

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Church Members

Virginia Alexander: Meniere's Disease
Rhyan Beverly: chronic health problems
Julie Blades: cancer
Kerry Burton: cancer
Joanne Crawford: Wellington PARC
Glenn Doss: chronic health problems
William Drake: BHM - rm. #372
Mike Griffith: heart problems
Kevin Kline: LHON
Janice Lee: recovering from surgery
Charlotte McElvain: RTNH - rm. #612
Joyce Potts: Meniere's Disease
Scott Settle: heart problems
Louise Smith: chronic health problems
Terry Starks: recovering from surgery
Gail Turner: recovering from surgery
Kim Wiles: heart & kidney problems

Family & Friends

Cancer: Debbie Baker, Billy Banks, Lisa Brewer, Jim Combs, Danny Edmonds, April Ehrlich, Christine Estrada, Brandon Hall, Dave Hammer, Steve Higginbotham, Jady Hill, Missy Jones, Geoffrey Kline, June Morris, Shelly Patterson, Dean Stokes, Sandy Treadway, Lois VanWinkle, Dan Winkler
Heart Disease: Kay Clark, Regina Davis, Bruce Gower, Annette Miller, Archie Morris, Susan Scott, Rosemary Starks
Nursing Care: Rita Chappell, Patsy Davis, Anna Lee Hampton, Emerson & Mary Frances Hartford, Bonnie Wiles
Other Health Problems: Dennis Aubrey, Don Blackwell, Adam Boldon, Samuel Cox, Keith Elkins, Daniel Groves, Britney Harrison, Maria Johnson, Crystal Jones, Debra Key, Inez Loyola, Richard Metcalfe, Natasha Moore, Justin Nesselroad, Ray Nix, Kelly Oldham, Presley Pearce, Renee Perry, Brittney Payton, Sherry Phillips, Mary Robertson, Jason Rollins, Grayson Shofner,

ATTENDANCE & CONTRIBUTION

For the week of February 14, 2021

Bible Study	N/A
Morning Worship	54
Evening Worship	N/A
Contribution	\$2588.00
Budget	\$3025.00
Wednesday Bible Study	N/S

TODAY'S SERMONS

AM: Is Fasting for Christians?

Matthew 6:16-18

PM: Virtual Bible Study

Psalm 26

OUR ELDERS:

- **Dennis Brasher** (270) 825-1661 or (270) 871-2170
- **Terry Moore** (270) 871-7111

OUR DEACONS:

- **Steve Curtis** - *Visitation*
- **Mike Griffith** - *Benevolence*
- **Deyone Miller** - *Worship*
- **Dave Sprague** - *Building & Grounds*
- **Byron VanWinkle** - *Technology*

Madisonville Church of Christ

1035 North Main Street / Madisonville, Kentucky / 42431 / (270) 821-3544

www.madisonvillechurchofchrist.org

Russell M. Kline, preacher / (270) 836-2301 / msop1989@yahoo.com

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RESPONDING TO HEAVEN'S INVITATION

By Russell M. Kline

Heaven is the place where God and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ live. In the Bible, God is described as sitting on a throne in Heaven (Rev. 4:2). Jesus is described as standing on the right hand of God (Acts 7:55,56). From Heaven, there is issued an invitation for all of humanity to come there, and live with God in eternity (Rev. 21:3; 22:17). But **how** can we respond to Heaven's invitation, and **why** should we accept it?

Responding to Heaven's invitation is simple enough. If you wish to do so, then you just need to obey the Gospel (2 The. 1:6-9). Obedience is what God requires of everyone who wants enter into Heaven (Mat. 7:21). The first step in the process of obeying the Gospel of Christ is to **hear** the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). This means that we must study the Bible and listen carefully to its message for humanity (Luke 8:18a). Doing so shall create faith in our hearts, without which we cannot even hope to please God (Heb. 11:6). The development of **faith** in our hearts is the second step in the process of obeying the Gospel (John 8:24). The third step in the process is to **repent** of all our past sins (Luke 13:3,5). When we repent, we realize the truth about sin, and commit ourselves to changing our lives, so that sin is no longer part of who we are (2 Cor. 7:10). This is something that God requires of all who obey Him—without exception (Acts 17:30). The fourth step is **confession**. We are not talking about confession of our sins, but rather confession of our faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9,10). If we are not willing to admit to our faith in Him, then we cannot be saved from our sins (Mat. 10:32,33). The fifth step, which puts us into Christ—making us Christians—is **baptism**. The Bible describes baptism as immersion in water (Mat. 3:16; Acts 8:38,39). The Bible further describes baptism as being for the remission of our sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). According to the

Opportunities to Study and Worship:

Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. / **Sunday** Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 p.m. / **Wednesday** Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Listen to "What Does the Bible Say?" Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. on WFMW (AM 730)

Word of God, one is not saved until one has been baptized, according to the teaching of the Scriptures (1 Pet. 3:21)! Once we have done all of these things, Heaven will be our eternal home, as long as we remain faithful to the Lord for the rest of our lives on Earth (Rev. 2:10).

If you do not wish to accept Heaven's invitation, all that you have to do is fail to obey God. When it comes to the question of what one must do to be lost, the answer is that there is, quite literally, nothing to it! Romans 6:16 tells us that every human being has a choice to make, while living on the Earth: either obey God, and be saved from your sins, or fail to obey God, and be lost in your sins (cf. Rom. 6:23). One does not have to be a prolific, or exceptionally egregious sinner to abide in Hell in eternity. Failure to obey the Gospel is really all that it takes (2 The. 1:6-9).

But, since we all have a choice in the matter, I would like to strongly argue that you should accept Heaven's invitation, for a few compelling reasons. First of all, every human being should accept Heaven's invitation, because Heaven is such a wonderful place. It defies description, since it is so unlike anywhere on Earth (Rev. 21:4). I have always been persuaded that, if people really understood what Heaven is, then they would do whatever it takes to make sure that they go there, when life on Earth is all done!

Secondly, every human being should accept Heaven's invitation, because Hell is such a terrible place. Like Heaven, Hell also defies humanity's attempts to describe it, since it is so unlike anywhere on Earth (Rev. 20:14,15). I have always been persuaded that, if people really understood what Hell is, then they would do whatever it takes to make sure that they go there, when life on Earth is all done!

Thirdly, every human being should accept Heaven's invitation, because a life lived in obedience

to God is far better than a life lived in rebellion against God. Jesus calls human beings to live an "abundant" life (John 10:10b). That does not mean that Christians are promised a life that is free from anxiety and suffering, but it does mean that Christians are promised a life that is free from the guilt and regret that goes along with a life that is lived in sin (Gal. 6:7,8). A godly life is the best way of life on Earth!

Finally, every human being should accept Heaven's invitation, because time is swiftly running out. None of us knows how long we will live on Earth. If we procrastinate and put off obeying the Lord, we may find out that we waited too long and our last chance to make our hearts right with God has already come and gone (Jam. 4:13-15). Besides that, none of us knows when Jesus shall return to bring the world to its ultimate end (Mat. 24:36). We know that the Lord is coming back, but we are not meant to know when that will be (Mat. 24:36-44). Therefore it is up to all of us to obey the Lord while we still have the chance to do so, and not to put it off for some other time.

Dear reader, Heaven's invitation goes out to you, right now! If it is your wish to accept Heaven's invitation, then obey the Gospel plan of salvation, which was described earlier in this article. If you do not wish to accept it, then you don't have to do anything. Just continue on any other path in life, and it will be assured that you will not be in Heaven, in eternity. But, it is my sincere hope and fervent prayer that you will decide to accept Heaven's invitation today, and begin right now to live a life of faithfulness and service to God, as you look forward to the endless bliss that eternity in Heaven promises us all. Remember that time is short, eternity is endless, and no one is guaranteed a second chance to obey the Gospel!

YOUTH NEWS

- *BibleQuest 2021* is scheduled for Saturday, July 31. Questions will come from the New King James Version of Psalms 1 - 50. **Russell Kline** has begun a Youtube channel for BibleQuest, where he will post videos, which will also be available on the BibleQuest Facebook page. Two new videos were posted last week..



GOOD WORKS IN PROGRESS

- ◆ The elders are asking everyone who attends worship services and Bible studies at the church building to wear a facemask and to observe social distancing protocols. Please do not come to church, if you have a fever, or are experiencing any other symptoms of illness. If we all will observe these simple rules, we can help to keep each other safe during this perilous time of pandemic.
- ◆ In a recent meeting, the elders decided that the 2021 edition of the *Madisonville Church of Christ Bible Lectureship* should be postponed until a later date. It is hoped that in the second half of the year, the severity of the pandemic will be lessened and we will be better able to host the event. Please pray for this and other efforts that we are planning in 2021.

FAMILY NEWS

- ◇ **William Drake** remains in room #372 at Baptist Health Madisonville, where he is being treated for pneumonia. Please remember him in your prayers.
- ◇ **Bill Eaton** is now home from the hospital. Please remember him in your prayers.

NEWS OF THE BROTHERHOOD

- * The 54th Annual *Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship* has been rescheduled for May 23-27. The theme is "Magnify His Name." be sure to visit their website www.msop.org for more information.
- * Watch the *Gospel Broadcasting Network* 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, at their web site: www.gbntv.org.
- * Listen to Biblical podcasts on *The Light Network* 24 hours per day, 7 days per week at their web site: www.thelightnetwork.tv.
- * Try www.truth.fm for more Christian radio programming.
- * Check out www.wvbs.org for new videos on a wide range of Biblical subjects.



Visit 365.polishingthepulpit.com and click on "Sign Up." Then, choose the option that says "I am a member of a subscribing congregation" and enter the required information. When you are approved, you will receive an email with further instructions. Contact Russell Kline, if you have any questions about this service.