

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 April will be posted on the bulletin board so the men can see what their responsibilities are for the month.

SICK AND SHUT-INS: Elmo Wilson, Zola Basham's brother continues to have health problems. Helen Sparks has health issues that sometime keeps her from services. Brittney Day received shots for her back pain this past week and is feeling better. There may be others who are sick that I am unaware of, if so, please tell Jerry Henderson, who is making announcements in March.

OUT OF TOWN: Jack and Brenda Elliott are out of town today. Others have been traveling and hopefully they are safely home now.

GOSPEL MEETINGS / SINGINGS: Lacy Springs March 25-28 with Alton Baily Weekdays 7 pm. West Hamilton April 1-3 with Ben May Weekdays 7 pm. Helton Drive April 1-5 with Joshua Carter (time unknown). East Florence April 8-13 with Richie Thetford, weekdays 7 pm. Eastside (Russellville) April 8-13 with David Maxson (time unknown). College View Young Peoples' Bible Study April 13-14 speaker: Bill Sanchez (time unknown). Danville Road April 8-11 with Jared McCrary weekdays 7 pm. Riverbend April 20 Singing 7 pm. Market Street April 22-27 with Jim Deason (time unknown). New Georgia April 22-27 with Lowell Sallee (time unknown). Piney Grove April 29-May 2 with Greg Chandler weekdays 7 pm. Phil Campbell April 29 - May 2 (speaker unknown) weekdays 7 pm.

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

POINTS TO PONDER

- The resource from which God gives is boundless, measureless, unlimited, unending, abundant, almighty, and eternal.
 - A clean conscience makes a soft pillow.

THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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OUR GOSPEL MEETING

April 1-6

Service times are:

Sunday 9:30 & 10:30 AM & 4:00 PM

Monday - Friday 7:00 PM

Speaker: Stephen Russell

**For more information or transportation
Call 662-542-3170**

Please consider this to be your personal invitation to this gospel meeting and be sure to invite your neighbors and friends to attend with you.

MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND

DEALING WITH OTHERS

By Donnie Rader

Dealing with others is not always easy. What should I say? How much should I believe of what I hear? Is there another side to the story I've been told? Am I being fair in my dealings with others? These and other questions must be answered.

When we deal with others there is always the potential for differences to arise. When those differences come it is easy to forget to use some common-sense rules in our conflict. We are not always as fair in dealing with those we disagree with as we are in defending ourselves or those with whom agree.

For some time, I have been thinking about how brethren treat one another. I have thought about how many problems are simple misunderstandings. It seems to me that we are not always as careful as we ought to be. As I have thought and talked with others, some basic rules come to mind that we ought to follow.

1. Pray for wisdom (Jas. 1:5). If there is any time we need wisdom it is when we deal with those with whom we disagree. Let us pray that we may have the wisdom to know: (a) how to approach others, (b) what we should say and what we should not reveal, (c) what I should believe and what I should reject of what I hear, (d) the good that is in other people, and (e) how slow or fast I need to be in my conclusions.

2. Be careful what you say. Any of us could easily get carried away and say things that we would later wish had not been said. The proverb writer said, "He who restrains his lips is wise" (Prov. 10:19). We must be careful what we say to and about others. It may be information that others have told us in confidence. It may be that the one to whom we give the information may not honor our request to keep it confidential. Let us be "slow to speak" (Jas. 1:19) knowing that "a tale bearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter" (Prov. 11:13). We don't have to tell all we know. "A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise man holds them back" (Prov. 29:11).

We must be careful how we choose our words. Let's make sure we are conveying the right idea. If we are not

cautious, our words can be like the "piercing of a sword" (Prov. 12:18). We must watch what we say and how we say it. Remember, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Prov. 15:1).

Let us also be careful lest we say something detrimental to others. "The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor" (Prov. 11:9; cf. v. 13; 20:19). It is possible that I could be telling things about others when I don't have all the facts. What I say could destroy the name and reputation of others.

3. There are two sides to the story. In some situations, there is some fault on both sides. Thus, both of the parties at odds have some legitimate points. However, there are some situations where the two sides are the right side and the wrong side. Still, there are two sides.

The questions I must ask myself are: Am I listening to and believing the wrong side? Am I taking the wrong side? Have I considered the other side of the story? There may be more that I need to know before I draw my conclusions and state them. The proverb writer said, "The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him" (Prov. 18:17). Whoever tells his side first makes it sound good.

4. Don't jump to conclusions. Too often we take a little information and fill in more gaps than are there. We can easily assume motives that we have no way of knowing. I wonder how often our talk and criticism about others would change if we deleted everything but the real facts that we know.

The proverb writer warned, "He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him" (Prov. 18:13). Let us not be hasty in our words (Prov. 29:20).

5. Give others the benefit of the doubt. Love "believes all things" (1Cor. 13). It gives a person the benefit of the doubt. That means when a questionable situation arises where you could put more than one construction on it, believe the best. When a problem arises, and you can put either a good or bad motive on it believe the best. After all, don't you want others to do that with you (Matt. 7:12)?

Yes, these rules are simple. But, with a little application we can avoid a lot of friction and misunderstanding.