



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

Phil McIntosh

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



By Phil McIntosh

Is there a song that thrills you? Is there a song that comes on the radio (if anybody still listens to the radio) that just makes you want to drive faster or belt out the words as loud as you can? Do you catch yourself tapping your feet or moving your head because of the music? Music can be intoxicating. Music can be a boon to our mental health and current attitude. Quite often music has soothed the lonely soul and lifted the spirits of the depressed. There are songs that remind of us growing up, of our grandparents, of old friends, or memories from our past. People pay to have a monthly subscription to music, they buy mp3s (newfangled way of getting songs that used to be on CDs), or they even spend a great deal of money to go to a concert and listen to a musician or a band in person. To many people music is an escape, though momentarily, from the grind of the daily minutia through which we all wade.

The Bible speaks of music in a variety of ways. There is even an entire book entitled "Song of Solomon." David was a musician, even playing music to soothe the spirit of the king:

"And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him." -**1 Samuel 16:23**

There are one hundred and fifty psalms recorded for us to read and reflect upon in our Bibles and we are told that Solomon's songs totaled one thousand and five (**1 Kings 4:32**). There is singing and music mentioned all throughout the scriptures; it seems melody and song are a natural part of man's life. It's hard to explain what music does to a person, seemingly filling a niche within our life that perhaps nothing else can.

However, all is not positivity and sunshine as it relates to music. Did you know that the Bible also mentions something related to music that can bode ill for those so enamored? No, I'm not talking about musical instruments and what is or is not authorized by God (though that is certainly an important aspect of Biblical study to get right). My exhortation regarding music and the potential danger which can manifest from it comes in the form of a metaphor in the Old Testament with immense implications for spiritual health. Ezekiel was a prophet of God during the Babylonian captivity (**Ezek. 1:1-3**). He prophesied to the nation whom God was in the midst of punishing for their refusal to heed God's word and love His commandments. In chapter thirty three of the book we read God pronouncing further devastation for the Hebrew homeland (**Ezek. 33:23-29**). The outlook is bleak, and divinely assured destruction will sweep down on Jerusalem until there is almost nothing left. And yet God tells Ezekiel the people are listening to him and talking about his words! Is there hope yet? Will the people turn and realize they created their own hopelessness through rebelliousness?

Not so fast. What God tells Ezekiel is that, though they are talking about him and his message, they are doing so with dull hearts and minds. God says,

"So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. ³² Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them." -**Ezekiel 33:31-32**

God's people, in speaking of words from God, were saying, "I love this song" and then immediately going on about their lives, ignoring the content. Herein is the danger- to hear God's words and speak well of them, but to ultimately ignore them. Such an exhortation is necessarily and eminently relevant to modern times. The Bible encourages us to "be doers of the words and not hearers only" (**Jam. 1:22a**). When you gather in the church building, at home with your family, or with friends around the table, and speak of Gods' words, ensure that you are not with your mouth saying, "Oh I love this song," but in your life marching to the beat of your own drum.

If I Run from God, Where Could I Go?

Shepherds Notes by Zack Petties

The ways that we run are often to hide things, feelings, conflicts and dysfunction, and even ourselves from people and we even try it with God and build up the courage to run away as far as we can from God. Because we've been scared due to a buildup of pridefulness or rebelliousness, the hurt and believing no truth of God! Self-preservation is to be the normal motive when people try to keep a safe distance from God. The safest place is not running away from God but running to him! Psalm 119:32 says, "I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart." No matter what we do or where we go, we can never go far enough from the presence of God!

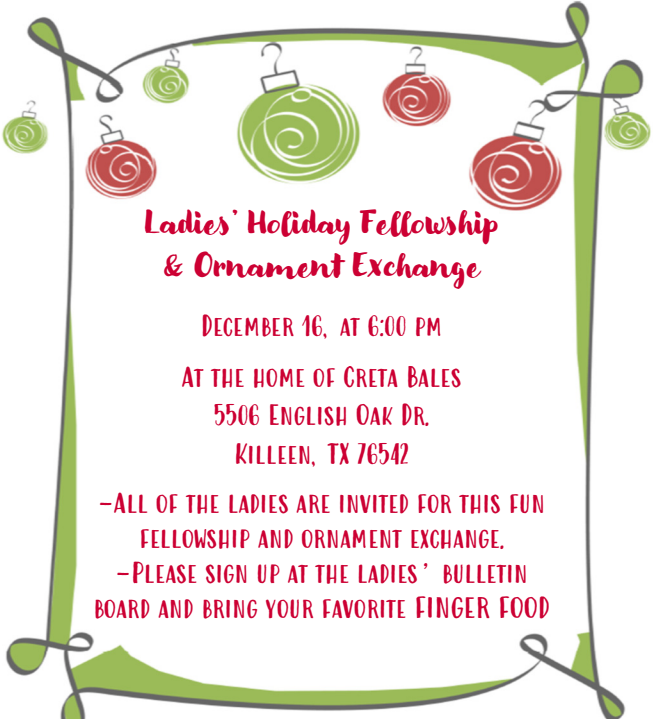
Like Jonah, a reluctant prophet given a mission from God, that he found distasteful. Jonah 1:2 says that God told Jonah to preach to Nineveh, the most important City in Assyria. Not much is mentioned of Nineveh's wickedness from Jonah, but in the book of Nahum. The prophet Nahum gives an insight of Nineveh being guilty of evil plots against God, exploitation of the helpless, cruelty in war, idolatries, prostitution, and witchcraft. Nineveh was about 500 miles northeast of Israel, and Jonah was sent to warn them that they could receive mercy and forgiveness if they repented. But Jonah goes the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. When God gives us directions through his word, sometimes we run due to stubbornness or a dislike of hatred. A person's outward appearance doesn't reveal what a person is really like or what their true value is. Because mere man sees what appears to the eyes; but as for the Lord, he sees what is in the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). God wants us to be concerned for all people, lost and saved. But running got Jonah into worse trouble that also endangered the lives of the ship's crew in verse 4. Thankful that God is slow to anger (Nahum 1:3, Psalms 145:8) and gives his true followers time to share his love and truth with evildoers. We need to stop running from God and run to him! Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me (Psalms 139: 7-10).

We can also lose our sense of purpose. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that God has a plan for our lives, but when we run from God, we step away from the very thing we were created to do. Psalm 16:11 says, "You will make known to me the path of life, in your presence is fullness of joy; in your right hand there are pleasures forever." There is no place to run to; we have an obligation to be consumed with spreading the Good News of salvation (Romans 1:14).

In Love,
Brother Petties



NEW SISTERS IN CHRIST! We rejoice as Rhonda Miller (last Sunday) and Suncha Garza (last Monday) were baptized into Christ. Please keep them in prayer.

**Ladies' Holiday Fellowship
& Ornament Exchange**

DECEMBER 16, AT 6:00 PM

AT THE HOME OF CRETA BALES
5506 ENGLISH OAK DR.
KILLEEN, TX 76542

—ALL OF THE LADIES ARE INVITED FOR THIS FUN
FELLOWSHIP AND ORNAMENT EXCHANGE.
—PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE LADIES' BULLETIN
BOARD AND BRING YOUR FAVORITE FINGER FOOD

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

PLEASE KEEP THESE MEMBERS AND LOVED ONES IN YOUR PRAYERS: Alfreda Pettaway was admitted into Darnell Hospital and had a stress test Friday morning.

-James Garner needs spinal surgery and is waiting on insurance approval. His wife, Tammy, is having health problems.

-James Seay will have neck surgery on December 22nd, in Houston.

-Linda Deem's brother & his son are battling cancer.

-Natalie Fisher's friend, Rosie Childs, was in a serious car accident and has been in the hospital for almost a month. She is a Christian who has fallen away.

-Victoria Polanco is requesting prayers for Mary Lou Dains, who is a Christian living in Temple and is battling a severe infection.

-Josephine Spear is requesting continued prayers for her sister Rose's medical treatment, the Spear, Collins, and Griffen families, health concerns and losses.

-Tanja, Tiffany, & Natasha Arch are having health complications. Natasha is home recovering, but her condition is not improving.

-Tim Matter's complications with kidney stones have improved slightly.

-Angela Thomas went to the cancer center for treatment where it was discovered a piece was left in her port that should have been removed at her discharge from the hospital. She is on another antibiotic for precaution and is still on blood clot medicine.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & HOMEBOUND:

Amanda Petties' brother (Anthony Allen) & sister (Jewel), Rufus Brown, Ashlyn Almeida, Julie Odum, Donna Hines' niece (April), Marcella Williams' brother-in-law (Johnnie Milford), Michelle McIntosh's cousin's daughter (Haley), Shirl Foster, Martha Bell's sister, Julie Odum's mother (Sharon Schmidt), Ken Sellers, Brenda Seller's mother, Garnie & Nada Miller, Lois Brown, Gladys Driver, Cheryl Flores' brother-in-law (Raymond Flores), Tim Matter's aunt (Vivian), Charles Culver, Jean Basco, Billye Hughes, Jim Dukes, Mary McAnally's son, & sister (Ann Ahrens), Barbara Robinson's daughter & son-in-law (Skip & Laura Skarpa), Esther Cox, Skip & Tina Pallo and Tina's son (Jeremy) and Tina's sisters (Cheryle & Jeanette), Willard Dunn, Archie & Jessie Turner, and Linda Walts. Please keep these members and loved ones in your prayers as they battle health problems.

SYMPATHY: We wish to extend our sympathy to Julia Jones and family on the loss of her cousin, Larry Sanford, last Sunday. Please keep her family in your prayers.

RESPONSE: James Garner asked for prayers Wednesday evening to improve his temperament. Please keep him in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS: We wish to congratulate Iheanyichukwu Sunday on recently earning his Master's degree in Marriage & Family Therapy.

-Alyssa Halcomb will be getting married next week in Florida. Please keep her in your prayers for her marriage and safe travels.

LADIES POTLUCK & ORNAMENT EXCHANGE: There will be a ladies fellowship at the home of Creta Bales on Thursday, December 16th, at 6pm. Please sign up on the ladies' board with the finger food you would like to bring.

NEW YEAR'S EVE FELLOWSHIP: Please make plans to be with us on Friday, December 31st in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the beginning of the new year from 6-10 pm. Bring your favorite snacks or finger foods and board games!

Our Speaker Today Is Phil McIntosh.

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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!

BIBLE STUDIES AND COUNSELING OFFERED

⇒ Bible Studies With Our Preacher Or Elders

⇒ Free Bible Correspondence

⇒ Free Marriage And Family Counseling

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

☞DECEMBER CALENDAR☞

15-Ladies Bible class at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall.

16-Ladies potluck & ornament exchange at Creta Bales' home at 6:00 pm.

23,24-The office will be closed for the Christmas holiday.

26-Boyce Edwards will be our guest preacher.

29-Singing Night

31-The office will be closed for the New Year holiday.

31-New Year's Eve party from 6-10 pm in fellowship hall.

☞JANUARY CALENDAR☞

2-Fellowship Luncheon: Kitchen Group #1 will have kitchen duty.

5-Singing Night

5,12,19,26-Ladies Bible class at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall.

8-Men's breakfast at 8:30 am in the fellowship hall.

15-Ladies breakfast & workday at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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