

Prayer List

Thomy Brewster, Gary Cooper, Nancy Farley, Doris Reyes Fernandez, Donna Fowler, Marc Genua, Ashleigh Green, Eleanor Green, Mike Grigg, Gordon Hatcher, Juan Mandujano, Mary Lynn McAleer, Betty Miller, Bernice and E. Y. Mock, Early Phillips, Chris Ragle, Ronald Russell, Barry Simmons, Tim Smith, Dolores Snyder, Sheila Sollars, Kevin (Chela Keever's nephew), Jana Ward

The Numbers

Attendance	Sunday, July 7	11/15/12
	Wednesday, July 10	15
Offering	Sunday, July 7	\$630.00

Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Classes Lance Green

Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements & Prayer Keith Keever
Songs David Snyder
Sermon Charles Hatcher
Lord's Supper & Contribution Tommy Sanders
Assistant Levy Cox
Closing Prayer Donald Shipley

Sunday Afternoon Worship

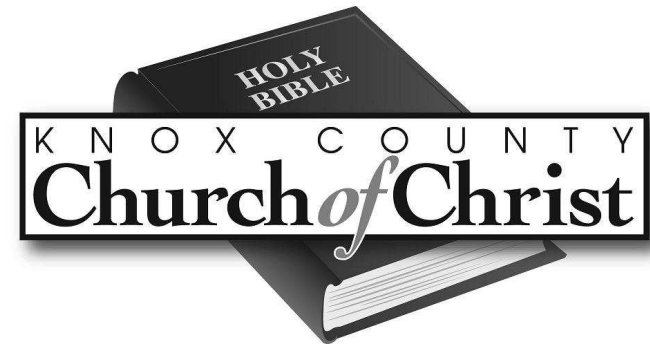
First Prayer Charles Hatcher
Songs Lance Green
Sermon Keith Keever
Lord's Supper Tommy Sanders
Closing Prayer David Snyder

Wednesday Night

Songs Lance Green
First Prayer Tommy Sanders
Devotional David Snyder
Closing Prayer Donald Shipley

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

July 14, 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

"HINDERING GOD'S WORD"

[The following article is written by brother John G. Priola and appeared in the March 20, 1980 issue of the Beacon, a publication of the Bellview Church of Christ.]

In I Cor. 9:12, Paul says that he suffered all things lest the gospel of Christ should be hindered: In the immediate context he has reference to his foregoing of the Corinthians financial support. And he says he has done that lest the gospel should be hindered. Then in Gal. 5:7, he says to the Galatians, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?" Once again, another reference to the truth or the gospel being hindered. Thus, it should be obvious to all that the gospel can be hindered and there are Biblical examples of God's work being hindered in all ages. As an illustration stop and consider the events recorded in the book of Ezra. In chapter one Cyrus issues his decree that the people of Judah could return and build the temple once again. Under the leadership of Zerubbabel many returned and commenced work on the temple. But in chapter four God's adversaries attempted to hinder the building of the temple. They sought to hinder the rebuilding of the temple in three ways: (1) by trying to deceive the Jews into compromise - "Let us build with you" 4:2; (2) by open hindrance - "they weakened the hands of the people of Judah" 4:4; and (3) by misrepresentation - "they hired counsellors against them" 4:5. The work was halted until Darius issued his decree in chapter six allowing its completion. In the book of Nehemiah, God's word is hindered in rebuilding the wall.

What are some of the ways that God's Word can be hindered in this day and age? Division certainly hinders the gospel. We ought to be a people who are firmly united upon God's Word. Jesus prayed for unity, In. 17:20-23. Paul pled for unity in I Cor. 1:10. Where division begins, unity

ceases. Brethren need to be able to sit down and reach solutions to problems. We need to take God's Word and search it for the answer to any problem that exists and then abide by its teaching. Division separates families and the church is the family of God. Congregations that are pulling against each other cannot work together. I know of a congregation right here in Florida that will never grow until it corrects its division within its own membership. They have lost the respect of the community and are, no doubt, dead in the eyes of God. Paul in writing to the church at Philippi said, "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ; that, whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." (Emphasis mine, JGP) Brethren ought to be united upon God's Word and not let division be a hindrance to the gospel.

Striving for power and authority within a congregation also hinders the gospel. How many congregations have you known that have been torn asunder because of some "power struggle" in the eldership, or between the preacher and the eldership. The desire for power and authority was the problem in Mk. 9:33-37. The disciples were disputing among themselves as to who should be the greatest. Jesus told them in Matt. 18:4 "Whosoever shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the Kingdom of heaven." Members need to follow the teaching of Heb. 13:17 and "obey them which have the rule over you and submit yourselves." I am not talking about following others in doing wrong. None of us should do that. I have reference to things that are simply a matter of judgment and "one has to have their way or else." The problem with Diotrephes was that he loved to have the preeminence. That simply means he, had a fondness for being first. We have those in our ranks today, and as a result the gospel is hindered.

Lack of Christian growth hinders the gospel. Some people who have been members of

the church for years still use the language of Ashdod. For example, some say, "there's my pastor" in reference' to the preacher, others talk about someone "joining" the church when they obey the gospel, etc. We are instructed that as newborn babes we should desire or long for the sincere milk of the word, that we may grow thereby, I Peter 2:2. We need more of a "longing for" the word. We need effective teaching programs with teachers who are prepared. One of the problems that prevailed in the church at Corinth was that they had not grown like they should have. Lack of Christian growth hinders the gospel.

Those who have gone back into the world also hinder the gospel of Christ. Congregations have, for the most part, failed in heeding God's instructions of discipline, II Thess. 3:6. As a result, many times non-members will tell you that they are as good as brother or sister so and so and all we can do is drop our heads. They evaluate their lives by the lives of wayward members and do not see the need of the gospel. People are more influenced by what they see than hear. It is show me instead of tell me, and when we allow backsliders to go undisciplined they hinder the gospel.

The lack of sound doctrine is another hindrance to the gospel. Today, maybe more than ever, we need our pulpits to be ringing loud with sound doctrine: We need to indoctrinate our people once again. We need sound doctrine concerning the church. We need to let others know that the church is not a "big sick denomination." In fact, we need to teach that the church is not a denomination at all! We need sound doctrine on the distinctive nature of the church. We need sound doctrine on the worship of the church. That will teach our people the sinfulness of the mechanical instrument in worship service. One of the reasons the church is in the shape it is in today is that sound doctrine has been absent.

Let us not be found guilty of hindering the gospel.

--*John G. Priola*