

**SICK:** Kit King (Baptist East Hosp.), Dorothy Johnson (Magnolia Hosp.), Frances Massengill, Faye Jackson, Neal Tharp, Joe Rogers (Chuck's son-in-law), Rebecca Moss (Linda Maricle's daughter), Jack Young, Susan Switcher.

**S.T.O.P. LECTURESHIP: July 22-26, Tradition of Men – Vain Religion.** Just 3 weeks!

**FOOD ITEM:** Paper Towels

**JULY BIRTHDAYS:** Sam King 1<sup>st</sup>, J. P. Pruitt 3<sup>rd</sup>, Lucille Leatherwood 6<sup>th</sup>, Pam McNair 6<sup>th</sup>, Hunter Hopkins 13<sup>th</sup>, Pat Wade 15<sup>th</sup>, Rheuben McGee 27<sup>th</sup>, Danielle Street 27<sup>th</sup>.

**SHUT-INS:** Pauline Irvin, Nellie Wallace, Annie Nauman, Faye Jackson, Clydie Morrow, Frances Massengill, Doug Kimbrough, Sula Perry, Lucille Leatherwood, Dorothy Johnson, Harry Prater.

July 1	AM	PM
<b>Announce</b>	Johnny	Johnny
<b>Singing</b>	Bobby	Orlander
<b>O.Prayer</b>	Wallace	Steve
<b>L. Table</b>	Rheuben / Terry	J. P.
	Edmond/Jimmy B	Tom
<b>C.Prayer</b>	Wilbur	Jim R
<b>Usher</b>	Jimmy N	Jimmy N
<b>Cam:</b> Tommy S	<b>Close:</b> Bill	<b>Sing:</b> Chuck

### It Must Be Used

A soap manufacturer, not a Christian, was walking with a preacher. Said the soapmaker, "The gospel you preach hasn't done much good, for there is still a lot of wickedness and wicked people." The preacher made no immediate reply, but they soon passed a child making mud pies. He was exceedingly dirty. The preacher said, "Soap hasn't done much good in the world for there is still much dirt and many dirty people." "Oh, well," answered the manufacturer, "Soap is useful only when it is applied." THINK ABOUT IT!

**East Corinth Church of Christ**

<p><b>ELDERS</b> Wallace Benjamin – 286-3266 Earl Case – 286-9938 Bill Kimbrough – 287-1591 Edmond King – 286-2005</p> <p><b>DEACONS</b> Orlander Hardwick – 286-5718 Jamie Hendrix – 286-9618 Rodney Hillard – 284-9581 Steve Jones – 286-8472 Rheuben McGee – 287-3348 Johnny Purvis – 287-5052 Tommy Wade – 452-7514</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TIME OF SERVICES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday</b></p> <p>Bible Study ..... 9:45 am Morning Worship ..... 10:30 am Evening Worship ..... 6:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday</b></p> <p>Bible Study ..... 7:00 pm</p>
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<p><b>RADIO PROGRAMS</b> Monday – Friday: 6:55 – 7:00 am WADI (95.3 FM) &amp; WCMA (1230 AM) Monday – Friday: 12:45 – 12:50 pm WSP (1400 AM &amp; 99.3 FM)</p> <p><b>SONG LEADERS</b> Orlander Hardwick    Chuck Hill Bobby Franks         Tim Hardwick</p>	<p><b>T.V. PROGRAMS</b> Sunday: Comcast 6: 8:30 am Sunday: TV 53: 9:00 – 9:30 am Tuesday: Comcast 8: 8:00 pm Thursday: Comcast 8: 9:00 pm</p> <p><b>NEWSPAPER</b> <b>Questions &amp; Answers</b> The Daily Corinthian Each Thursday</p>
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You can find us on the Web at:  
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**Light For Living**

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105)*

## SHOULD WE BAPTIZE SOMEONE WHO IS LIVING IN ADULTERY? CAN THEY BE FORGIVEN?

The Lord is willing to forgive every sin. *"The Lord is...longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9). Jesus' death on the cross shows God's willingness to forgive even the vilest of sins. Jesus died for all men (Heb. 2:9; Rom. 5:8).

The Lord will forgive the sin of adultery and gives us a Bible example of it. Some of the members of the church at Corinth had been adulterers before they obeyed the Gospel. However, Paul said *"...but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified..."* (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

There are occasions, however, when it is right to refuse to baptize a person who desires to be baptized. For example, how can a person be baptized who says he/she "is not" and "will not" repent of their sins—when they say they will not stop their sinful practice? We should not baptize a thief who says "I'm going to keep on stealing," a liar who says "I'm going to keep on lying," a drunkard who says "I'm going to keep on drinking," or a homosexual who says "I'm going to keep on living in sodomy/homosexuality." Such individuals refuse to repent. And, without repentance, the blood

of Christ (contacted in water baptism, Rom. 6:3-18) cannot wash away sins. John the Baptizer refused to baptize some who came to him to be baptized. They were told to *"bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance"* (Matt. 3:8).

What if one who is living in adultery, learns the Gospel, desires to be baptized, but says "I'm going to keep on living in adultery," is it right to baptize that person? NO! One who keeps on committing sin is living in sin and cannot be forgiven as long as they continue to live in sin. Col. 3:5-7 says, *"Mortify...your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence...<sup>6</sup>For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:<sup>7</sup>In... which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them."* One can live in adultery just as they live in fornication. Baptism is worthless to those will not repent and continue to live in sin, no matter what sin it is.

Repentance is the "key" to forgiveness of the sin of adultery (Col. 3:5) and all other sins. God will not and can not forgive anyone who does not repent of their sins.

—Garland M. Robinson

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE CHURCH OF CHRIST PRAYS?

A very timid woman wanted to participate in the visitation program of the church, but was petrified by the thought of actually visiting somebody. The preacher, sensing her anxiety, recommended she pray before each visit. He noted God's promise to give peace which surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:6). A week later the woman was walking on Cloud Nine. She jubilantly told the preacher, "You were right – prayer works! Before each one of my visits I prayed that the people wouldn't be home, and they weren't!" Her prayers worked against the best interests of the church. What about mine? Do they work for the church? What could happen in the local congregation if I prayed?

**GOD INCREASES LOVE WITHIN A CONGREGATION IN ANSWER TO PRAYER.** For what is the church I attend best known? "That's the church that doesn't use pianos." "That's the church that believes in baptism for salvation." "That's the church whose members think they are the only ones going to heaven." "That's the church that doesn't have Sunrise services at Easter or Cantatas at Christmas." "That's the church that doesn't call its preacher, 'reverend'." These are all good things for the community to know about us, but are any of these the things for which Jesus would want His church best known? Wouldn't it be better if they said of us, "That's the church that loves each other" (cf. John 13:34)? Or, "That's a church that really believes in prayer." A loving, praying congregation will outgrow an unloving,

prayerless one every year. Love shows the community that these are Christ's followers in a way sermons never could (John 13:34, 35). How do we get our members to love each other? Several ways, but one is to pray for it. Paul said, "*And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more...*" (Phil. 1:9).

**GOD UNITES A CONGREGATION IN ANSWER TO PRAYER.** Some churches seem to believe in prayer about as much as a ship's captain caught in a storm. When it was evident the ship would not survive a storm, the captain called out to his crew, "Does anyone here know how to pray?" One volunteered with, "Yes sir, I do." "Good," the captain replied. "You pray while the rest of us put on our life jackets. We're one short." Congregations need an "all for one, one for all" attitude. Jesus would never have prayed, "*...for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me*" (John 17:20,21), if it were not possible for prayer to help unity to be achieved. The early church continued "*with one accord in prayer and supplication...*" (Acts 1:14). Is your congregation or a congregation you know of suffering from disunity? Are brethren "biting and devouring one another" (Gal. 5:15)? Pray for them. Churches grow in love's greenhouse, but die in a freezer.

**GOD GRANTS CHURCHES WISDOM IN ANSWER TO PRAYER.** How

many churches are trying to live down the mistakes of past elderships and preachers? Some are "boxed in" because they did not have the wisdom to buy enough property; others have properties not conducive to growth because they are so out-of-the-way, visitors must have directions to find them. Some store up money as if the church were a bank while missionaries and good works go unsupported; others pay interest on hundreds of thousands of dollars while missionaries and good works go unsupported. Some have built great sprawling facilities they can never pay for with their membership base; others built too small and had to add on before they got it paid off. We've not practiced church discipline and now the church is weak and worldly, or we've practiced it with poor judgment and split the church (cf. 1 Cor. 5; 2 Thess. 3). Preachers with poor business and ethical judgment have ruined the influence of the church in the community and then moved on. Some have preached hard and mean and turned away those who were not yet ready for meat (Eph. 4:15; Heb. 5:12-14; Mark 4:33); others have set the church up to be led astray by never preaching on the issues (2 Tim. 4:1-6). Churches have invested in missionaries and Christian education without sufficiently checking the soundness and/or work ethic of those involved and hurt the Cause instead of furthering it.

Churches need wisdom much more than they need money or members. If we have wisdom, we will eventually get money and members. And, without wisdom we will

likely lose the money and members we now have. Solomon wrote, "*The wise shall inherit glory; but shame shall be the promotion of fools*" (Prov. 3:35), and, "*There is a treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up*" (Prov. 21:20). How do we keep from making serious mistakes? Pray for wisdom! James promised God gives it freely in answer to prayer (1:1-6). Paul told the Ephesians that he always prayed for them (Eph. 1:16,17). He also prayed that the Philippian church would have judgment to "*approve things that are excellent*" (1:9-10). He told the Colossians, "*For this cause we also...do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding*" (1:9).

After World War II, a great cry arose because the Allies never bombed the railroad tracks which led to Auschwitz. Although they knew hundreds of thousands of Jews and Slovaks were being transported along these tracks to death camps, the Allied forces never bombed the tracks. They had the power but refused to use it. What about us? Are we less to blame if a congregation and individual Christians are dying and we could help stop the process? Do we use the power of prayer to change evil into good? Do we use prayer as a weapon against the things we complain about in our world or even in our own congregation?

"Let's have a word of prayer."

—Allen Webster

Jacksonville church of Christ