

KEEPING THE FAITH

Where families make eternal homes



“This Is Where I Work”

The work that God gives to His church is done through local congregations. Each congregation is responsible solely for their work and theirs alone. That work relies on the participation of the individuals in that local church, every one. All of that points to the importance of each member of the local church recognizing and submitting to their responsibility.

But it's even more than that. When one identifies him/herself as a member of a local church, that person is, in effect, saying, "This is where I will work. This is where I will give my attention, efforts, and money. This is my place and these are my people!" And that includes giving oneself to the work of the local church in something as mundane as faithful attendance.

We are a society of volunteers with free will. Each member exercises that free will every time the local church comes together. When you're absent from the church because you've decided to do something else, maybe even visit another congregation in the area, you've made a decision that ripples outward.

I know that sometimes discouragement can be stifling and that sometimes discouragement comes from the very ones we're supposed to be working with. The easiest thing sometimes

is to remove yourself, to visit another congregation or just stay home entirely. But Scripture teaches us to consider our brothers and sisters before we consider ourselves (Phil 2:3-4, Col 3:12-14). And there are no qualifications such as "as long as they don't upset you." Put them first, before you. Period. The reason why is easy to see: Discouragement, like a cancer, spreads to other parts of the body. In your attempt to serve yourself, you can inhibit the growth of others.

While each person has the liberty to make any decision he wants, not every decision is necessarily the best one. So, here's the bottom line: Assimilate, don't isolate. Give yourself wholly to the work and worship of your local church and you'll see it inspire others to do the same.

"...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." -Eph 4:15-16



"Keeping the faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith."

1 Timothy 1:19

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Hueytown, AL 35023
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Information Line:
Janet Hamrick:

Schedule of Services:
Sunday
Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Lord's Supper: 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday
7:00 pm

Elders:

Roger James
Amos Rowe
Keith Parks

Evangelists:

Ed Rangel
(317)-363-9900
rangellalo@gmail.com
www.edrangel.com

Benjamín Muñoz
(256)-431-4551
bmunoz754@gmail.com

Memory verse: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." - Galatians 6:7



Visit us

Stop Taking God's Name in Vain

You have been a Christian for years and it is a surprise to hear some of the things you say in conversation, things like, "Oh, my God, I can't believe it" or "My God, what happened" or "God, I'm so tired" or "Dear Lord, what a shame" or "Lordy, what a mess." Your friends are fairly confident these are not prayers and you're not talking to God at all.

You may not even realize what you are saying. It may just be a habit, your long time way of intensifying something you want to say. Whether or not you realize what you are saying, we know what it sounds like. It sounds horrible and completely out of place in your life as a Christian. It sounds like a cheapened worldly use of God's name.

You know that one of Israel's Ten Commandments is "You shall not take the name of the Lord our God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain" (Exodus 20:7). You know that "vain" here has the idea of "empty" or "worthless." That's what your "Oh my God" is: using His name in an empty and worthless way, a throwaway word rather than the sacred respect the God of heaven deserves and requires.

This worldly use of God's name is condemned in Leviticus 19:12. "And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am

the Lord." The idea in "profane" is of treating something sacred in a common way, and treating something holy in an unholy way, a way that gives it no importance.

Such vain, empty, worthless, profane words are surely a part of what the Lord calls "idle" words in Matthew 12:35-36, words that do no work and accomplish nothing good. "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment, For by your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned."

It is time for you to repent of such talk, and ask the God whose name you have profaned to forgive you and help you change the way you speak to the simplicity He requires. "Let your 'Yes,' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one" (Matthew 5:37).

You would think that as long as you have been a Christian you would have let the Lord get this out of you by now. But you haven't. And so someone who loves you needs to be blunt with you and tell you it's time to stop. You don't sound like a Christian. It offsets any good you have to say. Those who love you want you to stop. - Bob Hines

Family News

- **Janice James** underwent a minor heart procedure last week. She is doing as expected and recuperating.
- **Rufus Steve** is recuperating at the Tuner's house. He and sister Mary currently live with Buford and Shanna. He is in some pain but is doing as expected. Rufus has several follow-up appointments.
- **Sharlene Parks** has been having some medical issues lately. Yesterday she had a scare with her diabetes. Please pray for the entire Parks family.
- **Arya Priddyya**, Tommy McLane's great-granddaughter is doing a lot better and at home.
- **Billy Birtley's** dad has pneumonia and other ailments. Billy is traveling to be with his father. Please pray for Mr. Burtley and brother Billy.
- **Jack Whisenhunt** was admitted to the hospital in Alex City with blood pressure issues.
- issues will enter Hospital in Alex City Monday.
- Next **Fall-Winter** Bible class will be Tuesday (11-19) at the Sullivans at 7:00 pm. Also, there will be a day time class on Tuesday (11-19) at the church building at 10:00 am. More workbooks have been ordered. In the meantime, copies of lessons 1 and 2 are available in the foyer.
- **Singing/Training** class will resume on November 27th.
- **New Website** has launched. Please register to have access to the members section.
- **Spanish/English** services at 4:00 p.m.

Worship Assignments

Deacon in the Back: Leroy Kelley

Sunday 11-17-2019

Song leader: Mel Ambrose

Opening prayer: Keith Taylor

Collection scripture:

1 Chronicles 29:11-18

Serving at Table:

Brad Marshall - Lee Weaver
Blake Armstrong - Jason McLane
Levi Weaver - Gage Kelley

Sermon (1) Benjamin Muñoz (Our Zeal for God)

Sermon (2) Ed Rangel (New and Living Faith: Hebrews 10:22-25)

Prayer before class: Conner Burleson
Closing Prayer: Jesse Kelley

Wednesday 11-20-19

Song Leader: Michael Key

Prayers: Karson Taylor & Rob Ellis
Exhortation: Benjamin Muñoz