

## Prayer List

Brian Carver, Marc Genua, Eleanor Green, Virgil Hale, Betty Harama, Gordon Hatcher, Amy Headrick, Dennis Hogan, Kenny Hughes, Evelyn Hunt, Magaly Orozco, Chris Ragle, Norma Ragle, Keith Russell, Dolores Snyder, Sam Teasley, Jana Ward, Mary York

## The Numbers

Attendance Sunday, November 29 23/27/22  
Wednesday, December 2 16  
Offering Sunday, November 29 \$1188.00

## Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Class Kevin Felker

### Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements & First Prayer Barry Simmons  
Songs David Snyder  
Sermon Brad Green  
Lord's Supper Keith Keever  
Contribution Terry Hurst  
Assisting Tommy Sanders  
Closing Prayer Charles Hatcher

### Sunday Afternoon Worship

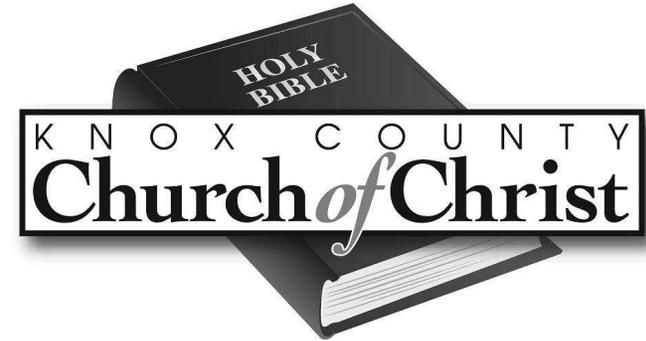
First Prayer John Bagwell  
Songs Keith Keever  
Sermon Brad Green  
Lord's Supper Terry Hurst  
Closing Prayer Tommy Sanders

### Wednesday Night

Songs John Bagwell  
First Prayer Charles Hatcher  
Devotional David Snyder  
Closing Prayer Donald Shipley

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

December 6, 2015



<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.....10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Study.....7:00 PM



## ***From The Preacher's Pen***

### **“WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE ALIKE”**

*[This article by Marvin L. Weir appeared in the November 5, 2007 Beacon, A Publication of the Bellview Church of Christ in Pensacola, FL]*

How many times have you heard someone make a statement similar to the one above? Think about it! The Bible is God's revelation to **all** people. God did not intend for some people to understand the Bible and other people to misunderstand it. The apostle Paul identifies one of man's greatest problems in saying: “And for this cause we also thank God without ceasing, that, when ye received from us the word of the message, *even the word of God, ye accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of God, which also worketh in you that believe*” (1 The. 2:13).

People can improve their understanding in biblical matters if they so desire. In fact, a burning desire to know the will of God is the key that will unlock the Bible's spiritual treasure chests. One's attitude must be that he **desires** to **submit** to the Father's will in **all** areas. So many people today seek to please God only if it pleases them! If it pleases them to sing religious songs in praise to God with the accompaniment of an instrument, they do so. If it pleases them to have choirs and “praise teams” sing for them, they do so. If it pleases them to deemphasize the Bible and emphasize man's social problems, they do so. If it pleases them to ignore God's criteria for worship and poll man to see what **type** of worship pleases him, they do so. An attitude that exchanges “a thus saith the Lord” for “this is what makes me happy” is what keeps people from understanding the Bible alike.

The Bible is God's revelation, not man's (2 Pet. 1:21), and it contains His “perfect will” (Rom. 12:2). All who have “the perfect law, the *law of liberty*” (Jam. 1:25) can understand the Bible alike. Jesus prayed “that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee” (John 17:21). Paul reminds all to “speak the same thing” and to be “perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Cor. 1:10). Paul also commands the brethren at Rome to “mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned: and turn away from them” (Rom. 16:17). Is it not true that one would have to **understand** that one is acting and teaching differently from what the Bibles teaches in order to carry out this command?

The inspired Word, upon condemning religious division among believers, states that brethren are to “contend earnestly for **the faith** which was once for all delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). Our Lord delivered but “one faith,” also called “the gospel,” which He commanded to be preached to every person in the world (Heb. 1:1-2; Eph. 4:5; Mark 16:15-16). These truths no one can rightly deny!

What an indictment against God it is if one does not believe that all who so desire can understand the Bible alike! Think about it! If an all wise, all loving, and all powerful God does not give us a Book that we can all understand alike it means that He did not want to do so, and such a view of God casts doubt on His goodness and mercy.

The Bible does not leave one wondering what God expects of him. To the Ephesian brethren Paul said, “Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:17). Moses says to God's people long ago regarding statutes and ordinances, “Keep

therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, that shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people” (Deu. 4:6). Solomon said, “The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way; But the folly of fools is deceit” (Pro. 14:8). It is no wonder that God commands us to “buy the truth, and sell it not” as “wisdom, and instruction, and understanding” (Pro. 23:23) come from the truth! The God that we are to worship and serve “is not *a God of confusion*” (1 Cor. 14:33). It is the doctrines and commandments of men that cause division and confusion—not the inspired Word of God!

To understand the Bible alike people must not “bind” or “loose” where God has not “bound” or “loosed” (Mat. 16:19). One cannot “add to” or “take from” the commandments that God has given to His people (Deu. 4:2; Rev. 22:18-19). One must teach and accept the “whole counsel” of God on every subject (Acts 20:27). Partial obedience to the will of God will not suffice. King Saul is a case in point as he boldly declares to Samuel, “I have performed the commandment of Jehovah” (1 Sam. 15:13). God's prophet replies, “What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?” (1 Sam. 15:14). God had said, “Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass” (1 Sam. 15:3). Samuel understood God, and so did King Saul—Saul simply elected to do his own thing, and many people today choose to do as did Saul.

*-- Marvin L. Weir*

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## **Welcome Visitors!**

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