

**PRIVILEGED TO SERVE**  
**WEEK OF SUNDAY JANUARY 19, 2025**

Announcements	David Hitchcock
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**SUNDAY DOOR GREETERS**

North Side	David Allen
South Side	Jondan Rothfus

**SUNDAY DOOR MONITOR**

Gary Robinson	Ricky Davis
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**MORNING WORSHIP**

Adult Bible Class Prayer	Derek Crawford
Song Leader	Jonothan Whitson
First Prayer	Joel Knight
Sermon	John Chowning
Lord's Table	Jay Whitson
Closing Prayer	Henry Robinson

**Evening Worship**

Song Leader	Bobby Rothfus
First Prayer	Todd Webb
Scripture	Ian Whitson
Sermon	John Chowning
Lord's Table	Joel Knight
Closing Prayer	Enoch Knight

**Wednesday January 22, 2025**

Song Leader	David Allen
Scripture Reading	Gary Robinson
Devotional Talk	Jay Whitson
Closing Prayer	Ricky Davis

**Wednesday Door Monitor**

Jere Whitson
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Jere Whitson is responsible for worship assignments. If you are going to be absent or need to request changes, please contact him.  
 Gospel Broadcast Supported  
 Preaching the Gospel, Sunday 7:30 A.M. – Ch. 11

**Important News:**

**2025 THEME**

**Jesus Built His Church**

**Matthew 16:16-19**

**Verse 18 : And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

**THIS WEEK'S TEXTS**

**AM class– 2 Timothy 4:9-18**

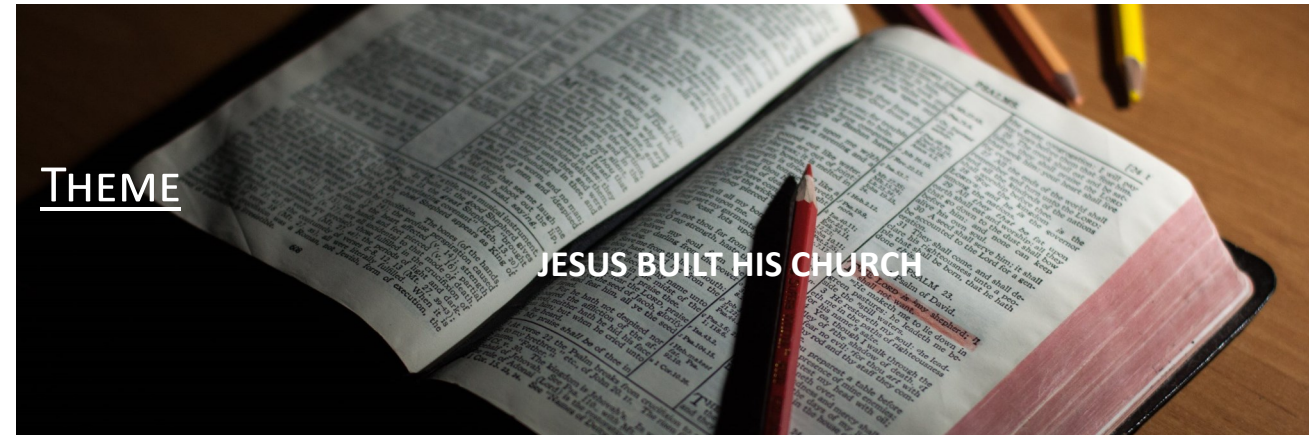
**AM sermon– Romans 16:1-5, 16-17**

**PM sermon– Ephesians 1:3-5**

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# CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

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**SUNDAY**

Bible Study .....9:00 AM  
 Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
 Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY**

Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.

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**Volume XLVI Thur. January 23, 2025 Number 3**

**God's Perfect Plan**  
**John Chowning**

“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved” (Ephesians 1:3-6).

Before the creation of time, space, and matter in Genesis 1:1, God freely chose (i.e., He elected) to legally adopt humans into His spiritual family. Men and women, Jews and Gentiles were each going to be given the legal standing of sonship. Each would be a firstborn heir of His inheritance. It was His good pleasure to freely give

such to His children.

Because it is only through Jesus' atoning sacrifice and His victory over sin, death, and Satan that such an audacious offer is possible, each of God's heirs must be in Christ. It is only in Christ's spiritual triumph that a child of God can be washed, sanctified, and justified—i.e., holy and blameless before Him.

God preplanned/predestined this stunning and perfect plan, and we would do well to ever remember: He eternally purposed it (Ephesians 3:11) without needing any input, advice, or counsel from a single angel or human.

Our most appropriate response to such incredible lovingkindness and goodness ought to be to follow the plan precisely and bless (i.e., thank) God and praise Him for His glorious grace by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

Oh, the fathomless depth of the riches of God's wisdom and knowledge!

Thank God for His perfect plan.

**Understanding God's Election and Predestination Correctly**

**John Chowning**

A simple rule of logic acknowledges that any statement which implies a falsehood is itself false. There are several places in Scripture where this valid principle of logic is used.

In Matthew 12, for example, when the Pharisees claimed Jesus was casting out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons (v. 24), Jesus demolished their charge with this simple question: "If I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out?" (v. 27). Their charge was falsified because its implication was false.

In 1st Corinthians 15 when the apostle Paul demolishes the teaching/belief that there is no resurrection of the dead (v. 12), he does so by showing that it implies a falsehood—Christ is not risen (v. 13).

This simple rule of logic is most important to remember when a discussion of God's election and predestination arises. Here is why: The Calvinistic teaching of unconditional election and personal predestination clearly implies a falsehood—that God is a respecter of persons. But God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11); therefore, every teaching/belief which denies it is false.

The fundamental flaw in Calvin's teaching is a failure to recognize that God's predestined plan of salvation is of a specific class of people—those who are in Christ where every spiritual blessing is. Anyone who chooses to obey Christ and thus become part of that body of people who are in Him will be saved; anyone who refuses God's offer will be lost.

God's perfect plan is not one of foreknowing every human and predetermining on a whim that He will save this man named Ulysses and condemn that man named Ulysses. He does not want any to perish (2nd Peter 3:9); however, it is not He who casts the deciding vote in the election of your salvation. You do.

Because of His holiness, Jehovah operates by principles of righteousness. He is in no way a moody, erratic tyrant.

He is no respecter of persons.

**IMPORTANT NEWS**

-Ron Gilbert reported on the work in Africa for the month of December . They had 584 baptisms, 66 restorations, and 11 new congregations started.

**ILLNESSES**

**Betty Brown**, was taken to CRMC this past Sunday morning, she was to stay over night for observation with hopes to come home on Monday.

**Betty Reed**, remains at home with some improvement but still weak.

**SYMPATHY**

**Larry Acuff**, passed away on Sunday, January 12th. The service will be held Saturday, January 18th at the Lithia Springs church of Christ in Lithia Springs, GA. The visitation will be 12-2 and funeral at 2 p.m. Please continue to keep his family in your prayers.

**PANTRY ITEM:**  
*Beef Ravioli*

**EXTENDED ILLNESS**

Bonnie Stockton, Jerry Vincent, Carol Meadows, Junior and Lou Bryant, Ora Lee Whitaker, Sue Ing, Mike and Lucy Mitchell, and Bill and Betty Barnes.

<b>PHONE</b>	
<b>(931) 537-6221</b>	
<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>Deacons Cont'd</b>
<b>Bobby Rothfus</b>	<b>Joel Knight</b>
Ext. 701	Ext. 803
<b>Gary Loftis</b>	<b>Jondan Rothfus</b>
Ext. 702	Ext. 804
<b>Derek Crawford</b>	<b>Todd Webb</b>
Ext. 703	Ext. 805
<b>PREACHER</b>	<b>Jay Whitson</b>
<b>John Chowning</b>	Ext. 806
Ext. 700	<b>Jere Whitson</b>
<b>Deacons</b>	Ext. 807
<b>Ron Brown</b>	<b>Jonothan</b>
Ext. 801	<b>Whitson</b>
<b>Ricky Davis</b>	Ext. 808
Ext. 802	