

# Whispering Hills

# Church of Christ



Volume IV, Issue IV April 26, 2020

## Gathering Times

Sunday Bible Class	09:30 AM
Sunday Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening	7:00 PM

Address: 2126 S. Main Street Duncanville, TX 75137

Phone: (214) 874 - 5701

Website: whchurchofchrist.net

# Welcome Christians!!

## Leadership

### Elders:

James E. Hunter, Sr

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### Minister:

James R. Jones

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## Weekly Bible Reading

26 April 2020	Micah
27 April 2020	Nahum
28 April 2020	Habakkuk
29 April 2020	Zephaniah
30 April 2020	Haggai
01 May 2020	Zechariah 1 - 7
02 May 2020	Zechariah 8 - 14
03 May 2020	Malachi

## Giving all Diligence



if these things be in you and abound  
they make you that

**You shall neither be barren nor unfruitful  
in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

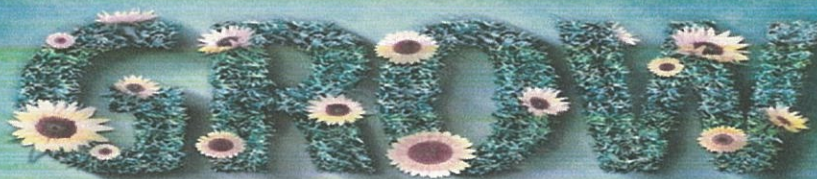
And beside this giving all diligence,  
add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge;  
and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience;  
and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness;  
and to brotherly kindness charity.

For if these things be in you and abound,  
they make you that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful  
in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"- II Peter 1:5-8

## HOW TO BE SAVED

1. Hear (Rom 10:17; Jn 6:45)
2. Believe (Jn 8:24; Heb 11:6)
3. Repent ( Lk 13:3,5; Ac 2:38)
4. Confess (Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9, 10)
5. Baptized (Mk 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21)

***Our religious conviction: God chose to save the world by sending His son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins (Rom 10:17). Those who choose to listen and obey the Gospel message SHALL be saved (Acts 2:38). God adds them to the Church of the Bible which His Son is coming for one day (2 The 1: 7 - 10)***



IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

2 PETER 3:18



# food for thought

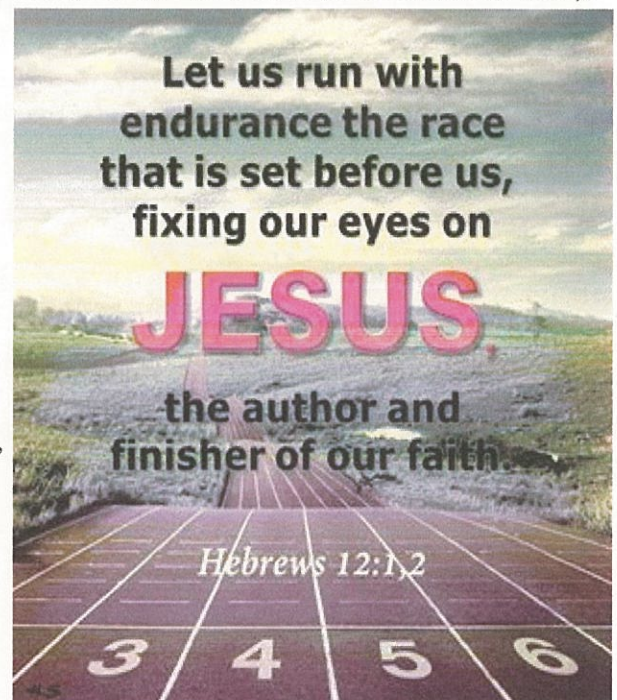
## Practice Makes Us More Perfect

There are very few areas of expertise achieved by men apart from diligent study and practice. Olympic athletes and other individuals considered to be at the peak of physical human ability are not born that way. They have a regime they have followed, and most of them practice, and practice and practice devoting hours a day to improving themselves. Our physicians and surgeons are not considered competent to take us apart and put us back together again without, first, undergoing years of study and training. There are many more examples that could be given, but these suffice. There are not many activities where constant practice does not improve ability. There are few activities where, with enough practice, most people cannot achieve some competence. Generally, when an individual says, "I could never do that," what they mean is they don't want to spend the time and energy to learn how to. Sometimes such thinking is borne out of fear, but if we were to be honest with ourselves, frequently it's just a lack of proper motivation. The Bible shares some motivation for us to be aware enhancing our thoughts (1 Cor 9:24, 26; Gal 2:2; 5:7; Php 2:16; 3:14; 2 Tim 4:7, 8; Heb 12:1; Jas 1:12).

Why should we think it is any different in matters of Spiritual achievement? The Hebrew writer reminds us concerning spiritual maturity, and our ability to understand the Bible: "For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil (Heb 5:13, 14).

It is possible to be "unskilled" in God's Word; implying it is fully possible to be "skilled". This is achieved, not through the passage of time, but through "reason of use" and "exercising" the senses to discern good and evil. In other words, Spiritual ability and Spiritual talents get better with practice and exercise, just like any other skill. Have you considered Jesus Christ, the Son of God, made like us in every way and partaking of the full human experience improved in God's Word? He was engaged in a Spiritual Study at the age of 12 and identified the study as His Father's Will (Lk 2:46-49). Thereafter, we read how Jesus, "increased in Wisdom and Stature" (Lk 2:52). He grew to be a wise man because from a very young age, He applied Himself

obtaining wisdom. He became good at doing the right thing because He practiced constantly doing the right thing. Someone will say, "Well Jesus was God in the flesh, I could never be like Him". This statement is more of an excuse not to try than it is a valid argument. God wants us to be more like Jesus. The term "Christian" means "Christ-like." The Scriptures tells us we should look to His example as our model for love, forgiveness and many other things (Eph 5:2; 1 Pet 2:21). God very clearly tells us the goal is to grow, Spiritually reaching the measure of the fullness of the stature of Christ (Eph 4:13). One may declare you can't grow Spiritually, but God says you can and one should, even if such an endeavor is going to take effort on your part. Sure, chances are pretty good if one begins the process of Spiritual Growth, one may encounter difficulties and challenges to arise and possibly falter. But it is only when one stop practicing and setting goals, one stop improving. Don't sell yourself short. God sees great potential in us. Don't let fear or indifference prevent us from achieving the potential one has set. It takes practice, but the more you practice, the easier it is to continue and not give up.





# PRAYER REQUEST

**Continuous Prayers:** Walter Simon, Mack & Carolyn Clouds, I.V. Jones (Bro Jones' dad), Ann Busby, Joyce Fair, Patricia Hurd, Ron Daly (friend of Bro Hunter [Indianapolis, IN]), Ron Forge, Edward Tisby, Ray & Ruby Busby (family of the Busby's), Shelia Harris, Sam Lily, Joel Sotelo Vazquez [Mexico City, Mexico] Bro Archie Greene (Unity and Leadership [Charlestown, WV])

**Sick:** Arthur Henry, Brenda Martin, Baby Zarkiah, Dan Allen, Jerry Birdow, Jose (Bro Santos' friend), Ruth Davenport

**General:** Demetria Washington, Greg Owens (Bro Owens' brother), Kelvin & Michael Porter (Sis Owens' brothers), Arriana Porter (Sis Owens' niece), Simon Young, Randy Murray, Darius Bell (Bro/Sis Bell's son), Arriana Porter

**Door Knocking Campaign Prayer List:** James & Charlotte Eaton

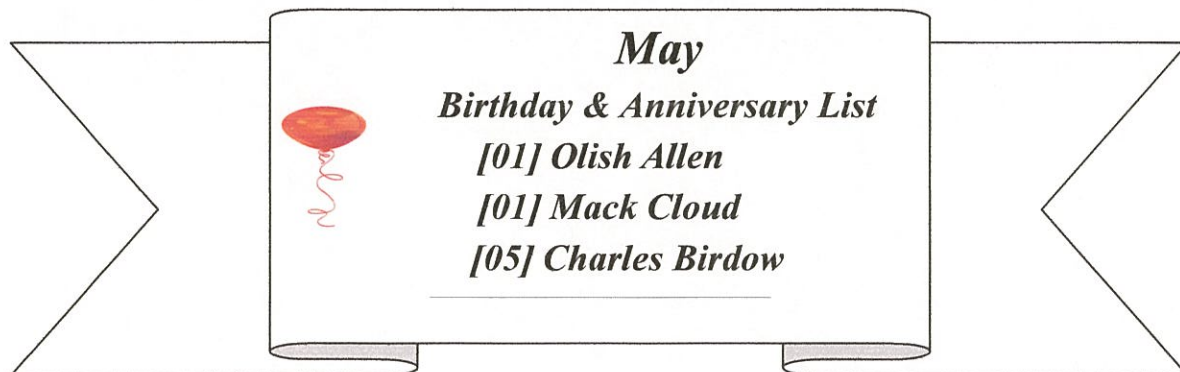
### UPDATES:

1. **Johnny Blanks:** Sis Langston's uncle passed away (Mon 04/13/2020)
2. **Margaret Hook:** Bro Ramsey's aunt passed away (Mon 04/20/2020)
3. **Lucille Pipkins:** Bro Pipkins' (former member who relocated) sister-in-law is very ill
4. **Sam Lily:** Sis Guthrie's stepson was burnt during work; a long recovery is expected
5. **Patrick Roberson:** Bro/Sis Owens' nephew is ill

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## Upcoming Activities/Announcements

1. **Door Knocking Campaign** Postponed until further notice.
2. **Duncanville Lectureship 2020:**  
 Theme: "In The Beginning"  
 Date: August 6 - 8, 2020 [Thursday, Friday & Saturday]  
 Location: 2126 S. Main St Duncanville, TX 75317 [Whispering Hills Church of Christ]





# Sermon Notes

**1 Cor 9:16 - 18** “For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.”

Subject: **GOD, THE SHEPHERD**

Scripture Reference: **Isaiah 40:9—11**

## **GOD, THE SHEPHERD**

**Isaiah 40:9 – 11**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. If there were anything of utmost importance Christians needed to know about God, it would have to be how He deals with His Children.
  - A. It seems, by some, He is NO longer being active in the watch and care of His Children.
    1. Perhaps, [we] think of God as being passive, instead of active.
2. One may be asking “why [we] have drawn this conclusion?”
  - A. Initially, the “I do not know” concept resonates in our minds.
    1. Perhaps, it is obvious by some, the Scriptures do not convince us God does NOT in some way work through providence as far as His Children are concerned.
3. Even though our text is taken from an Old Testament book, [we] can find several ways in which God did – and still does – deal with His Children.
  - A. Although [we] may not be able to understand how God does what He does, it does NOT follow for us NOT to believe He is still active on our behalf in many ways.

### **BODY:**

#### **1. LOVES HIS FLOCK**

- A. Love is the very root of all the actions from God to His Flock (1 Jn 4:9, 10, 19).
  1. As love was the root of the earthly shepherds care for his sheep, so it is the root of all care from the Heavenly Shepherd (Rom5:8-10; Jn 3:15, 16; 2 Cor 5:19-21; Tit 3:4).
- B. Without love there may be care NOT tender care (Lk 1:50; 6:36; Rom 2:4; Eph 1:6; 2:4).
  1. There may be guardianship, **BUT** it will NOT be unwearied guardianship.
- C. The Heavenly Shepherd loves His Sheep with a deep, true, patient and abounding love.
  1. His own creation (Gen 1:1), reflected image (Gen 1:26) and purchase (Ac 20:28).

#### **2. FEEDS HIS FLOCK**

- A. God feeds (Mar 4:24; Lk 8:11, 21; 11:28; Jn 21:15-17; Rom 10:17; 1 Pet 5:2; Heb 4:12).
  1. Jesus declared Himself to be the bread of life (Jn 6:48).
- B. It is important to understand even though [we] are being fed the Word of God, [we] must be active in digesting what [we] are being fed (Jas 1:22 – 25).
- C. God has left orders for earthly shepherds (elders) over the church to feed His Flock
  1. Ac 20:28; 1 Pet 5:1 – 5 – Many want to reject this by denial.

#### **3. SEEKS AND SAVES THE WANDERERS OF HIS FLOCK**

- A. Isaiah stated God "gathers the lambs with his arms" (Isa 40:11).
  1. Jesus spoke of the good human shepherd who when he lost one sheep would leave the 99 who were safe, to seek the one which was lost (Lk 15:4, 5).
- B. As the chief Shepherd over the souls of man, Jesus came to seek and save the lost
  1. Mt 9:12, 13; 10:6; 15:24; 18:11; Lk 19:10; Rom 5:6; Heb 7:25; 1 Pet 5:4; 1 Jn 4:9-14.
- C. Since "we all like sheep have gone astray" (Isa 53:6), [we] desperately need a Shepherd caring enough to seek and bring us home by obedience (1 Jn 2:3-5; 4:19, 20; 5:2, 3)..