through 7 of 1 Samuel describe a series of battles between the Israelites and the Philistines. In an attempt to defeat the Philistines, the Israelites took the ark of the covenant into battle as a sort of good luck charm. To their anguish, however, the Philistines captured the ark and took it back to their pagan temple. God then sent plagues upon the Philistines and caused the idol of their god Dagon to fall over on its face. Fearing God, the Philistines sent the ark back to the Israelites, but continued to fight. As they fought more battles, the prophet Samuel led the Israelites as their last judge. As prophet and judge, Samuel offered sacrifices to God, so that when the Philistines approached, God thundered with a great thunder (1 Samuel 7:10). In the confusion that followed, the Israelites soundly defeated the Philistines.

As a reminder of the great victory God gave to Israel, Samuel took a great stone and raised it as a memorial between Mizpeh and Shen. As he raised it he called the name of it Ebenezer [or stone of help], saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us (1 Samuel 7:12). Whenever the Israelites looked at the stone, they would remember how God had helped them. Unfortunately, the exact site of the stone is unknown today.

When we sing, Here I raise my Ebenezer, we are poetically quoting Samuel, who raised the Ebenezer stone to remind the Israelites of God's help for them in their time of trouble. The words fit well with the sentiment expressed in the hymn: O Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me ever to adore Thee, May I still Thy goodness prove, While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love. Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come; And I hope by Thy good pleasure Safely to arrive at home. The words of the hymn remind us that God is truly the fount of every blessing, Who deserves our worship and our praise. Although the words, Here I raise my Ebenezer sound obscure to us, they do express the sincere attitude of gratitude we should have to God Who is our help in time of trouble. – Bob Prichard

<http://www.housetohouse.com/what-does-here-i-raise-my-ebenezer-mean-in-the-familiar-hymn/>

PRIDE

From the Desk of Dan Carter

Pride has a way of slipping in undetected until it is too late. There is good Pride: To have self-respect and honor in true faith; but, there is a Pride that is bad. A pride that destroys.

Note Proverbs 21:4, "A high look, and a proud heart, is Sin." Another passage says, "'Pride leads to destruction"- Proverbs 16:18.

Someone said: "Pride cast Saul out of his kingdom; Adam out of Paradise; and, Satan out of heaven!"

The Pride of Life is one of the ways Satan tempts us- I John 2:15-17.

Pride causes many to turn away from salvation because they have to humble themselves and admit their sins. Remember, Felix said: "When I have a more desirable time, I will call for you"-Acts 24:25.

The Scribes and Pharisees were full of pride and therefore would not humble themselves before Christ. They kept on saying, "Well, none of us big boys have turned to him!" How sad. Those who place themselves on a pedestal have no place to turn except down.

In order to control self-deception, we need to look closely at our motives. We need to look at the real reason action is set forth. If we do what we do to be seen of men, or to receive praise, then be careful! The control of self can be a difficult job. What can I do when it appears that I think too much of self?

* Take a close look at the Savior. Christ was the Son of God, but He always said: "I came not to do my own Will, but the Will of him that sent me."

* I need to fix my attention on Faith in God. If I get to the point that I believe I can settle my own life without aid from anyone, even God, then I need to redo my attention. I need to think more of Faith in God and less attention on self.

*Absorb myself in working to bring Honor and Glory to God and not self. Remember Colossians 3:17: "Whatever you do, do all to glory of Christ."

THE BLESSED ONES-(AM SERMON) PSALM 1:1,2

THE RIGHTEOUS

A. THE BLESSED: verse 1.

1. Walk Not: Counsel of ungodly. Prov. 1:10ff; Ex. 23:2.

2. Stands Not: With sinners. 1 Thess. 5:22; 2 Tim. 2:22

3. Sits Not: With the scornful. Some never see good; Always, the bad.

THE RIGHTEOUS, CONTINUED

B. DELIGHTS: verse 2.

1. The Law Of The Lord: Jer. 20:9; 22:29; 23:29; Psalm 19:7.

2. Day And Night: Psa. 119:97; Job 35:10; Deut. 6:7; Eph. 6:4; 2 Tim. 2:15.

C. LIKE A TREE: verse 3. Note: Psa.92:12. Secured & Kept. Fruitful—God will supply (2 Cor. 9:10).

THE UNGODLY

A. LIKE CHAFF: verses 4-6.

B. SHALL NOT STAND IN JUDGMENT; NOR, IN THE CONGREGATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS!

C. THE RIGHTEOUS WILL CONTINUE; THE UNGODLY SHALL PERISH.

CONCLUSION:

*GOD KNOWS THE RIGHTEOUS: Note: I John 2:2-5; Matt. 25:34-40.

* THE WAY OF THE UNGODLY WILL PERISH: Note: Mark 16:15,16; Matt. 25:41-45; Matt. 7:22, 23.

CONTENTMENT-(PM SERMON) I TIMOTHY 6:6-8.

SOME OBSERVATIONS

*MEANING: Webster: "Freedom From Care Or Discomfort." Pulpit Commentary: "A State Of Restfulness Even In The Midst Of All Types Of Change."

PAUL'S EXAMPLE: 2 Cor.11:24-28. Note: We should want to improve—but to God's Glory; Not Self-Satisfaction.

SOME FOES TO CONTENTMENT

A. Covetousness: Hebrews 13:5. Note: Enjoy Life/Be Thankful With What You Have. Remember: Exodus 20:17!

B. Envy: I Sam.18:8,9; Lk.15:25-32; I Pet.2:1; Job.5:2; Psa.73:3; Prov.14:30.

C. Self-Pity: "I Got Cheated In Life"; "They Are All Against Me." Note: Remember the Prodigal Son-Luke 15.

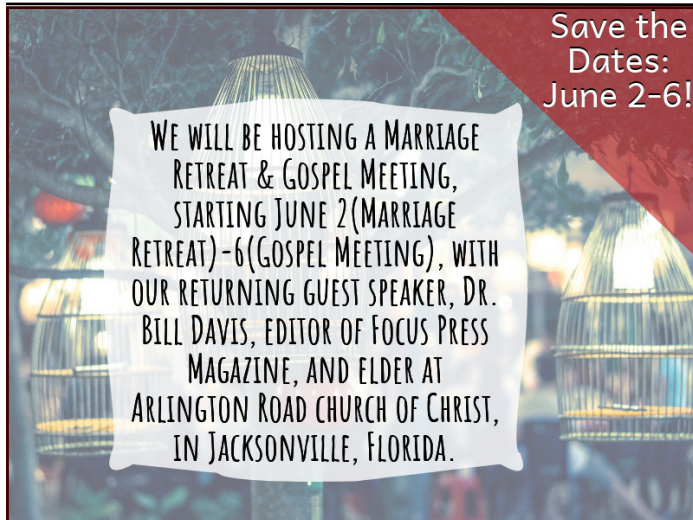
WHAT TO DO?

1. "COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS"

2. "STAY BUSY"

3. "SET AFFECTIONS ON THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE"

4. "PRAY TO GOD FOR HELP AND STRENGTH"



Save the Dates: June 2-6!

WE WILL BE HOSTING A MARRIAGE RETREAT & GOSPEL MEETING, STARTING JUNE 2 (MARRIAGE RETREAT) - 6 (GOSPEL MEETING), WITH OUR RETURNING GUEST SPEAKER, DR. BILL DAVIS, EDITOR OF FOCUS PRESS MAGAZINE, AND ELDER AT ARLINGTON ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST, IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

YEAR LONG BIBLE STUDY

Week 49 (January 7)

Sun: Acts 21-22
 Mon: Deuteronomy 23-25
 Tues: Nehemiah 5-9
 Wed: Psalms 140-142
 Thurs: Song of Solomon 1-2
 Fri: Revelation 1-6
 Sat: I John 4-5

Week 50 (January 14)

Sun: Acts 23-24
 Mon: Deuteronomy 26-28
 Tues: Nehemiah 10-13
 Wed: Psalms 143-145
 Thurs: Song of Solomon 3-4
 Fri: Revelation 7-11
 Sat: II John

Week 51 (January 21)

Sun: Acts 23-24
 Mon: Deuteronomy 29-31
 Tues: Esther 1-5
 Wed: Psalms 146-148
 Thurs: Song of Solomon 5-6
 Fri: Revelation 12-17
 Sat: III John

Week 52 (January 28)

Sun: Acts 27-28
 Mon: Deuteronomy 32-34
 Tues: Esther 6-10
 Wed: Psalms 149-150
 Thurs: Song of Solomon 7-8
 Fri: Revelation 18-22
 Sat: Jude

**If you would like to join the forum to ask questions, share insights, or to receive encouragement, please see Gaylen or Nichole Williams.*

THOSE TO SERVE THE WEEK OF JANUARY 14, 2018:

PARKING LOT DUTY: PATRICK SELLERS

HALL MONITOR: TONY SHELTON

AUDIO/VIDEO SYSTEMS FOR JANUARY: BRETT LINGLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: LEE FISHER

SONG DIRECTOR: REGGIE BASS

COMMUNION:
 (NORTH) GAYLEN WILLIAMS, REY CRUZ
 DENNIS MARLER, CHARLES CULVER

(SOUTH) JACOB BRYANT, ROGER DEEM
 JOHN LLEWELLYN, BRUCE BROWN

SCRIPTURE READING: ANDRE PETTAWAY

PICK UP CARDS: GIANNI GRIFFITH
 GAVIN VINCENT

PRAYERS:
 (A.M.) BOYCE EDWARDS, ROGER DEEM
 (P.M.) TREVOR HEILMAN, JACOB BRYANT

NURSERY ATTENDANTS (A.M.):
 GAYLE & TRACY WILSON

EVENING SONG DIRECTOR:
 GAYLEN WILLIAMS

EVENING COMMUNION:
 ROGER DEEM, REY CRUZ

WEDNESDAY SONG LEADER:
 JOHN LLEWELLYN

WEDNESDAY PRAYER: JIM DUKES

PREPARE COMMUNION FOR JANUARY:
 NATALIE FISHER

OFFICE: 254-634-7373 or leave a message at 254-634-7476 /
kcofc@embarqmail.com

DAN CARTER: 254-213-8217 / gospel1killeen@embarqmail.com

BOYCE EDWARDS: 254-319-5008 / bkedward@embarqmail.com

WEBSITE: www.kcofc.org

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

REMEMBER OUR MILITARY & CIVILIANS:

-Rikki Martin's husband, Christopher, is deployed to South Korea. Please keep this family in your prayers.

OUR SICK: We received a call from Jeremy Sprott Thursday afternoon. He informed us that his mother, Judy Sprott, is in her final days and is under hospice care. Judy is a former member and widow of former elder, Bill Sprott. Please keep her and his family in your prayers.

-Amanda Petties' brother has colon cancer and is not expected to live. Please keep him in your prayers.

-Antwuan Perry is asking prayers for the daughter of his friend, Justin, who is having health problems. Please keep her in your prayers.

-Dan's friends, Bob & Patsy Cathey are battling health issues with Patsy. Please keep her in your prayers.

-Trudy Perrault's daughter, Trudy, has one kidney and is recovering from a kidney infection and other illnesses. Trudy's other daughter, Carol, is having extreme foot and knee pain and has fibromyalgia. Please keep them in your prayers.

-Former elder and member, Garland Kelley, is recovering from a light stroke and heart attack. Please keep him in your prayers.

-John Llewellyn is to have surgery on his hand on February 13. Please keep him in your prayers.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & HOMEBOUND: Zack Petties' co-worker, Linda Moore's brother (Carl Britton), James & Tammy Garner & family members (Christel Algozer & Mary Mosley), Dora Ray Chanslor, Dennis & Sandra Marler's daughter (Shanna Cuba), Donna Hines friend's granddaughter (Kylie Pruitt), Connie Cruz and her friends (Juanita Cardenas & Yolanda Perez) & Rey & Connie's family, Willard Dunn, Linda Walts, David Chapman, Tina Pallo, Jim Dukes, Kyle Pocanowski's mother, Scott Davis, David Shilling, Letty Burgos' father, Brett Lingle, Brenda Sellers' mother, stepmother, & her sister (Jesse), Al & Gayle Wilson's sister-in-law (Regina Farmer), Alice Saffor, John Llewellyn's sister (Janet Schleyer), Nelda Cox, Mary Culp, Sybil Cason, Jonathan Simmons Sr., Janet Simmons, Jonathan Simmons Jr., Garnie & Nada Miller, Gail Mende's son (Eric), Shirl Foster, Zack & Amanda Petties' son-in-law's stepmother (Vivian), & nephew. Please keep these members and loved ones in your prayers as they battle health problems.

VISITATION TEAMS: Visitation Team #1 will meet with their leader, Jim Dukes, today, to get their visitation assignments. Team members are: Jim Dukes, Christina Fletcher, Jerdene Williams, Archie & Jackie Davis, and Victoria Polanco. *If you are interested in serving in the Visitation Program, please see Dan Carter.

LADIES BREAKFAST & WORKDAY: On Saturday, January 20, at 9:30 am, we will have our monthly Ladies Breakfast & Workday in the fellowship hall.

LADIES: If you would like to serve in areas such as: the kitchen groups, communion preparation, or Sunday morning AM nursery, please see any of the elders, deacons, or call the office.

PANTRY: Our pantry is running low on canned beans, canned meat, soup, tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, white rice, toilet paper, and paper towels. If you would like to donate items, there are take home lists and a wooden box to place the items in the foyer. Thank you so much for your efforts!

Welcome to all our visitors and members!! To our visitors, we invite you to come back and visit with us whenever you can! Our speaker this morning is Dan Carter.

Please fill out an Attendance Card and pass it to the inner aisle so we may have a record of your attendance.

THANK YOU!

Please turn off or silence your phone devices-thank you!



☞JANUARY☞

15-The office will be closed in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday.

20-Ladies Breakfast & Workday

21-Ladies Bible Class, 3:30 pm, in the fellowship hall.

☞FEBRUARY☞

4-Fellowship Luncheon following morning service (kitchen group #2 will have kitchen duty)

17-Ladies Breakfast & Workday

18-Ladies Bible Class, 3:30 pm, in the fellowship hall.

19-The office will be closed in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.