

“Do I Have To Be There?” (By Mike Riley Categories: Church of Christ Bulletin Articles)

Regarding church attendance, this writer questions why any faithful child of God would ever ask such a question as “Do I have to be there?” in the first place. Unless there is a compelling reason that prohibits attendance, where else and with whom else would a child of God want to be than with the saints? (cf. Acts 2:42; Romans 12:9-10; Romans 15:30- 32). We have the obligation to submit ourselves to elders in such matters as attendance for the inspired writer of Hebrews 13:17 says: “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” The elders are charged with the oversight of the local congregation. They have been given the responsibility to “feed the church of God” (Acts 20:28 KJV), and that “feeding” involves providing the necessary teaching to bring them to spiritual maturity (Ephesians 4:11-13). Thus, when the elders set a day and a time for the church to assemble, the church should assemble in order to be spiritually fed. From the well-known passage of Hebrews 10:23-25 we read: “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and to good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” Willful absence from any assembly of the congregation of which we are a member serves to discourage those who do attend. That is why the Hebrew writer said, “And let us consider one another to in order to stir up love and good works.” Let’s ask ourselves, “How does my personal, willful absence from any service that I could have attended indicate that I am thinking about anyone but myself?” Having said that, how does our “staying home” help us get to heaven, which should be our primary goal? In what way does our staying home, when we honestly and truly could have been at the worship service, serve to “stimulate” our brothers and sisters in Christ “to love and good works”? Philipians 2:3-8 exhorts us to do the following: “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” After reading and studying the above passages in context, this writer cannot imagine any child of God asking, “Do I have to be there?” Dear fellow saint, can you imagine it?



Attendance for last week...	
Sunday A.M. Bible Study	56
Sunday A.M. Worship	84
Sunday P.M.	49
Wed. Bible Study	50

Free Communion CHURCH of CHRIST



“For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.” Matthew 18:20

ELDERS:

Dale Bouldin
Roger Harvey
Larry Melton
Jack Parrott
Roy Parrott
Keven Reeder

Church Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study 10:00a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:00p.m.
Wednesday Night 6:30p.m.

Members Expected... Visitors Welcome...

DEACONS:

Teddy Dailey
Mark Garrett
Roy Hugh Melton
Donald Wilson

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” HEBREWS 10:25

SICK IN THE COMMUNITY...

Roy Hugh Melton at last report is not doing well. Prayers.
 Cindy Hinson went to Nashville to the infectious disease doctor last week & got a good report.
 James Wilson has been sick for a few days now.
 Everly Parrott was sick last weekend with vomiting.
 Katlyn McCann will be having gaw bladder surgery on March 7th.
 Anita Beason has been getting IV infusions due to infection in her toes. Prayers.
 Danny Bailey had extensive tests & doctor's visits in Nashville on Wednesday.
 Pauline Sells has been cared for by hospice at the Nursing Home. Prayers.
 Billie Poston is now home after being in the Centennial Hospital last week.
 Jeff McCormick has been back in the hospital with a blood clot. Prayers.
 Mary Bell (Shaney Kennedy's mother has been to the ER 3 times for very high blood pressure issues. Prayers.
 Marilyn Smith has been experiencing lung issues & will undergo testing later in March.
 Missie Richardt has osteomyelitis in her big toe & will be having surgery to remove part of the bone. Prayers.

Kim Reagan & Mary Reagan were baptized on Saturday by Keven Reeder here at the Free Communion building. We Rejoice!

EXTENDED SICKNESS: (has been on the sick list for some time now)...

Cynthia Blaire at last report is doing a little better. Prayers.
 Kim Reagan (Tony Reagan's wife) has stage 4 cancer & did not get a good report. Prayers.
 Jackie Young is still in the Nashville Hospital not doing well.
 Misty Waller has stage 4 cancer. Prayers.
 Marian Andrews (Traci Taylor's Grandmother) is now on hospice. Prayers.
 Mary Rose Gore has stage 3 cancer. Prayers.
 Jennifer Keith has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Prayers.
 Robert Leach has ALS and the family asks for prayers.

**Special prayers for all the people we have mentioned & know God is in control!*

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual"

March 5, 2023



THE LORD'S WORK

Wednesday Night, March 8th at 6:30p.m.

<u>SONG LEADER</u>	<u>FIRST PRAYER</u>	<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u>
Larry Melton	Keven Reeder	James Wilson

Sunday Morning, March 12th at 10:00a.m.

<u>SONG LEADER</u>	<u>PRAYER</u>
Mark Garrett	Teddy Dailey

Sunday Morning, March 12th at 11:00a.m.

<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>	<u>SONG LEADER</u>	<u>FIRST PRAYER</u>
Steve Martin	Tanner Lacy	Jack Parrott

<u>SCRIPTURE READING</u>	<u>LORD'S TABLE-SERVE</u>	<u>LORD'S TABLE-ASSIST</u>
Greg Nivens	Logan Ramsey	Mike Coleman Tim Kennedy

<u>LORD'S SUPPER</u>	<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u>
Cody Melton	Ronnie England

Sunday Evening, March 12th at 6:00p.m.

<u>SONG LEADER</u>	<u>FIRST PRAYER</u>	<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u>
Mason Ramsey	Mike Taylor	Donald Wilson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Livia Worley & Shaney Kennedy on March 5th.
 Matthew Garrett & Joshua White on March 6th.
 Justin Hummel, Rachel Ramsey, Mace Kennedy on March 10th.
 Ivan Coil on March 11th.

Thomas Johnson's mailing address:
 1301 Seminole Drive
 BLDG G-101-D
 Apt. 1001
 Johnson City, TN 37604

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Parrott on March 11th.

Prayer List (Those who have an extended illness, injury, or has asked for prayers)

Donald Norrod	Keith Bilbrey	Larry Coleman	Glenn Riley
Scott Mullins	James Winingham	Robert Leach	Evan Hayes
Anita Beason	Jimmy Hardin	Donna Beason	Betty Winingham
Michael Garrett	Gail Martin	Danny Bailey	Alva Dean Seber
Betty Paul	Mary Rose Gore	Cynthia Blaire	Joyce Wakefield
Misty Waller	Angela Diamond	Kierston Burns	Lisa Wallen
Ann Alfred	Ben Walker	Bennie Dailey	Faye Melton
Roy Hugh Melton	Marian Andrews	Billie Poston	Richard Newman
Bernice Martin	Jennifer Keith	Sheila Tedford	Amellia Melton
Carolyn Winingham	Kim Reagan	Carl Reagan	Anita Bouldin
Jaylee Harris	Dave Medeiros	Edwin Garrett	Athus Ruble
Debbie Little	Janna Parrott	Carlie Reeder	Mark Barlow
Aaron Hammock	Jeff McCormick	Bill Hill	Missie Richardt
Mary Bell		Pauline Sells	

**Your assistance in keeping the Prayer List up to date is greatly appreciated. You can notify Donna or Keven Reeder of any names that can be removed. Thank you!*