

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.

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy goes out to Woody Edwards. His sister-in-law passed away Tuesday evening. Her funeral was yesterday in Haleyville.

OUT OF TOWN: Jerry and Dottie Henderson will begin their vacation tomorrow, August 13th, and plan to be home August 28th. They solicit your prayers as they travel to visit friends in Sunnyside, Washington where Jerry preached prior to moving here and then on to Anchorage, AK for the balance of their vacation.

SICK AND SHUT-INS: Peggy Tiffin's health is slowly continuing to improve. Helen Sparks had a defibrillator implanted this past Tuesday and is at home. When we last talked to her she was doing well in her recovery. Jack Elliott was able to come home from the hospital following a bout with pancreatitis but when I last talked to Brenda he was still not feeling well. There may be others who are sick that I am unaware of, if so, please tell the one who is making announcements.

NEW PROGRAMS: Our teaching bulletin is inserted once each quarter in the Red Bay News. 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 as well as two local radio stations 1430 AM and 97.9 FM. 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: Underwood Heights (Florence) Aug 12 - 17 with Tim Sutton & Lonnie Oldag (both will speak at each service); Non - Fri 7 PM; Eastside (Russellville) Aug 12-17 with Steve Klein, Sunday eve. 7:30 and Mon - Fri 7 PM; East Florence Aug 19-24 with Justin Roberson, Mon - Fri 7:30 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

- Look not mournfully into the past. It comes not back again. Wisely improve the present. It is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy future, without fear, and with a manly heart.

THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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WISDOM FROM UNLIKELY SOURCES

By Ben Smith

Wisdom is very important in the Christian's walk, but where does wisdom come from? James 1:5 tells us where to find the answer: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."*

Does this mean all we have to do is ask? Of course not! Throughout the New Testament, there are examples of people studying to find wisdom, like the Bereans (Acts 17:11) and Timothy, as he was directed by Paul in 2Tim 2:15. However, God has made ways for us to get wisdom through His creation also. An example of this is found in Proverbs 30:24-28 (ESV). *"Four things on earth are small, but they are exceedingly wise: the ants are a people not strong, yet they provide their food in the summer; the rock badgers are a people not mighty, yet they make their homes in the cliffs; the locusts have no king, yet all of them march in rank; the lizard you can take in your hands, yet it is in kings' palaces."*

Ants are one of the smallest creatures on earth, but they are also one of the hardest working creatures on earth. This isn't the first time Solomon mentions ants in Proverbs. In 6:6-8 we're told not to be lazy, but to be more like the ants who keep working until the job is finished. In both passages, ants are described as creatures who look ahead and prepare for days to come. As Christians, we are to do the same. We don't know how long it will be until our eternal winter begins, so it's important that we're prepared today and every day.

Rock badgers (also called conies) are medium-sized rodents that take refuge in rocky terrain. When clans are feeding, a small group of guards keep watch over them. If danger appears, the guards will squeak to alert the clan to take shelter in the rocks. From this, we know that we are also weak, and we need to take shelter in our Rock, who is Jesus. He has provided guards for us through the appointment of elders. They alert us to dangers and keep watch over our souls.

Unlike other insects that follow the leadership of a queen, locusts have no ruler. Locusts are very organized and methodical, though. Solomon says that they "all march in rank." As Christians, we must work together to fight the armies of Satan and feed on fields of spiritual food. We also must watch each other each step of the way and help each other grow. How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. How do Christians fight the armies of Satan? Each of us works together to do a part.

Lizards are small creatures that are easy to catch. You would think that they would be extinct because they're easy prey, however you can find them all over the world from the smallest shack to the largest castle. Christians are like this as well. Christians have been persecuted throughout history, yet you can still find them all over the world.

Don't worry about being caught in Satan's trap. Boldly go into the world and spread the good news of the Gospel of Christ. These four creatures seem insignificant, but we can learn important lessons from them and from all of God's creation. Ask for wisdom like Solomon did and always be on the lookout for wisdom from unlikely sources.

FAITHFUL TO -- WHAT?

By Robert Turner

I believe Christians may "depart from the faith," "fall away from grace," even "deny the Lord that bought them" (1Tim. 4:1; Gal. 5:4; 2Pet. 2:1) for the scriptures clearly teach this. Our Baptist friends err when they apply 1Jhn. 2:19a to "all" (note 19b) who fully backslide.

But "we" err in thinking that all who are baptized and are "faithful" in their home-town, are truly converted to Christ.

It is a common cry in California, Arizona --- and I suspect in the northeastern industrial areas --- that many "faithful

Christians" from Tennessee, Oklahoma or Texas, come there to work, and "never darken the church doors." Friends write that they were "faithful to the church" back home.

And that is it --- exactly. They were indeed "faithful to the church" (apparently) but were not faithful to the Lord. Many "grew up in the church" without really knowing, in a direct and personal way, the truth. They may have been drilled in "the right answers" concerning baptism, the Lord's Supper, instrumental music, etc., yet never have committed themselves to honest Bible study--never have given themselves whole-heartedly to Christ.

"Back home" their parents --- and later, their friends --- expected them to "be faithful" (meaning, attend the "services") and they did so. But away from home, separated from home-town pressures to conform, their lack of genuine ties to Christ is apparent. It was not "worldly California" that drew them away --- although I offer no rose to materialism in California or Tennessee. They simply were not bound by the love of God in the first place.

Much of our lament about the young people who "quit the church" is equally misdirected. "Area-wide" socials, "church skating parties" and other "fellowship hall" activities do not bind the youth to Christ. They actually increase the rate of apostasy when these young people leave home and are thrown into an environment that calls for spiritual strength. We have fed hungry souls with hamburgers. We have deprived them of training for the church-world, light-darkness battles they must meet in an adult life.

Is "churchanity" responsible for much of the weak spiritual fiber seen in those who go astray? I believe it is --- and have, for twenty years or more, been preaching the evils of "party line" religion. But God forbid that I should deny the existence of the divinely authorized local church, or the organized functions of its members. Sectarianism arises among God's people --- whether they call themselves "church" or "group"--- when they regard themselves as the standard for "soundness." "No church" may be as much a party line as any "church-of-Christ" ever preached.

The church doesn't need another saviour; we (the church distributively) simply need to be faithful to the Saviour we have. By this example, and by objective, non-sectarian appraisal of our practices in the light of the word of God, we may be able to teach the next generation to turn to the Lord and cleave to Him. (Acts 11:20f)