

Prayer List

Doris Reyes Fernandez, Marc Genua, Ashleigh Green, Eleanor Green, Amanda Hatcher, Gordon Hatcher, Norman Lee, Early Phillips, Andrew Ragle, Chris Ragle, Norma Ragle, Verne Ragle, Ronald Russell, Tim Smith, Dolores Snyder, Tresa Snyder, Sheila Sollars, Ramona Sutton

The Numbers

Attendance	Sunday, February 5	12/17/12
	Wednesday, February 8	—
Offering	Sunday, February 5	\$637.00

Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Classes Tommy Sanders

Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements & Prayer	Keith Keever
Songs	David Snyder
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper & Contribution	Lance Green
Assistants	Levy Cox and Donald Shipley
Closing Prayer	Donald Shipley

Sunday Afternoon Worship

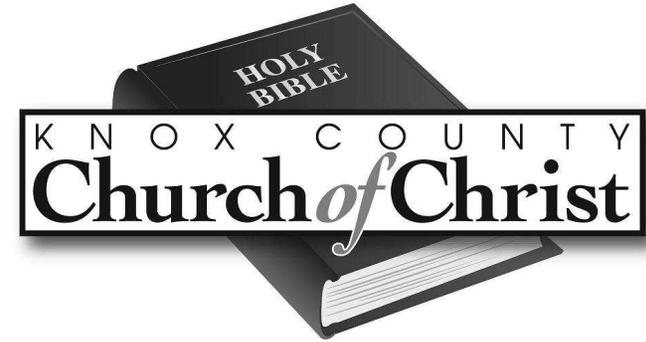
First Prayer	Charles Hatcher
Songs	Keith Keever
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper	Tommy Sanders
Closing Prayer	David Snyder

Wednesday Night

Songs	Lance Green
First Prayer	Brad Green
Devotional	Tommy Sanders
Closing Prayer	Charles Hatcher

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

February 12, 2012



<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

“HE CAME TO HIMSELF”

[Article written by brother W.L. Totty (1903-1982). Brother Totty was born in Tennessee and preached for 53 years, primarily in Tennessee and Indiana. He defended the Gospel of Christ by participating in almost 100 debates.]

In the Lord's parable of the prodigal son, when the young man went into the far country, the father was grieved, of course, as any father would have been. However, there is no mention made that any member of the family went out searching for the young man to persuade him to return to his home. You see, he deliberately turned his back on his father's house, knowing full well what he was doing (see Luke 15:11-24). When his unholy living led him to the position of feeding swine and hungering so that he would have eaten the husks that the hogs ate, he did not wonder within himself why his elder brother and father or any other family members did not come to warn him and rescue him from his despair.

Instead, he “came to himself ” and made his own decision to return to his father's house where there was plenty and to spare. This somewhat illustrates the passage of Scripture that says when a person sins against the Holy Spirit it is impossible to renew him again unto repentance (Heb. 6:6). The prodigal son already knew what blessings were in his father's house, but he deliberately left the safety of that domicile and wasted what the father had given him. When one has tasted the good Word of **God** but then deliberately has forsaken it and thereby rejected the Holy Spirit, we have nothing more to offer him. But, like the prodigal son did, he can “come to himself ” and returned. Sometimes when a child of God allows himself to become embroiled in sinful acts and involved in devilish situations, knowing full well that what he has done and is doing is not in accord with the will of the Father

in heaven, he wants someone to come looking for him to persuade him to return to the fold of God and to the fellowship of his brothers and sisters in Christ. We readily admit that when we, as Christians, see a brother overtaken in some sin, it is our duty to restore such a one. However, we are concerned with the one who, in spite of all cautioning and admonition, deliberately chooses to do that which he realizes is sinful. If the guilty person then stands back just waiting to tempt his Christian brothers and to almost *dare* them to do what is right by coming to reprove him and plead with him, I am afraid it would not be with a pure heart even if he allowed himself to be persuaded to return to the fold.

The prodigal son “came to himself ” and of his own accord turned back to his father's house where there was plenty and to spare. He did not stay in the swine pen, rationalizing that first it was his elder brother's duty to come looking for him. And he did not return with the attitude: See, here I am of my own volition; you receive no credit for my decision to return to my place in my father's house; now, here I am and I should be restored to my former position!

Rather, he came humbly asking that he be counted worthy of nothing more than a hired servant. He was not haughty of spirit. What we all need to do when we are found in sin is to “come to ourselves,” as the prodigal son did, and humble ourselves to the point that we will again join ourselves with the family of God regardless of whether we will be placed on a pedestal or told to stand in a corner. As a matter of fact, one ought to have that kind of humility of spirit in

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everything he does. In one of His parables, Jesus taught:

When thou art bidden of any *man* to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room (Luke 14:8-10).

This parable is given as a model for our actions in the church. Because the prodigal son returned humbly confessing his sin and desiring the lowest of positions in his father's family, he was given the best robe, a ring was placed on his finger, and the father ordered that the fatted calf be killed in celebration of the one who was lost but had returned. Whether or not any of the other Christians do what is required of them, we can never be justified in continuing in sin because someone has not done his duty.

- *W. L. Totty*

