

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Distorted Faith

The heart of Jesus was particularly moved when He met people who had faith. The Roman centurion whose faith exceeded all that He had seen in Israel received special commendation (Luke 7:9). His heart was stirred by the woman who believed that touching the hem of his garment would provide healing to her diseased body (Mark 5:34).

Jesus asked, "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8) That is a sobering question. What will Jesus be looking for when He returns? What will He find us doing? What priorities will dominate our lives? What will be the passion that consumes us?

I wonder if the faith Jesus will find when He returns will move His heart. I wonder if He will be "amazed" at our commitment to trust Him even when the odds are against us. I wonder if He will find disciples who will stand in the gap between an unbelieving world and a God Who never lets us down.

Perhaps the vital question is "Will He find real faith?" when He returns, or will He find a distorted faith that trusts God to do His part regardless of how we treat Him, whether we obey Him, or whether we make any real commitment of our lives to Him. A distorted faith sees God on the one hand as being indifferent to our offensive lives, and on the other hand as a God who will reward us for the slightest nod in His direction.

Distorted faith believes that God doesn't take His own Word seriously, nor does He expect us to be serious about our obedience to Him. This faith sees God as one who states clearly His will for us yet ignores all but the most defiant and disobedient actions against that will.

Distorted faith trusts God to always be there for us even when we are not there for Him. It seeks forgiveness without repentance, blessings without obedience, and eternal life without faithfulness. This faith offers life without a cross and resurrection without a death. It claims a corner on God's power, and places the responsibility clearly on His shoulders to "come through" for us whenever we need Him. It is a fantasy faith. Fantasy faith is really no faith at all.

When He comes will He find real faith in your heart? Will He find an eagerness to serve Him, to trust Him, and to lay down your life for Him? That is the faith He will be looking for when He comes.

— Al Behel

Other News/Sick:

Ladies Bible Class: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall.

Tonight: We will have special guests. A large youth group from middle Tennessee will join us as part of their retreat. Plan to come and support them. Al will speak on "The Way, The Truth, The Life" as part of their retreat theme.

Church Bulletin Bloopers:

- "Ushers will eat latecomers."
- "Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance."
- "Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow."

Elder Contact for Month: Jim Anderson, Phone No. 924-1067

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "Where Is Your Ebenezer?"; P.M. - "The Way, The Truth, The Life"

Interpreter for deaf and hearing impaired available for AM and PM worship

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson— continues to battle multiple health issues and her activity level is very limited. Keep praying...God is listening and answering.

Sheryle Elkins—good news! CT scan shows the tumor in her lung has shrunk by 90%. We rejoice and give God thanks! She is battling inflammation in her lung caused by the radiation. Keep praying. Her address is: 1383 Lake Front Drive, Dandridge, TN 37725.

Bill Greene is now suffering from a sore on his heel and is confined to home.

Raelynn Bryan, newborn baby daughter of Steven and Taylor Bryant, is home from the hospital and is improving significantly.

Kathy May—ill in Baxter. You can send her a card at P.O. Box 465, Baxter, TN 38544-0463.

Patty Adair—recovering from back surgery. Back with us.

Judy Sortore had knee surgery last Monday and is doing well.

Friends and Family

Margaret Wagner, sister of Tina Yates, is facing radiation treatment for cancer. She lives in Arlington, TX.

Mrs. Florence Tolliver is in Ft. Sanders Nursing Home, Rm 172. Her daughter, Rita Taylor from Kodak, has been visiting with us.

Jim Dickson (he and Barbara have worked at Dollywood and worshipped with us several years) has a recurrence of lung cancer and is being treated with chemotherapy. Jim and Barbara live at 521 Green Hills Dr., Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Phone: 601-296-1547.

Tom Elkin's brother in rehab following a four-wheeler accident.

Christopher Howell-grandson of the Littletons-spinal cord injuries.

Jerry Ellison, Brenda Scott's brother-in-law, failing lungs with no further treatment available.

Robin McCollum and Peggy McCollum (Al's nieces-battling cancer)

Al's brother, Tom Behel, - improving from post-operative stroke and broken femur. Still having minimal speech.

Debbie Little, mother of one of Marti's students, is recovering from a brain aneurysm rupture. The family appreciates your prayers and cards. Their address is: Debbie, Randy, Michael, & Katie Little, 4152 Briggs Loop, Kodak, TN 37764. Please drop a note.

Tyler Behel, Al's nephew, is in Afghanistan. Prayers appreciated.

Paul Huston, son-in-law of Gary and Pris—home from Egypt.

Exploring The Life of Joseph

*K-Teen, Winter Sunday School Fellowship Hall—9:30 a.m.
Teens as Teacher's Aids
Mark Haynes, Director*

Adult Class

Colossians—Al Behel

Times of Services

Sunday A.M.

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday P.M. 6:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

Building Fund

Loan balance as of 01/06/15 is **\$1,102,466.00**. Extra contributions to reduce the loan debt are needed and appreciated. Envelopes are available in the pew.

Nursery

Located across main foyer. Closed circuit TV allows viewing and participation in worship.

CDs and DVDs of Sermons are available free at sound booth. Also available on the website at: www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com.