

Prayer List

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

Announcements

The next Men's Meeting will be tomorrow evening at 7PM.

The Numbers

Attendance	Sunday, June 24	14/20/16
	Wednesday, June 27	17
Offering	Sunday, June 24	\$589.00

Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Classes Barry Simmons

Sunday Morning Worship

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

Sunday Afternoon Worship

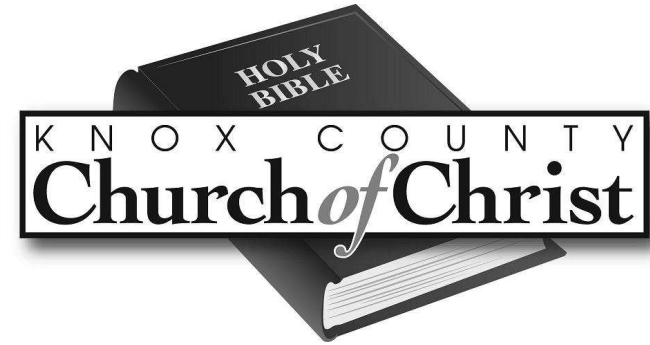
First Prayer	Lance Green
Songs	Keith Keever
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper	Tommy Sanders
Closing Prayer	Barry Simmons

Wednesday Night

Songs	Donald Shipley
First Prayer	Charles Hatcher
Devotional	Brad Green
Closing Prayer	Lance Green

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

July 1, 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

“SEEK, AND YE SHALL FIND”

With this admonition, Jesus clearly places responsibility upon His hearers. Jesus “is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). He fulfilled this mission by being “tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15), by shedding His blood for the remission of sins (Mat. 26:28), and by providing the means by which one can have his sins remitted (Acts 2:38, 41, 47). Now, Jesus 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). The responsibility now lies with us to *seek* Christ and “yoke” ourselves with His teachings, so that we may *find* eternal rest. The inspired Paul explains it this way: “take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (1 Tim. 4:16).

Sadly, many who proclaim, “seek, and ye shall find,” practice something quite different.

“FIND AND SEEK”

Many who preach, “seek, and ye shall find,” often practice, “find, and seek.” Rather than seeking facts and evidence necessary to make a logical and rational conclusion, many make their conclusions first, and then seek facts and evidence that only coincide with their predetermination. This method is used to promote doctrines such as “salvation by faith only,” “unconditional salvation,” and many more. The method is obviously fatally flawed because (1) it is not patterned after Jesus’ admonition, and (2) it requires individuals to voluntarily ignore and reject any facts and evidence that would destroy their prejudiced finding. For example, those who teach that one is saved by faith only will quote, “for God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have

everlasting life” (John 3:16), but totally ignore and reject equally inspired words spoken by James: “even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone...Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and **NOT** by faith only” (Jam. 2:17, 24, emphasis B.G.). The only way one can make a logical and rational conclusion is to consider all of the facts and make only such conclusions as are warranted by the evidence.

“SEEK AND DESTROY”

Others practice the *wholesome* “seek and destroy” method (sarcasm intended, B.G.). Instead of seeking facts and evidence to defend their position, some people “seek” something (or someone) to destroy. This method seeks to undermine the message by attacking the messenger and is known as an *ad hominem* (i.e., against the man) attack. By finding a flaw in the man (and who doesn’t have any), opponents claim to have found a flaw in the message. They do this because they know that the facts are not on their side and do not desire to “come now, and let us reason together” (Isa. 1:18).

The “seek and destroy” method is a logical fallacy which can be dismissed by the very fact that the attackers themselves also have flaws, which, if abiding by their rules, would disqualify everything they were claiming. It is further deemed useless in that God, Himself, chose imperfect men to proclaim a perfect message. The inspired Paul recounts that he was at one time “a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious” (1 Tim. 1:13) and considered himself to be the “chief” of all sinners (1:15). Yet, Jesus says Paul “is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel” (Acts 9:15).

The truth of a matter is not determined by “who” supports or opposes it; truth is determined by whether it is in harmony with God’s Word. We must be like the noble Bereans, who “received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).

“HIDE AND SEEK”

Sorrowfully, there are those who seek to hide, not find. Some do this by refusing “to declare...all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27). By hiding certain truths, they ensure that they and those who hear them will not find salvation (1 Tim. 4:15-16; Mat. 23:15).

Still others seek to find the biggest, nondescript rug they can to sweep under it any acts or words that could condemn. Hiding is a part of the process by which men have “their conscience seared with a hot iron” (1 Tim. 4:2). Hiding relevant information is also useful in deceiving men and is a tool of Satan (Rev. 20:10). God says, “all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (2 Tim. 3:12-13). Though man can hide his deeds in the dark here on Earth, “be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Gal. 6:7). When it comes to our souls’ salvation, we must never relinquish and replace Truth and obedience with a childish game. Whereas Truth and repentance can lead us toward Heaven (John 8:31-32; Acts 2:38), hiding and dishonesty leads one further and further away from Christ (c.f., Rev. 21:8).

To be obedient to God, we must be careful what we seek, so that we find what we truly want – salvation from sin and a home in eternity with God. If we seek after that which pleases man, we will find only earthly treasures “where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Mat. 6:19-21). Let us resolve to seek God and obey His commands, knowing that “the Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9). — *Brad Green*