

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
WEEK OF SUNDAY May 11, 2025

Announcements	Ron Brown
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SUNDAY DOOR GREETERS

North Side	Jordan Rothfus and Family
South Side	Ricky, Kelly, Payne Davis

SUNDAY DOOR MONITOR

Gary Robinson	Ricky Davis
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MORNING WORSHIP

Adult Bible Class Prayer	Adam Swallows
Song Leader	Jonathan Whitson
First Prayer	Jordan Rothfus
Sermon	John Chowning
Lord's Table	Gary Loftis
Closing Prayer	Bobby Rothfus

Evening Worship

Song Leader	Jordan Rothfus
First Prayer	David Allen
Scripture	Levi Whitson
Sermon	John Chowning
Lord's Table	Bobby Rothfus
Closing Prayer	Enoch Knight

Wednesday May 14, 2025

Song Leader	Bobby Rothfus
Scripture Reading	Ian Whitson
Devotional Talk	Ron Brown
Closing Prayer	Jay Whitson

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 3:4-11

AM sermon– Acts 20:28-30

PM sermon– Ephesians 4:1-3

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THEME

JESUS BUILT HIS CHURCH

CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

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SUNDAY

Bible Study9:00 AM

Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.

Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

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 It Is Written

 readthewordtoday.com

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Sluggish vs. Diligent

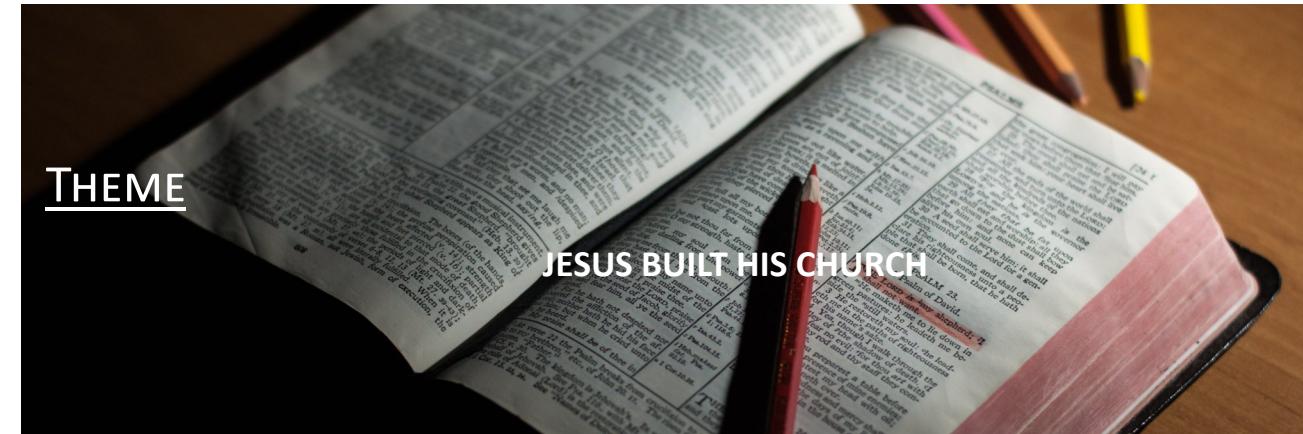
Roger Shouse

“that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (Hebrews 6:12 NKJV).

What a great word we find in our verse today, “sluggish.” Sluggish Christians—it’s not something that we talk about very often. We know sluggish. Sometimes, especially about mid-afternoon, some of us are feeling “sluggish.” Naptime if you can get away with it. Sometimes our cars run a bit “sluggish.” Tune-up time or run some better gas through it, can be the fix. Our computers or the internet can run slow and even “sluggish” some days.

Here’s how a few others state this word: CEB/CSB: “lazy”; KJV: “slothful”; Phillips: “slack”.

In Romans 12, we find a similar concept. There it reads, “Not lagging behind in diligence...” (12:11). Interestingly, in both occasions, Hebrews and Romans, sluggish and lagging behind are found near the word diligence. Diligence is the idea of getting at it.



There is no putting things off when diligence is nearby. No kicking the can down the road for another day. No procrastination here. No getting around to it. With diligence, it's doing things now, right now.

Diligence and sluggish can't co-exist in the same heart. One will drive the other out, but they both can't remain. The same is true for diligence and lagging behind. Terrible roommates. They can't stand each other. It will either be diligence or it will be lagging behind.

And, let's just be honest, some of us Christians have a good case of the lazy bones. We know what ought to be done, but we just don't feel like putting in the effort today. And, yes, there are lazy preachers. There are lazy shepherds. What needs attention, doesn't get the attention, at least not now. And, by putting things off, sometimes a little problem becomes a big problem. Had we been diligent earlier, it would not have been such a mess as it is today. Spring cleaning can be that way. Cleaning out the garage can be that way. And, getting about our spiritual duties can be just the same. There are people we need to see. There are conversations that we need to have. There are people we need to forgive. There are sins we need to repent of. So true of so many. Yet, when sluggish is in the air, those things won't get done today. And, there's a very good probability that they won't get done tomorrow either.

There's one common answer to being sluggish. Be diligent. And, when something is lagging, the solution is to be diligent. Moms and dads need a good dose of diligence. Laziness in the household leads to a messy house, finances that are out of order, and the to-do list that is longer than your arm. Given the choice, most would be sluggish and lagging behind. It takes vision, effort and work to have a diligent heart. When it comes to God's kingdom, leaders need to be diligent. Otherwise, people will fall through the cracks, worship will become sloppy and indifferent and the level of excellence that our Lord deserves will be missing. People will hurt spiritually when leaders are slow, lazy and sluggish.

So, how do you become diligent?

First, get serious about the things of the Lord. This is the Lord's kingdom, not our church. He gave the best so we ought to give our best. Attitude and how you look at things will change the atmosphere. A spirit of excellence ought to fill the air.

Second, get your order in order. Make lists if necessary. "Seek ye first the kingdom" is more than a cute quote, it's the way the Master wants it from us. God first. Make time to pray. Get into a regular pattern of reading the Bible. Get to the church house early enough that you are not in panic mode because you are late. Diligence. Stop putting things off.

Third, get organized. Become efficient. So much time is wasted doing nothing. We spin our wheels because we are not thinking very far ahead. Make the best use of your time.

Fourth, learn from diligent people. Don't look to the sluggish for suggestions. Don't look back to those who are lagging behind. Notice who is doing so much spiritually. Find out how he does that. Learn from him.

In the parable of the talents, the Lord called the one talent man "wicked and lazy slave." He didn't do anything really wrong. He didn't waste the talent. He didn't sell the talent. He didn't lose the talent. However, he just didn't do anything. And, as we read parables like that, it ought to compel us to ask ourselves, "What have I done for the Lord?" Sure, I haven't quit. I haven't introduced error. I haven't hurt the church. But have I done anything positive?

It sure is easy to hide behind excuses when our hearts are sluggish and lagging behind. Maybe it's time to come out from those excuses and start being more diligent. Maybe it's time for me to put the kingdom first in my life. How about you?

Is your spirit a bit sluggish? Get a spiritual tune-up and get going.

IMPORTANT NEWS

-Teacher Workday is scheduled for Saturday, May 17th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Todd Webb will be at the building during these times for whoever is wanting to stop by.

-Friendly Reminder, "Studying the Seriousness of Sin" bible class will resume on Tuesday, May 6th, at 10 a.m.

-Mark those calendars, Vacation Bible School will be June 16th –20th, classes for all ages.

-If any of the Christian men of the congregation are interested in writing an article for the next edition of "Light for the Path" The deadline is July 20th and John Chowning will serve as editor for this.

-We are happy to announce and congratulate our graduates for 2025 :

Payne Davis will be graduating Cookeville High School on May 24th.

Emma Webb will be graduating TTU on May 9th with a degree in Biology.

Jacques Pettit, a supported biblical studies student, will graduate on May 30th from the North Carolina School of Biblical Studies.

ILLNESSES

Bonnie Woody, is still recovering from her procedure she had on April 30th and will be having a liver doctor appt on May 12th.

Warner Macusi, supported preacher in the Philippines, is not in good health at this time.

Peggy Hunter, is at home recovering from shoulder surgery.

Nancy Nelson, is now at home and was able to be with us at worship on Sunday after a short stay at the hospital. Prayers for upcoming follow-up appointments.

PANTRY ITEM:

Small Jars of Grape Jelly

EXTENDED ILLNESS

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

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