

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 January 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.

SICK AND SHUT-INS: Melanie Ward and her mother Mildred are still sick but no real severe symptoms. However, more medicine and their quarantine time has been extended. Regina Hamm's mother and dad continue to make improvements but are still sick. Brenda, Elliott is not yet well. Donna Criswell's aunt, Nell Barrett's, condition has deteriorated so that Donna cannot be at some services. Also, Donna's brother is in the hospital and possibly will have to go to a nursing home. Remember Telford's brother, Lee, who is now living with Joe Hamm and his family. Also, remember Telford's brother-in-law. Nancy Summerford's mother has Alzheimer's and is much worse. Virgie Waddle is living with her daughter, Lynn, and not doing well. Remember her sister-in-law, Jean Malone, in the nursing home in Golden.

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 underling health issues or just precautionary. We respect their decisions.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING: This week's reading is **Acts 7-12**.

TEACHING EFFORTS: Our teaching bulletin, the **EASTSIDE EXAMINER**, was inserted in the **Red Bay News** in January. 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

- When you help someone up a hill, you find yourself closer to the top.
- The best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time.

THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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PASSING THE TORCH....

By Dean Blackwell

Paul wrote to Timothy a second time near the very end of his life, likely around 64-65 AD; he would soon no longer be able to witness to the resurrection of Jesus (2Timothy 4:6-8). Nevertheless, Paul does not fear; he has entrusted the message of the Gospel to Timothy who had heard and understood it. Timothy now must commit the same message to faithful men so that they could commit it to others in turn (2Timothy 2:2). As Paul had prepared Timothy for the work of ministry, equipping him to serve even after his own departure, so now Timothy is expected to do the same for and with others. In this fashion the preaching and teaching of the Gospel was intended to continue for generation after generation until the Lord Jesus returns: each generation would pass on the torch of the light of the Gospel to the next.

As Christians we do well to learn from both the example and teaching of Paul. He did not feel himself to be "irreplaceable" in the Kingdom; he was an apostle of the Lord, having seen Him in the resurrection (Romans 1:1; 1Corinthians 9:1). Through the Spirit Paul maintained authority he could not bestow upon Timothy or anyone else; no one after him could be a witness to Jesus in the resurrection in the same way as he had. And yet Paul is

acutely aware of his mortality; he recognized that others would have to continue the work of proclaiming the Gospel in the world. Paul thus spent much time in training and encouraging men like Timothy, Titus, etc., so they could in turn teach others. Such is the way of the Lord Jesus who Himself devoted great time and energy into His Twelve disciples (John 14:9)!

As Christians we have all been given differing and various skills; some have been blessed with more or greater skill than others in various ways (1Peter 4:10). We may feel as if our particular set of skills is of the greatest importance, and may find it hard to imagine how the Lord's people could continue the work without us; if we feel this way we are self-deceived (Galatians 6:3)! The Lord's people and work was carried on long before we were born, and unless the Lord returns in the meantime, the Lord's people and work will continue on long after we have passed out of this life. We have our place and standing in the Lord's body (1Corinthians 12:12-28), but we, like Paul, must recognize that our time in this life is very short. We must equip and prepare others to do the work we have been doing so that it may carry on for generations; we cannot keep the Gospel message to ourselves, but must teach it and entrust it to fellow faithful Christians who may carry the message to the ends of the earth and to the next generation (Colossians 1:6, 1Timothy 2:2).

Therefore, in whatever we do to serve the, Lord, we must look for opportunities and ways in which to pass the torch. Evangelists, elders, and teachers are commissioned to equip the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12); part of that work is to instruct the next generation and others so that they can carry on the good work we have been doing. We must strive diligently to teach our replacements, equipping them for the work of ministry, for if we do not, how will the Gospel be proclaimed to those yet unborn? May we seek to pass the torch of the light of the Gospel to others and the next generation, and prove faithful to our commission!

--Via Medford Enlightener

REINSTATED?

By Bill Hall

We are hearing some rather strange expressions these days. A man was telling us recently that he had gone forward the Sunday before to be "reinstated." A woman said she was thinking of "going back into the church."

Are such expressions a problem in terminology? Or are we faced with a problem in concept? Are people thinking of the church as an organization similar to the P.T.A., in and out of which they can go at will, returning simply to be "reinstated"?

Unfaithfulness is not just a matter of dropping out of the church for a while. It is a matter of trampling "the Son of God underfoot"; of insulting "the Spirit of grace"; of giving "occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme"; of turning one's back on the Lord and His promises; of living in sin and flirting with eternal damnation. Imagine a person's being in such a position, and then coming forward to be "reinstated"!!! What that person needs to do is repent, fall on his knees before God, confess to Him and to his brethren, "I have sinned," and cry to God for mercy.

We are not questioning God's mercy. He is prepared to forgive His wayward child; to run to him, fall on his neck, and kiss him; to place the best robe on his back, a ring on his finger, shoes on his feet; to kill the fatted calf and be merry. But this abundant forgiveness is for that wayward child who returns with a full recognition of his sin and unworthiness, who confesses his sins, who asks, not to be "reinstated" as a son, but to be received back only as a hired servant. Forgiveness is for the penitent.

May the Lord help us to see sin in its true ugliness, to "abhor what is evil" and "cling to what is good," to remember the price paid by our Lord for our forgiveness, to be faithful, and to humbly acknowledge our sins when we do fall. And when we are forgiven, let us not speak glibly of "going back into the church," but let us speak of the grace of God that could save "a wretch like me."

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4).