

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

**SICK AND SHUT-INS:** Donna Criswell's aunt is at home under hospice care. Remember Donna and her brother in your prayers. Telford's sister is at Southern Magnolia. Also remember Telford's brother-in-law. Virgie Waddle and her sister-in-law are in Sothern Magnolia assisted living. Nancy Summerford continues helping care for her mother who has Alzheimer's. She is hoping to be able to be back at services soon. George Hutto is now over half through his chemo treatments. Raymond Poston had eye surgery and is scheduled to have another procedure on that eye Thursday. Raymond's son, Kevin had another test done and they first thought they saw new cancer cells, but later decided the spot was from previous radiation. He continues in an ongoing course of treatment. Raymond requested continued prayer for Kevin. Gerald Ricketts' wife, Michele, continues making good progress in her recovery from a heart attack. Mike Gay underwent surgery to remove a tumor from his pancreas. Results from lab test on the tumor showed that it was malignant, but doctors were confident they removed it all and some surrounding suspicious tissue.

**SYMPATHY:** We extend our deepest sympathy to the Elliott family in the death of Jack's Nephew, Tim Mauldin this past Wednesday. His funeral was Friday.

**WEEKLY BIBLE READING:** This week's reading is a **Colossians 1-4 and Philemon**.

**TEACHING EFFORTS:** The **EASTSIDE EXAMINER**, was inserted in the **Red Bay News** the first full week of July with an advertisement for our meeting with Ben Hall. Copies will be in the foyer at that time. These may be used to give to a friend or neighbor. When depleted, more can be printed. There is an ad in the paper once a month offering a free Bible correspondence course. DVD copies of past TV programs are available. Our radio program continues on 95.5 FM at 10 AM each Sunday. Pray that these efforts will reach people interested in studying God's word.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS / SINGINGS:** Belgreen July 18-23 with Brad Sullivan. Mon-Fri 7pm. Parkway (between Moulton and Decatur) July 25-30 with Ben May. Mon-Fri 7 pm. Washington Ave (Russellville) with Dale Robbins. Mon - Fri 7 pm. Pleasant Valley (I think Lauderdale County) with Lowell Sallee July 25-30. Mon - Fri 7 pm. If you know of other meetings or singings in the area, please tell the one making announcements.

## POINTS TO PONDER

- It is not enough to do your best; you must know what to do, and THEN do your best.

# THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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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](mailto:jerry@hendersons.net)

## OUR GOSPEL MEETING

We have just completed a series of lessons presented by Ben Hall. Ben was no stranger to this congregation when he came. We have for some time, been helping with his support as he does the Lord's work in Brooklyn, New York. We expected that he would do his work well and we were not disappointed. Ben's lessons were well presented and easily understood. We had very good attendance from our members, even though some were out of town part of the week and some caring for family members who are ill as well as a death in one family. We had a good number of visitors from the community as well as from neighboring congregations

The morning studies, Monday through Wednesday taken from the life of David were very beneficial to all those who were able to attend. I was asked on Monday evening whether the morning sessions were being recorded and I had not really thought about trying to record them. So, I did record Tuesday and Wednesday morning and for those who would like copies of them, I will be happy to provide them. I do not plan to put them on our website, because, having audience participation, there may be spots in which it would be difficult to hear and understand. However, the points being made are very clear and profitable to all who were present and will be to those who chose to have copies of them to listen to.

Ben's lessons Sunday and each evening throughout the week pointed us to Jesus and what it means to be a disciple

of His. Those who are not children of God and thereby disciples of Jesus learned what a person needs to do to become a disciple of Jesus and those who are disciples of Jesus had principles reinforced to us as to what we should be doing as His disciples. On Friday evening Britney Day made confession of sins and ask for prayer on her behalf. Let's all encourage her as much as we can.

The audio of these lessons will be on our website so, if you missed one or want to hear it again you can do so. We can also remind our friends and neighbors about how to access these lessons and encourage them to listen to them. Just go to "eastsidechurchredbay.com" and click on the "meetings" tab. The audio of these lessons should be there sometime this week.

To go along with the thoughts presented so well by Ben, I thought the following article would be a good reminder. (jlh)

## **WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST**

By Jeff Smith

People are always following or emulating others. We've all seen a little boy try to be like his daddy. He'll walk like him, talk like him...even copy his most minute habit. A few years back, Michael Jordan was advertising some product line. The catch phrase was "Be Like Mike." I'm quite sure Nike sold tons of sneakers to parents of children who thought wearing "Air Jordans" would allow them to slam dunk a basketball "just like Mike."

The New Testament refers to this concept as "discipleship." A "disciple" is a pupil, follower. Disciples try to be like their teacher. They have accepted their teacher's doctrine, manner of life, etc. as their own. There is a great deal more involved in being a disciple to a teacher than just following his teaching. Jesus develops this notion in Matt. 10:24-33. Being a "disciple" to Jesus Christ means...

...We accept the consequences of such a choice (vv. 24-25). The disciple is "not above his master." It is "enough for the disciple to become like his master." If the unbelieving world assigns a disparaging label to the teacher, what will happen to those who choose to follow him? We need to understand up front that choosing to be a disciple of Jesus Christ may very well lead us into some unfavorable

encounters with those in the world who choose not to follow. This is one of those "costs" Jesus told us to count before becoming His disciple (Lk. 14:27-33).

...We fear Him, not those who oppose us (vv. 26-28). All things done by the enemies of Christ, most of which are done in secret (Jhn. 3:19-20), will eventually be "uncovered" and "revealed." Their opposition to Christ and His followers is doomed to failure (Psa. 2:1-7). The absolute worst thing they can do to a follower of Jesus is kill him. Rather, Jesus tells us to "...fear Him who can destroy both body and soul in hell."

...We trust His providential care (vv. 29-31). This same God who can eternally "destroy" us also can and will provide for our every need. As proof, Jesus references the small sparrow. So insignificant are these little birds that you could purchase 2 for one cent (an assarion; the smallest of Greek coins; it was equal to one tenth of a drachma). Yet not one sparrow "...will fall to the ground apart from your Father." Our omniscient God already knows what we need before we even ask for it (Matt. 6:31-32). As disciples, our task is to trust Him for such provisions without worrying or fretting about it.

...We willingly & publicly acknowledge our allegiance to Him (vv. 32-33). Our current culture is becoming filled more and more with homosexuals who are "coming out of the closet." Their previous thinking has been "I'll be who I am, but I won't tell anyone." Now, their philosophy is "I want the whole world to know who I am." (You understand this is not an endorsement of the vile sin of homosexuality; it merely serves as an example). Similarly, no one can ever be a "closet Christian." We will never be on the inside what we refuse to be on the outside. We place ourselves under an obligation when we publicly "confess" Jesus as our Master and Teacher. Jesus offers us a fair proposition: "you confess Me...I'll confess you." Jesus is in the prime position to "confess" us before heaven's throne, since He constantly serves as our Mediator and Advocate (Heb. 7:25; 1Jhn. 2:1). If we choose not to, He cannot and will not speak for us.

It is God's plan for each of us to "...become conformed to the image of His Son" (Rom. 8:29). To be like Him...to be His disciple, Jesus tells us what we must be willing to do. If we won't do these things (and others mentioned elsewhere in the Scripture), we have no eternal hope, and our life will be a failure.

(Slightly edited for publication here JLH)