

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

SICK AND SHUT-INS: Zola Basham's sister, Mary, was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Donna Criswell's aunt, Nell Barrett is not doing very well. Donna's brother has moved in with aunt Nell, but Donna is providing most of her care. Jane Edwards continues physical therapy. Brother Butz's sister has a mass in her chest that may be cancer. Remember Telford Hamm's brothers. Telford's brother-in-law is in the luka, MS hospital and is making some progress with physical therapy. Remember Jack Elliott's niece. Brenda Elliott was not feeling well Wednesday evening. Nancy Summerford's mother is in last stages of Alzheimer's. Virgie Waddle's sister-in-law, Jean Malone is in the Red Bay nursing home.

TEACHING EFFORTS: Our teaching bulletin, the **EASTSIDE EXAMINER**, was in the **Red Bay News** the first week in October. There are copies of the new issue on the table in the foyer for those who do not receive a paper. There is also an ad 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 DVD copies of the TV program available. Jerry is also on the radio on 95.5 FM about 10 AM each Sunday. Please pray that these efforts will reach people interested in studying God's word.

OUT OF TOWN: Marvin Butz is visiting his daughter in North Carolina and will be away until sometime in January.

BUSINESS MEETING: The men will meet this afternoon at 2:30 to discuss some things regarding the work here.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: Tri-Cities Dec 8 – 11 with Stan Caldwell; Mon – Wed 7 pm. If you know of other meetings in the area, please tell the one making announcements.

POINTS TO PONDER

- A poor listener seldom hears a good sermon.
- Men are often more limited by attitude than by opportunities.
- Not only must we be good, but we must also be good for something.

THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

By W. Bruce Tooley

Jude admonishes Christians to contend for the faith (Jude 3). He does not leave us to guess as why the necessity is an urgency. He tells of certain false teachers that had crept in" among the brethren and they were turning "the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 4).

We should be as kind and considerate when discussing scriptures with anyone and never have the wrong attitude, but we must not think contending is not being Christlike. The New Testament abounds with evidence that we are obligated to contend for the faith and that it is Christlike to do so (Acts 18:26). The reception of the gospel depends upon the hearts of the hearer. We cannot compromise the truth just because someone with a hard heart opposes it. It is written the Pharisees were offended when they heard Jesus' preaching and condemning (Matthew 15:12).

In discussing the passage exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith", Jude is strongly urging "you", that is, every Christian; "contend" is to strive against all false teaching; "earnestly" refers to being sincerely zealous; "for the faith" simply means the complete revealed will of God.

The apostle Paul was the matchless debater of his age. Other than Jesus no one ever advanced Christianity more than Paul through public discussion. He knew truth was more powerful than error. He took any opportunity to preach, debate or teach to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He did this so that lost souls might be saved. Contending for the faith we save ourselves and others (1Timothy 4:16).

GODS OF THIS WORLD: ENTERTAINMENT

By Ethan R. Longhenry

Modern society faces a paradox: the past century has seen a revolution in time-saving technologies, expediting everyday activities like cleaning, cooking, and traveling, and yet people today seem to have less time than ever before. If we are spending less time than our ancestors in cooking, cleaning, and transporting ourselves, should we not have more time on our hands?

In fact, we do have more time on our hands-- yet as opposed to spending the time cooking, cleaning, or going places, we are now spending it being entertained. We now spend hours of our time watching television or movies, listening to music, playing video games, using the Internet, or out engaged in various hobbies.

Entertainment has become a very large part of our lives and of the economy. The options seem almost endless! It is no wonder that we are always busy-- there is always another show to watch, another website to visit, some other music to hear!

The lives of some people revolve around entertainment. They watch hundreds of movies or listen to hours of music. They buy magazines to follow the lives of celebrities and other figures in entertainment. They have jobs and families and other responsibilities but are always looking forward to returning to their various forms of entertainment.

For many such persons and many others, entertainment is the reason behind a lack of connection with family members, fellow Christians if they are believers, and fellow members of the community in general. It is easier, it seems, to sit in front of the television or the computer than it is to build real-life relationships.

The overwhelming popularity of entertainment and the desire to be constantly entertained has led to many tragic spiritual consequences. People expect assemblies of churches to be entertaining and something similar to what they could watch on television or see in a movie. There is no lack of religious organizations who are more than happy to oblige these impulses and to provide a very entertaining assembly, even if it becomes devoid of Biblical content and purpose. Without a doubt, entertainment has become a god of this world!

We are not attempting to condemn any and all use of entertainment. With the notable exceptions of forms of

entertainment that lead to lasciviousness or covetousness or other works of the flesh (cf. Galatians 5:19-21), there is nothing inherently wrong with entertainment. In fact, entertainment can be profitable when it is used to facilitate opportunities for friends and family to come together or for fellow Christians to associate (cf. Hebrews 10:24).

Nevertheless, it is not good for human beings to live to be entertained or to expect everything in life to be entertaining for them. Life should not revolve around various forms of entertainment, and we should consider judiciously how much time we spend being entertained (Ephesians 5:16). It is advisable for Christians to consider how much time they spend in being entertained versus praying, studying the Bible, assembling with Christians, or finding opportunities to visit others and assist those in need (cf. 1Thessalonians 5:17, 2Timothy 2:15, Hebrews 10:24-25, Galatians 6:10, James 1:27). The result will likely surprise you-- and hopefully will lead to a change in priorities!

Entertainment, even when clean and fun, should be enjoyed in moderation (cf. 1Peter 4:7). There is little doubt that many of the tragedies in modern Christendom are at least partially caused by excess in entertainment. When the assemblies of the saints seem boring and dull, is that because they really are boring and dull, or is it because we are conditioned by the world to want something more entertaining and less participatory? What does it tell us when many Christians are far better acquainted with the events in a movie or a series of movies than they are with the events recorded in the Bible? What is going on when Christians know the lyrics to modern secular songs far better than they do the words to psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (cf. Ephesians 5:19)? And why else is it that too many Christians are "too busy" to assemble with the saints, visit the sick, shut-ins, or widows, to volunteer to serve others, or to participate in activities with other Christians, but are never too busy to watch their favorite television series?

There is little doubt that far too many souls in this country are entertaining themselves to death and condemnation. Interest in spiritual things has diminished, at least in part, because there are far more "entertaining" and "fun" things to do in life than to consider one's soul and one's spiritual life. Let us wake up and develop godly attitudes about such things, and put spiritual matters above entertainment!