



Guyana

Wayne Pruette,
David Paher,
Dhamendra Ramgovin,

Ernesto John
Florence, Italy
Scott Shanahan

Hurley, MS

Steven Lucas

Indonesia

Colin McKee

Philippines

Tomas Lizardo,

Demar Elam,

Reynaldo Sienes

Romania

Harvey

Starling

Honduras

Phil Waldron

In Search of Lord's Way

**12.26.21 – "The
Second Coming"**

Jesus has promised to come again for His people. What will happen on that day? Will the dead come to life? Will we see Him in the air?

Montgomery: TV 8

Sunday 7:30 am

DISH: Sun 7:00 am

(EST)

Channel 239

DirecTV: Sun 7:00 am

(EST) Channel 307

WGN: Sun 6:00 am

(CST)

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shall hear my voice" (Psalm 55:17).

"The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me – A prayer to the God of my life" (Psalm 42:8). I love the Lord because He really does care!

Like the Psalmist, I love the Lord because of His **capability**. *"The pains of death surrounded me, And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I found trouble and sorrow. Then I called upon the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I implore You, deliver my soul!'" (Psalm 116:3-4).*

Not only is God willing to hear us and cares for us, but He is the only One Who can fix my sorrows! Life is sometimes filled with distress, trouble and sorrow. Who can **really** help you when you hear your doctor say, "There is nothing we can do"? Who can **really** help you when you feel all alone?

Who can truly calm your spirit in the midst of anxiety and worry? My God is capable! He is the only truly capable One Who can turn the night into day, the sorrow into celebration and the pain into power.

"The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble. And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You" (Psalm 9:9-10).

Still further, "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). I love the Lord because He is **capable**!

Like the Psalmist, I love the Lord because of His **compassion**. *"Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me" (Psalm 116:5-6).*

Compassion is such a wonderful characteristic to behold, especially if you are on the receiving end of it. Compassion comes from a Latin word that means "to suffer with." The very truth that the Creator cares for the creation is compassion! The Perfect caring for the imperfect is compassion! God, Who needs nothing, extending His mercy and help to us, who need everything, is by far the greatest example of compassion ever seen. God's compassion and help are evident in the sending of His Son to die for a lost race (John 3:16-17; Romans 5:6-8). God's love and compassion are motivating reasons to love the Lord (1 John 4:10). Viewing a destroyed city, with tear-filled eyes, Jeremiah focused on God's compassion. "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Serving God is not only about rules – dos and don'ts. Sadly, some live their entire Christian lives and never really stop to think about why they are His disciples.

While Satan wants us to forget, may we always remember **God cares, is capable and is compassionate.**

I love the Lord! How about you?

Cedar Grove church of Christ

11103 Brooklyn Road, Andalusia, Alabama 36421

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I Love the Lord

Sometimes in the midst of discipleship, the most fundamental and most important facet is lost, the need to love the Lord. Although it may sound a bit elementary at first, loving the Lord is at the heart of everything we do or do not do as disciples (Matthew 22:37-40).

Some view discipleship as a bunch of "do and do nots." Viewing our service to God considering just "rules" makes our Christianity very mechanical and ritualistic. Quite clearly, that attitude takes away the joy of serving God. This was the greatest downfall of the Pharisees. They viewed their following God as a removal of the heart and volition, as they boiled their relationship to God down to simply a bunch of rules (Matthew 23:23).

Why are you a disciple? Why have you made the choice to follow Jesus? The Psalmist summed up an amazing reason for us to consider.

I love the Lord, because He has heard My voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live. The pains of death surrounded me, And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I found trouble and sorrow. Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "O Lord,

I implore You, deliver my soul!"

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me. (Psalm 116:1-6 NKJV)

Like the Psalmist, I love the Lord because of His **care**. *"I love the Lord, because He has heard My voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me..." (Psalm 116:1-2a).*

Wonderfully and encouragingly, God's ears are available to us day and night! God never grows weary or tired of hearing His children or their problems and heartaches.

David so wonderfully penned, *"Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He*

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Symptoms of Larger Problems

"I don't have any problem with instrumental music," a brother or sister affirms. Such statements are heard more frequently from people with long standing connections to the church. Since I believe there are good biblical reasons for rejecting instrumental music, I am distressed at hearing such declarations. Often, I believe, they are symptoms of larger problems.

The quest for a "new hermeneutic" that received so much attention a few years ago was, in my opinion, a search for a way of reading the Bible that would enable "us" to be accepted by Evangelicals, to be no longer considered outsiders.

The "new hermeneutic" leads to acceptance of instruments in worship, allows for wider use of women in worship leadership and enables preachers to say baptism is essential for salvation while still accepting unimmersed people as Christians. Becoming an accepted denomination among denominations seems to be the reason for it, and complete loss of every distinctive element of the restoration plea is the fruit of it. *Cecil May, Jr.*



Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



Adult bible classes this quarter: Young adults in the annex, taught by Greg Bryant (Sunday); all ages in the auditorium (Sunday), taught by Gary Davenport; all ages in the auditorium (Wednesday), taught by Roddy Thomasson.

There will be no fellowship meal in the month of December .

Our next monthly congregational singing will be Wednesday, December 29, at 6:30 in the auditorium.

Pantry item for December: Soup and peanut butter.

Our elders will meet Sunday, January 2 at 3:30 in the annex, if you have items you wish to discuss.

Wi-Fi connection — ID: CedarGrove, **password:** cedargrove2020.



L2L Youth (boys & girls) will meet the 3rd Wednesday night of each month during the school year at 5:30 p.m. in the annex for a monthly meal.



Provide food: January 19: Bush.

WEEKLY LADIES CLASS Meeting again on Wednesday, January 5 at 10 a.m. in the library. They are studying 1, 2, 3 John.



MONTHLY LADIES BIBLE CLASS (6 p.m.)
January 3: Terry Davenport, presenter. Service project: Children's Advocacy Center.

FOR THE RECORD

Today's Lessons
9:30 a.m. class and sermon series
Last Week's Record
Bible Classes: 81 Sunday AM: 131
Sunday PM: NC
Wednesday PM:
Contribution: \$8,530

PRAYERS REQUESTED: Curtis Thomasson is recovering from a broken arm. Linda Hendrix is now at home after having back surgery and is doing good. Thank you to those who provided food.

Linda Rabren is feeling a little stronger and hopes to be able to take it this week.

Shelia Bracewell had a lung biopsy on Tuesday at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola. She should hear the test results in early January.

Amelia Lindsey is in the Flowers Hospital in Dothan after having surgery last Wednesday but hopes to come home today.

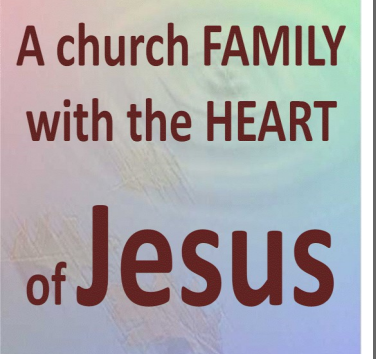
Hiram Lambert, brother-in-law of Sammy Sutton, is home under Hospice care. Cheryl Boswell, Pat Grissett and Christine Bundrick all remain in Andalusia Manor.

Remember those who for various reasons are still at home and unable to come to worship services or who have asked to be remembered in our prayers: Shelia Rhea and Family, Judy Dillard, Joe Keller, Freida Bass, Mary Ann Rabren, Roy & Audrey Wilson, Dorrell Thomasson, Billy Max & Mary Wilson, family of Layla Watson and Ruth Moore's family.

We believe that to subscribe to any creed other than the New Testament, to refuse to obey any New Testament command, or to follow any practice not sustained by the



New Testament, would be adding to or taking away from the teachings of God (Galatians 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19). The New Testament reveals that God has vested "all authority" in Christ (Matthew 28:18), and that Christ serves as God's spokesman today (Hebrews 1:1-21).



LEADERSHIP & STAFF

MINISTRY LEADERS

Benevolence: Roddy Thomasson (deacon), Jody Dillard
Care Groups: Monty Russell (deacon)

Education: Curtis Thomasson (elder)

Visitation & Evangelism: Roddy Thomasson (deacon)

Grounds & Seniors:

Mac Bracewell (deacon)

Maintenance & Missions:

Wes Thomasson (deacon)

Publicity: Clif Green (deacon)

Youth: Jed Blackwell (deacon)

Shepherds: Greg Bryant, Curtis Thomasson, Kyle Thomasson

Minister: Gary Davenport