

Whispering Hills

# Church of Christ



Volume VI, Issue IV June 28, 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

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## Welcome Christians!!

## Leadership

### Elders:

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Steve Owens

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[sowens621@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sowens621@sbcglobal.net)

### Minister:

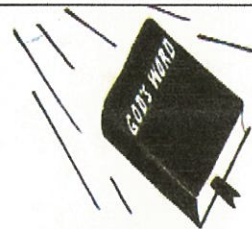
James R. Jones

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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)



## GOD'S PROMISES

2 PET. 3:1-9

### PROMISES

LONG LIFE  
REM. OF SINS & GIFT OF HOLY GHOST  
GREAT & PRECIOUS  
LIFE NOW & TO COME  
ENTERING INTO REST  
BEING AN HEIR  
THE KINGDOM  
ETERNAL INHERITANCE  
HEAVENLY REWARD  
CROWN OF LIFE  
NEW HEAVEN & EARTH  
ETERNAL LIFE

EPH. 6:1-3  
ACTS 2:38,39:2 THESS. 2:14  
2 PET. 1:3,4  
1 TIM. 4:7,8  
HEB. 4:1-4  
GAL. 3:29:EPH. 2:12,13:3:6  
JS. 2:5  
HEB. 9:15  
HEB. 10:34-36:MT. 7:21  
JS. 1:12:REV. 2:10  
2 PET. 3:13,14  
1 JO. 2:24,25

### FOR THOSE WHO..

ARE OBEDIENT CHILDREN  
ARE CALLED  
ARE CALLED  
EXERCISE UNTO GODLINESS  
HAVE BELIEVED  
ARE CHRIST'S - GENTILES  
LOVE GOD  
ARE CALLED  
ARE DOERS OF GOD'S WILL  
ARE LOVERS OF THE LORD - FAITHFUL  
LOOK & ARE DILIGENT  
CONTINUE IN THE SON & IN THE FATHER

ARE THESE PROMISES YOURS? WILL THEY BE?

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14





# food for thought

## A LIFETIME AGO

Do you recall Paul encouraging words (Php 3:13-21)? After researching these verses, what comes to mind? Do you recall where you were and what you were doing approximately 6 months ago around New Year's Eve just before welcoming in 2020? In light of current events, it is hard to believe it was about 6 months ago we were engulfed in those particular activities. Perhaps, to some it must seem as if this was a lifetime ago; still harder to believe, would be the thought - then, within the next few months, everything we have become so engulfed in - some say almost all we call "life" in general - could and would be so swiftly and suddenly taken away from what we refer to as the norm!! So many of the things we simply took for granted would go on forever - from attending school; going to work; attending sporting events, graduation ceremonies, weddings, funerals and church services - have now been grounded to a very abrupt and all-encompassing halt or at least slowed to a crawl in most circumstances. Paul assures us, who are full-grown in Christ Jesus to know, we must keep living the Christian life and striving to do the Christ's Will as long as we live. One can never look back and say one has arrived. We must continue to press toward the goal. Every Christian must be like-minded. If one does not see this truth, one must study God's Word (2 Tim 2:15) striving to live accordingly. One will definitely realize this truth (Jn 8:32; 17:17). God will ensure those sincerely seeking to live by His Word will (Lk 6:46; Jn 14:6).

As impossible as all of the past may seem, for any of us to imagine beforehand, here we are. What is infinitely, far more scarier, is how the Bible very clearly promises us there is another (far more important) event coming dwarfing the deadly losses and catastrophic effects of COVID-19!! It defies every fiber of our ability to even begin to comprehend (2 Pet 3:1-18; Rev 20:10-15). Unlike COVID-19, this world-wide event will come upon us instantly and without warning; striking like a "thief in the night" (1 The 5:2; Rev 3:3; 16:15); occurring in the twinkling of an eye (1 Cor 15:51, 52). No one will have time to think about turning their heart to the proper preparation at that time, for in the time it just took you to blink, it will all happen. When Jesus comes and the last trumpet sounds, this will be the signal for the dead to arise in a Spiritual body. At the resurrection, the body of Christians, who are alive, will be changed from the physical to a Spiritual body: in a split second.

The incredibly, beautiful, silver lining of a mushroom cloud of mass destruction is the Lord Jesus Christ as He sat on a mountainside with His Disciples almost 2,000 years ago (Mt 24:3), began to warn us to get ready for His Coming (Mt 24:42-25:46; Jn 12:48-50; Ac 17:30, 31; 2 The 1:6-10); a message His Disciples would soon thereafter began to echo and call out. What a wonderful blessing it is to know one is prepared (2 Tim 4:7, 8), according to God's Word because of LOVE. One has completely become devoted to learning and obeying His Word (Jn 14:21-24; Ac 2:38-42; 2 Pet 1:2-21) ***so that they may know that they have eternal life*** (1 Jn 5:13).

For those who are unprepared, the depth of the eternal tragedy will suffer because of not obeying will truly be beyond anything one could ever possibly imagine (Heb 10:30; Rev 6:10, 16, 17). Today, if you know anyone who has not obeyed the gospel of Christ, do not let this day pass without this warning of being prepared while there is still time (Rom 1:16; 10:15, 16; 1 Cor 1:17; 4:15; 9:16; 15:1; 2 Cor 4:3, 4; 10:14; Gal 1:6-11; Eph 3:6). Unlike COVID-19, when this occurs, there will be no time to even blink!! Do not take God for granted!!





# PRAYER REQUEST

**Continuous Prayers:** Walter Simon, Mack & Carolyn Clouds, I.V. Jones (Bro Jones' dad), Ron Forge, Christina Jones Patricia Hurd, Ray & Ruby Busby (family of the Busby's), Sheila Harris, Sam Lily, Miguel Graves, Joyce Fair Joyce Gutierrez, Joel Sotelo Vazquez [Mexico City, Mexico]

**Sick:** Arthur Henry, Dan Allen, Jerry Birdow, Jose (Bro Santos' friend),

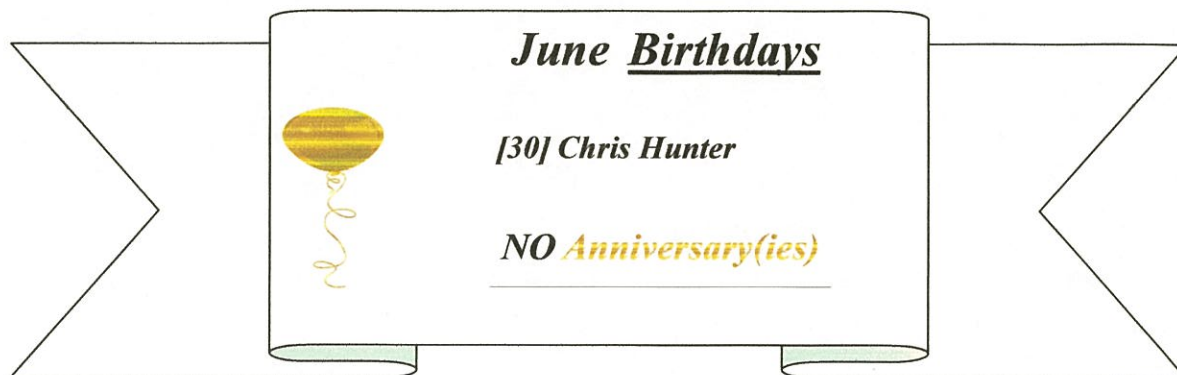
**General:** Demetria Washington, Greg Owens (Bro Owens' brother), Kelvin & Michael Porter (Sis Owens' brothers), Simon Young, Randy Murray, Darius Bell (Bro/Sis Bell's son), Sam Lily (Sis Guthrie's stepson) Chris White, Annett Rowlett, Mattie Stafford, Kaylan White, Bro Ward Carolyn Andrews, Pat Harper, Bro/Sis Williams, Brenda Moore Archie Greene (Unity and Leadership [Charlestown, WV]) Patrick Roberson (Bro/Sis Owens' nephew)

## **UPDATES:**

1. **Joyce Fair** hospitalized for overall health concerns (19 Jun 20)
2. **Ray Busby** (family of Bro/Sis Busby) hospitalized for heart problems (19 Jun 20)
3. **Dre Day** (friend of Bro Owens's son) diagnosed with COVID-19 (26 Jun 20)
4. **Quinn Beacham** (friend of Bro Ramsey) hospitalized w/ Liver Failure/Low Blood Pressure (26 Jun 20)
5. **Adam McCants** (father-in-law of Bro Ramsey's daughter) hospitalized w/ Kidney Failure (27 Jun 20)

## Upcoming Activities/Announcements

1. **Door Knocking Campaign** Postponed until further notice.
2. **Duncanville Lectureship 2020:** **Cancelled** (05/09/2020)





# 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: **THE CHRISTIAN RACE**

Scripture Reference: **1 Corinthians 9:24, 25**

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## **THE CHRISTIAN RACE**

### **1 Corinthians 9:24, 25**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. Whether [we] realize it or **NOT**, each of us [as Christians] is in a race (1 Cor 9:24, 25).
  - A. Not necessarily a foot race, **BUT** a race none the less.
2. With this in mind, [we] want to look at some of the characteristics of "The Christian Race".

#### **BODY:**

##### **1. THE CHRISTIAN RACE HAS A BEGINNING**

- A. Difficult envisioning a foot, an automobile, horse or any physical race w/o a beginning.
  1. I think [we] understand it just could **NOT** be.
- B. So it is with the race the child of God runs. It has a beginning.
  1. That beginning, of course, is the new birth (Jn 3:3).
    - A. It must be understood, as there are rules in the starting of physical races, so it is with the Spiritual race under consideration.
      1. It can only begin with the new birth and what **ALL** its involvements.
- C. As with any race, there are things to be done prior to the race.
  1. So it is with the Christian race.
    - A. One must obey the gospel or the race can **NOT** begin.

##### **2. THE CHRISTIAN RACE HAS RULES**

- A. Can you imagine a race of any kind **NOT** having any set rules to follow?
  1. Rather than a race, it would be nothing **BUT** confusion.
- B. God provides a set of rules for us to follow and they are **NOT** confusing (1 Cor 14:33).
  1. The race must be run with our eyes on Christ (Heb 12:2) - this is clearly logical.
  2. The race must be run with Heavenly Affection (Col 3:2) - this, too, is clearly logical.
    - B. Wherever our treasure is, there our hearts will be.
  3. The race must be run with shod feet (Eph 6:15).
- C. As with all races, these rules must be obeyed to complete the race as God intended.

##### **3. THE CHRISTIAN RACE HAS A DEFINITE COURSE**

- A. Imagine a race, run between two individuals **NOT** having a specific course to follow.
  1. Confusion would rule; thus, it is with the Christian Race.
- B. Ours is laid out for us and going astray will cause us to lose the entire race.
  1. Consists of contending for the faith (Jude 3); hold on to God's Word (Php 2:16); and **ALWAYS** abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor 15:58).

##### **4. THE CHRISTIAN RACE HAS A GOAL**

- A. To have a race, you have to have a goal and there is clearly one in the Christian Race.
  1. The goal is not to become a castaway (1 Cor 9:27); become like Christ (Php 3:14).

##### **5. THE CHRISTIAN RACE HAS HINDRANCES**

- A. There are things hindering the competition to keep one from completing the race.
  1. A lack of faith (Mt 14:31)
  2. A lack of love (1 Cor 13:1 – 3).

##### **6. THE CHRISTIAN RACE WILL BE REWARDED**

- A. In every race there is some type of reward given to the winner besides only recognition.
- B. In the Christian race, the Christian can expect to be rewarded for having run the race well (1 Cor 9:24, 25) and keeping the faith (2 Tim 4:7).