

Prayer List

Doris Reyes Fernandez, Marc Genua, Ashleigh Green, Eleanor Green, Amanda Hatcher, Gordon Hatcher, Juan Mandujano, Mary Lynn McAleer, Betty Miller, Bernice Mock, Early Phillips, Chris Ragle, Ronald Russell, Tim Smith, Dolores Snyder, Sheila Sollars, Kevin (Chela Keever's nephew)

The Numbers

Attendance	Sunday, March 10	14/15/13
	Wednesday, March 13	13
Offering	Sunday, March 10	

Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Classes Lance Green

Sunday Morning Worship

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

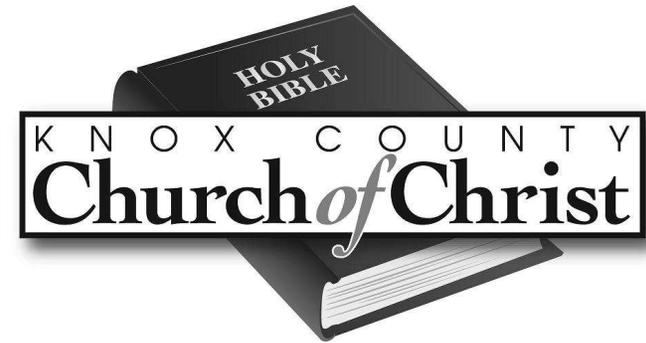
Sunday Afternoon Worship

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

Wednesday Night

Songs	Lance Green
First Prayer	Tommy Sanders
Devotional	Brad Green
Closing Prayer	David Snyder

March 17, 2013



<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



“IS THE CHURCH FOR WHICH JESUS DIED STILL ‘RELEVANT’ AND IS THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST STILL ‘ENOUGH?’”

For some time now, there has been a movement attempting to draw the Church for which Jesus died closer and closer towards denominationalism. Similar to the cry heard by Samuel, “thou art old...now make us a king to judge us like all the nations” (1 Sam. 8:5), now faithful leaders hear, “thou and thy ways are old, now make us more relevant to the new generation like all the denominations.” By “relevant,” primarily, is meant more attractive by means of entertainment and appealing to man’s “social” needs. Denominations have held a monopoly on this “relevance” due to the fact that they do not respect nor seek Scriptural authority for all that they say, practice, and do (c.f., Col. 3:17). This is why one can expect to see just about anything today in a “church” parking lot or on “church” grounds – from petting zoos, carnivals, gymnasiums, and musical concerts (just to name a few). These activities do appeal to man’s “social” needs and generate lots of publicity and people in attendance but seem more closely related to what Jesus calls “a den of thieves” which He summarily “cast out” of His Father’s temple (Mat. 21:12-13). Still, the idea that we assemble together as the Church of Christ to worship God and not to be entertained is mocked and ridiculed. One author writes, “the greatest need for people today in their 20’s is the need for social interaction and social connection...Here’s the thing we know: The world (through Satan) is very good at meeting social needs. Very good! The Church needs to be very good as well.” It is important to note that no Bible verses were provided in reference to these statements. It is equally important, and extremely sad, to recognize the standard used to promote

why “the Church needs to be very good” at meeting social needs – “Satan.” The claim is simply this: “since the world (through Satan) is good at meeting social needs, then the Church needs to be good as well.” First, man’s “greatest need” has never been “social interaction and social connection.” Man’s greatest need is to be reconciled to God and salvation from sin – “for what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul” (Mat. 16:26)? Second, God devised and ordained an institution by which social needs can be met – the home (Eph. 6:1-4). The New Testament very clearly teaches that the work of the Church is Spiritual in nature, not physical – “the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in Truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in Truth” (John 4:23-24). Jesus also says, “My Kingdom is not of this world: if My Kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My Kingdom not from hence” (John 18:36). Though we Scripturally encourage Christians to gather as often as they can in addition to the designated service times for Bible study and worship, it must be understood that this social interaction is a work of the home. Would to God that faithful Christians meet and enjoy one another’s company more often than they do with those in the world (where they get the ideas that the Church is not fulfilling social needs). But the work of the Church and social connections must not be entwined. If God saw the need (and desired) that there be two, separate Divine institutions, one for Spiritual needs and one for “social” needs, then why should man tamper with God’s plan? Is God’s design not perfect?

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS STILL RELEVANT because She is still the only Church built by Jesus (Mat. 16:18; Eph. 4:4) and the only Body purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28). The

Church is still relevant because God still adds those being saved to Her number (Acts 2:47) and there is no salvation outside of the Body of Christ (Acts 4:12; Eph. 1:22-23). The Church is still relevant because Jesus is still Her Master (Eph. 6:9), Lord (Mat. 7:21-23), and Savior (Eph. 5:23). The Church is still relevant because it is the only Body which Jesus will take to Heaven at His second coming (Eph. 5:27).

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST IS STILL “THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION...FOR THEREIN IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD REVEALED” (Romans 1:16, 17). Despite weak men’s faith in the power of God’s Word, it is still the only thing powerful enough to draw souls to Christ. Many souls have been drawn away from Christ and His Church by any number of means, but God’s plan to save is only found in the Gospel. The Church can most certainly open doors to evangelism by letting our “light so shine before men, that they may see [our] good works, and glorify [our] Father which is in Heaven” (Mat. 5:16). We should always exhibit the mercy and compassion of Christ in our lives, and in so doing, hearts may be softened and receptive to the Gospel. However, it is the Gospel which produces Christians (2 Tim. 3:15). Our benevolence and edification are manifestations of our obedience to God’s Word and thus any good accomplished by such is still attributable to the Truth, not to man.

The Church of Christ is comprised of souls who are obedient to the Gospel, having heard the Word (Rom. 10:17), believed (Mark 16:16), repented of their past sins (Luke 13:3), confessed that Jesus is the Christ (Acts 8:37), and were baptized in order to have their sins forgiven (Acts 2:38) and be added, by God, to His Church (Acts 2:47). Let us love and appreciate the Church for which Jesus died rather than seek man-made ways of changing her into something God never intended nor wanted.

-- Brad Green