

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

SICK AND SHUT-INS: Charles Weatherbee is having another heart ablation next Wednesday. Dottie Henderson is at home now after a long stay in the hospital. Alice Hamm is doing well following knee replacement surgery Tuesday. Zola Basham's sister Sula Maxey is doing well following shoulder surgery. Brenda Elliott is dealing with a pulled hamstring muscle. Jack Elliott evidently had a light case of the flu, but is doing better. Virgie Waddle has not been feeling well. Donna Criswell's aunt, Nell Barrett is not doing well, and neither is her brother-in-law. Donna provides most of her care. Remember brother Butz's sister who has a mass in her chest that may be cancer. Remember Telford Hamm's brothers and brother-in-law. Remember Jack Elliott's niece. Nancy Summerford's mother is in last stages of Alzheimer's. Virgie Waddle is feeling better. Remember her sister-in-law, Jean Malone is in the nursing home in Golden.

OUT OF TOWN: David and Peggy Tiffin and Richard and Beth Hammock are out of town.

TEACHING EFFORTS: Our teaching bulletin, the **EASTSIDE EXAMINER**, was in the **Red Bay News** the first week in January. It will be in the paper again the first week of April and have an advertisement for our upcoming meeting on the front page. There are copies of the January 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. There are DVD copies of past TV programs available. The radio program on 95.5 FM at 10 AM each Sunday continues. Please pray that these efforts will reach people interested in studying God's word.

GOSPEL MEETINGS / SINGINGS: Hwy 157 (Cullman) with Shane Scott Mar 1-4 (time unknown). Anderson with Matt Lannom Mar 1-4 (time unknown). Jackson Drive (Athens) with Donnie Rader Mar 1-5 Mon- Thur 7 pm. Belgreen with Justin Roberson Mar 7-11 (time unknown). Russellville (Hwy 43) with Stacy Crim Mar 8-11 Mon - Wed 7 pm. South Cullman with Tim Stevens Mar 8-12 Mon - Thur 7 pm then singing Fri 7 pm. Riverbend with Keith Stonehart Mar 8-13 Mon-Fri 7 pm. Ardmore with Tim Sutton Mar 8-11 Mon-Wed 7 pm. Eastside (Athens) with Gardner Hall Mar 15-17 (time unknown). Somerville Road (Decatur) with Bill Hall Mar 15-18 Mon-Wed 7 pm. If you know of other meetings or singings in the area, please tell the one making announcements.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Time spent in pitying oneself is worse than a waste of time.

THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

Published by the Eastside church of Christ Red Bay, AL
Meeting at the corner of Hwy 24 East and Meadow Dr.
Web Site: <http://eastsidechurchredbay.com>

Vol. III - No. 44 - March 1, 2020

Editor: Jerry L. Henderson: Send comments to: The Editor, 1205 Hwy 24 East; Red Bay, AL 35583
Phone: 256-333-0017 or 662 - 542-3170 - email: jerry@hendersons.net

GOD IS GOOD, SO WILL HE PUNISH?

By Jon W. Quinn

"These things you have done and I have kept silence; You thought I was just like you; I will reprove you, and state the case in order before your eyes" (Psalm 50:21).

The Lord, through the Psalmist, wanted to make something clear. It bears repeating today. He is not just like us. Since the beginning of time, mankind has tried to refashion God into man's image. He has made golden calves, idols of Molech and Baal, and today theologians debate one another seeking to prove that God is what they want Him to be.

One thing about God, as revealed in the Bible, that really upsets many today is the idea that God would punish people for sin or rebellion. In the movie "Oh God," God is portrayed in a comical way and is much more like what people would like Him to be. He is kindly, easy going and never angry "except on His bad days." Well, what about the flood? The movie explains, "That was just a plumbing accident." Yes, people seem to want to believe in that kind of God, sometimes bungling things and not capable of Divine wrath. Our generation has done it again. We have refashioned the true and living God of the Bible into something more to our liking.

But we know it doesn't really work like that, don't we? Mankind's whims and preferences about what we want God to be do not change what He really is. The fact is that God is indeed capable and willing to dispense wrath justly and righteously even as He is willing and able to dispense grace lovingly and mercifully.

God Is Not Just Like Man

"May it never be! Rather, let God be found true though every man a liar" (Romans 3:4). Think about it: if God says one thing and every man on earth says another, which is right? God is!

Those in the Psalmist's day were in many ways like people today when it came to sin. It wasn't all that serious to them, and because of that, they assumed it was not all that serious to God. They were wrong.

They were wrong when they thought that since everybody sins and sin is so commonplace, that it must not be serious. "God must not punish it as the Bible says He will, because that would involve too many people being punished." While it is true that God takes no pleasure in punishing the wicked, whether few or many, the fact remains that He has said that such will be punished (Ezekiel 18:30-32; Matthew 7:22,23).

They were also wrong in supposing that because God is loving and merciful (and He is!) that He would never punish anyone. He has responded to our need for salvation graciously and powerfully, and at great cost to Himself. His Son has paid the price for our redemption on the cross (Romans 3:24-26; 5:1-6; John 3:16). But we must respond to God's grace with faith; without faith we cannot please Him (Ephesians 2:8; Hebrews 5:8,9; 11:6).

They were wrong as well when they decided that God's patience meant sin did not concern Him as being serious. The Lord tells us not to treat lightly His forbearance. Do not take it as a license to go on sinning but rather as an opportunity to repent and make ourselves right with God (Romans 2:4-10; 2Peter 3:3,4).

Many Fail to Understand That God Is Righteous, Absolutely

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace..." (Hebrews 13:8,9). God's standard for what is righteous, and moral has not changed. Human societies come and go, and with them human customs and standards of behavior. Today we live in a society that glorifies sin and rebellion against God while belittling righteousness. Things have changed...but not with God. We may well wish He would change right along with us, but He will not. Why? Because He is righteous and holy; and if we are to be acceptable to Him, we must walk in His light. He will not walk in our darkness (1John 1:6-10).

When we stand before God in judgment, we will be judged according to our deeds (2 Corinthians 5:10). This judgment will be righteous and perfect. If it does not meet with our approval, there will still be nothing we can do about it. There will be no appeal, no escape, no pardon from the governor. God is without injustice (Deuteronomy 32:1-6). The only answer is for the sinner (that would be all of us) to surrender himself or herself, completely unto God's will as he or she places personal faith in the grace of God through His Son Jesus.

God Has Both The Ability And The Will To Punish Sin

"It is appointed unto man once to die, and then the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). The flood was no plumbing mishap, and the final day will not involve an accidental grease fire. This age will conclude in a purposeful removal of the things that exist... the earth and everything in it. If we have not dealt with our sins in God's own way, as revealed in the gospel, in this life then we shall answer for them in the next life. Sin builds a barrier between man and God, and there is only one power in the universe that can tear down that barrier. It is the blood of Jesus Christ. In His name, we enjoy forgiveness (Acts 2:37,38; 4:12). Apart from Him, we are lost, lost, lost.

A CLEAN BASKET

Emmy was 40 years old when she was baptized. She has always lived on a farm, gone only through the 8th grade and never could memorize. "I want to learn the Scriptures", she said to the preacher, "but I can't, I don't remember a thing, it does no good to study."

"Bring that basket over to the pump", said the preacher. "This dirty old potato basket?" "Yes, now fill it with water."

Emmy was puzzled, but she pumped the water into the basket. Of course, the water ran out as fast as it went in, no matter how hard Emmy labored. After a short time, the preacher told her to stop and to look into the basket

"I don't see anything," said Emmy, "except that all the dirt is gone, and it is clean inside."

"Then let that be a lesson Emmy, the scriptures can be like that water. Always run them through your mind, and even if they don't stay there, don't say they won't do any good. The word of God will leave the mind clean, just as the water left this basket clean."