

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

**SICK AND SHUT-INS:** Bruce Tooley's father broke his hip and is in physical therapy but not doing well, remember him in your prayers. Brenda Elliott is still not feeling well. Kenny Mauldin is not doing well. If you would like to send a card or visit, his address is: 615 Byrd St. Cherokee, AL 35616. Helen Sparks continues her recuperation from a broken ankle. Virgie Waddle is now wearing a brace on her broken wrist. Virgie Waddle's sister, Rachel Bruton is in room 104 of the Red Bay Hospital for physical Therapy. George Humphries was not able to be at services Wednesday evening. Zola Basham is doing better. Donna Criswell's aunt, Nell Barrett, is at home and Donna cares for her.

**TEACHING PROGRAMS:** Our teaching bulletin, the **EASTSIDE EXAMINER**, was inserted in the **Red Bay News** the week of Oct 7. Remember our TV/Radio program 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. It is also on Facebook live at times. Jerry is also on the radio on 95.5 FM about 10 AM each Sunday. 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:** Tri-Cities beginning Dec 2-5 with Mitchell Dalrymple; Mon-Wed 7 P.M. Eastside (Athens, AL) Dec. 8-9 Kingdom Leaders: Eldership Series - Speaker - Max Dawson; Saturday for Men Only: 9:00, 10:20, 1:00 & 2:30; Sunday for Everyone: 10:00 & 3:00. (**Editors Note:** I know Max. He serves as one of the elders at Dowlen Rd, in Beaumont, TX. If any of the men have the time to go to these lessons on Saturday, you would profit greatly). If you know of any other meetings in the area, please tell the one making announcements.

## POINTS TO PONDER

- You can't strengthen your character by whitewashing it.
- He who will not forgive others burns the bridge over which he himself must pass.

# THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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## WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE?

(Author Unknown)

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know." "You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side of which came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough."

**Editor's Note:** Are we eager to go where our master is? Or maybe the question needs to be: "Is Jesus really our Master?" Because if He really is our Master, we will have a fervent desire to be with Him (See: 2Thess 3:5; 2Tim 4:8; Rev 22:12).

## “INCONCEIVABLE!”

By Steven Harper

In the 1987 film, *Princess Bride*, there is an annoying character in the film named Vizzini who keeps declaring "Inconceivable!" whenever he sees something he does not think possible. After several times of this, one of his cohorts, Inigo, turns to him and says, "You keep using that word; I do not think it means what you think it means." [No doubt!]

Sometimes, I think the same could be said of some in religious circles who keep using terms that do not mean what they think they mean — certainly not in the way the Bible uses them. This confusion of terms has led to confusion of sincere people who are seeking salvation or simply a better understanding of God's will. Some are misled by these terms' usage and they are deceived into thinking about things the Bible certainly does not teach and, as a result, live with the idea they are right in the sight of God, when they are not. For example:

**Faith/Believe.** I don't know of anyone who would disagree with the statement, "We are saved by faith"; but what does that mean? How is the term used in that context? Sometimes, the word "faith" means the system of faith planned and established by God; sometimes it means an acknowledgment that Jesus is the Christ; sometimes it is inclusive of all acts of obedience that lead to salvation; sometimes it implies a trust in the Lord. Be careful that we do not mix terminology or try to make a blanket definition fit for all occasions. This is how some have come to think that the faith that saves us is simply an acknowledgment that Jesus is the Christ, without — and exclusive of — obedience to His revealed will. [See Hebrews 11.]

**Love.** Lately this term has come to mean something entirely different than the way it is used within God's word and is, in fact, contradictory to the way it is used in God's word. The wise writer tells us, "For whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights" (Prov. 3:12). Some, though, have come to believe "love" means never telling someone they are wrong, much less trying to correct them! On another note, some believe "love" is only something you might say, but God tells us love is demonstrated by our actions (cf. 1John 3:17, 18).

**Fellowship.** Many today have a mistaken concept that "fellowship" means those times when they get together for coffee and donuts, spaghetti suppers, or for ice cream socials. The thinking is, since they are all eating together and generally all believe the same thing, this means they are "having fellowship" so, they reason, we can build "fellowship halls" in which brethren can eat together, play together, and — yes — even dance together [as long as it is "brethren only"]. This is quite a different concept than the way the term is used in God's word, and I believe many truly have no concept of the Bible usage of the term. Some have so broadened the definition of "fellowship" that they gladly accept and praise men who teach doctrines other than those found within God's

word, failing to realize that they do, indeed, have "fellowship" with such men, just not in the way they would have us believe (2 John 1:9-11).

The Greek words translated as **fellowship** [in the Bible] have meaning of either a partnership [necessitating and including a social relationship] or sharing [sometimes financial, as in one giving, or sharing, with another]. Another of the Greek words translated as **fellowship** has a particular meaning of participation (2Cor. 6:14). In its most important usage, **fellowship** is clearly limited to those who walk in the light as God is in the light and is all about our spiritual relationship with the Father and with our brethren (1John 1:5-7). What you **won't** find anywhere within God's word, though, is any teaching that "fellowship" has anything to do with brethren having fun, food, and entertainment together "in the name of Jesus." Some, sadly, have let the world define the work and purpose of the church and some groups have become nothing more than social gatherings and excuses for the indulgences of the fleshly desires.

**Faithful.** Here is another of those words that is thrown around quite loosely when describing individuals or churches, often in ways not used within God's word. I have heard brethren talk about "faithful" churches or "faithful" brethren, but it becomes clear that there is a limited meaning in that. Often, brethren will consider themselves "faithful" when all they mean is, they show for worship on Sunday morning. Oh, they do not consider coming to Bible classes on Sunday morning or evening or Wednesday evening — but they still see themselves as "faithful"! They never help in the work of the Lord — but they are "faithful"! They never teach or utter a single word to bring the lost to Christ — but they are "faithful"! They do not encourage or edify those who do the work, visit the sick, or help the needy — but they are "faithful"!

Let us understand that the basic meaning of "faithful" as used in God's word means one is trustworthy. It is also not limited to one area of life. I can be "faithful" in attending worship assemblies but never lift a hand to do anything within or outside those four walls; am I still "faithful"? Let us not forget the warning of God's word that we cannot emphasize one portion of God's word over another and escape condemnation (cf. Jas. 2:10, 11; Rom. 2:1-3, 17-23).

**Divorce.** It used to be [not long ago] that when brethren were talking about issues regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage, we all understood those terms clearly. Not anymore! Now some declare a marriage is not really a marriage unless it is approved of God; some have declared that divorce is not really divorce unless it meets with God's regulations regarding who may do the putting away. Lost in all this is the simple teaching of Jesus that uses the terms without regard to either approval or disapproval of God. Jesus simply said, "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery" (Matt. 19:9). Why can't we just use the terms the way Jesus did? It sure would solve a lot of errors!

Or is that "inconceivable"?