



Whispering Hills

CHURCH OF CHRIST

— Growing Together —

VOLUME X, ISSUE V

October 30, 2022

SUNDAY Gathering Times

Bible Class 09:30 AM
Morning 10:30 AM
Evening 5:00 PM

Leadership

Elders:

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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 because it was purchased with His Blood (Ac 20:28; 2 The 1:7-10).

HOW TO BE SAVED

1. Hear (Jn 6:45; Rom 10:17)
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)

WELCOME
WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE

Our goal is to worship God according to His Will just as the Christians in the first century did (Ac 2:42). Please ask us a question about the reason why we worship the way we do (1 Pet 3:15). Also, please take the time to fill out an attendance card today (in the holder facing you) and give it to one of our members acknowledging your presence with us.

Habit No. 1:

A Strong Christian Feeds His Spirit (Matthew 4:4)

Habit No. 2:

A Strong Christian Builds His Faith (1 Samuel 30:6)

Habit No. 3:

A Strong Christian Speaks the Word (Proverbs 18:21)

Habit No. 4:

A Strong Christian Controls His Thought Life (Joshua 1:8)

Habit No. 5:

A Strong Christian Anchors His Heart Through Praise
(Psalm 34:1)

Habit No. 6:

A Strong Christian Prays in the Spirit (Jude 20)

Habit No. 7:

A Strong Christian Gets Rid of Baggage (Hebrews 12:1)



Continuous PRAYERS

Walter Simon, Mack Cloud, Ron Forge, Pat Harper,
Patricia Skinner



General

Greg Owens (Bro Owens' brother) is hospitalized
Michael Porter (Sis Owens' brother)
Jessica McCants (Bro Ramsay's daughter)
Wesley Pollard (Bro/Sis Simon's brother-in-law)
Lee Carpenter (Sis Simon's brother)
Baltimore Hernandez (Bro Spataro's brother-in-law)
Miguel Graves, Jr (friend of Bro Owens, Jr)
Mark Gray (Sis Gray's brother-in-law)
Christopher White (Sis White's son)
Chantez Thomas (Bro Williams' cousin)
Julio Gutierrez (Sis Gutierrez's husband)
Mattie Stafford (*former member*)
Claudia Springer (Sis Williams' sister)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

- [1] Our **PRAYERS** should echo loud and clear on a daily basis for God's **GRACE, MERCY** and **LOVE** by taking nothing for granted continuing to live up to His Expectations and Commands through **OBEDIENCE** (Mt 7:21-23)
- [2] **BIBLE STUDY** (**S**unday, 30 **O**ctober @ 09:30 **A**M): Book of **Colossians** 4:7 - 18
- [3] **Ladies Bible Class** (Every **W**ednesday in **O**ctober @ 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM): conducted virtually [**Duncanville**]
- [4] **Daylight Savings Time** (**S**unday, **N**ovember 06, 2022) [**F**alls **B**ack **1** hour]
- [5] **Federal Holiday: Veterans Day** (**F**riday, **N**ovember 11, 2022)



Anniversaries
and Birthdays

November

[13] Joyce Fair

[18] Don & Karen Lee

[22] Chris & Lorena Hunter



**FOOD FOR
THOUGHT**

“IN LOVE”

Among many other objectives in the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, he wanted to ensure they were conscious of the Greek word (*εν αγαπη*) officially translated to “in love”. No, not the feeling experienced with grade school crushes nor the energy revealed for Hawaiian pizza; rather, he was mindful of the “in love” from God and the Spiritual connections from it. He wrote emphasizing the great central truth about God’s Eternal Plan is to have Jews and Gentiles in one body, the church (Eph 1:22, 23). This epistle magnifies the church as a divine institution setting forth God’s Purpose of heading up all things in Christ (Eph 1:9, 10).

Paul takes us from the depths of ruin to the heights of redemption; exalts Christ emphasizing the oneness of the body and His Teachings. Practical advice was given to live the Christian Life by being faithful to Christ.

In 6 different verses we encounter (Gr *εν αγαπη*) “in love”:

- 1. God adopts His Children in love (1:4, 5)** - We were not adopted as His Children ought of pity. God knew we would need to be saved from our own mistakes, so He set a plan in motion. God’s choice was eternal; His Plan is timeless. This took place “...before the foundation of the world...” (Eph 1:4). God knew Eden would be defiled and we would be detached, but through His Love we inherited an Eternal Kinship. God’s Expectation is for us to live on a Spiritual Plane because “holiness” is the positive side of a Christ-like life (Heb 12:14) and “...predestinated us unto the adoption...” (Eph 1:5) having decided beforehand by marking off the boundaries of His Children being adopted (Rom 8:15; 9:4; Gal 4:5) to experience a special relationship of Him.
- 2. God’s Children are established in love (3:17)** - Paul explains by being “rooted and grounded” in love, we can work together to know the love of Christ which surpasses MAN’S mind! The cause (Eph 3:18, 19) is revealed. Daily, we must ask the question “how much of God do I want in my life?” It is God’s Purpose for Christ to dwell in our hearts personally, permanently and powerfully (1 Cor 3:16; Eph 2:22; 1 Pet 2:3-10). The love of Christ is knowledge transcending. It is by being found in this love we are filled with God.
- 3. God’s Children deal with each other in love (4:2)** - Families have issues and can often be divisive. We are all separate entities trying to resolve ourselves to one body. By being “in love” we can tolerate, endure and bear with one another. The new life in Christ endures unruffles temper, any wrong suffered without retaliation and to turn the other cheek (1 Pet 2:21-25). Love beareth and endureth all things (1 Cor 13:7). This maintain unity in the Spirit (Eph 4:3). Not external, ecclesiastical union, but internal, Spiritual unity (Jn 17:21-23). It is produced and maintained by the Holy Spirit. Peace with God and with one another is the unifying bond holds all together. If divisions and factions win, it’s a clear indicator one or both parties were far from love.
- 4. God’s Children speak truth in love (4:15)** - The positive results of Spiritual unity and maturity. We have done a fair job of addressing the inclusion of love when we talk with others. But let’s not forget “that we may not be tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrines” (Eph 4:14b). Deliberately planning and scheming deceit, one wrestles, twist and pervert God’s Word (Ac 13:10; Gal 1:7; 2 Pet 3:16). We need to hold on to the truth given by God (Ac 5:29). The truth should always be spoken in love without tricks or gimmicks. Doing so, we grow in Christ (2 Pet 3:18).
- 5. God’s Children build up in love (4:16)** - Christ is the source and sustainer of the body. Harmoniously and closely fitted together, with no one out of place and with everyone contributing their share for the good of the whole body, we are able to achieve progression as a church (and family). Consider everything else up to this point, if we want to be a functional family, we must be found “in love” with God and each other. When all the members of the body perform faithfully their functions, it results in the growth and maturity of the whole body. The church is the living organism united to Christ and indwelt by the Holy Spirit so every member is to be helped and strengthened, whereby the whole body grows “increaseth with the increase of God (Col 2:19). The conclusion is an unified, edified Christ-centered church in obedience to Christ (Heb 5:8, 9).
- 6. God’s Children walk in love (5:2)** - The distinguishing marks of the Christ-like love are forgiveness and sacrifice (Eph 4:2). Christ death was a satisfactory sacrifice to God on our behalf (Rom 5:8). The Christian standard for daily conduct is love. This walk is a way of life. When we walk in love, we follow the footsteps of Christ (Eph 5:1). The Christ-like love denies self, takes up the cross daily and follows Him (Lk 9:23).

