

The Mars Hill Messenger

September 8, 2019

God Knows Our Needs

As Christians, we must believe that if we do not receive the very thing we prayed for, then it was best that we not have it. Therefore, we ought always to pray, "Not my will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

God knows best.

I once heard brother Gus Nichols comment on this point. He said, "We do not always know what is best for us. It may not even be best for us to have health or wealth. We may need to remain poor or ill, in order to remain humble and faithful. Even death may be best for us. I have no way of knowing that I would die faithful to the Lord if given twenty-five more years in which to live. If God sees best, I had rather die now and go to heaven than to live a thousand years, and die in sin and be lost eternally. Let us therefore pray and obey, then leave the results up to the will of God"

This will require great faith, but remember: Christians are called believers (1 Timothy 4:12). If we do not seem to have our prayers answered, let us believe that they were heard, and that withholding the answer was equal to the Lord's speaking back to us and saying, 'The thing you prayed for is not best for you;' or, 'You shall receive your request as soon as you are ready to receive it;' or 'I am sending you something better than what you requested.'"

Let us do our part, and leave the results to God. He will take care of us – whether we live or die.

--Bobby Key (Via Old Paths

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	
Bible Class	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:15 a.m.
Evening Service	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	
Bible Class	7:00 p.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION

P.O. Box 185
Vilonia, Arkansas 72173
Phone: (501) 796-2052
www.churchofchristmarshill.org

Elders

Curtis Sawrie	849-2365
Steve Shock	328-7072

Deacons

Dan Blair	519-1173
Ralph Hunter	428-0466
Rodney Partee	328-7380
Clay Winn	472-5928

Evangelist

David Riley	796-2052
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Youth Minister

Dan Blair	519-1173
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Missions

- Ted & Barbara Knight (U.S.A., Romania)
- Main Street Church of Christ (Stuttgart, Arkansas)
- Youth Outreach University Youthoutreachuniversity.com
- Truth For Today World Mission School
- Gospel Chariot (Africa)
- Gospel Gathering (Local)
- Camp Areopagus

At A Glance

September 9 – Preacher's Meeting. 10 a.m.
September 10 – Fellowship Supper. Center Ridge C of C. 5:30 p.m.
September 11 – Wednesday Meal. 6 p.m.
September 14 – Ladies' Day. Southside C of C, Batesville. 9:30 a.m. Kay Gowen, speaker.
September 16-23 – Main St. C of C, Stuttgart. City-Wide Campaign
September 18 – Wednesday Meal. 6 p.m.
September 21 – Men's Breakfast. 8 a.m.
September 22 – Elders/Deacons Meeting. 3:30 pm.
September 22-25 – Gospel Meeting. N. Main C of C, Stuttgart. Tommy Brooks, speaker
September 25 – Wednesday Meal. 6 p.m.
September 29 – Potluck Meal after a.m. service. Early evening service
September 29 – Teacher's Appreciation
September 29-October 2 – Harding University Lectures. Theme: Fan the Flame
September 29 – Contribution to the Building Fund
October 2 – Organizational Meeting for National Door-Knocking Campaign
October 5 – 1st Annual Brotherhood Door Knocking Campaign
October 6 – Ted Knight will speak at a.m. service. Josh Moore will speak at p.m. service
October 20 – Elders/Deacons Meeting. 3:30

Bible Class Lessons

Sun., Sept. 8: Lesson # 178 – 1 Kings 15-16
 Wed., Sept. 11: Lesson # 179 – 1 Kings 17
 Sun., Sept. 15: Lesson #180 – 1 Kings 18
 Wed., Sept. 18: Lesson # 181 – 1 Kings 19

September 8, 2019

Nursery

Brittney Wells

SOUND ROOM

Curtis Sawrie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gary Lambert

SCRIPTURE READING

Harmon Sawrie

A.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Bob Johnston

LEAD PRAYER

Clay Winn

Roy Bulice

LORD'S TABLE

Wade Haynie, b.

John Foster, c.

Mark Mauney, c.

Steve Dixon

Steve Shock

Dan Blair

P.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Harmon Sawrie

LEAD PRAYER

Jarrod Partee

Carey Wells

LORD'S TABLE

Gary Lambert

Harold Moody

September 11, 2019

LEAD SINGING

Caden Johns

LEAD PRAYER

Thomas Martin

Rodger Moore

DEVOTIONAL

Dan Blair

September 15, 2019

Nursery

Brittney Wells

SOUND ROOM

Clay Winn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gary Lambert

SCRIPTURE READING

Gary Lambert

A.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Clay Johns

LEAD PRAYER

Carlton Clayton

Jack Hancock

LORD'S TABLE

David Bayless, b.

Rodger Moore, c.

Dennis Martin, c.

Clay Johns

James Moore

Mark Mauney

P.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Ethan Johns

LEAD PRAYER

Ethan Johns

Rodger Harlan

LORD'S TABLE

Caleb Shock

Bob Johnston

September 18, 2019

LEAD SINGING

Ethan Johns

LEAD PRAYER

Dennis Martin

Clay Johns

DEVOTIONAL

Curtis Sawrie

Those involved in providing our devotional time on Wednesday evenings are asked to please help us be ready to begin our Bible Study time by 7:15.

Fire or No Fire!

When I was nine or ten years old, my dad bought some land. I think he paid \$50 per acre or thereabouts, then worried whether he could grow enough crops and cattle to make payments to the bank!

On the property were several out-buildings that had become run down to the point of being not only useless, but dangerous. One misty, drizzly day we set fire to them! Ironically, the property was worth more without them than it had been with them.

Our Heavenly Father also burns things that prove to be useless. Jesus said, “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned” (John 15:1, 2a, 6).

There were other buildings on my dad’s land that we didn’t burn. How did we determine which ones to burn and which ones to leave? If the building offered some benefit, we left it; if not, we burned it.

How does the Lord determine which branches are to be burned and which are not? He uses these criteria:

- Are the branches abiding in the vine? The vine is Jesus, and the branches are disciples (vv. 1, 5). God requires every disciple to abide in Christ. Unlike branches in a literal vine, human beings have free moral agency; that is, we decide for ourselves whether or not to remain in Christ. People get into the vine (Christ) through baptism into Him (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27). They remain in Christ through faithfulness to Him and His word.
- Are the branches bearing fruit? Jesus said, “As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches . . . without Me you can do nothing” (vv. 4, 5). Even if a branch is connected to the vine, it is useless unless it bears fruit. Vineyard owners grow vines for the fruit, not just for pretty foliage. When a branch produces no fruit, the vinedresser prunes it off, and it becomes fuel for the fire!

The fruit God requires includes such things as good works (Colossians 1:10), holiness (Romans 6:22), soul-winning (John 4:35, 36), benevolence (2 Corinthians 9:10), and worship (Hebrews 13:15).

Abiding in Christ, you have the ability and the responsibility to bear fruit. By doing so, you will stay out of the fire!

David

PRAYERS NEEDED

Vanessa Ellison is recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

Kenneth Baxter was able to return home last Wednesday.

Clay Johns is recovering from knee surgery.

Nadine Gilham, Jessica Marsh’s grandmother, has been hospitalized as a result of seizures.

Extended Sick List: Roy Bulice, Amy Smith, Ronnie House, Dorothy Glover, Shelia Riddle, Nell Bostic, Paula Stocks, Martha Walker, Alex Lafferty, Nita Patrom, Mark Allen, Pam Webb, Barbara Fowlkes, Barbara Knight, Charlene Lasley, Martha Green, Gladys Widner, Robie Permenter, Jerry Walker, Jerry Almond, Anna Kay Jones

FAMILY NEWS

Kid’s Konnection: 5 p.m today. Lesson: Acts 28 – Being With Christians in Rome.

Fellowship Meal and Singing: The Center Ridge congregation will host the Fellowship Meal on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Please let David know if you plan to attend so a count can be turned in.

Wednesday Meal: The first of the Wednesday Meals will be served this coming Wednesday at 6 p.m. If you would like to help with the preparation and serving of a meal, please sign the sheet on the table in foyer. If you are willing to contribute to the purchase of food for the meals please see Bob Johnston. Everyone is invited to attend and bring family and guests.

The Battle Is Often Won Before The Fight Begins

National Geographic ran an article about the Alaskan bull moose. The males battle for dominance during the fall breeding season, literally going head-to-head, with antlers crunching together as they collide. Often the antlers, their only weapon, are broken. That ensures defeat. The heftiest moose with the largest and strongest antlers triumphs.

Therefore, the battle fought in the fall is really won during the summer, when the moose eat continually. The one that consumes the best diet for growing antlers and gaining weight will be the heavyweight in the fight. Those that eat inadequately sport weaker antlers and less bulk.

Spiritual battles await us. Satan will choose a season to attack. Will we be victorious, or will we fall? Much depends on what we do now – before the wars begin. Remember the bull moose principle: enduring faith, strength, and wisdom for trials are best developed before they are needed.

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Husband: Why does a woman say she’s been shopping when she hasn’t bought a thing?

Wife: For the same reason a man says he’s been fishing!