

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

SCHEDULE: The schedule for May is posted on the bulletin board so the men can see what their responsibilities are for that month.

SICK AND SHUT-INS: Remember Telford Hamm's brother. Virgie Waddle's sister, Rachel Bruton in Southern Magnolia Golden, MS. Helen Sparks has ongoing health problems. Nancy Summerford's mother is in last stages of Alzheimer's, but has recently been doing some better. Donna Criswell continues to care for her aunt, Nell Barrett. Donna Criswell's brother-in-law is now in rehabilitation, but may be going home Tuesday. Bob Wallace from the Tri-Cities church (known to many here) has stage 4 cancer and his sister in Union City, TN has stage 3 cancer. We think Bob is in North Alabama Medical Center

TEACHING EFFORTS: Our teaching bulletin, the **EASTSIDE EXAMINER**, was in the **Red Bay News** the week before our meeting with an announcement on the front and an article on the back. For those who do not get the paper, there are copies of the new issue on the table in the foyer. There is also an add that appears in the local paper once a month offering a free Bible correspondence course. 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 the audio on radio stations 1430 AM and 97.9 FM. It is also on Facebook live at various times. There are also DVD copies of the TV program available that your DVD player will show on your TV.. 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: Brookhill (Florence) May 5-8 with Buc Chumbley Mon – Wed 7 pm. This is the only meeting I know of in May. If you know of meetings in the area, please tell the one making announcements.

POINTS TO PONDER

- "Everyone thinks of changing humanity and no one thinks about changing himself." - Leo Tolstoy
- "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." - Will Rogers
- Darwin knows better now.

THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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BEGINNING VOLUME THREE

In last week's bulletin, we noted that we have completed two years of this publication. So, now we begin our third year. I have heard many favorable comments regarding published articles from time to time. Certainly, it is our desire that this be another teaching tool in our efforts here in Red Bay. As the name of the bulletin indicates, many of the articles are simply "REMINDERS" of what we already know.

In 2Pet 1:12-15, Peter uses the word "remembrance" three times. In verse 12 he points out that he would not be negligent to put them in remembrance. So, reminding ourselves is something we must be diligent in doing, because as Peter says in verse 13, we can be "stirred up" or as the RSV phrases it "aroused" by being reminded. In verse 14 he lets them know he is shortly going to die and as a result he tells them in verse 15 he is going to "endeavor" or work hard so after his death they can have these things always in remembrance. Now these words are written down for us, so we can read and consider them over and over.

Paul said in Eph 3:3-5 that the mystery was made known to him and he wrote it down. He notes that this mystery was not revealed in other ages (dispensations) but now it has been revealed by the Spirit. So, it is no longer a mystery, it is available and understandable. However, being fallible humans, we forget and must be reminded from time to time. That, then is the primary purpose of this publication. So, if you read something that you have read before, just know that it is meant as a reminder.

LET'S JUST DO WHAT GOD SAYS

By Doy Moyer

Religious division is a result of failing to do what the Lord says. It reflects an earthly mindset. The apostle Paul told the factious Corinthians: "for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? For when one says, 'I am of Paul,' and another, 'I am of Apollos,' are you not mere men?" (1Corinthians 3:3-4).

Look around. Hundreds of denominations exist. They call themselves after men or peculiar doctrines. They engage in a plethora of unauthorized activities because this is what they want. Focus is put upon the social or political. All of this is done supposedly in the name of Christ. However, the Lord says, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'" (Matthew 7:21-23).

Religion has become so feeling and emotion oriented that to suggest that there are those who are practicing lawlessness "in the name of Christ" is to be mean spirited and unkind. There is no such thing as false worship in today's society. "Tolerance" for all the various ways of "serving God" is the call of today. Shame on us for suggesting that there is a pattern of authority for the worship and work of God's people. Frankly, with an attitude like this, we might as well write our own Bible.

God's will is unity. We are to endeavor for it by following His plan in the Scriptures (Ephesians 4:1-6). We are not at liberty to toss aside any of the teachings of the Bible. Yet, in order for denominationalism and division to exist, tossing aside what God says is exactly what is being done. It's no wonder that the world has responded with disbelief (see John 17:20-21).

Let's just do what God says. That may sound simplistic, but it is still the key to pleasing God and maintaining unity among believers. Let's be just Christians. It can be done - it must be done if we are to please God. May we all examine ourselves, our practices, and our doctrines, and see if we are following God's will. It's in the Book.

"UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN THERE . . ."

By Greg Gwin

A drug addict pushes back against the friend who is rebuking him and trying to encourage his repentance. "You just don't know what it's like. No one can ever understand unless they've been there."

The drug abuser is not the only one to make this argument. An alcoholic often tries this same excuse: so does a smoker, the man hooked on pornography, and the compulsive gambler. All attempts to restore these folks are dismissed with the claim that others who haven't experienced these issues have no ability to comprehend the problem or offer effective help.

We deny this! A person does not need to struggle with all these same problems in order to know that they are sinful - and that the sinner must repent. A proper interpretation of Biblical truths is not affected by one's own personal experiences. Wrong is wrong and sin is sin, no matter whether you've 'been there' or not!

If personal experience provides the 'key' to understanding and applying the Scriptures, then the door is wide open to all sorts of misguided interpretations. For instance: A man tries to justify his divorce and remarriage by arguing that his former marriage was so unhappy and unfulfilling. "Others," he says, "can't understand unless they've been there." Really? Matthew 19:9 still seems pretty clear on that subject. Certainly, a homosexual might claim that others can't know what he is dealing with. And while he's right about that sin being hard for others to understand, it does not change the clear condemnation of Scripture (1Cor. 6:9-11). Or a parent with an unfaithful child argues against disciplinary action taken by other Christians. "You just don't know because you haven't been there." Maybe, thankfully, we have not - but Bible truth remains unchanged (1Cor. 5:1ff).

This same line of reasoning applies to all sorts of family issues, church problems, and other terrible situations. Even without having personally dealt with every conceivable kind of trouble, we can be "complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another" (Rom. 15:14). Think!