

Prayer List

Doris Reyes Fernandez, Marc Genua, Ashleigh Green, Ella Green, Alice Hall, Amanda Hatcher, Gordon Hatcher, Philip Hutton, Kim Johnson, Jim Ledbetter, Norman Lee, Mary Lynn McAleer, Tony Priola, Chris Ragle, Norma Ragle, Ronald Russell, Tim Smith, Dolores Snyder, Tresa Snyder, Sheila Sollars

Welcome Visitors

We're glad you are with us today. Feel free to ask us any questions you may have. We look forward to getting to know you better.

The Numbers

Attendance	Sunday, July 3	18/20/16
	Wednesday, July 6	15
Offering	Sunday, July 3	\$696.00

Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Classes Tommy Sanders

Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements & Prayer	Barry Simmons
Songs	Keith Keever
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper & Contribution	James Hutton
Assistants	Levy Cox and Donald Shipley
Closing Prayer	Donald Shipley

Sunday Afternoon Worship

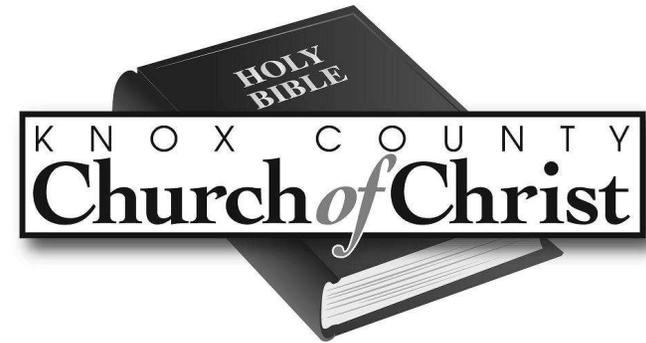
First Prayer	Keith Keever
Songs	James Hutton
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper	Charles Hatcher
Closing Prayer	Barry Simmons

Wednesday Night

Songs	Lance Green
First Prayer	Brad Green
Devotional	James Hutton
Closing Prayer	Charles Hatcher

Knox County Church of Christ
PO Box 22441
Knoxville, TN 37933

July 10, 2011



<http://www.knoxcoc.com>

Meeting Location:
130 Mabry Hood Road
Suite 102
Knoxville, TN 37922
865.247.4620

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study.....9:30 AM
Worship.....10:30AM & 1:30 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study.....7:00 PM



From The Preacher's Pen

“THE NEED FOR FIDELITY IN THE CHURCH”

[The following article is written by brother Brother Kent Bailey, who preaches for the Northside Church of Christ in Calhoun, GA.]

As one gives consideration to the Scriptures it is evident that God has always required fidelity in the lives of His people. Those who persist in unfaithfulness are excluded from the fellowship of God and if impenitent, will be punished in the lake of fire for all of eternity.

When we consider New Testament Christianity we note that there is a Divine obligation placed upon Christians, both individually as well as collectively as the church, to be engaged in fidelity to Christ. As John the apostle of Christ wrote to the seven churches located in Asia we find both words of exhortation as well as warning regarding the need for that of faithfulness and fidelity to Christ: “unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; these things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2: 8-10). As we note the words of Christ addressed to the church at Smyrna we deduce both commendation and comfort. The Lord knows of no complaint to bring against them. He also knows of their tribulation, poverty, and suffering. He speaks of the opposition that they had to face regarding the blasphemy of the enemies of God’s truth. The faithful stand of those brethren at Smyrna would cause trial, tribulation, and suffering; yet they were admonished to be faithful to the cause which would bring them into everlasting life. Indeed, there is an ongoing need for fidelity within the church of our Lord.

The New Testament gives clear indication of the reality of spiritual conflict. There has never been a time within the church of Christ where no spiritual battles are taking place. During my life as both a Christian as well as a gospel preacher I have heard numerous well meaning, conservative thinking and faithful Christians indicate that they would have liked to have lived during the first century prior to any of the spiritual battles being encountered by the New Testament church. Such never has been the case in that the church of Christ has always been at war! It was born amidst controversy on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2). It encountered persecution from the unbelieving Jews, the Romans, in addition to false teachers in the church advocating a type of neo-Judaism. The church of the Lord never has been and never will be without controversy as long as it is within the geographical boundaries of this world. Controversy will cease only when Christ returns! In consideration of Ephesians 6:10-18 we note the imagery of both battle and the implements of war depicting that of spiritual conflict within the church:

- We are to put on the entire armor of God. Some falsely think that God’s strength mysteriously envelops the Christian, that all one needs to do is sit back, do nothing, and depend upon God. While indeed such is the case that God provides the armor, we must put it on, make use of such and engage in the fight.
- We wrestle not against flesh and blood. While our fight involves opposition to false teachers, the basis of our battles finds their origin in principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, as well as spiritual wickedness in high places.
- Because we are involved in a real war we must fight the good fight of the faith and lay hold on eternal life (1 Tim. 6:12; Jude 3; Phi. 1:17).

There is a need for fidelity in maintaining the moral purity of life. The Scriptures make a very clear contrast in the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:19-26). As Christians we have a Divine obligation upon us to be separate

from the world and its contaminating influences (1 John 2:15-17). One cannot be faithful to Christ and at the same time allow the world and its godless standards to bring us to a point where we engage in fellowship, joint-participation, with sinful deeds (1 Cor. 6:12-20; 2 Cor. 6:14-18).

There is a need for fidelity in the propagation and defense of God’s Truth. New Testament Christianity is presented in a form of systematic teaching. In Jude 3 it is referred to as ***the faith***. It is comprised of facts to be believed and conditions to be obeyed. Because of the nature of God’s revealed Truth we must uncompromisingly preach, teach, and defend such (2 Tim. 4:1-8; Gal. 1:6-11; Jude 3; Phi. 1:17; Eph. 6:10-18). During the first century the Gospel of Christ was presented with such clarity and force that where ever it was set forth there was either a revival or a riot! The preaching was clear, plain, and forceful. There was no question in the minds of the hearers as to what was being preached. Either individuals received the message and obeyed the conditions, or else they repudiated such. May God give us Christians with determination to stand for the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth, who because of their love for God and the souls of humanity will be militant in the propagation and defense of the Word of God.

There is a need for fidelity regarding consistency in our practice. Let us to the best of our abilities strive to be consistent in worship (John 4:23-24; Col. 3:17; Heb. 10:25). Let us strive to the best of our abilities to be consistent in evangelizing the lost and restoring the fallen (Mark 16:15-16; Gal. 6:1). Let us strive to be consistent to do our best in edifying the faithful (Eph. 4:16; 2 Tim. 2:1-2; Heb. 5:12; 10:25).

There is a need for fidelity to one another. To be faithful to the Lord we must be faithful to one another. We must truly love one another (Phi. 2:1-4). We must be faithful to one another encouraging and working together in true service to Christ (Rom. 12). Fidelity to Christ requires the totality of our lives on a daily basis. May we ascertain the truth of God regarding the need for fidelity within the church.

--*Kent Bailey*