

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### Church Members

*Rhyan Beverly*: chronic health problems

*Julie Blades*: cancer

*Kerry Burton*: cancer

*Joanne Crawford*: Wellington PARC

*William Drake*: Hillside Center

*Mike Griffith*: heart problems

*Kevin Kline*: LHON

*Tracy Kline*: chronic kidney disease

*Janice Lee*: chronic health problems

*Charlotte McElvain*: Ridgewood Terrace

*Joyce Potts*: Meniere's Disease

*Scott Settle*: heart problems

*Louise Smith*: chronic health problems

*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, Steve Slaton

### In the Military

*Zack Eakins*: United States Army

## ATTENDANCE & CONTRIBUTION

For the week of March 21, 2021

Bible Study N/A

Morning Worship 99

Evening Worship 51

Contribution \$3716.00

Budget \$3025.00

Wednesday Bible Study 36

### TODAY'S SERMONS

AM: The Cost of COVID-19

Luke 14:25-33

PM: The Heritage of the Righteous & the...

Psalms 37:1-10

### 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](http://www.madisonvillechurchofchrist.org)

**Russell M. Kline**, preacher / (270) 836-2301 / [msop1989@yahoo.com](mailto:msop1989@yahoo.com)

Volume 86—Number 10

March 28, 2021

## DYING TO SELF

By Robert Hatfield

While I cherish the death of my Lord for me, I am too often reluctant to die to myself for Him. The problem is that it is not enough to accept Christ's cross while rejecting the cross to which I am called. Consider this with me.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus made it plain that He must suffer, die, and rise from the dead in order to fulfill God's plan. In Mark's account of the Gospel we see this emphasis no fewer than three times; that Jesus "*must suffer man things and be rejected...and be killed, and after three days rise again*" (Mark 8:31; cf. 9:31; 10:33).

That notion was completely backward to the disciples, who were expecting the Messiah to reign over a physical kingdom (likely a restored Israel). It was after Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ (Mark 8:27) that the Lord began to speak so plainly about His impending death and resurrection (Mark 8:31). And yet it was Peter who tried to rebuke Jesus for predicting such suffering (Mark 8:32). Again, Peter's expectation was different from reality. Jesus, in turn, issued a stern rebuke to him: "*Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man*" (Mark 8:33).

Peter's response is typical of humans, isn't it? After all, who would think that the path to freedom for mankind would involve the arrest of their Savior? How could it be true that eternal life comes only through the death of our Redeemer? "*Though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor*" (2 Cor. 8:9). The One who had infinite strength made Himself weak. He who was perfectly innocent suffered the death of the worst criminal.

## 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)

Jesus stated the reason why this philosophy is so backward to human thinking: “*You are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man*” (Mark 8:33). When it is all about me, then I feel I must defend myself, but when it is all about the glory of God, I can finally be free from selfish ambition and can place complete trust in God without any hindrances.

Ironically, the very words spoken at Golgotha by the mocking bystanders illustrate both the limited perspective of humanity and the wonderful love manifested in the sacrifice of God’s own Son. In derision they said, “*Save yourself, and come down from the cross!*” (Mark 15:30). Yet if Jesus had come down from the cross, He could not have saved either Himself or anyone else. The very reason why He came was “*to give his life a ransom for many*” (Mark 10:45), and He could only accomplish that by dying on the cross.

Such selfless sacrifice just does not make sense to a world that cannot see why anyone would want to save anything other than self. However, selfishness is shortsighted.

The Lord explains: “*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?*” (Mark 8:34-37). In summary, you will lose the life Christ promises in the hereafter if you try to preserve your life for yourself here. Why would you make that kind of choice when your soul is worth infinitely more than anything on earth?

Do you see how the Lord weaves together what He did on the cross and what He expects His followers to do in their lives? That actions of our Lord on the cross demand a response. According to Jesus, the only acceptable response is to bear your

own cross. But how?

Listen to Paul in Galatians 2:20: “*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*” Note four brief observations about Paul’s response to the cross of Christ.

**First, there was the cost of what Paul had done.** He said, “*I have been crucified with Christ.*” Later, he identified the cross of Christ as the means by which “*the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world*” (Gal. 6:14). So worldliness has been put to death in Paul by means of Paul’s relationship to the cross. How did he come in contact with the cross of Christ? Responding in obedience to the Gospel, Paul came into contact with the cross of Christ (and the blood Jesus shed there) when he was baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:1-4). He didn’t stop there.

**Second, notice the character that resulted.** “*It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.*” In dying to the world, Paul died to the worldliness that once resided in him. Committing himself to Jesus, Paul resolved to “*deny himself*” (Mark 8:34) and be “*dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus*” (Rom. 6:11).

**Third, notice Paul’s conviction going forward.** He continued: “*The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God.*” Christians walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7). Faith is more than mentally acknowledging something to be true; it is conviction expressed in action (Jam. 2:26). If I died to myself, I will demonstrate that by living with and for Christ!

**Finally, note Paul’s emphasis on the Christ.** Paul said he lived by faith in “*the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*” How do we find the power to die to self and continually deny self in a world in which that is so backward? That power is found only in Jesus!

## 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. New videos will be posted every 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.
- ◆ **Tracy Kline** is undergoing a program of physical therapy to treat the chronic pain she has been suffering in her left shoulder. She is also being treated for stage 5 chronic kidney disease. At some point, later this year, she is going to have to go on kidney dialysis. The goal for now is to keep her off of kidney dialysis for as long as possible. Please remember her in your prayers.

## FAMILY NEWS

- ◇ **Pat Villines** had cataract surgery last Wednesday, in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, She is recovering at home. Please remember her in your prayers.

## NEWS OF THE BROTHERHOOD

- \* The 30th Annual *Truth in Love Lectureship* is going to be hosted by the East Hill Church of Christ, in Pulaski, Tennessee on May 12-16. The theme is “Never Leave the Lord.” Please visit [www.truthinlovelectureship.com](http://www.truthinlovelectureship.com) for more information.
- \* The 54th Annual *Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship* has been scheduled for May 23-27. The theme is “Magnify His Name.” Be sure to visit their website [www.msop.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.thelightnetwork.tv).



Visit [365.polishingthepulpit.com](http://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.