

# Whispering Hills

# Church of Christ



Volume IX, Issue IV

September 27, 2020

## Gathering Times

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

Updates will be forthcoming as to the continual changes with COVID-19.

## Leadership

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## 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)



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## STRUGGLING TO FOCUS ON JESUS?

  
Do you get  
distracted?

  
Do you seek  
personal gain?

  
Do you put  
things off?

ASK YOURSELF...

↓  
*What distracts  
me from doing  
more for the  
Lord?*

↓  
*What personal  
desires prevent  
me from serving  
my King?*

↓  
*What can I do  
for Jesus today  
rather than  
tomorrow?*

THEN ...

✓  
Memorize  
scripture to  
fight against  
distracting  
thoughts.

✓  
Use what you  
enjoy doing  
to bring glory  
to God.

✓  
Write a Ways  
to Serve list  
and place it  
where you  
can see it.

## Weekly Bible Reading

September 28, 2020	Isaiah	43 - 50
September 29, 2020	Isaiah	51 - 58
September 30, 2020	Isaiah	59 - 66
October 01, 2020	Jeremiah	1 - 5
October 02, 2020	Jeremiah	6 - 10
October 03, 2020	Jeremiah	11 - 15
October 04, 2020	Jeremiah	16 - 20
October 05, 2020	Jeremiah	21 - 25

### ***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 (Ac 2:38).*

*God adds them to the Church of the Bible which His Son is coming for one day (2 The 1:7 - 10).*

### Distracted, Deceived Souls

There is something far worse, more dangerous and more deadly than the COVID-19...those souls, which are lost and dying daily, while facing eternity without being in a right relationship with the Lord God Almighty. "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (Jn 14:6). Jesus utilize the term **I am** (indicates Deity). **I am the way** (He is the road one must take to come to God). There is no other way to Him, except through Jesus (Ac 4:12). This is the reason the gospel must be preached to the world and in every generation. No man can have a right relationship with God, except through Christ. He not only shows the way to the Father, He is the way. Men are not saved by a principle or force, but by a person, Jesus Christ. **I am the truth** (Jesus is the truth, He is the truth about God). He reveals God. When one knows Jesus, one invariably knows God. In the Old Testament, God's Truth was embodied in His Covenant law given to men; thus, in the New Testament, His Truth is embodied in the person of Jesus. He is the word (Jn 1:1, 14) and the dependable source of redemptive revelation ever known to man. **I am the life** [physical (Jn 1:3) & Spiritual (Jn 3:36)] come from Jesus. He is life because the life of the Father is in Him (Jn 5:21; 10:28). He is the source and giver of life (Jn 3:16; 6:33; 10:28; 11:25). The emphasis is eternal life. It is eternal fellowship with God and carries with it all the joy and fullness of life. Eternal death is eternal separation from God. The summation may be this way: the way brings men to God; the truth makes men free from sin; and the life produces fellowship with God. However, most people in our contact (sadly, this includes a good number of Christians) probably will in some form or fashion, express their own personal expending of far more time, talk, energy and interest consumed by COVID-19-related matters, rather than ensuring everyone around is ready to meet God – no matter when and what their death may inevitably be. How does this happen, especially with Christians and in light of the greater, more deadly, long-lasting and devastating results of the latter (Rom 14:8; 1 Cor 15:18; 1 The 4:16; Rev 14:13)? We must remember Satan is not only the master of **deception**, but of **distraction**. Before **deceiving** Eve, he **distracted** by getting her focus and attention off of all of the other trees of the garden God had blessed her and Adam so richly with (Gen 3:1-5). Once the **distraction** was successful, the **deception** was inevitable. This truth is likely why God warned Isaiah not to be distracted and caught up in what the people of his day feared and were caught up in (Isa 8:11-14). Remember: "**Once distraction is successful, deception is inevitable.**" The same holds true today. This very well could easily explain why Jesus and His Divinely-Inspired 1<sup>st</sup> century writers repeatedly addressed just exactly how deadly allowing Satan to distract us truly is. Jesus, in the parable of the sower, explains how (Mt 13:7, 22; Mk 4:18; Lk 8:14; 18:24). Paul commands how to set our minds, not to be conformed to this world nor entangles with the affairs of this life (Col 3:1, 2; Rom 12:1, 2; 2 Tim 2:3, 4). What we must understand is in our world there is always going to be a "crisis of the day" (i.e. viral, financial, political, psychological, etc...) something the unbelieving world around us is always going to be distracted by, consumed with and/or far too worried about to ever take the time to seriously focus on God, His Word and their eternity. The news outlets are going to absolutely ensure they dissect and dramatize every divinely-distracting detail and morsel of it. After all, without a crisis to report, their criteria for existence ceases to exist (Mt 22:29). Perhaps, you remember the pre-COVID-19 crisis everyone was so up in arms about only 8 short months ago? Church shootings. Before that, it was something else...and something else before that...just as there will also be some other "crisis" to "worry about" and be consumed with 8 months from now...and 8 months after that...and etc., on into the future. It just simply never ends. Satan ensures it does not. Because "**Once distraction is successful, deception, as well as death and destruction, are all, also inevitable.**"

The eternally-deadly danger for all Christians, comes the moment we forget (1 Pet 1:13; 5:8). If we begin to incrementally get so caught up in and sidetracked by whatever the current "crisis of the day" is, we continually start to forget/neglect what is most important; should we, like Martha, become so distracted with other things, we forget the only thing, to ever really matter – loving, listening to, being comforted and encouraged by God's Word (Lk 10:38-42). Do not allow the "always-a-crisis" events of the current day's news, to consume, distract, and/or draw you away from the incredibly encouraging and uplifting good news of God's Word. The world and its news will not change much over a period of time, but your peace of mind surely will (Jn 16:33; Php 4:8, 9).



# PRAYER REQUEST

**Continuous Prayers:** Walter Simon, Mack & Carolyn Clouds, Ron Forge, Christina Jones, Miguel Graves, Joyce Fair Patricia Hurd, Ray & Ruby Busby (Bro/Sis Busby's FAMILY), Sheila Harris, Curtis Ward, Joyce Gutierrez, Vernon Skinner (Sis Skinner's son), Mattie Stafford, Annette Rolette  
Adam McCants (Bro Ramsey's daughter father-in-law)  
Joel Sotelo Vazquez / Bertha Tapia [Mexico City, Mexico]  
Maria Diaz (Sis Skinner's neighbor)  
Willie Gray (Sis Gray's brother-in-law)

**Sick:** Arthur Henry, Dan Allen, Jerry Birdow, Jose (Bro Spataro's friend), Ms Teresa (Spataro's FAMILY)

**General:** Demetria Washington, Greg Owens (Bro Owens' brother), Kelvin & Michael Porter (Sis Owens' brothers), Simon Young, Sam Lily (Sis Guthrie's stepson), James Hunter, Jr, Michael Neazer, M. Staton, Pat Harper, Brenda Moore, Yvette Thornhill, Angel & Alesia Adams, Edwards' FAMILY, A. Anderson's FAMILY

### **UPDATES:**

1. **Chris White** [Sis White's son] request PRAYERS involving ankle surgery [20 Sep 20].
2. **Milicent Douglas** (Sis Glasker's niece) request PRAYERS [20 Sep 20]
3. **Ray and Byron Busby** (Bro/Sis Busby's sons) request PRAYERS [20 Sep 20]
4. **Alfredo Cabrera** (Bro Ramsey's friend) Stage 4 Lung Cancer request PRAYERS [25 Sep 20]
5. **Ana Yescas** (Bro Ramsey's friend) Stage 4 Liver Cancer request PRAYERS [25 Sep 20]

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## **Upcoming Activities/Announcements**

1. **Door Knocking Campaign** Postponed until further notice.



