

for contradictions. The fact that someone would look for a way to “get around” 1 Timothy 2:8-15 reveals a flawed heart. A true disciple of Christ gladly receives the Word (Acts 2:41). But those who are taking this approach do not have any respect for the Scriptures to begin with. They posit that Mary Magdalene “may have been” a rival to Peter and “may have been excluded by the male church leaders who compiled the New Testament” (E4). Right!! One’s first thought should be, “If God created the world out of nothing, worked all manner of miracles, and inspired the Scriptures to be written (2 Tim. 3:16-17), why could He not preserve what had been recorded?” The fact is that those who collected and compiled the New Testament books had more reverence for God and what was written in their little fingers than these loop-hole lookers have in their entire bodies. They give themselves away in statements that lack any manner of subtlety: “I think that people are realizing now that the Bible did not arrive by e-mail from God, and that it’s very much the work of man – and man with his own agenda,” says, Picknett, author of *Mary Magdalene: Christianity’s Hidden Goddess* (E4).

If the Bible is the work of man, we may as well pitch it, because it first of all lies to us in claiming to be Divine. If part of it is from God and part from man, it is still worthless – because we cannot ascertain which is which. If it is what it claims, then we had better pay attention to it and quit trying to find ways of minimizing or destroying it. Mary Magdalene was an outstanding disciple of Christ – not a lover – not an apostle. God did not allow foolish men to demote or silence her. Her significance is just what the Bible presents – nothing more or less. We ought to be content with the Truth.

– Gary Summers

Gospel Meeting

We will be holding a Gospel Meeting with brother Terry York from Sunday, May 20th through Wednesday, May 23rd.

Let’s all make plans to be here and to invite as many others to attend as possible. Be sure to pick up some of the fliers and distribute them to everyone you can.

Prayer List

Doris Reyes Fernandez, Marc Genua, Ashleigh Green, Eleanor Green, Amanda Hatcher, Gordon Hatcher, Norman Lee, Juan Mandujano, Early Phillips, Andrew Ragle, Chris Ragle, Norma Ragle, Verne Ragle, Ronald Russell, Tim Smith, Dolores Snyder, Tresa Snyder, Sheila Sollars, Joe Stephenson, Ramona Sutton, Kevin (Chela Keever’s nephew)

The Numbers

| | | |
|------------|---------------------|----------|
| Attendance | Sunday, April 22 | 12/13/16 |
| | Wednesday, April 25 | 15 |
| Offering | Sunday, April 22 | \$892.00 |

Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Classes Charles Hatcher
Sunday Morning Worship

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Announcements & Prayer | Tommy Sanders |
| Songs | David Snyder |
| Sermon | Brad Green |
| Lord’s Supper & Contribution | Keith Keever |
| Assistants | Levy Cox and Donald Shipley |
| Closing Prayer | Barry Simmons |

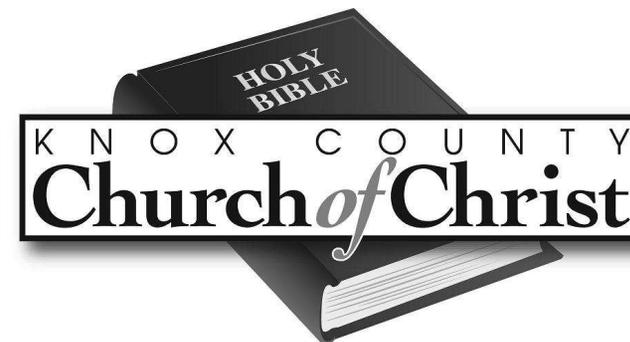
Sunday Afternoon Worship

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| First Prayer | Lance Green |
| Songs | <i>Singing</i> |
| Sermon | Brad Green |
| Lord’s Supper | Barry Simmons |
| Closing Prayer | Tommy Sanders |

Wednesday Night

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Songs | Lance Green |
| First Prayer | Keith Keever |
| Devotional | David Snyder |
| Closing Prayer | Donald Shipley |

April 29, 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

“MARY MAGDALENE: MEDIA DARLING

[Written by brother Gary Summers, preacher for the South Seminole church of Christ, Winter Park, FL.; edited for space]

What Biblical person has appeared recently on the covers both of *Time* and *Newsweek*? Who has been the subject of six books in recent years? Who has been the object of “several national television specials” and “sparked numerous Web sites,” according to the *Orlando Sentinel* (February 18th, E1)? The answer is (as the title of this article indicates) Mary Magdalene. Of course, the question is, “Why?” The name *Mary* occurs only 54 times in the entire Bible; all but three of these are in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These include (in addition to Mary Magdalene), Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus, and Mary the mother of James and Jude, Mary the mother of Cleopas, Mary the mother of John Mark, and a Mary whom Paul addresses in Rome. These last three are mentioned one time each. Mary, the mother of James and Jude, is mentioned 6 times – each time in connection with Mary Magdalene. Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, is named 11 times, Mary Magdalene 14 times, and the mother of Jesus 19 times. So why is someone who is mentioned only fourteen times in the New Testament so popular, all of a sudden? What do we know about her from the New Testament? She is mentioned only once before the events of the crucifixion: “Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him. And certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities – Mary called Magdalene, out of who He had cast seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, and Suzanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance” (Luke 8:1-3). Nothing further is mentioned of her until the last evening of Jesus’ earthly life. At that time we find her mentioned included by all four Gospel writers. Mary Magdalene was among those present at the crucifixion, looking on from afar (Mat. 27:56; Mark 15:40; John 19:25),

among those who went to the tomb where Jesus was buried (Mat. 27:61; Mark 15:47), and among those who were present at the tomb on the first day of the week (Mat. 28:1; Mark 16:1, 9; Luke 24:10; John 20:1, 11, 16, 18). She is not specifically mentioned after this time period, although we would not be surprised to learn that she was among the 120, who met shortly thereafter, or among the members of the church in Jerusalem. This omission is not a significant fact, since few of the apostles are prominent in the book of Acts, either. Attention is focused primarily on Peter and Paul. The newfound emphasis on Mary Magdalene is interesting in light of the fact that she is specifically mentioned on only three days, covering four events.

Mary Magdalene’s rise to fame in recent years is based on what the Bible does NOT say. One of the most outrageous books, rivaling *The Last Temptation of Christ* (which blasphemously mischaracterizes Jesus fantasizing sexually about Mary Magdalene while on the cross!), is *The Da Vinci Code*, a “fast-paced thriller” which claims that “Mary Magdalene’s role as Jesus’ wife has been systematically suppressed” (E1). Hogwash! We have no idea who Dan Brown is, but the six million copies of his book which are in print (not to mention a forthcoming Hollywood movie) will be a witness against him in that day of accountability (Acts 17:31; 2 Cor. 5:10). Obviously, the man is as profane as he is ignorant. He is not the first to attempt to see a romance where none exists. In the extremely inaccurate *Jesus Christ Superstar* Mary Magdalene sings a song titled, “I Don’t Know How To Love Him.” Obviously, Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Weber, Martin Scorsese, and Dan Brown have no fear of God whatsoever, which does not speak favorably of them. The evidence for a romantic relationship between Jesus and any woman does not exist and is nothing more than foul fiction. Jesus has a holy bride awaiting Him (the church), and He is not a fornicator, adulterer, or a bigamist. He nourishes and cherishes the church (Eph. 5:28-29), and she be will given to Him (Rev. 21:9-21). Perhaps it is no coincidence that this description of Christ’s one and only true bride follows the verse that says “all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone.”

Another emphasis on Mary Magdalene involves destroying the very purpose for which Jesus came to this earth (which the previous theory accomplishes in a different manner). There is a second-century (way too late) work called *The Gospel of Mary of Magdala: Jesus and the First Woman Apostle*. In it Jesus is presented merely as a teacher “rather than as a savior who dies to atone for humanity’s sins” (E4). How intelligent is that? Christians had suffered and been put to death because Jesus was a teacher! No, they were killed because they refused to deny His Deity. No wonder this writing was largely forgotten, since it is absurd on the face of it. One reads only a little ways into the book of Matthew to discover that the name *Jesus* means “Savior” (1:21). He was not crucified because He was a teacher – but rather for what He taught – particularly about Himself (Mark 2:1-12)! His coming to save us from our sins is taught all through the New Testament. If all the passages were removed that teach this doctrine explicitly or implicitly, there would be little remaining. “Mary Magdalene’s account is also the ‘strongest argument for women’s leadership’”; “‘It lets us hear an alternative voice,’ she says, in contrast with I Corinthians and I Timothy, which urge silence and submissiveness of women” (E4). In other words, this spurious work *contradicts* the Scriptures. We are reminded of those who, when confronted with texts about baptism for the forgiveness of sins, run to other passages to find something they think will contradict the ones we show them. Wait a minute! If the Bible contradicts itself, saying that baptism is both essential and non-essential, then the atheist’s case has been demonstrated. True believers seek to *harmonize* the Scriptures – not look

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for visiting with us today. If you have any questions about anything said or done during our worship service, please feel free to ask. Also, please take a moment to fill out one of our visitor’s information cards and stick around after services so that we can get to know you better.