

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 February is posted on the bulletin board so the men can see what their responsibilities are for the month.

SICK AND SHUT-INS: Brenda Elliott is doing some better and may even be able to be at services today. Telford Hamm had surgery Friday to clear a blockage that was preventing blood flow to his leg. Dottie and I saw him after surgery and he was doing well then and he was still doing well Saturday evening. George Humphries' doctor gave him a good report and told him he would see him in a year. Elmo Wilson, Zola Basham's brother continues to have health problems. Helen Sparks has health issues that sometime keeps her from services. Brittney Day continues to have back pain and takes shots periodically for that pain. Tammy Pendergraph's mother is about the same. There may be others who are sick that I am unaware of, if so, please tell Bruce Tooley, who is making announcements in February

GOSPEL MEETINGS / SINGINGS: College View, (for ladies only) Saturday, March 3rd 9-11 AM Teacher: Joan Coffey from Louisville, KY. Russellville Church March 11-14 with Kenny Moorer (time unknown). Riverbend March 11-16 with Mike Richardson, weekdays 7 pm. South Cullman, March 16, Singing, Friday 7 pm. Posey March 18-21 with Mike Morrow (time unknown).

NOTE: To have information put in the bulletin please get it to Jerry before Saturday afternoon.

POINTS TO PONDER

- God's power is able to perform what His purpose plans.
- The heart cannot be pure when the tongue is unclean.
- A person who knows everything has a lot to learn.
- Jealousy is to the soul what sickness is to the body.

THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

Published by the Eastside church of Christ Red Bay, AL
Meeting at the corner of Hwy 24 East and Meadow Dr.
Web Site: <http://eastsidechurchrb.com/>

Vol. I - No. 43 – February 25, 2018

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ACCOUNTABILITY

By Kyle Campbell

“And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord ...” 2 Samuel 12:13

Of all the scorned words in America's mind, accountability must be near the top. Accountability has become a by-word in a nation that seeks to blame other people or events for their own misdeeds. Since the Bible never uses the word accountability, we have to turn to other sources for its definition. According to Webster's, accountability is “the quality or state of being accountable; answerable or bound to give an explanation.” With so many Americans seeing a therapist or mental health professional, the tendency has become to find events in someone's past and blame the current problem on the past event. In the end, accountability is lost because personal choices can no longer be controlled.

How many have witnessed people blame their sin-filled lives on abuse or a childhood trauma? I do not intend to seem cold-hearted because I know people who have legitimate problems because of past events. However, the problem with this widespread diagnosis is that it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. More and more find it easier to shirk responsibility because they do not feel responsible.

Simply put, a loss of accountability translates into a loss of guilt or remorse for sin. When there is no remorse or guilt, sin is unrestrained. Ezekiel 18:20 makes it clear that the responsibility lies squarely on our shoulders. We are accountable for what we do because we ultimately make the decision to act in a certain way. If someone in our past sinned against us by treating us a certain way, they will answer to God for their sins.

In contrast to the “spirit of the age,” accountability is prominent in the Bible. We will be accountable to God for our own individual actions (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Luke 16:2; Romans 14:12; Revelation 20:11-15), our words (Matthew 12:36), our sins (Romans 3:19), and our faithfulness (Matthew 25:21; 1Corinthians 4:1-2). We are accountable to Christ because of His authority in the judgment (John 5:22, 27; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:16), His judgment of human works (Matthew 25:31-46; 1Corinthians 3:11-15; 4:4-5; 2Corinthians 5:10), and His judgment of local churches (1Peter 4:17; Revelations 2:1-3:21). We also cannot forget our accountability to the elders of the church (Hebrews 13:17) and our accountability to governmental officials (Daniel 6:2; Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1; 1Peter 2:13-14). As you can see, mankind is very accountable.

In order for people to turn from their sins, the “spirit of this age” must be vanquished. Responsibility for sins is a reality each of us face regardless of popular psychology. Do not be worn down by subtle semantics or the shifting of blame to escape accountability. The drunkard is an alcoholic because he decided to take the first drink. A smoker is addicted to nicotine because he decided to smoke the first cigarette. An unwed mother must care for her children the best she can because she decided to commit fornication. As painful as the consequences are, the truth still stands that we make those decisions.

TWO TEENAGERS STRUGGLE TO MATURE

By Bill Hall

The first teenager has been brought up from childhood to recognize that there is a dark side; that there are failures as

well as successes; that there are sacrifices and disappointments to be experienced as well as joys. While his parents have done all they could to cushion the blows of life, they have allowed their child to learn that the blows are there and by experience to cope with them as they come.

The second teenager has been carefully shielded from the darker realities of life. He has never been in a funeral home, has never attended a funeral, has never visited a person with a terminal illness. His parents have taught him little about sacrificing for the Lord. Whenever conflicts arise between his own activities of interest and the Lord’s work, they have made the decision for him, and being over-solicitous for their child’s happiness, they have allowed him to forsake the Lord’s work for his own pleasure, never wanting to see their child disappointed.

The first teenager has a considerable jump on the second in the maturing process. Decisions involving priorities are easy for him, for he has been making them with the help of parental guidance since childhood. Temptations are still difficult, and the desires of the flesh are strong, but, after all, he has never been able to have everything he wants. He is far better able to “roll with the punches” that life serves up, for he has had some training along those lines. Sickness and death are a reality to him, and he does not feel uncomfortable in their presence. He loves success and joy but can live with failure and sadness.

The second teenager struggles greatly. He is suddenly taken from his sheltered environment, and is plunged into a world for which he is unprepared. He is angry and bitter when others fail to cater to him. He is devastated by the “raw deal” he gets on his job. He feels uncomfortable when death is discussed and shrinks back from the reality of it. He cannot be content on his anemic salary, but when his parents help him finance his accustomed lifestyle, his self-respect is dealt a severe blow. He flounders, and his soul is in danger, for he has never learned to sort his priorities or to make decisions essential for soul’s well-being.

This writer once asked a friend how to build character in children. The friend said, “I don’t know, but it is not by giving them everything they want.” Have we, in our great “love” for our children, become their worst enemies?