



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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TREASURER

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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



Changing Reflections

By Phil McIntosh

The mirror is a fascinating invention. It allows those occupied with personal presentation to determine with exactitude their progress or completion of their task. In short- it allows us to make sure things are combed, covered up, straightened, and cleaned before we show our faces to the world. Mirrors have a way of revealing elements of the individual they were neither aware of nor interested in discovering. Have you ever looked in the mirror and wondered, "how did I get here" or "when did that show up" or "where did that go" or any other combination of questions we ask as we check our ever changing reflection? It is an inescapable truth that our reflections change as we peer into the mirror throughout our years on this earth. Hair changes color (or falls out), wrinkles appear, age spots begin to manifest, complexion changes, and even the actual shape we once saw staring back at us is altered- and it's all part of God's plan for this temporary tent by which He has afforded us the blessing of living life on His world (***Eccl. 12:1-5***). If you would bear with me momentarily, let me be somewhat philosophical in stating that, though our reflection is constantly changing, it is concurrently perfectly reflective of who we are in that moment. In that manner, mirrors are a way of us viewing, in an infinitesimal snapshot of time, the true manifestation of our identity.

I invite you to now progress with me to a more mature conception of the word, beyond the mirror hanging in your home, to a more spiritual understanding. James used the idea of a mirror as he wrote to first century Christians regarding the lives they were living in the sight of God. He likened the individual who listens to God's word but neglects (or refuses) to follow through toward necessary adjustments akin to a person who looks in a mirror and then simply walks away (***Jam. 1:22-25***). The individual in such a case can clearly see the current state of their identity and present condition, but are not motivated to alter it positively; they merely go about their usual business and allow what the mirror revealed to fade away into unimportance or ignorance. Such is the person who looks into the spiritual mirror (God's word) and decides not to make any improvements. Just as the visual representation of our selves changes physically, so it does spiritually. It is here that we notice the possibility of a shift in dynamics; physically we reach a point where the reflection we see only deteriorates, but spiritually the possibility exists to actually improve. Not only can the individual's reflection change positively, but it ***should***. Note the words of Paul as he wrote to Corinthian Christians:

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." -2 Corinthians 3:18

Succinctly put, the longer we peer into the spiritual mirror at the current state of personal representation we should see improvements in maturation. Such is an ongoing pursuit of improvement that should typify the Christian (***1 Tim. 6:11***).

There is only so good we can look physically before we reach the point of diminishing returns. Spiritually however we have a potential that is, for all intents and purposes, infinite- limited only by the time afforded to us in life and the human inability to obtain absolute perfection. Remember the teaching of Jesus regarding the men given ***talents*** by their master who gained more beyond what they had been gifted at the beginning (***Matt. 25:20-23***)? The implements necessary to acknowledge shortcomings, arrest problems, assist growth, and accomplish spiritual growth have been freely given to us by God through the life of His Son and the work of His Spirit in the inspiration of scripture (***2 Tim. 3:16***). Paul said that God has given us ***all things*** that can empower us and the lives we live. Everything that could possibly be encapsulated within the realm of the ability to improve our spiritual reflection has been gifted to us by God (***2 Pet. 1:3***). How sad it is that mankind can spend so much time on his physical appearance and yet expend an embarrassing amount of energy on the reflection that will determine how we live for eternity!

With boldness and a zeal for spiritual maturity, continually ask yourself these questions:

- Have I looked in the mirror lately?
- Do I like what I see?
- Am I courageous enough to change it?



JESUS PROVIDES AID

Shepherds Notes by Lee Fisher

For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason, he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted (Hebrews 2:16-18 ESV). One of the great blessings we can have in Christ is help in our time of need! Such as when we go through difficult life experiences or having trouble coping with the daily pressures of life - physical pain, emotional pain, pain from loss, struggling in a relationship, marriage, and children. Jesus can help us. You cannot name one problem that exists which Jesus cannot help us handle! *"For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted"* (Heb. 2:18).

Sometimes we forget, Jesus has also participated in the struggles of human life on earth just as we have. But now He is in heaven, sitting at the right hand of God, and He is there to help ("aid") His people through His intercession on our behalf. We approach the Father in prayer through Jesus Christ, who is our Mediator, our Intercessor and Advocate with the Father. He lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25). Another way Jesus provides ("aid") to us is by delivering us from sin. *"Jesus answered them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin'"* (John 8:34). Only Jesus can free us from the bondage of sin, giving us a new direction and teaching us how to live without being a slave to sin (Eph. 1:7).

Our baptism into Christ marks the beginning of a new life (Romans 6:3-8). That new life is through obedience of the gospel as it directs us toward heaven if we are wise enough to listen to it. Jesus also helps us through His perfect example, as we follow Him. We think the way He thought, react as He reacted, obeying God as He did, then we are helped in handling the sufferings and temptations we face. When you think about it, there is no better example to follow in this life. His teaching not only shows us how to live but provides us the necessary instruction on how to live.

Jesus said *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."* (Matt. 7:24-27). He doesn't promise to prevent all the storms in

life. If we will hear and do what He says, we will have the strength to endure those storms and survive! He gives us Hope through the promises of the gospel.

Regardless of what we may have to endure on earth, there will be an eternal home for us when He comes again. Just trust and obey! So, when we are troubled or frustrated by the physical pain, the emotional stress, the injustice we experience and observe in this world - we can have peace, by standing upon His promises. Those statements generate hope, motivation, and comfort. Remember Jesus said: *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know."* Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14: 1-6).

The reward at the end of life's journey is eternal and full of glory. There can be no greater state of happiness for us. Let not your heart be troubled! Remember, there will be storms, but with Christ at your side and you on His side - you will survive the storms. Come to Him in obedience and stay there! He will help.

In Christian Love, Lee

DECEMBER CLEANING CALENDAR

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

Dec 5- TEAM PHIL

Michelle
Beverly
Donna
Josephine
Yvonne

Dec 26-TEAM ROGER

Patrick
Brenda
Roger
Linda

Dec 12- TEAM LEE

Lee
Natalie
Rufus
Derek

Jan 2- TEAM JAMES S.

James
Kim-Marie
Xavier
Jaden

Dec 19- TEAM ZACK

Zack
Amanda
Diedre
Paul
Rubye

CHURCH COMMUNICATION: If you would like to receive church announcements and updates please ensure the office has your cell phone number so you are included in our list.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

OUR SICK: Donna Hines' niece, April, has been diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. Please keep her in your prayers.

-Ashlyn Almeida is recovering from a car accident where she fractured her hand and foot. Please keep her in your prayers.

-Angela Thomas is home from rehabilitating at Rosewood. Please keep her in your prayers as she continues chemotherapy.

-Rufus Brown is home from the hospital and is feeling better. Please keep him in your prayers.

-Marcella Williams is asking prayers for her brother-in-law, Johnnie Milford, for his complications with kidney disease. Please keep him in your prayers.

-Julie Odum received a good report from her surgeon saying the MRSA is gone and she is healing well. Please keep her in your prayers.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & HOME-BOUND: Marcella Williams, Julia Jones' cousin (Larry Sanford), Michelle McIntosh's cousin's daughter (Haley), Shirl Foster, Martha Bell's sister, Julie Odum's mother (Sharon Schmidt), James Garner & his wife (Tammy), Ken Sellers, Brenda Seller's mother, Garnie & Nada Miller, Lois Brown, 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, 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, Tanja, Tiffany, & Natasha Arch, 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 Josephine Spear on the loss of her friend, Alma Harvey, on November 30th. Please keep the family in your prayers.

HOLIDAY BASKETS: Please join us as we prepare holiday baskets for our bereaved on Saturday, December 11th, at 9:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to donate to this effort, please see Lee Fisher.

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

GUEST SPEAKER: Join us on December 26 for services. Our guest speaker will be our former elder & assistant minister, Boyce Edwards.

NEW YEARS 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 6-10pm. 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☞

8,15-Ladies Bible class at 10:00 am, in the fellowship hall.

11-Holiday Basket project at 9:30 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 6-10pm in fellowship hall.

☞JANUARY CALENDAR☞

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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