

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

SERVICE TIMES: We are meeting at our normal schedule of assemblies.

STAYING IN: As a result of the of the Corona Virus some members may quarantine themselves at home because of contact with an infectious person or underlying health issues or just precautionary. We respect their decisions.

SICK AND SHUT-INS: Jack Elliott is well now and, Brenda is feeling some better. Bruce Tooley and Beulah have both recovered from covid-19. Donna Criswell's aunt, Nell Barrett, is not doing well at all, and this puts a lot of stress on Donna as her caregiver. Also, Donna's brother and brother-in-law are not doing well. Remember Telford's brother and brother-in-law. Nancy Summerford's mother has Alzheimer's. Virgie Waddle is still not feeling well. Hopefully, she will be able to be back at services soon. Remember her sister-in-law, Jean Malone, in the nursing home in Golden.

TEACHING EFFORTS: Our teaching bulletin, the **EASTSIDE EXAMINER**, was inserted in the **Red Bay News** in October. 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: I know of no meetings in the area. If you know of meetings or singings in the area, please tell the one making announcements.

POINTS TO PONDER

- He is happy whose circumstances suit his temper, but he is more excellent who can suit his temper to any circumstances.
- Steel that loses its temper is worthless – so are men.
- Few of us get what we deserve, and for most of us this is a good thing!

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. IV - No. 28 – November 8, 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

Editor's Note: The following article by Al Diestelkamp, (whom I have known for at least 45 years) points out some things that I have given a lot of thought to for about the last eight or nine months, at least since our civil authorities began making decisions about what is and what is not essential. Al has presented these thoughts in a much better way that I could, so, give these thoughts your consideration.

'ESSENTIAL'

By Al Diestelkamp

Words have meanings! Ever since the emergence of the coronavirus epidemic, we've been hearing the word essential used frequently by politicians, scientists, reporters, and neighbors. It's a good word, but the way it is being used during this crisis leads me to borrow a memorable line from a once-popular movie: "You keep using that word; I do not think it means what you think it means" [The Princess Bride].

I was pretty sure I knew the meaning of the word essential before I looked it up in the dictionary, but I wanted to be sure. The definition includes words like "absolute, necessary, indispensable, and required". Since my dictionary is over sixty years old, I googled the word just to make sure I hadn't missed a change in its meaning over the years. The New Oxford American Dictionary defined the word as an adjective meaning "absolutely necessary; extremely important," or as a noun referring to "a thing that is absolutely necessary."

ROCKS IN A JAR

By Alan Smith

Some of the recent governmental mandates declaring certain businesses or individuals as “essential,” (and by implication declaring all others “non-essential”) would be laughable if they weren’t so sad. The question that remains unanswered is, “deemed to be essential and non-essential to whom, and by whom?”

We all recognize that some essentials can and should be suspended under unusual circumstances, but they must not be suspended indefinitely. Food is essential to life but even our Lord fasted forty days and nights before enduring intense temptation from the devil (Matt. 4:1-2). The apostle Paul’s instructions to husbands and wives clearly imply that sexual intimacy is essential in a healthy marriage, but the apostle Paul indicated that it was permissible to consensually forego it “for a time,” only to “come together again” to avoid temptation (1Cor. 7:4-5).

It should not surprise us that many of the “powers that be,” and even much of the world place assembled worship in the “unessential” category. All of our lives we’ve heard people say, “I can worship God by myself—I don’t have to go to church.” While private worship is good and should be encouraged, it is never a substitute for assembled worship.

There is a good reason given by the Word of God for assembling with other Christians. We often quote Hebrews 10:25 to prove this point without reading the verse right before it which reveals a God-given reason for assembling together—that being to “consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.” While an online meeting may be a temporary measure under unusual circumstances, it is a poor substitute at best and does not fulfill the essential practice of coming together as a church in one place (1Cor. 11:18,20).

Readers may mistakenly think that I am being critical of decisions to suspend in-person worship assemblies during the height of the coronavirus shutdown. Such is not the case. What I am concerned about is a willingness to be satisfied with accepting the claim that in-person assemblies are not essential and to be comfortable with so-called “virtual assemblies” (an oxymoron). The essentiality of in-person assembling demands that we find a way to make any suspension of such very temporary.

One day an expert on the subject of time management was speaking to a group of business students and, to drive home a point, used an illustration those students will likely never forget. As this man stood in front of the group of high-powered overachievers he said, “Okay, time for a quiz.” Then he pulled out a one-gallon, wide-mouthed mason jar and set it on a table in front of him. Then he produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar.

When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, “Is this jar full?” Everyone in the class said, “Yes.”

Then he said, “Really?” He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks.

He smiled and asked the group once more, “Is the jar full?” By this time, the class was onto him. “Probably not,” one of them answered. “Good!” he replied. And he reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in and it went into all the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question, “Is this jar full?”

“No!” the class shouted. Once again, he said, “Good!” Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked up at the class and asked, “What is the point of this illustration?”

One eager beaver raised his hand and said, “The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit some more things into it!”

“No,” the speaker replied, “that’s not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is: If you don’t put the big rocks in first, you’ll never get them in at all.”

Time is precious. There never seems to be enough of it to go around to do everything we want to do, so we spend our lives making choices. It is crucial that we begin with the “big rocks”, those things of greatest importance. That’s what Jesus meant when he said, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matt. 6:33).