



Welcome To The Killeen Church of Christ!

"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



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SHEPHERDS

**Lee Fisher
Zachary Petties**

DEACONS

*Roger Deem
Paul Portley
Gaylen Williams*

PREACHER

Dan Carter

TREASURER

Gaylen Williams

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*

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS 9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM

SATAN'S MOST EFFECTIVE TOOL AGAINST CHRISTIANS TODAY

By Jack Wilkie

The more time goes by, the more fake our world becomes.

Modern food, frozen, pumped full of chemicals, lacking in any nutritious value, bottled up and boxed up, is fake. Modern sex, i.e. pornography, is fake. Modern money, printed on demand with no backing whatsoever, is fake. Much of modern Science TM, subservient to political power and financial sway, is fake. Modern political discourse, often hyper-focused on the immaterial while blind to the truly weighty, is fake. Our schooling, which churns out millions who have no recognizable, marketable skills, is fake.

It makes sense, then, that some of the more abstract things in life are fake, too. Popularity and social status, largely decided by some social media algorithm, is fake. Billions of friendships, in which seeing a post from each other from time to time makes us think we "friends," are fake. Plenty of what counts as church membership, simply choosing the place you like best and going there until they offend you or can't match what another church offers, is fake. Much of what is now considered fact, based only in emotion that shouts down and "cancels" any opposition, is fake. As it all begins to pile up, it gets harder and harder to climb over the mountain of fakeness to reach that which is real.

Notice the characteristics that are shared almost universally in each of these fake offerings. They are all easy. Convenient. They all choose cheap, instant gratification rather than putting in the time to cultivate that which is lasting and valuable. They all cater to laziness and selfishness, incentivizing us to take life as it is handed to us. They turn us into passive consumers of life rather than active producers and spreaders of God's life-giving purpose.

When we speak of worldliness, the conversation typically turns to the ideas and actions that infiltrate the Christian individual, home, and church, and how those must be resisted. That is a valuable, needed discussion. However, what is often lacking is a positive focus.

Yes, we must avoid the kinds of shows, movies, and websites that are trying to pull us away from our Lord. We are in need of constant vigilance against those influences that would make us conform to the world. But what we also must do is actively pursue the path of living that God has set out for us. As long as we are conforming to the passive, consumeristic fake lifestyle we're all herded into, we will not show the world a higher and holier calling, and we will leave ourselves and our families vulnerable to creeping worldliness. If we aren't growing more like Christ then we're moving in the opposite direction, no matter how slow and unnoticeable the progress may be.

One of Satan's most-used tactics is to keep us distracted from the good works God wants us to walk in (Ephesians 2:10). To do that he does not need to get us dragged down into some scandalous battle with sin. Sometimes all he needs to do is get us distracted with useless pursuits instead of that which really matters.

C.S. Lewis highlighted this phenomenon in his classic, *The Screwtape Letters*. Writing as the satirical demon, Screwtape, to his underling nephew, Wormwood, Lewis observed: "But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the man from the Enemy. It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."

Satan doesn't need every Christian to turn into an atheist. He's doing a fine job with his strategy to make as many people as possible into mindless consumers who settle for the convenient and accept the world as it is handed to them with no ambition to shape it to the glory of God.

How do we break out of the fake and pursue the real?

1. Prioritize what matters

Consider the sheer value of a human life and how much potential each one holds. Consider how much God has blessed us with to take that talent coin, invest it, and return it to Him. Then consider the tragedy it is to throw all of that away on that which is fake and does not last. Spending hours in front of a screen every single night, scrolling social media, binging Netflix (or worse)... what a waste.

There is a time for everything, including things like relaxation and vacation. We should plan them into our schedules. But those are not the purpose of our lives. In order to rise above this malaise that is miring so many, we must have priorities, and we must live like we mean them. Our priority in life should be to be more like Jesus every day (Romans 8:29, Galatians 4:19). That priority means leading more moral, upstanding lives, yes, but most of all lives that are completely submitted to the Father's will. We aim to become the people He wants us to become, and we aim to do the good works He wants us to do.

I may be a Christian, but if I've got 50 binged seasons of television under my belt yet can't name the 10

Commandments or recite the Great Commission, it's time for a priority check. I may "go to church" every week, but if I'm living my life as a series of low points to be trudged through between my Instagram-worthy vacations, it's time for a priority check. We were put here for a purpose. Living as though that's the case starts with making sure our priorities are where they need to be.

2. Love in deed and truth

"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18). A fake world has taught us the habits of fake caring and fake activism. Clicking "Like" on someone's post about losing a family member or about a need for prayers may seem like we've made our care for them known. Changing a profile picture after a tragedy may feel like we're part of a cause. But ultimately those gestures come to very little, if anything at all.

Loving in deed and in truth means determining to act in ways that truly matter to others. Fake caring has made us wildly overestimate the global impact we can have and grossly underestimate the local impact we can have. You might have 1,500 Facebook friends, but you can't love and serve that many people well. Focus on a handful of the people in your immediate surroundings. Be present in their lives. Make the phone call or send the text when you know they're hurting. Consider how to stir them up to love and good deeds. Be hospitable. Bear the burdens of others. Make a habit of stepping away from the digital connections to put more time into the real life connections.

3. Roll our sleeves up and get to work

If the fake world is defined by the ease and convenience it promises us, one of the best ways out of it is by setting our minds to work. Work on your walk with God – it doesn't just happen. Work on your marriage – real love is not a Hollywood fairytale. Work on your parenting – training up children in the way they should go takes constant vigilance and a health dose of the fruit of the Spirit. Work on your occupation – show those around you the diligence of one who walks with God.

Regain a sense of the dominion God gave Adam in the garden. Work was always in God's plan for us, and it is our duty to make beauty and order come from the good things He has given us, just as God made beauty and order from that which was formless and void. In a world that is slowly losing love, effort, passion, and care, because they cost too much for us as creatures who are addicted to convenience, commit to showing people God's path is better in every way.

As always, remember we don't work to earn God's love. We work from a place of assurance of His love and grace, and this gives us the fuel we need to keep reaching higher.

Start developing a disgust for the fake world, and really for anything that aims to distract you from becoming the kind of person God desires for you to become. Fighting the pull to worldliness is not just a matter of resistance to vices, but resistance to all that which would stand in the way of our growth into who God wants us to be. Don't settle for the convenient. Set your eyes on Jesus and run with all your might. Let Him permeate every facet of your life and show a darkening world a Light they can't possibly ignore.

Wilkie, Jack, and Jack Wilkie Jack Wilkie is the editor of focuspress.org and author of "Church Reset: God's Design for So Much More." He also preaches for the Forney church of Christ in Forney. "Satan's Most Effective Tool against Christians Today," *Focus Press*, Focus Press, 14 Apr. 2021, www.focuspress.org/2021/04/14/satans-most-effective-tool-against-christians-today/.

From the Desk of Dan Carter

THANKSGIVING

"Giving of thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God"-Ephesians 5:20,21.

These are powerful passages of scripture. We are to always be giving thanks to God; We are to submit to one another in the fear of the Lord.

We have in our country a day that is set aside called: "Thanksgiving Day" and that is good...but, to the Christian, every day is a day of Thanks to the Almighty God and Father. When we see all the blessings bestowed upon us, we are eager to give thanks.

I often remind myself of the pages that have been turned in my life from childhood. It has been, and continues to be, a blessing I love to stand before you and proclaim the message of Christ. I have worked with great churches. I am happy to be with you. I will always love and remember you in my prayers. You have seen me through some hard times. I lost my dear wife while being with you. I lost my dear mother and younger brother while being here. You have always stood by me. I will always be grateful for you. You saw me with my little grandchildren (who are now grown). You have seen me weep and rejoice. We are family and I will always love you.

As I was thinking about these words, I kept going back to the elders who hired me some 22 years ago. I will never forget those men. I told them that I wanted this to be my last place to work and that I hoped they were looking for a man that would stay with them to the end. They all were happy and said: 'That is exactly what we are looking for.'

Now, most of those brothers have passed. I will never forget their care and love for the body of Christ.

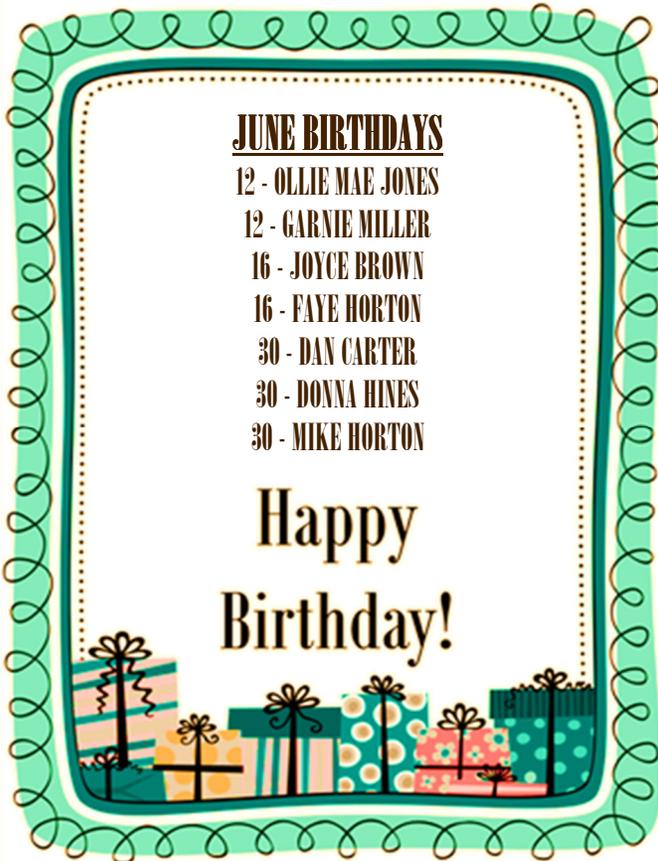
I am now getting on in years. God has been so good to me. I will never forget. I thank Him always. He has taken care of me through you. God bless each of you. I love you all.

Now, let us be thankful always for the good brothers and sisters who have gone on and have left us an example to be faithful in the Lord.

We have many things to be thankful for that it is hard to name them all. Just remember what Paul said: 'Give thanks always unto God.' Let us never forget to Thank Him. Always be strong in the Lord and in the Power of His Might. We will reap that great reward if we hold on to the end.

Remember to pray for our country; Pray for the Church; Pray for souls to be won; and Pray with thanksgiving in all things.

God bless each of you. You are in my prayer always.



THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021:



- ANNOUNCEMENTS: LEE FISHER
- SONG: PAUL PORTLEY
- 1ST PRAYER: RODNEY CARTER
- SCRIPTURE READING: BRUCE BROWN
- SONG: PAUL PORTLRY
- SERMON: DAN CARTER
- INVITATION SONG: PAUL PORTLEY
- SONG BEFORE COMMUNION:
PAUL PORTLEY
- COMMUNION/OFFERING:
DERREL HEGINBOTHAM & REGGIE BASS
- CLOSING SONG: PAUL PORTLEY
- CLOSING PRAYER: PATRICK SELLERS
- AUDIO/VISUAL: PATRICK SELLERS
- SECURITY: ROGER DEEM, RUFAS BROWN, & CLAY CULVER

JUNE CLEANING CALENDAR

- May be done any time before the next Sunday
- Please consult with your team leader for further questions. **THANK YOU!**

May 30-TEAM ROGER
Patrick
Brenda
Roger
Linda

June 20-TEAM LEE
Lee
Natalie
Rufas
Michael

June 6 -TEAM JAMES S.
James
Kim-Marie
Xavier
Jaden
Tay

June 27-TEAM ZACK
Zack
Amanda
Diedre
Paul
Rubye

June 13-TEAM BEVERLY
Beverly
Donna
Josephine
Yvonne
Marcella
Jessica

SCRIPTURE READING

‘How Prayers Can Be Restricted’

James 5:16

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

MILITARY & CIVILIANS OVERSEAS: Michael Rogers is away for a training assignment and Tim Matter is contracting in Saudi Arabia. We are thankful for the service of our military and civilians. Please keep these members & their families in your prayers.

OUR SICK: Rodney Carter's daughter, Lily Carter, has tested positive for COVID. Please keep her in your prayers.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & HOME-BOUND: Rufas Brown, Marcella Williams' grandson (LaMarcus Henderson), James & Kim-Marie Seay, Dan Carter's daughter-in-law (Wendy), Lois Brown, James Garner & his wife (Tammy), Julia Jones, Amanda Petties' sister (Jewel), Gladys Driver, Cheryl Flores' brother-in-law (Raymond Flores), Tim Matter's aunt (Vivian), Nichole Williams' high school friend (Rhonda Howell-Moore), Charles Culver, Jean Basco, Beverly Williams' aunt (Dorothy Sauls), Billye Hughes, Josephine Spear, Jim Dukes, Brenda Seller's mother, Scott Davis, Mary McAnally's son, & sister (Ann Ahrens), Shirl Foster, Julia Jones' son (Richard Jouett) & granddaughter in law (Melissa Joett), Julie Odum's mother (Sharon Schmitt), Barbara Robinson's daughter (Laura Skarba), Esther Cox, Shawn Forkey, Martha Bell's sister, Skip & Tina Pallo and Tina's son (Jeremy) and Tina's sisters (Cheryle & Jeanette), Willard Dunn, Tanja, Tiffany, & Natasha Arch, Tanja Arch's daughter-in-law, Archie & Jessie Turner, David Shilling, Garnie & Nada Miller, Linda Walts. Former members: (David Chapman), (Penny Fogle), (Rey & Connie Cruz), (Janet & John John Simmons), (Carl Nicholson), (Tom & Diane Holubec), & (Sue Zak). Please keep these members and loved ones in your prayers as they battle health problems.

VISITATION TEAMS: On Saturday, June 12, we are going to pass out flyers, gift bags and leftover baskets to this month's new movers and invite them to our upcoming Gospel Meeting. The elders would like for everyone to meet here at the building at 10:00 am, to begin the project.

NEW MOVERS' MINISTRY: Thank you all for your support with this ministry that helps us invite new movers to our services. As this is an ongoing ministry, we will need to make these continually. The items needed for the gift bags can be purchased at the Dollar Tree. The items needed for each gift bag (we have the gift bags) are one notepad, a pen, a small pack of tissue, a small bottle of hand sanitizer, a stick of lip balm, a pack of chewing gum or mints, or a pack of candy. Please place the items in the teacher workroom. You may also contribute money as well. Thank you!

SUNNY GLEN CHILDREN'S HOME FOOD DRIVE: We are collecting the following items through July 11 for Sunny Glen Children's Home: Healthy children's snacks, canned chicken, ramen dry soups, and powder drink mixes. The items may be placed in the foyer. Thank you!

*Our Guest Speaker Today Is
Dan Carter.*

*We want to especially welcome our visitors!
If you are visiting, please fill out an attendance card from the back of the pew directly in front of you and leave it in the pew as you leave.
Thank you for your visit and please join us again!*

THE KILLEEN CHURCH OF CHRIST Cordially Invites You For Our 2021 SUMMER GOSPEL MEETING

June 27 - June 29

Join us for our 2021 Summer Gospel Meeting with guest speaker, Antoine N. Holloway, who serves as the evangelist for the Northside church of Christ in Tucson, Arizona.



BIBLE STUDIES AND COUNSELING OFFERED

- ⇒ Bible Studies With One Of Our Preachers Or Elders
- ⇒ Free Bible Correspondence
- ⇒ Free Marriage And Family Counseling

To our visitors—Thanks for being with us today, and please come again!

CONTACT INFORMATION

ZACK PETTIES (elder): zpetties@yahoo.com

LEE FISHER (elder): fisherfam79@gmail.com

DAN CARTER (pulpit minister):

gospel1killeen@hotmail.com

Office: 254-634-7373 or email us at:

kcofc@hotmail.com