

## **Please Remember To Pray For The Sick!**

Gaddy Wayne & Linda Hall  
Wid & Barb Fleming  
Hazel  
Yvonne  
Clifford Fields  
Jessica & David  
Shirly  
Rachael Shepherd  
Rhonda Holbrook  
John Wayne Stewart  
Jean & Billy Adkins  
Eddie Davis  
Larry Sparks

Allen Shepherd  
Sheila Seavers  
Hillard & Carma Bates  
Cammie Hutchinson  
Ralph Napier  
Jessica Jent  
Nancy Collins  
Jessica Newman (Baby)  
Caroline  
Phillip Wright  
Sheilla Tolliver  
Gideon & Linda Ison

## **Give Them the Shepherd**

A good summary of the Lord's Galilean ministry is given in Matthew 9:35-36. There, the Scripture says,

(35) Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. (36) Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus was provoked to compassion because of the state of the people He saw. It wasn't their physical suffering that concerned Him so much, although He tended to those who were sick with miraculous healing. Instead, it was the people's spiritual condition that stirred Him the most. They were "distressed," meaning troubled, and "downcast." The analogy used to relate their condition is "like sheep without a shepherd."

What do sheep without a shepherd need? Obviously, they need a shepherd. A shepherd feeds, leads, and protects the sheep under his care. Without a shepherd, sheep are lost, hungry, and endangered. They cannot shepherd themselves.

Jesus was the shepherd the people needed. He came to feed them by the word of God, lead them to the kingdom of heaven, and protect them from the wolves, namely, the devil and his agents. Jesus would prove to be their true shepherd by the price He would pay for their wellbeing. As He later said, "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep" (John 10:14-15).

Christians, when we see people in the world who are distressed and downcast, do we feel compassion for them? Are we concerned more about their spiritual condition than their physical condition? Do we see that they are like sheep without a shepherd? (If not, then we should examine our own hearts.)

Give them the Shepherd! They need Jesus, and there is nothing better we can do than lead them to Him. Compassion compels us to do so, for we must know that their condition is dire, and Jesus is the only one who can help them. He said, "Unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins" (John 8:24).

Let us also remember that we were once in their shoes, but someone mercifully brought us to Jesus. As 1Peter 2:25 says, "For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls." Someone gave us the Shepherd; will we do the same for others?

Go out and share the gospel. See the people who are distressed and downcast, and feel the compassion of Jesus. Tell them of the plight of their sin, God's plan for their redemption, and the path of faith and obedience that leads to salvation. Give them the Shepherd, and bring them into His flock.

Stacey E. Durham

### **Gods Plan Of Salvation**

**Hear, Romans 10:17, Believe, John-8:24, Repent, Luke 13:3, Confess, Romans-10:9-10, Baptism, Acts 2:38, Remain Faithful, Revelation 2:10**

# Seeking Truth

Gospel Meeting  
 Speaker: Ron Halbrook  
 Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>  
 7:00 PM Nightly  
 Regular meeting times on Sunday

South End  
 CHURCH of CHRIST

Southend Church of Christ,  
 250 Hwy 317, Neon, Ky 41840  
[www.southendchurchofchrist.org](http://www.southendchurchofchrist.org)

## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:00AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM  
**Everyone Is Welcome To Attend!**

## WE HAVE AN ALTAR (Jim McDonald)

As the writer of Hebrews is concluding his letter to the Hebrew Christians, he made this statement to them: "We have an altar whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle" (Hebrews 13:10). The writer has made a very informative and compelling contrast between the Law of Moses and the gospel of Christ in this letter, showing in every comparison between the two covenants that Christ "is better." It is this statement of chapter 13 which shows the contrast between the altar of Christ and the altar of the tabernacle upon which was shed the blood of animals and the other, the blood of God's own Son. Among the differences was this most important one: the altar of the tabernacle offered no permanent forgiveness; the blood of Christ offers eternal forgiveness of the sins that blood removes.

The "altar" of which Paul wrote is not that which many identify it to be: the supper Jesus asked His disciples to keep in His memory (Luke 22:14-20). That supper is a memorial, something gratefully and humbly observed in remembrance of our Savior's great love and sacrifice for man. We are urged not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together and on each week's first day that memorial supper is observed (Hebrews 10:25; Acts 20:7). The supper is identified by various terms. It is called, "the supper of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 11:20); "the table of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 10:21); "communion" (1 Corinthians 10:16); and, "breaking bread" (Acts 20:7). While that observance of that supper is a soul-searching experience, it is not the altar of Hebrews 13:10.

The altar was the offering of the blood of the living thing slain. In Revelation 6:9 when Jesus opened the seven seals which "sealed the book in the Father's hand," the fifth seal revealed the "souls of those who were under the altar." They were martyrs to the Lord Jesus Christ, accepting death rather to deny Him who had died for them, and whose blood gave them forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. The blood of the tabernacle was that of bulls and goats which could not take away sin (Hebrews 10:4).

On the other hand, the blood of Jesus can remove sins permanently and does for those who serve Him unreservedly. Appropriating to ourselves the blood of Christ is first secured when the penitent sinner is buried with Christ in baptism, which means being baptized into His death or His blood (Romans 6:3-4). When man sins after he is joined to Christ in baptism, he secures remission of his sins from the same source — Christ's blood, but which is applied to his sins when he, through prayer, penitently asks his Father for forgiveness. When His disciples asked their teacher to "teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples," Jesus gave them the "model prayer" in which they were taught "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us" (Matthew 6:9-12). Disciples today follow the same avenue when we fall into sin.

Those who served the tabernacle "had no right" to partake of the altar of Christ. Those who see Christ's sacrifice with which He purchased His church as just an appendage of the law, err (Acts 20:28). Those who serve the tabernacle relied on blood which could not take away sin rather than trusting in the blood of Christ which can remove all sin. The concept that Jews today are the chosen people of God is false. God's chosen people today are those who trust and obey His Son. Christians, not Jews, are the Israel of God (Galatians 6:15-16).

Jews, like Gentiles, are loved by God, and for them, as for us, Christ died. Gentiles had to renounce their allegiance to other gods, and Jews have to embrace Jesus as their "altar" and reject any other sacrifice, including that of the tabernacle. Paul put it this way: "For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people through his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us therefore go forth unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach" (Hebrews 13:11-13). Then Paul spoke prophetically saying, "For we have not here an abiding city, but we seek after the city which is to come" (Hebrews 13:14). It is generally believed that this letter was written about A.D. 63 and Jerusalem was not an "abiding city." In just seven years the Romans would utterly destroy both the city and the temple. The temple service with its sacrifices have long since ceased from being practiced. The worship of Jesus and the approaching of the Father through "our altar" is offered by millions today.