

## Bible Reading Plan – Week 3

If you haven't kept up with last week's readings, don't get discouraged; just pick up where we are now. If you miss a day, you can try to catch up the following day; or, if you get too far behind, just pick up right where you are with the current day's reading.

Remember, each day only has fifty-one verses. Depending, of course, on how fast you read (but reading with the view to *understanding* what you're reading) each day's readings should only require ten to fifteen minutes.

- ☐ SUN = Matthew 21.33 – 22.33
- ☐ MON = Matthew 22.34 – 23.39
- ☐ TUE = Matthew 24.1-51
- ☐ WED = Matthew 25.1 – 26.5
- ☐ THU = Matthew 26.6-56
- ☐ FRI = Matthew 26.57 – 27.31
- ☐ SAT = Matthew 27.32 – 28.20

## ✦ NEWS & NOTES ✦

### SICK

Rachel Bailey \* Jo Byrnes \* sis. Cannon's son-in-law, Tom Bachman  
Joyce Coones \* Sleatha Gore \* Faye Kilpatrick  
Jerry Lemire (*improving*) \* Pat Hunt \* Gary Ogden

### BIRTHDAYS & AN ANNIVERSARY

Bryan & Lori Bailey (today) \* Jerad Black (*Wednesday*)  
Galen Watson (*Friday*)

### Website Updates

We have a new streaming audio player!  
And you can download any of 2008's bulletins.

## Church of Christ

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in beautiful Chiefland, Florida  
PO Box 2539, Chiefland FL 32644 • (352) 493-1242

# THINGS REVEALED

*"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."*

— Colossians 3:1-2 —

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**ELDERS** Buddy Johnson • Devoise Lord

**DEACONS** Tony Beach • H.C. Henderson • Jerry Smith

**PREACHER** Jamey Hinds

[www.chieflandchurchofchrist.com](http://www.chieflandchurchofchrist.com)

## It's Time to Wake Up

By Leslie Diestelkamp • The Preceptor (Dec. 1955)

[A NOTE FROM JAMEY: *The following is the latter half of an excellent article written fifty-three years ago. The truths referred to in it remain truths today.*]

### Authority

If division comes in our day, it seems evident that it will come as a result of abandonment of the New Testament as a complete, perfect, infallible authority. If or when brethren refuse to be limited by the scriptures then division is imminent. Let us wake up to the necessity of being guided entirely by precept and example in God's word. Let us be willing to abandon all that is not thus authorized, just as we should be determined to zealously pursue all for which there is a "thus saith the Lord."



## Worldliness

We need to wake up to the dangers of worldliness. Let us be fully aware of the fact that divorce, dancing, gambling, drinking, etc., are becoming too common among professing Christians. The cause of truth is stifled because the world cannot tell the difference between the sinner and the saint. We must remember that sin is just as soul-destroying today as it was four thousand years ago. Because God does not punish sin with immediate death today does not mean that He smiles upon sin any more today than He did when He destroyed sinners in the long ago. (See Leviticus 24:10; Joshua 7; Numbers 15:33; 2 Samuel 6:3-7; etc.) When “grace and truth came by Jesus Christ” (John 1:17), it was forgiveness of sin that came and not license for sin.

Many people don't become Christians because they see that there are too many hypocrites in the church. (They are not right in staying outside the church, for if all others are lost, they can still be saved, while if they stay out of Christ they will certainly be lost, but they are right in that there are too many hypocrites in the church). One hypocrite is too many, and we know there is more than one!

A grave danger in worldliness is posed in the fact that it is getting to be so hard to find many Christians who will oppose it or who will endorse the preacher who opposes it. Worldliness hangs as a heavy shadow over the cause of truth today. Our light does not shine as it ought! Let us not be deceived into thinking that many members (perhaps a million strong or more) large congregations, great buildings and cultural lectures from our pulpits will make us a true light unto the world. Godliness, holiness and purity must characterize Christians if our light is made to shine brightly for Christ (Matthew 5:13-16).

## Apostasy

We must wake up to the danger of apostasy. It has happened in other generations, and it can happen again in ours. Ten preachers who once preached in churches of Christ in Chicago-land are

now in various denominations! Think of it! Ten from one city! We hear of others all over the nation who thus departs from the faith month after month. Such news has come to us from New York, California, Missouri, Tennessee, Ohio, and from foreign lands. It is not only true that some preachers go astray, but other Christians follow them. Preachers do not take that long step into apostasy without taking others with them. Let me give an example of a need for wakefulness. One preacher left the church in this area in 1954, but one week before he departed, he was the most popular preacher among our brethren within 200 miles of his home. Brethren refused to be warned that he was dangerous!

Another sign of our grave danger is seen in the fact that many brethren deny that those preachers who went to the denominations have departed from the faith. Many continue to extend fellowship to them. Some brethren advocating that the church is another denomination among the sects of the land, and if we don't wake up, it will be! Indeed, if brethren think the church is a denomination, they will make it such, if others do not militantly fight to keep it pure.

## Let Me Write It

If I cannot write “It's Time to Wake Up” on your church house wall, please allow me to write it in your mind just now. Christian, WAKE UP! The welfare of the cause of Christ is in our hands. With God's help we can do everything he expects us to do. Without our help God's hands are tied. We are commissioned to “preach the word.” God doesn't perform miracles today to bring the truth to lost souls. We are his hands, his mouth, and his means. If we are asleep, truth will be stifled. If we will wake up, truth will continue to win.



*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

— Hebrews 13:8 —