

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

WEEK OF SUNDAY February 2, 2025

Announcements	Bobby Rothfus
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SUNDAY DOOR GREETERS

North Side	Todd/ Jody/ Emma Webb
South Side	Bobby/ Marlene Rothfus

SUNDAY DOOR MONITOR

Gary Robinson	Ricky Davis
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MORNING WORSHIP

Adult Bible Class Prayer	Joel Knight
Song Leader	Jonothan Whitson
First Prayer	Allen Cantrell
Sermon	John Chowning
Lord's Table	Jay Whitson
Closing Prayer	Jondan Rothfus

Evening Worship

Song Leader	David Allen
First Prayer	Al Beatty
Scripture	Levi Whitson
Sermon	John Chowning
Lord's Table	Joel Knight
Closing Prayer	Jay Whitson

Wednesday February 5, 2025

Song Leader	Adam Swallows
Scripture Reading	Levi Swallows
Devotional Talk	Todd Webb
Closing Prayer	Enoch Knight

Wednesday Door Monitor

Jere Whitson

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-Titus 1:1-4

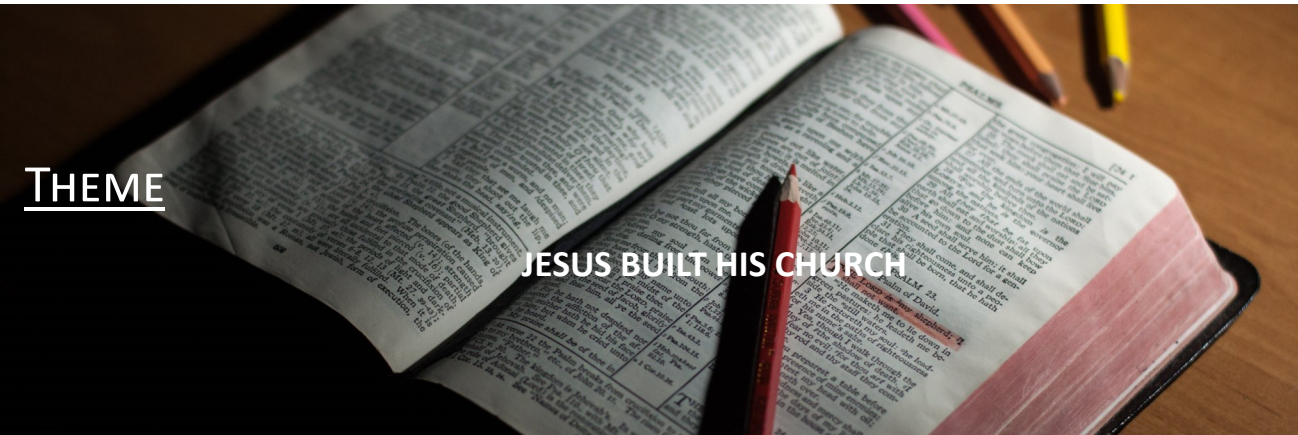
AM sermon– 1 Timothy 3:15

PM sermon– Ephesians 1:13-14

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SUNDAY

Bible Study9:00 AM
 Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
 Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

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

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It Is Written

readthewordtoday.com

Volume XLVI Thur. February 6, 2025 Number 5

Praying for Civil Authorities
John Chowning

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

If the recent public “prayers” for our elected officials (at the Inauguration and National Prayer Breakfast) are an accurate sample, a vast amount of Bible instruction needs urgent teaching and prompt practice.

As the passage above states explicitly, civil authorities are to be prayed for. However, the purpose of our prayers is not to praise or lecture those in authority. It is not to draw public attention to ourselves as the first-century Pharisees did (Mat. 6:5). It is not to compare

and contrast ourselves or our leaders with others as did the Pharisee who stood and prayed with himself (Luke 18:11). Petty political partisanship has no place in our prayers for God’s ministers (cf. Rom. 13:4). It does not belong in anyone’s petitions in heaven’s throne room, because God’s concern is that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. This is vastly superior to any political leader and his/her agenda.

God has ordained civil authority (Rom. 13:1). Because of the destructive, vicious, and chaotic nature of evil, civil government--with its inherently imperfect leaders--is still vastly superior to a barbaric society in which might makes right and every person does what is right in his own eyes. Civil authorities who are a terror to those who are lawless evildoers meet with divine approval (Rom. 13:3). Therefore, Christians ought to pray for their success in fulfilling their divine purpose so that we can lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty (1 Tim. 2:2).

Because Christ instructs His disciples to “love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Mat. 5:44), every Christian can pray for every person in civil government, regardless of the ruler’s character, policies, or political affiliations.

The question we must answer is: “Do we?”

Paradise, not Purgatory

John Chowning

According to the Roman Catholic Church, “No one goes to heaven until he is cleansed from all sin and from the punishment due to sin...After sins are forgiven we must satisfy God’s justice for them either in this life or in the world to come...Purgatory is a place or state of temporary punishment in the next world where those who die in the state of grace make up for the punishment due their sins before they enter heaven” (The New Parish Catechism, pp. 32-33). “Good men who die in grace might have to be purified of all sins and imperfections before they gain the eternal joy of heaven” (A New Catechism of the Catholic Faith, p. 114). “WHO SUFFERS IN PURGATORY? Those people go to purgatory who die in the state of grace, but who have venial sins on their souls or have not completed the punishment still due to forgiven sin. The ‘punishment still due to sin’ means that even though God forgives all sins of a person who is truly sorry, He still demands that the person be punished, either in this life or in the next” (Instructions in the Catholic Faith, p. 48).

In light of this dogma, the malefactor/thief (Luke 23:32; Matthew 27:44) who was executed by Pilate at the same time as Jesus would have had to spend a considerable amount of time in purgatory being cleansed from his venial sins. Having no more than six hours to do penance prior to his death which came shortly after his legs were broken (John 19:31-32), he would not have had sufficient time to be cleansed from all his sins (as per this Roman Catholic teaching).

Unlike Jesus--the Sinless One--who would have had no need to go to Purgatory, this justly convicted and condemned criminal would have need to spend much time there.

Clearly, Jesus knew nothing of any of this Roman Catholic heresy, for He said to this penitent man, “Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43).

Clearly, Paradise exists.

Purgatory does not.

IMPORTANT NEWS

-The elders have announced that every fourth Sunday of the month, after the evening services are dismissed, our song leaders will be teaching one new song to the congregation. Their wish is not to disrupt any after service plans for families but to admonish each other in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs as we are commanded through the scriptures. (Colossians 3:16)

ILLNESSES

Bonnie Woody, had an ultrasound on Monday, hoping for good results.

Carolyn Mason, is improving some and able to come to worship but still dealing with health issues.

Ravi, one of our India brethren, mentioned he is suffering with poor health at this time.

Florence, Elaine Dalton’s translator for her bible classes in India and the sister of Sharu, has been in the hospital since Friday. Florence’s daughter, **Sahana**, is also at home sick. Please pray for health and comfort for them both.

PANTRY ITEM:
Whole Kernel Corn

EXTENDED ILLNESS

Bonnie Stockton, Carol Meadows, Junior and Lou Bryant, Sue Ing, Mike and Lucy Mitchell, and Bill and Betty Barnes.

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