



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



www.kcofc.org

**VOLUME 29
NUMBER 33**

AUGUST 21, 2022

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

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

By Phil McIntosh



Does your family have drama? Have you ever dreaded a family reunion because of cousin so-and-so or uncle you-know-who? There are interesting dynamics at play within family units. The Norman Rockwell representation is perhaps a combination of multiple households, all gathered around a large, well-furnished table, enjoying a wonderful meal where people are passing bowls back and forth, discussing their lives, and laughing. Families aren't always as picturesque as that. There are some families who get together and have that pie-in-the-sky type of experience, and we should cherish those as often as they come. Some families might fight the same fights every time they gather. Some families don't get together at all; they might barely see each other through the years. Drama seems to find its way into situations that should otherwise, in a perfect world, be loving and comfortable.

Look outside of your personal family unit and examine another family, one in which there was most definitely drama. It was the first family in the Bible. We know from revealed scripture that Adam and Eve had many children through the years. We were not given information as to how many, their names, or how far apart they were all born. What we know is mostly summed up in "After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters" (*Gen. 5:4*). Quite assuredly there was drama within that expansive family unit. However, the point within the family timeline for our consideration is found in the first section of chapter four of the book of Genesis. Herein we learn that Adam and Eve had two sons, the first named Cain and the second named Abel. The scripture tells us the sons lived divergent lives regarding their occupational lifestyle, with Cain being a "tiller of the ground" and Abel being a "keeper of sheep" (*Gen. 4:2*). Not much of either of their lives are expressed to us in much more detail. In fact, we know how old Adam was when he died and how old Seth was when he died, but for Cain and Abel that information has been kept by God. What we do know of them is infamous, perhaps even one of the most notable events of the Bible known by the world. Cain killed Abel. It was one of the earliest expressions of anger in the Bible; and, as such, revealed for us how dangerous unrestrained anger can be since it resulted in the first murder in the Bible. What a shame that the first murder was within a family unit! The close one who was supposed to keep family safe was responsible for spilling blood instead.

Why did family kill family? We could read Genesis and speculate. We know they both gave an offering to God and that Abel's was accepted while Cain's was rejected (*Gen. 4:3-5*). We do know (*Gen. 4:8*) that the two brothers had a conversation one day and Cain murdered his brother. That's it. That's what we're told. Perhaps we could assume what was discussed, but the easiest course of action would be to read the

Bible. You've heard people say that "the Bible is its own best commentary" haven't you? Turn over (or open and scroll) to **Hebrews 11:4** and **1 John 3:12b**. Perhaps it was jealousy. Maybe it was contention and strife from a tense and difficult conversation. Regardless the exact impetus, Cain overpowered and killed his family.

God spoke to Cain after the deed and asked him the whereabouts of his brother. We know Cain's (insolent and cold-hearted) answer:

"Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" -**Genesis 4:9**

Disregard for the moment the tone and calloused nature of Cain's response to God (if you can). Look at the content of his contention. The Hebrew root for "keeper" is שָׁמַר (shamar). The word can be thought of as "keep, guard, preserve, watchman, etc." but is most frequently translated as keep. What was Cain saying? He didn't consider himself in any way responsible for his brother. His bubble of care and concern began and ended at his own nose. What happened to his brother didn't affect him. How cruel and ungodly!

Now, millennia later, what does God want us to learn from this text? The greatest clue is recorded for us by the apostle John:

"In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.¹¹ For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,¹² not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous." -**1 John 3:10-12**

Earlier in the same chapter John discussed how to distinguish the children of the devil from

the children of God. He then proceeded to mention a specific aspect of life whereby the distinction can be observed and expressed- LOVE. If you'll remember, Jesus said that a distinguishing characteristic of His disciples would be love (**Jn. 13:35**). John says don't be like Cain, he didn't have love. Love is from God because God is love (**1 Jn. 4:8**). Can we then conclude that love compels us to care about what is happening within the lives of our family? The word family here means our church family- our brothers and sisters in Christ. We care when they hurt, when they struggle, when they are slowly drifting away from God, and even when they've perhaps forgotten that God has saved them from their former sins. God's family shouldn't "bite and devour" each other (**Gal. 5:15**), but rather be "kindly affectionate... with brotherly love" (**Rom. 12:10**). Let us ever look for ways to help protect, preserve, provide for, and keep our family.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2-DERREL HEGINBOTHAM

5-JANET BASS

5-CARLA GAITHER

8-KINGSFORD ASARE

8-CHASE CULVER (10)

10-JIM DUKES

15-RUBY PORTLEY

18-LEX MCINTOSH

25-KEYSHAWN DAY (11)

29-JAMES GARNER

30-JULIE ODUM

HAPPY 18TH ANNIVERSARY
TO PHIL & MICHELLE MCINTOSH
ON AUGUST 7TH!

YOUTH LOCK - IN

Join the fun at our Youth Lock-In on Friday, October 7th, from 7:00 pm-7:00 am, in the fellowship hall. There will be lessons, singing, games, & junk food. Invite your friends! If any members would like to help chaperone, please see Gaylen or Phil for details.

August Nursery Schedule

7-Gayle & Josephine
14-Beverly & Victoria
21-Brenda & Nichole
28-Natalie & Amanda
Sept. 4-Brenda & Victoria

Ladies-If you would like to be on the nursery list, please contact the office.

Thank you!

August Cleaning Calendar

•May be done any time before the next Sunday.
•Please consult with your team leader for further questions.
Thank you!

Aug. 7-TEAM LEE

Natalie
Rufus
Derek
Ken
Tim

14-TEAM ZACK

Amanda
Diedre
Paul
Ruby

21-TEAM ROGER

Patrick
Brenda
Linda

28-TEAM JAMES S.

Kim-Marie
Xavier
Jaden
Kingsford

Sep. 4-TEAM PHIL

Michelle
Beverly
Josephine
Yvonne
Lois
Marcella



PICTURES: If you do not see your picture on the picture board, please see Zack Petties or Victoria Polanco to have one taken.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS:

The workbooks for Quarter 3 are available in the foyer.

ORDER OF SERVICE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2022:

- ANNOUNCEMENTS: GAYLEN WILLIAMS
- 1ST PRAYER: ADAM ZAK
- SONG: PAUL PORTLEY
- SCRIPTURE READING: BRUCE BROWN
- SONG: PAUL PORTLEY
- SERMON: ANDRÉ PETTAWAY
- INVITATION SONG: PAUL PORTLEY
- SONG BEFORE COMMUNION: PAUL PORTLEY
- COMMUNION:
KINGSFORD ASARE & GIANNI GRIFFITH
- SONG: PAUL PORTLEY
- OFFERING:
KINGSFORD ASARE & GIANNI GRIFFITH
- CLOSING SONG: PAUL PORTLEY
- CLOSING PRAYER: ROGER DEEM
- AUDIO/VISUAL: PATRICK SELLERS
- SECURITY: BRUCE BROWN & ROGER DEEM
- NURSERY:
BRENDA SELLERS & NICHOLE WILLIAMS



SCRIPTURE READING

Galatians 3:26-29

²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

²⁹ And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

