

# Whispering Hills

# Church of Christ



Volume X, Issue I

October 04, 2020

## Gathering Times

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

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

## Leadership

### Elders:

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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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**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (John 13:34a)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (John 13:34b)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (John 13:35)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (John 15:12)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (John 15:17)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (Romans 13:8)**

**MAKE YOUR LOVE INCREASE (1 Thess 3:12)**

**LOVE EACH OTHER (1 Thess 4:9)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER DEEPLY (1 Peter 3:8)**

**LOVE EACH OTHER DEEPLY (1 Peter 4:8)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (1 John 3:11)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (1 John 3:23)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (1 John 4:7)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (1 John 4:11)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (1 John 4:12)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (2 John 5)**

**So... LOVE ONE ANOTHER!!!!**

## Weekly Bible Reading

October 04, 2020	Jeremiah 16 - 20
October 05, 2020	Jeremiah 21 - 25
October 06, 2020	Jeremiah 26 - 30
October 07, 2020	Jeremiah 31 - 35
October 08, 2020	Jeremiah 36 - 40
October 09, 2020	Jeremiah 41 - 45
October 10, 2020	Jeremiah 46 - 52
October 11, 2020	Lamentations

### ***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).*

## How To Strengthen The Church

In order to strengthen the Church, **truth must be taught from within**. God's Word is truth (Jn 8:32) and when practiced, it separates the Christian from the rest of the world (Jn 17:17). While the Church is certainly the bearer of truth to the world, it must continually teach itself (Eph 3:4; 1 Tim 3:15). Pulpits are the most visible source of sharing the truth. Paul warned Timothy of times when men would desire to hear something other than the truth (2 Tim 4:3). If false words come from the preacher, then the entire congregation can be misled from the truth (1 Cor 1:10-13; 11:1). Critically, the pulpit cannot continually teach simple beginning concepts (Heb 5:12-6:2; 1 Pet 2:2). Many congregations composed of those who have been Christians for decades are Spiritually starving. After such a lengthy time, they have a blank stare when asked to summarize what each book of the Bible is about. Elders and preachers are to blame for allowing this to happen. However, they are not responsible for the majority of this blame. Individual Christians need to be searching the Scriptures daily, scholars of the word, watchmen able to defend and share the truth of the Bible while continuing to demonstrate Spiritual Maturity (Eze 33:1-16; Mt 28:18-20; Ac 17:11; 2 Tim 2:10-18; 1 Pet 3:15; 2 Pet 3:18). Equipped in this fashion, they should be demanding more from the pulpit and each other. One should be constantly feeding from God's Word and strengthening the Church (Psa 119:25-28).

The Church is strengthened when **Christians choose to love one another** (Jn 13:34, 35). Being a Christian is choosing to be a servant to God and others. The household of faith is where this must begin (Gal 6:10). The worship aspect of giving, not only glorifies God, but communicates to Christians in need and the minister, who relies upon the generosity of the saints they are loved (1 Cor 9:1-14; 16:1, 2). The expression of Christian love can only be described (in a small way) by financial support. Its true expression is seen in the Christian overall behavior to another. Are there members without transportation? Is this dilemma handled in a respectful fashion by the leadership ensuring Christians have a way to attend ALL services and other critical life activities? Are we contacting those who are sick asking what can be done to help? Is spending time with the widow or single parent being addressed? Are PRAYERS being rendered and inquiring the reason why one missed assembling with the saints? What about those brothers and sisters who have moved, is there a need? How about writing or calling to encourage by inquiring an interest in their well-being and Spiritual Growth (Ac 15:36; Heb 10:24)? Don't allow a sheep to wander from the flock because of being ignored or neglected. Giving love, kindness, comfort, encouragement and the fruit of your physical blessings strengthens the Church.

From the formation of the Church, **Christians spent their time together** (Ac 2:42-47). They made a formidable effort to leave the world by becoming a new creation (2 Cor 5:17). They wanted to show obedience to God and not return to the former associations of their life (1 Cor 15:33; 1 Pet 1:14-16). The Christian(s) resist Satan and the evil things of this world (Jas 4:4-7). A strong Church seeks out pure relationships, pure recreation and pure entertainment in its daily life. The Church is strengthened when Christians open their lives and homes to others of a pure mind and hope. Our Spiritual brothers/sisters in Christ should never feel alone, isolated or left out within the congregation nor feel like strangers in Christ and neither should anyone (Mt 22:37-40).

The final aspect to be addressed is the **strengthening of the Church through Church Discipline**. To fall out of God's Graces, a congregation will suffer overwhelmingly, if it does not practice discipline. Whether we are BLESSED with elders or not, we are responsible for correcting one another's behaviors and beliefs in Christ (Ac 5:1-11; 20:27-31; 1 Cor 5; 2 Tim 4:2). Each of us possess a responsibility in love (Eph 4:15) to go to our brother/sister when there is trouble (Mt 18:15-17). Whether the issue is of immorality, practicing or teaching error, immodesty, forsaking the assembly of the saints or going back to the world in any form, we must try to correct and save them (Ac 18:26; Jude 22, 23). Our savior has given Himself to save us and all who will follow Him (Jude 24). Discipline has never been a sign of cruelty, rather a sign of love (Pro 3:11, 12; Heb 12:11-14). Christ's church is strengthened through the kindness of discipline. There are many theories about how to strengthen a church. Often these rely upon the wisdom, traditions, and innovations of men.

However, the church which Christ established, finds its strength today as it did in the first century: It follows the example and authority of Christ doing only what the Father has commanded we do and say (Jn 17:20, 21).



# 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, Chris White (Sis White's son) Adam McCants (Bro Ramsey's daughter father-in-law), Ray and Byron Busby (Bro/Sis Busby's sons) Joel Sotelo Vazquez / Bertha Tapia [Mexico City, Mexico], Maria Diaz (Sis Skinner's neighbor), Willie Gray (Sis Gray's brother-in-law) Alfredo Cabrera/Ana Yescas (Bro Ramsey's friend)

**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, Yvette Thornhill, Angel & Alesia Adams, Edwards' FAMILY, Milicent Douglas (Sis Glasker's neice)

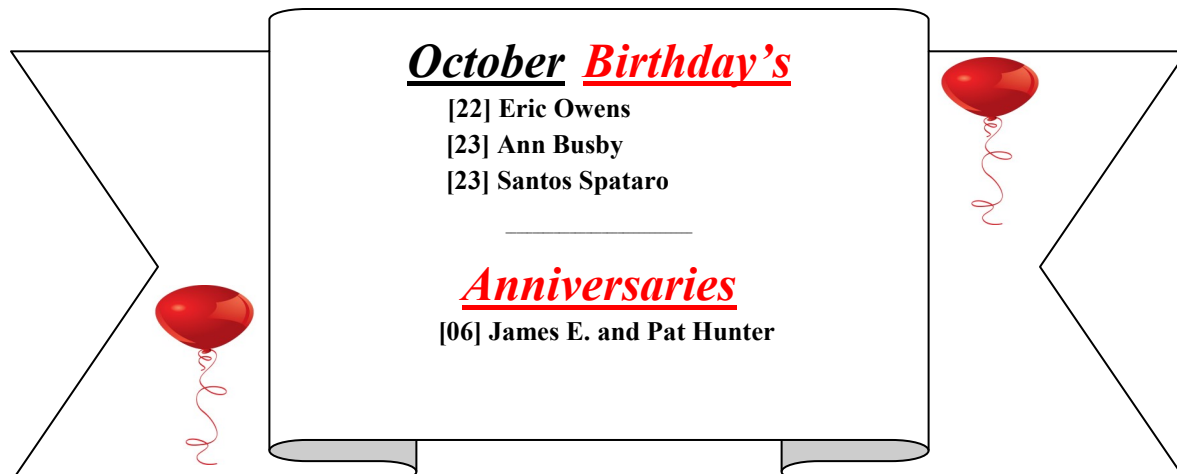
**UPDATES:**

1. **Anthony Yescas** (Bro Ramsey's friend) 2-month old born prematurely on a breathing device feeding tube [02 Oct 20].

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## Upcoming Activities/Announcements

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





## WHEN DIVINE FORBEARANCE RUNS OUT

### Jeremiah 44:22

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Is it possible for God's Patience to run out (Gen 3:23, 24; Num 14:35; 26:64, 65; Mt 27:3-5)?
  - A. Some say it is **NOT** possible as is often stated in the doctrine "once saved, always saved".
  - B. Many fail to consider numerous examples of those seen as having been "cast away" by God or have failed to receive the BLESSINGS promised by God.
    1. Adam and Eve, once freely implanted in the garden, was cast from it
    2. Israel, once free from Egypt **NO** chance of **NOT** getting into Canaan, but did **NOT**.
    3. Judas, once made an apostle, no possibility of ever losing his apostleship, yet he did.
2. Rather than listening to the babbling of men, it is much more beneficial if [we] turn to God and endorse what He has already said (Jer 32:17; Mt 22:29; Lk 24:44-47; Jn 20:9).
  - A. It is quite evident He does **NOT** leave something of this magnitude unsettled or to the whims of religious philosophers (Mt 7:21-23; 25:11, 24, 44; Lk 6:46; 13:25-27; Gal 6:7).

#### BODY:

##### 1. ISRAEL FLAUNTED THEIR SINS

- A. Israel flaunted their sins in His Face for Him to "no longer bear" with them (Jer 44:22).
  1. In the same book, God said to Israel, "I am weary with repenting" (Jer 15:6).
  2. [We] see in the words of the Psalmist such "weariness" of God (Psa 95:10, 11).
  3. Isaiah, spoke of God's "weariness" (Isa 43:24) as did Malachi (Mal 2:17).
- B. Due to Israel's sin, God "...abhorred His own inheritance" (Psa 106:40).
  1. Their idolatrous ways and being unmindful of the God who "formed them" and "He abhorred them" (Deu 32:18, 19).
  2. The shepherds of Israel were so corrupt God "loathed them" (Zec 11:8).

##### 2. THE FLOOD

- A. While living in sin and Spiritual darkness, we see God's Patience tried (Gen 6:3, 5-7).
  1. Enduring for Noah to complete the ark, "to the saving of his house" (Heb 11:7).
  2. The patience of God gave way to His Wrath and "all flesh died" (Gen 7:21).

##### 3. HIS PATIENCE RUNS OUT

- A. God does **NOT** love people just as they are in spite of His Standards relating acceptance.
  1. It is one thing to say God loves someone and a completely different thing to say He Approves of whatever condition they might be (1 Cor 6:11; 2 Cor 6:16, 17).
    - A. The truth is, God's Patience can and will run out.

##### 4. HOW LONG WILL HE BE PATIENT?

- A. As [we] think of the church today, [we] might ask, "How long the Lord Will tolerate a godless and ignorant church" (Mt 7:6; 15:14; 1 Tim 6:3-5; 2 Tim 4:3, 4; Rev 22:11, 12)?
  1. How long will He Tolerate immorality among professed believers (Jude 4, 15)?
- B. Those knowing better are "heaping up wrath to themselves" as those of old (1 The 5:9).
- C. We may believe God is passive concerning the condition of the world and the church.
  1. However, let us be cautioned delusion does **NOT** take hold of our hearts so "[we] provoke the Lord to jealousy" (1 Cor 10:22).
  2. Will God ignore those attempting to eat from His Table and Satan's (1 Cor 10:21)?
    - A. Israel and Korah provoked God and was **NOT** ignored (Num 14:23; 16:30).
    - B. Judah and Jeroboam provoked God and was **NOT** ignored (1 Kgs 14:22; 15:30).
    - C. Ahaziah provoked God and was **NOT** ignored (1 Kgs 22:53).
      1. [We] should learn from these Biblical realities (Rom 15:4).