

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

SICK AND SHUT-INS: Jack and Brenda Elliott are doing better and have been able to be at some services lately. Remember Raymond Poston's son, Kevin, as he deals with his brain tumor and ongoing treatments. Brenda Elliott has a sister in Southern Magnolia and another sister has moved into an apartment in this area. Telford's sister is at Southern Magnolia. Remember Telford's brother-in-law. Virgie Waddle's sister-in-law is in Southern Magnolia. Nancy Summerford continues helping care for her mother who has Alzheimer's. Hopefully, she can be back at services soon. Mike Gay will soon be undergoing chemo treatments for the tumor that was removed from his pancreas.

COVID-19 There are some in this community and others known to members here who either have this virus or are suffering lingering side effects from it. Even though masks are not required we should continue to be cautious and respect those who think they should wear a mask or possibly quarantine for a period of time.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING: This week's reading is **Matthew 22 – 28**.

TEACHING EFFORTS: Past issues of all bulletins, are available in the resource room. These can be used as a teaching tool. If more copies of an issue are needed they 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: The East Florence meeting was canceled due to Covid-19. Kelly Spring Road (Harvest, AL) Sept 12-15 with Albert Dickson. Mon-Wed 7pm. Mt. Zion Sept 19-22 with Lowell Sallee. Hillsboro Heights (Moulton) Sept 19-22 with Ed Brand. Mon – Wed 7 pm. East Albertville Sept 19-24 with Billy Randolph Mon-Fri 7 pm. South Cullman Sept 30 – Oct 3 with J. R. Bronger. If you know of meetings or singings in the area, please tell the one making announcements.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Voluntary slavery to sin is some people's idea of personal liberty.

THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Obviously the following article was written before the first anniversary of the terrible events of September 11, 2001. Today we are twenty years past those terrible events, and we have had many more events, maybe not quite as tragic as this one, but nevertheless they are continuing examples of the evil that is at work in our world today. However, the thoughts and lessons this article contains are still just as pertinent to us now as they were when it was written. I know many articles have been written regarding the events of September 11, 2001 and I have read some of them. However, I thought this article by Russ Bowman got to the "heart of the matter," from the Christian's viewpoint, as well as, or better than any I have seen thus far. He focuses our attention on some lessons we should learn from this event that are far more important than any of the secular or civil lessons that we have been taught by the tragic events of that fateful day as well as many events that have taken place since then. So, read and consider brother Bowman's thoughts regarding this very tragic event in our history as a nation of people.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

by Russ Bowman

Next week will mark the first anniversary of one of the darker days in American history. The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 have had immeasurable effects upon our nation in a myriad of ways. Truly it has become the "date

that will live in infamy" for the present generation. And I suspect that sociologists and economists and historians will be occupied for years to come analyzing the complex impact that those events have had upon both the United States and upon the rest of the world. Without a doubt, the world is a different place since Sept. 11, 2001. At least in some ways.

In other ways, however, the world will never be a different place. Perhaps our nation has lost some of its innocence, or naivety, regarding the hatred and violence that proliferates in many parts of the world. We rant and rave over issues with heated discussions and protest marches. Some peoples, however, voice their opinions more violently - with rock throwing, or suicide bombs, or hijacked airliners. And now such outrageous disgrace is creeping its way into and across our land. But hatred and violence, injustice and suspicion are not new problems for the human race. In fact, they are ancient problems, and in that way the world is no different simply because extremists murdered several thousand "innocent" people. Instead, we have merely been reintroduced to the realities of our imperfect world.

As our country prepares to commemorate the tragedy of Sept. 11, I am reminded of a conversation that Jesus had with some folks in His day. Luke 13: 1-5 reads, "*There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered and said to them, 'Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'*" Jesus was no stranger to earthly tragedy, whether the result of wicked men or mere happenstance. Curiously, He does not react to the issues in Lk. 13:1-5 with long diatribes about godless governments or evil oppressors, nor does He philosophize about the serendipitous nature of life. His comments seek neither scapegoats nor rational explanations. Instead, He focuses upon the real issue at hand. Obviously, those of His day were ready to attribute such tragedy to some sinfulness in the victims. Jesus tells them that those who suffered such calamities were no more sinners than anyone else. More importantly, He notes, is the need that everyone be prepared to meet their God. Such are the kinds of lessons that we

need as we reflect upon the deaths of those in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. We may have learned a great deal in the past year about terrorism, nationalism, and the worldwide economy. But there are more significant lessons here. Lessons that we need to focus on daily.

Life is uncertain. Even in the good old U. S. A. We are foolish if we put too much trust in our stocks, our buildings, our airport security, or our nation. Such things may be practical concerns in our daily life, and they may merit some consideration in regard to temporal affairs. But they are just that - temporal. No matter how secure we make our nation, our cities, our neighborhoods, or our homes, calamities will happen. No matter how structurally sound our buildings, they are still earthly. Regardless of our economic strength, there is more to life than possessions. Life under the sun will always be a vain "*grasping for the wind*" (Ecc. 1:14). We had best be looking beyond.

Death is certain. Regardless of who I am, where I am, or even when I live. As long as I dwell in this world, I will face death. I may die in a catastrophic event or a heroic endeavor. Life may end peacefully in my sleep, or painfully battling some horrid disease. I may have opportunity to kiss my wife and children, and I may not. But I will die. I had best be ready.

There continues to be evil in this world. Jesus said that "*offenses must come*" (Mt. 18:7), even while pronouncing woe upon those responsible. We can rage against injustice all we want, and we should certainly speak up for goodness, decency, and righteousness. There is great opportunity for the gospel in our world. But we must accept the fact that evil will be present (Mt. 13:24-30), and that people will suffer because of it. The forces of Satan are hard at work. And so should we be. Moreover, we must remember that violence is no more sinful than is dishonesty, nor is terrorism no more lawless than is pride or sowing discord (Prov. 6:16). Perhaps now is a fun time to examine both our own consistency and our efforts to promote Christ.

We cannot always answer "Why?". Life is frustrating. People suffer because of evil. Good, moral, even godly people become ill or suffer injury or even death. We lose loved ones. And the reasons for such heartbreak are not always obvious. In fact, at times there is simply no thing nor no one to blame. In such days of adversity, we would do well to learn the lesson of **Job**. Be patient. Trust God.

Remember Sept. 11, 2001. And reflect on Lk. 13:3, "*Except you repent...*"