



# 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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Cherokee, TX*

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## **Dead Batteries**

By Phil McIntosh

Technology abounds in America. I remember when I was a teenager my parents had a bag phone. Do you remember those? The blocky, rectangular phone that lay on the floor of the vehicle and plugged into the cigarette lighter (this was pre 'power port' in cars and the only 12v power source was the pop-in-and-out cigarette lighter). Man, we were cool back then huh? Then I remember my first cell phone. I had a folding cell phone operated by Sprint. I didn't get that cell phone until I was 18 years old and purchased it myself. Today that doesn't often seem to be the norm. Children younger and younger and getting their own cell phone and grandchildren younger and younger seem to be able to operate anything with a screen, sometimes with more ease or proficiency than their grandparents. We are truly a blessed people; though, too often perhaps we are inundated with so much for so long that we forget.

One cannot overlook the value of technology in our world. Advances have come to us in the fields of science, medicine, education, the automotive industry, computers, and in, near as makes no difference, virtually everything. We do many things with greater ease and with lesser thought and sweat than in generations past because of technology. However, as gigantic of assistance as technology affords us, there are still limitations. One MAJOR limitation: batteries. Your phone might be able to tell you how to get to the doctor's office, order you a meal from your favorite restaurant, allow you to sign your lease on a rent house virtually, or even let you apply for a vehicle loan and pay your bills, but all of that is impossible if you never charge your phone. Whether it is your phone, car, television remote, or your handy flashlight - many things we use on a daily basis need batteries and we are intimately cognizant of the frustration one experiences when the batteries go dead.

Ok, you might say, "I get that," but what do batteries have to do with me as a Christian? Ah- as do your devices, you have a life cycle. God created your tent (your body- **2 Cor. 5:1**) for a specific purpose and that was to live out your days in this world for a little while in a vessel perfectly suited to do the job. The psalmist wrote that our days on this earth are seventy years, or perhaps if we retain enough strength, eighty (**Ps. 90:10**). James told us that our lives were a mere "vapor" that, after some use, will vanish (**Jam. 4:14**). Just as your cell phone needs power to operate, so do you. Your life saps your energy just like your frequent use of the phone does. The more we expend energy, the more we need to recharge. Have you ever sat down at the end of a long day and just gone, "Woof...I'm beat," as you exhale and soak in the energy gained from relaxation? We need to "recharge our batteries" frequently and more so when we have expended a great deal of energy or our environment has drained it from us.

Where can we go to find the energy source to recharge our drained batteries? One great source is the worship of the local congregation. The gathering of the saints is a deep well from which we can draw out love, energy, motivation, exhortation, challenge, zeal, inspiration, and the purest sense of community. There is no place on earth like the Lord's church and the gathering together in unity with fellow workers in the vineyard. As Christians spend more time in the word of God they should naturally progress to love and care and be concerned for one other, preferring others ahead of themselves (**Phil. 2:3-4**), bearing with one another in love (**Eph. 4:2**), and being willing to give their whole selves for each other (**1 Jn. 3:16**). While we can surely experience, and be recipients of, this love throughout the week, God has ordained for us a special meeting opportunity to gather with each other and worship our Lord and Maker together. In worship on the first day of the week it is possible to practice the refocusing of our souls and hearts collectively on what is truly important in life (**Col. 3:1-3**). The Hebrews writer said this:

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." -**Hebrews 10:24-25**

Why should we not forsake the assembly? Why should we get out of bed on Sundays if we're physically able? Why should we arrange our lives and schedules in such a way that worship is always possible? Why should preparations be made on Saturday (and continually in our minds) so that attendance to the assembly of the saints is never a question, but a given? Because our batteries will inevitably be drained- it is an ungetaroundable fact. The assembling of the saints, whereby we participate in communal worship of God, provides a spark to juice up those batteries and gives us strength to persevere (**2 Tim. 4:7-8**).

### **SERVICE SCHEDULE**

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS\_ 9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP\_ 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY\_ 7:00 PM

## ENJOY HOLIDAY GATHERINGS BY TRAVIS MAIN

This Holiday season (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year Celebration), a great number of families and friends will gather together. Some celebrating for secular reasons others for religious. Some of the greatest joys and disappointments are experienced this time of the year. Here are three suggestions to aid your holiday experience, so the entire celebratory package may be opened with joy. Remember your gathering is not a courthouse, a tennis court, or Golgotha.

### Courthouse

Leave your judicial robes in the closet. A holiday gathering is not the time for judgment and conviction. You have all gathered together at your own will. This is a time for patience and peace. The scriptures use the word “longsuffering”, which may be more appropriate in your case. Yes, your relatives may do or say things that drive you crazy. You are different people and different people have different lifestyles. However, you have not gathered together to ruin someone’s special day by telling them what is wrong with their life. There are other times to have those discussions. Realize these are people who are in the same crazy life that you are. They want the same thing you do, to have joy, which the world tries to steal away as often as possible.

Hebrews 12:14 – Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man shall see the Lord:

### Tennis Court

There are going to be comments made during the gathering that may be an irritant or even hurtful. Yes, you want to bring out your backhand... don’t do it. Do not engage in a volley of words. At first, it seems as if these things are subtle barbs, a little poke in the ribs. Perhaps no one notices, but you do. So you launch another comment back. Before you know it a full scale match of words is going on. You are each serving up one mouthful of pain after another. Is that why you are gathering? Is that going to make the others around you feel good? You don’t get set, point, match by seeing who you can hurt the most at a holiday gathering. The issue is one of humility. No one likes to be put down. To counter it, our conceit, or ego swings back. Instead, let us swallow our pride and take up the matter at a more private time and in a mature fashion.

Galatians 5:26 – Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

### Golgotha

Golgotha is the place to where Jesus carried His cross and died. First, you are not going to die at your holiday gathering. You may pass out from food consumption or get salmonella eating Aunt Hilga’s deviled eggs, but the chances of you dying are extremely small. Second, carrying your cross of burden and suffering can create a lot of damage around the house (think of the small amount of space in the kitchen!). Seriously, there are many folks each holiday season that act as if it is the biggest burden they have every engaged in by gathering together. The house is too full, the turkey kept them up 9 hour last night, there is dirt on the front door rug, there aren’t enough pickled beets for everyone, where are all the pies going to go, and oh, the dirty dishes – and they have to take care of it all! “Woe is me! Look how much I have to

put up with to make this all happen.” Yes, someone out there is carrying an awful big cross. In the midst of a party, they are working hard to fill everyone up with a big, hot, steaming plate of guilt. Don’t let this be you. Remember, serving others is something we do out of kindness and love. Can you imagine Christ carrying his cross to Golgotha and complaining all the way? Christ did indeed suffer, but was silent as a lamb led to the slaughter. What he did, he did out of love. Perhaps, you can remember His Words if you really feel you are suffering by serving:

Luke 23:34 – And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Friends, if you gather during this time of year, remember this is a time you can lead by example. Make your example one of peace, humility, and love. You are not at a courthouse, tennis court, or Golgotha. There is a connection to those with whom you are gathering together. These are family and friends who want to have the best of the day for themselves, you, and the rest of those gathered. In the best of all worlds, your example allows you to influence hopeful future heirs to the kingdom of God (Revelation 21:7). In the least, you make it through your gathering and don’t leave with mash potatoes thrown into your hair.

Main, T. (n.d.). *Holiday gatherings*. Church of Christ Articles. Retrieved December 16, 2021, from <https://churchofchristarticles.com/blog/administrator/the-christmast-gathering/>

### DECEMBER CLEANING CALENDAR

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

Dec 12- TEAM LEE

Lee  
Natalie  
Rufus  
Derek

Ken Richards

Dec 19- TEAM ZACK

Zack  
Amanda  
Diedre  
Paul  
Ruby

Dec 26-TEAM ROGER

Patrick  
Brenda  
Roger  
Linda

Jan 2- TEAM JAMES S.

James  
Kim-Marie  
Xavier  
Jaden



**VISITOR INVITES:** Invite your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, or anyone to our services with the visitor brochures located in the foyer!



