

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 August 7	17/22/13
	Wednesday, August 10	18
Offering	Sunday, August 7	\$584.00

Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Classes Lance Green

Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements & Prayer	Tommy Sanders
Songs	Keith Keever
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper & Contribution	Barry Simmons
Assistants	Levy Cox and Donald Shipley
Closing Prayer	Charles Hatcher

Sunday Afternoon Worship

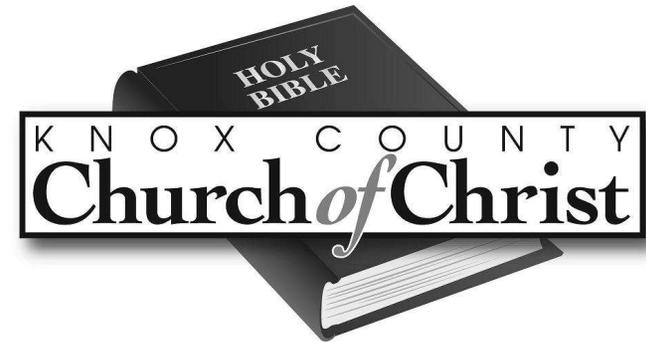
First Prayer	Barry Simmons
Songs	Lance Green
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper	Charles Hatcher
Closing Prayer	Donald Shipley

Wednesday Night

Songs	Brad Green
First Prayer	Tommy Sanders
Devotional	Keith Keever
Closing Prayer	David Snyder

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

August 14, 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

**“CALVINISM:
PERSEVERANCE OF THE
SAINTS”**

Perhaps the most cherished and honored tenet of Calvinism is the doctrine referred to as Perseverance of the Saints. According to this doctrine, one who is saved cannot sin in a way so as to lose his salvation. This tenet has many monikers – “Once Saved Always Saved,” “Impossibility of Apostasy,” “Security of the Believer,” “Once in Grace, Always in Grace” – and seems to be the most popular and beloved among the denominations. The use of the word “persevere” in Calvin’s T.U.L.I.P. is a bit confusing since the doctrine insists that man cannot do anything whatever to be saved or lost and cannot do anything to change his eternal destiny. To *persevere* means to persist, to continue resolutely, to endure and to do so in spite of obstacles (Webster’s). Sam Morris, a Baptist preacher, wrote a tract entitled, *Do A Christian’s Sins Damn His Soul*, with which he promoted, “a Christian’s sins do not damn his soul. The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, his conduct, or his attitude toward other people have nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul...**all the sins he may commit from idolatry to murder will not make his soul in any more danger...**The way a man lives has nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul.” Though many proponents of the “Once Saved, Always Saved” dogma may not be so bold or courageous to agree with what Mr. Morris has written, these statements reveal the consequence of teaching that a man cannot fall from grace. If it is the case that once a man is saved, he cannot lose that salvation, then it is the case that that person can steal, lie, rape, pillage, murder, and commit all the sins his heart desires and yet still be in fellowship with God and in no danger of losing his salvation. The most common response to this consequence is,

“if a man commits these sins, then he was never saved to begin with.” This type of response is known as “Circular Reasoning” – a logical fallacy in which the unproven conclusion and the unproven premise are used to prove each other. In the example previously given, the respondent claims his conclusion (i.e., “he was never saved to begin with”) to prove or explain why a man commits sin. This response, however, causes fatal damage to those who teach that God has unconditionally predestined certain individuals to salvation and the rest to eternal torment because they have now found a way to know who is lost – by the sins which a man commits. It also casts a fearfully dark shadow over any possible comfort that the “Once Saved, Always Saved” doctrine purports to offer because now we have been told that a man who thought he was saved and could never lose that salvation was actually never saved at all. Accordingly, one who believes and/or teaches Perseverance of the Saints cannot truly know for sure if he or anyone he teaches is saved or not. This final component of Calvinism leaves its adherents no comfort and no hope. The sum of Calvin’s teaching regarding man’s salvation is this – if you need it, you can’t get it; if you have it, you can’t lose it; if you lose it; you never had it to begin with – a continuous circle of uncertainty and fear.

SALVATION CAN BE KNOWN. The Bible teaches that a man can know how to be saved. On the first Pentecost after Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection, God began adding “to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47, NKJV). Those being saved were they who obeyed God’s commands to “repent, and be baptized” (Acts 2:38) and then “continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine” (Acts 2:42). God’s plan to save man has not changed. Those who hear God’s Word must believe (Rom. 10:17; John 8:24), and those who believe will repent of their past sins (Luke 13:3), confess that “Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:37), will be immersed in water in order to be forgiven of their

past sins (Acts 22:16), and will remain faithful to God “unto death” (Rev. 2:10).

SALVATION CAN BE LOST. The concept of “Once Saved, Always Saved” is entirely foreign to the Bible. God says that it is possible for those who are free in Christ to be “entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Gal. 5:10). The inspired apostle Paul told Christians who were reverting back to the Law of Moses, which had been nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14), “**ye are fallen from grace**” (Gal. 5:4, emp. B.G.). The apostle Peter describes some unfaithful Christians who had “eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: Which have **forsaken the right way, and are gone astray**” (2 Pet. 2:14-15, emp. B.G.). God pronounces that some, “**after** they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, **they are again entangled therein, and overcome**, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning” (2 Pet. 2:20). After reminding us that many of His chosen people in the Old Testament “were overthrown in the wilderness” (1 Cor. 10:5) “and fell” (10:8) because of their sins and apostasy from God’s Law, God warns, “let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (10:12). The doctrine of “Once Saved, Always Saved” rejects and discards God’s warning and then arrogantly champions, “take no heed; you cannot fall.”

Jesus lovingly and gently calls, “come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light” (Mat. 11:28-30). If we will humbly accept and obey the yoke of Jesus’ teachings and live a life of Godliness and righteousness according to the New Testament pattern, we can make our “calling and election sure” (2 Pet. 1:10).