

SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

Sunday morning worship (Bible study)	9:30 AM
Sunday morning worship (Preaching)	10:30 AM
Sunday afternoon worship (Preaching).....	4:00 PM
Wednesday evening worship (Bible Study).....	7:00 PM

NEWS AND NOTES

VISITORS: If you are visiting with us, we welcome you and ask that you please sign our guest book and fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection basket or give it to one of the men in the congregation.

SCHEDULE: The schedule for October is posted on the bulletin board so the men can see what their responsibilities are for the month.

GOSPELL MEETINGS: Posey church of Christ Oct 1-4 with Don Miller 7pm. Belgreen church of Christ Oct 1-4 with different speaker each night 7pm. Northeast church of Christ Oct 1-6 with Paul Sheehan 7 pm.

OUT OF TOWN: Randy Elliott is now in Texas (in the Houston area) helping with the clean-up from Hurricane Harvey. Remember him in your prayers while he is away from us. David and Peggy Tiffin are away on vacation. Beulah Tooley is away, helping with the newborn twin boys.

SICK AND SHUT-INS: Sue Mauldin was moved Saturday afternoon to Sanctuary Hospice House 5159 W Main St Tupelo, MS. Zola Basham's brother, Elmo Wilson is out of the hospital and now in physical therapy. Dottie Henderson's sister, Judy Thrasher, is in Shoals Hospital. Helen Sparks has health issues that sometime keeps her from services. Brittney Day continues to have problems with her back and will possibly be having further treatment soon.

REJOICING: We rejoice with Bruce and Beulah in the birth of their twin grandsons. Sarah gave birth to twin boys John Whitmore and William Wade Tuesday afternoon. Both mother and babies are doing well. We are also very happy that Brenda Elliott has made good progress with her new knee and was able to be at worship services this past Sunday evening.

PRAYER: Continue to remember Lydia (Richard and Beth Hammock's daughter) who is expecting.

NOTE: If you know of someone who should be mentioned, please tell the one who makes the announcements. To have information put in the bulletin please get it to Jerry before Saturday afternoon.

POINTS TO PONDER

- If your life is "hemmed" with prayer, it isn't likely to "ravel" out.
- Postponed obedience is disobedience.

THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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WHAT RELIGION MEANS TO THE CHRISTIAN

Religion is defined by Webster as: (1) the service and worship of God or the supernatural (2) commitment or devotion to religious faith or observance. For our consideration in this article, I am using the word in the sense of the service or practice that stems from conviction. Religion may be right or wrong; sincere or insincere; true or false; full and rewarding or vain Matt 15:9; Jas 1:26, 27. What difference does your religion make in your life? When converted to Christ: the Eunuch went on his way "rejoicing" Acts 8:39; the Jews were "praising God" Acts 2:47 and the apostle Paul was ready to die Acts 21:13. So, what does religion mean to you? Look with me at what religion should mean to one who is a Christian.

Because they are practicing the religion of Jesus Christ, Christians realize they must live a pure life Tit 2:11-14. For there to be a pure life, there must first of all be a pure heart Matt 5:8 and a person's heart is purified by faith Acts 15:9; 1Pet 1:22. A person then demonstrates purity in their life by what they think Phil 4:8; Prov 23:7; what they say Eph 4:29; Jas 1:26 and what they do Phil 2:14, 15; 1Thess 5:22.

Religion, to the Christian, gives them a sense of direction. In life, most people want good health, homes, children, security and everything that goes to make for a pleasant and enjoyable life. But, one needs to stop and consider, in which direction do I want my life to go? Our religion should cause us to want to be a Christian; to set a good example for

others and to have our ultimate goal of heaven. Therefore, our religion causes us to not be a friend of the world Jas 4:4; Jhn 15:19; 1Jhn 2:15-17. Following Christ with conviction and purpose brings a sense of well-being to our lives.

To the Christian, religion takes away the fear of defeat and gives them a spirit of victory. There are some seeming contradictory ideas involved in one being religious by the standard of Jesus Christ. To be a follower of Christ one becomes victorious by surrendering Matt 11:28-30; becomes alive by dying Gal 2:20; finds life by losing it Matt 16:25; and become free by becoming a servant Rom 6:16-18. Jesus set the example for us when he said: "nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" Matt 26:39. Because Jesus was willing to do His Father's will he was victorious over death and as a result we can be victorious in our fight 2Tim 4:7,8; Phil 4:13; 1Jhn 5:4. We too can have victory over death 1Cor 15:57

However, being religious according to God's standards presents a great challenge. Too many have given up the challenge. Individuals can be heard to say: they "use to be Christians". And then there are those who think they have "arrived" and are lulled into complacency Rev 3:17. Most people today are concerned more about "things" than they are about pleasing God, that is, living according to His standards. What about when we die Matt 16:26; Lk 12:16-21? Of what value will all our "things" be to us then? We must use what we have to God's glory 1Cor 6:20; Matt 25:14-30. This is the challenge to the Christian as they practice the religion of Christ.

To the Christian, religion provides refuge and security. God promised: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" Heb 13:5. In this world of change and everything being transient we need a place of security and Christ is that place. He is able to keep that which we give Him 2Tim 1:12. We must plant and water but God gives the increase 1Cor 3:6. When we give ourselves to Him completely, he then becomes our keeper and helper. We must surrender body, soul and spirit to God Matt 22:37. We must trust him at all times Prov 3:5. We must let His word be our authority in all things 2Tim 3:16, 17. And our bodies and minds must be His servants Rom 6:16; 12:1, 2

So, what does your religion mean to you? If it is not true religion "Christianity" it means little in respect to eternity. Our religion must have meaning, but meaning from a scriptural viewpoint or it is meaningless or vain Matt 15:9. (jlh)

"DAY OF THE LORD"

By Robert F. Turner

In Isa. 13:6,9-ff we read, "Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand... Behold the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. ...therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of host, and in the day of his fierce anger."

Surely this refers to the end of time -- but wait -- the chapter begins: "The burden of Babylon," and vs. 17-19 says, "I will stir up the Medes against them ... and Babylon ... shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah." This does NOT refer to the end of time -- but to the destruction of the power of Babylon.

In Isa. 34:2-f. we read, "For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations ... and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the hosts of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth...." Verse 8 says, "It is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up forever; from generation to generation it shall lie waste"; etc. Is this the end of time? NO, this is God's punishment of Idumeans (vs. 5).

God, through Jeremiah, foretold the overthrow of Egypt by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (Jer. 46) and called this "the day of the Lord God of hosts." God foretold judgment upon Israel (Joel. 1:1-f.) calling it "the day of the Lord (vs. 15), preceded by "the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood" (2:31). The destruction of Jerusalem, as foretold in Zec. 14, is called "the day of the Lord" and says, "Then shall the Lord go forth...." It should come as no surprise to students of the Old Testament when Jesus foretells the destruction of Jerusalem (Matt. 24) that he uses the same sort of language saying "there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." The sun will "be darkened and the moon shall not give her light and the stars shall fall from heaven and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" (Matt. 24:7-34).

Clearly, not every "Day of the Lord" is the final judgment day, the final coming of the Lord. The Lord has "come" many times -- in judgment upon nations, cities, people. Almost without exception, his "coming" is pictured in strong, colorful figures, with many references to the sun, moon and stars. Their "falling" evidently refers to the overthrow of government and great military powers. Perhaps all these figures portend the final and literal coming of the Lord described in 2Pet. 3:10-f. With such examples of His power and warnings, we should prepare for His certain coming.

-- Via Plain Talk, June 1974