

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

**OUT OF TOWN:** Some may be out of town today due to this being a holiday week and some may be on vacation. However, I am unaware of any at this time.

**SICK AND SHUT-INS:** Peggy Tiffin continues her recovery from her recent surgery. Helen Sparks has health issues that sometimes keep her from services. Beulah Tooley continues to recover from back surgery. There may be others who are sick that I am unaware of, if so, please tell Bruce Tooley, who is making announcements in July.

**NEW PROGRAMS:** Our teaching bulletin that is inserted once each quarter in the Red Bay News will be out this week with a meeting announcement in it. Our TV/Radio program is on local Cable TV channels 12 and 97 at 6:30 AM and 4:30 PM on Sunday and various times through the week on TV as well as two local radio stations 1430 AM and 97.9 FM. Our meeting is being advertised on these programs also. Please pray for these efforts that they will reach people who will be interested in reading and listening to God's word.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS / SINGINGS:** Danville Road (Decatur) July 14 VBS 9:30-12:00; Belgreen July 15-20 with Leon Mauldin (time unknown); Hughes Road (Huntsville) July 15-18 with Don Truex, Mon - Wed 7 PM; Riverbend (Florence) July 20 Singing 7 PM; Hughes Road (Huntsville) Morning with the Bible July 21 9 AM - Noon with Keith Stonehart, Scott Sandusky, and Kenny Moorer; Centerview July 22-25 with Frank Richie, Sun -Wed 7:30 PM; Piney Grove July 29 - Aug 1 with Ken Chapman, Mon - Wed 7 PM. If you know of meetings that should be listed, please let me know.

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

## POINTS TO PONDER

- Only the bread of life can satisfy man's spiritual hunger.
- To avoid lying, do nothing that needs to be concealed.

# THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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Web Site: <http://eastsidechurchrb.com/>

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## OUR GOSPEL MEETING

*July 8-13*

**Service times are:**

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

**Monday - Friday 7:00 PM**

**Speaker: Steve Klein**

**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**

# THE ULTIMATE REALITY

By Jeff Harwell

"Give me something I can see and hold so that I can know it's real. Don't talk to me about some 'over the rainbow' promise and intangible inheritance. I want something that's real, something I can look at and know it's true." This seems to be the general consensus today on reality. It seems to me that so much of the world today is losing interest in the message of the gospel because it does not necessarily offer any immediate tangible benefits. It is the tangible things, the things that are seen, that the world is interested in obtaining, things that so many people today believe are real.

However, the message of the gospel is that it does offer real benefits. The problem is that people are unable to see what is truly--what is ultimately--real. So, what is ultimately real? A certain Benjamite from Tarsus made the answer quite clear: "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but the things which are not seen, for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2Cor 4:16-18

You want real benefits? You got real benefits. The message that Paul sends down through the ages is that you cannot trust what your senses tell you is real. There is a reality beyond the comprehension of our carnal nature. It is the things that last forever that are real, that are worth having. These things are things that cannot be seen with the physical eye. One must use the eyes of faith so that he can "see" that which is eternal, that which will last beyond this life and world, that which is real.

Earthly wealth? Sorry, not a real benefit. Even while we may enjoy it, the possibility of losing it is ever present. That is why the Lord instructed us not to waste our lives simply trying to store up earthly treasures Matt 6:19- 21. That is why He rebuked the attitude of those who would seek to gain

it while ignoring their own spiritual poverty Lk 12:16-21. It is, ultimately, not real.

Earthly fame? Sorry, not a real benefit either. The entire nation of God's people suffered tremendously when they trusted in their fame Ezek 16:14-15, 27 and never again achieved the glorious status they once enjoyed. The Bible is full of accounts of those who trusted in earthly fame and power or sought to achieve it. When Herod was eaten up with ego, God ate him up with worms Acts 12:21-23. When Ananias and Saphira sought to be elevated in the eyes of the church, God saw that they were lowered into the ground Acts 5:1-10. It is no wonder then that Christ warned that humility, not fame, was the key to greatness Matt 23:12. Earthly fame, like wealth, is deceptive. It is not ultimately real.

If we would seek to gain any real benefit as a result of our time spent on earth, we must look beyond the end of our noses. Indeed, we must look beyond the end of our lives. We must recognize that "the things which are not seen are eternal". A thousand years from now, none of us will care how much our greatest annual income was, or how big of a name we were in our community. No, all that we will care about is what is real at that time to us. And what is real at that time will be the same thing that is real today - the spiritual blessings in Jesus that we either choose to accept or deny. For Paul, the choice was an easy one: "But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead." Phil 3:7-11

Why was the choice to give up his power and fame so easy for Paul? Because he could see the ultimate reality.

If only we could see it so clearly.