

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

**SERVICE TIMES:** Thankfully, we have been able to resume our normal schedule of assemblies.

**STAYING IN:** As a result of the seriousness of the Corona Virus outbreak some members have been staying at home and may continue to do so, as a result of underlying health issues or just precautionary. We respect their decisions.

**SICK AND SHUT-INS:** Both Jack and Brenda Elliott have been diagnosed with Pneumonia. They are being treated at home with medications and are doing some better. Zola Basham continues to do well following hip surgery. Remember her sister, Sula Maxey, who had shoulder surgery. Donna Criswell is under a lot of stress caring for her aunt, Nell Barrett, who is not doing well, and neither is Donna's brother-in-law. Telford Hamm's doctor said his leg was about the same, so no surgery for now. Remember Telford's brother and brother-in-law. Remember Jack Elliott's niece. Nancy Summerford's mother is in last stages of Alzheimer's. Virgie Waddle is still not doing well, but she has been able to be at some services. Remember Virgie's sister-in-law, Jean Malone in the nursing home in Golden.

**TEACHING EFFORTS:** Our teaching bulletin, the **EASTSIDE EXAMINER**, will be inserted in the **Red Bay News** either this week or next week. Copies of the new issue are on the table in the foyer for those who do not receive a paper. These may also be used to give to a friend or neighbor. When these are depleted, more can be printed. 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:** All the meetings that I knew about have been cancelled. If you know of meetings or singings in the area, please tell the one making announcements.

## POINTS TO PONDER

- Those who know God will be humble, and those who know themselves cannot be proud.
- Be thankful, not because God needs it, but because you do.

# THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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## SHOULD WE BE "TOLERANT?"

By Greg Gwin

Many people have the opinion that we all should be "tolerant" of the religious views of everyone else. In fact, about the only thing that receives much criticism these days is the "intolerance" of some of us who argue against certain religious beliefs. We're frequently viewed as being "fanatics," and mean-spirited "bigots." They tell us to be less judgmental and learn to accept all forms of religious expression as being equally good and beneficial.

All of this stems from an apparent failure to distinguish between different forms of "tolerance." There are at least three kinds:

- Legal tolerance: This is the recognition that everyone has a legal right to believe and practice whatever he or she feels is best and right.

- Social tolerance: This is the notion that everyone ought to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their particular religious convictions.

- Uncritical tolerance: The idea that no one ought to ever make a judgment relative to what others believe religiously. It suggests that it is not possible to determine what is right or true, and that all religious beliefs and practices are equally good.

We agree that all Christians are obligated by the Word of God to honor the first two forms of “tolerance.” We would fiercely defend the legal right of every person to make their own decisions in matters of religion. Furthermore, we understand that the Lord has taught us to treat everyone with honor and dignity (1Peter 2:17). To do otherwise would put us in direct violation of His will.

It is the idea of “uncritical tolerance” that is not found in the Scriptures. Instead, we are commanded to compare what people teach and believe with what the Bible says (1John 4:1,2; Galatians 1:8,9; Matthew 7:15-20). We are to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3). In this regard, there is no room for tolerance -- we must be faithful to God and His word (2John 9-11).

### **“WELL, THAT’S JUST THE WAY I AM”**

By Gary Henry

“. . . for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?” (1Corinthians 3:3).

WHEN, AS THOSE WHO PROFESS CHRIST, WE CONTINUE TO BEHAVE IN SPIRITUALLY IMMATURE WAYS, WE SHOULD NOT MAKE MATTERS WORSE BY MAKING EXCUSES. It does no good to minimize the seriousness of sinful decisions that we have made. I might like for my misdeeds to be seen as nothing more than personal quirks or foibles, but unworthy character and unacceptable conduct can’t be excused by saying, “Well, that’s just the way I am.”

It may be true that some of my personal characteristics nudge me in the direction of sinful conduct. I may, for example, be more prone to anger than my next-door neighbor. But the most important issue is not my nature — it’s my character. Nature is the package of tendencies that we were born with, but character is what we’ve done with that package, and that’s what we’ll be held accountable for at the judgment (2Corinthians 5:10).

Most of us should go ahead and admit that we wouldn’t be “the way we are” if we’d been working to improve our

character as diligently as we should have been. Paul was not complimenting the Corinthians when he said, “You are still carnal.” And in a similar vein, the writer of Hebrews said to his readers, “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food” (Hebrews 5:12).

In whatever spiritual condition we find ourselves, God surely understands. He understands, but He also expects better things of us. He knows how hard it is to go against our personal tendencies, and He’s eager to help. But He requires that we make an honest effort. As our Great Physician, He will take a more active approach than simply to give sympathy and say, “Well, I guess that’s just the way you are.” He gave His life to get us over the way we are.

Our spiritual enemy is an awesome foe, but we can do more than roll over and play the victim. “Resist the devil,” James wrote, “and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Forward is the direction we need to move, but we won’t move forward if we don’t reach forward. Let’s do it without delay. No more excuses.

“That’s just the way I am’ is a confession of sloth, not humility”. (Gary L. Thomas)

Via Word Points

### **THE BODY OF CHRIST - THE CHURCH**

On the Sierra Nevada mountains of Northern California reside the largest trees in the world. The huge sequoias tower almost 300 feet in the sky. The largest tree has a circumference at its base of 101 feet. Botanists now know that some of the biggest sequoias are almost 4,000 years old - which means that the time of Christ, they were already more than 100 feet tall! But even these giants wouldn't be able to stand against the California winds without a strong root system. Not only do their roots sink into the soil, they intertwine around the roots of other trees. The parallel between well-rooted trees and well-rooted believers is obvious. We are part of the body of Christ and we all need each other.