

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: Phil Campbell church of Christ October 8-11 with Don Miller, 7 pm weeknights. Elgin Hills church of Christ Oct 8-11 with Ron Daly, 7 pm weeknights.

OUT OF TOWN: Randy Elliott is still 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. They hope to be here for worship this afternoon. Beulah Tooley is away, helping with the newborn twin boys. Richard and Beth Hammock are leaving on their trip Oct 10th and will be gone about twelve days. Jerry and Dottie Henderson will be leaving Oct 12 on vacation and will return Oct 19th or 20th.

SICK AND SHUT-INS: Sue Mauldin was moved Saturday afternoon Sept 30, to Sanctuary Hospice House 5159 W Main St Tupelo, MS. Zola Basham's brother, Elmo Wilson is now in physical therapy. Helen Sparks has health issues that sometime keeps her from services. Brittney Day's back problem is now being treated with a series of shots along with physical therapy.

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

- Talking godly does not always mean one is walking godly.
- You may give without loving, but you can't love without giving.
- A kind word picks a person up when trouble weighs them down.

THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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DESIGNATED SITTER

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

I once overheard some young men discussing their baseball little league careers. One of the group had been a catcher, another had played second, etc. One was asked, "What did you play?" "Well, I was a designated sitter", was the terse reply. Not a designated hitter, but a designated sitter.

Now, you will have to admit that was a clever way to avoid saying, "I was a bench warmer." Sounds more important too. Upon reflection, I have concluded that his position was really more important than it sounded. Any good sports coach will tell you that to have a really good team that you need a "strong bench" – that battery of "designated sitters" who avidly support the "starters" and are ever willing to step in and do the job whenever needed. They are essential to the team and are often the real heroes of the game.

In the church, there are certain positions that are more visible than others. Everyone cannot play the same position. (Read 1 Corinthians 12). The strength of the church is too often measured by the perceived strength of the more visible members – the preacher, the elders, the song leaders, class teachers, etc. Oh, these are important positions. They should be filled by those qualified to do the work. As important as they are, the real strength of the church may not be in those who regularly perform these functions. It often lies with the "designated sitters" – those who hold up the hands of the "regulars" and are willing to step in whenever needed to do the best they can in whatever role the occasion calls for. As in a play, the success of the production often depends as much on the supporting cast, working behind the scenes, as it does on those who are seen on stage.

For several years following World War II, there was a flurry of "missionary" activity around the world. A number of brethren were announcing plans to go to this or that country. They were rightly receiving notoriety as their plans were announced in the various papers published by brethren. I heard one preacher, who was justly proud that two of his sons were among those willing to leave the comforts of home and go into the foreign work, make an appeal for brethren to support all those men who, like his sons, were willing to go. Then someone asked the brother, why he, too, was not planning to join his sons in going, if it were so important. He answered, "Because someone needs to stay at home to help provide and encourage support for those who are going?" I think he was right.

While we must have those who are "on the field" or "at bat", we also need the strong support of "designated sitters." Men like Onesiphorus (2 Tim. 1:16), who may not be as visible or as well-known as others, but are always there lending whatever service and support they can to the team effort. When good men are publicly doing their best to promote and uphold truth and carry on the Lord's work in general, they need words of comfort rather than criticism. When one has to take the lead in teaching and defending the gospel it is comforting, knowing that those "on the bench" are willing to stand up beside them in a show of solidarity.

Thank God for every good "designated sitter."

COMPETITION FOR THE MIND

by Dee Bowman

In Ephesians 4:26, 27, Paul commanded, "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil." This passage is variously translated. Phillips renders it, "Don't give the devil that sort of foothold." Goodspeed's translation says, "You must not give the devil a chance." The Twentieth Century New Testament gives it, "And give no opportunity to the Devil." The thought in all of these is the same: mainly, don't give the Devil residency in your mind.

Someone has said, "You can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from nesting in your hair." In the same way, you can't keep the Devil from making periodic trips through your mind, but you don't have to give him a place to stay.

In this age, there is a constant bombardment of the mind by the Devil. He is seeking a place to stay. And one of the ways he does it is by advertising. Our society is addicted to it. Its influence in our lives is astounding.

This competition for the mind is relentless and indefatigable. Just as the means is subtle and effective. Secularism is disguised as success; materialism wears the mask of excellence; free love is passed off as freedom of human expression. The result is indifference toward God.

Those who give over to this cunningly devised plan will find it hard to leave. Once they enter this world of "let me do it my way," they quickly become so mired that only the strongest will can divorce them from their predicament. The appetite for such loose activities cannot be satisfied and calls for an ever-deepening, always increasing evil just to top the last "satisfaction" they enjoyed.

Such careless subscription to the devil's ploys results in disaster. The giving of oneself to a life without restraint results in a cluttered, undisciplined mind, one difficult to penetrate and often without much feeling for others. Such thinking dampens the spirit of purpose, causes its adherent to be tentative in his plans, temporary in his judgment. It restrains the inclination to grow—intellectually, spiritually, or any other way.

It is short-sighted, foolish to listen to promises of the sort we see everywhere displayed by our adversary. Three things stand out to me as necessary to guard against the Devil's efforts to capture the mind:

1. Make sure your focus is right. Where are you looking? In what direction are you heading? Like Paul, we must "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). The Hebrew writer said of Jesus, ". . . who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross . . ." (Hebrews 12:2). We need to set before us the hope of heaven.

2. Develop a determination toward self-regulation in your life. Paul said it was necessary. "But I keep under," (buffet – ASV) my body and bring it into subjection: that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1Corinthians 9:26, 27). The life that is not managed properly vacillates, is tentative, not fixed on course.

3. Return to a regular association with truth. It is just so that we are influenced by our companions. When you tolerate associations with the Devil, you are just apt to be like him. But when you are in constant contact with the truth, it will be the pervading influence in your life.

There is a battle raging - a serious, eternal - life threatening battle. We can lose it if we are not careful. The mind is the battleground. Choose your associations carefully and well.