

Weekly Bible Reading – Week 9

- *Sunday* Luke 24:44 – John 1:42
- *Monday* John 1:43 – 3:21
- *Tuesday* John 3:22 – 4:38
- *Wednesday* John 4:39 – 5:30
- *Thursday* John 5:31 – 6:40
- *Friday* John 6:41 – 7:24
- *Saturday* John 7:25 – 8:20

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven” (James 5:13–15).

Jo Byrnes * Joyce Coones * Sleatha Gore * Essielene Henderson
Faye Kilpatrick * Pat Hunt * Gary Ogden * Marissa Black’s
grandmother & family

Out of Town

H.C. & Faye Henderson * Adam & Amy Henderson * Brent & Margaret Brooks

Upcoming Gospel Meetings

- Spring Warrior congregation in Perry with *Steve Dewhirst*: Monday through Friday, 7:30 PM.
- S. Pine Avenue congregation in Ocala with *John Zellner*: October 6–10 (M–F), 7:30 PM.
- Bethel congregation in Bell with *Frank Jamerson*: October 12–17 (S–F), 7:30 PM.


↪ Chiefland Church of Christ ↪

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

Things Above

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

— Colossians 3:1-2 —

September 28, 2008  Vol. 4, No. 28

www.ChieflandChurchofChrist.com

Jamey Hinds, preacher

Are We Up For a Fight?

By Roger Blackwelder

“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able” (Luke 13:24).


Last Thursday, Carina and I witnessed a petty theft. We were checking out of a local thrift store when we noticed a bit of commotion in front of us. A young woman was motioning to her son, a boy about five years old. He was standing near the door, holding a Thomas the Tank engine train and vigilantly shaking his head no, refusing to come to her. The mother sighed and returned her attention to the checkout lady. When her order was bagged and ready, she walked over to the door where the boy was standing. She looked at the toy in her boy’s hand, and then at the checkout

lady who had turned her attention to the next customer. With another sigh, the mother took the boy in hand and left.

Carina and I were baffled — rather than have a confrontation about the toy, the mother surrendered without a fight, and together they stole it. Sometimes to be a good parent, we have to put up a fight. The same is true about being a Christian.

Paul said, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God” (II Corinthians 10:3–5a).

To be a faithful Christian, we have to put up a fight. We have to take up the whole armor of God (*see* Ephesians 6:13–18) and take a stand. We have to be ready to give a defense of the hope that is in us (*see* I Peter 3:15).

Are we Christians who stand and fight, or are we those who surrender to avoid confrontation? If the fight has gone out of us, the devil has already won. 

Teaching the Lost: A passage we should know

John 8:24 – “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins;
for unless you believe that I AM, you will die in your sins.”

It is politically correct to believe that sincere people of any religion will go to heaven. But Jesus affirmed that anyone who did not believe that He is the I AM (Jehovah God) would die in his sins. That leaves out some significant religions such as Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, the Jewish faith, Jehovah's Witnesses, and anyone else who does not accept the deity of Jesus Christ. Also consider **Acts 4:12**, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

We Need Prayer

By Jamey Hinds

What do we *need*? Too often we might think about things that we *want*, rather than things that we *need*. And I'm not addressing the question as to material things we need, but to spiritual concerns or characteristics. As the Lord Himself said it, “The Gentiles seek after all these things [the necessities of life], and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matt. 6:32-33 ESV).

I would like to suggest that prayer is a need. How many of us pray the way we *should*? Too often we relegate prayer as something we do before we eat food, or right before we go to sleep, or maybe we pray only when we're with other Christians in a public assembly of worship. If this is all the praying we ever do, then we're in *need* of something.

“Pray without ceasing” (I Thess. 5:17). God wants us to want Him; to talk to Him, to express our needs and inmost thoughts with Him. “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (Jas. 4:8). It's not that He doesn't *know* these things: the word of God reveals that He discerns our “thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account” (Heb. 4:12-13; *see above* Matt. 6:32-33).

Wants are too often elevated above needs. Peter admonishes us that we should cast “all your anxieties on him, because He cares for you” (I Pet. 5:7). This is a need. We need to cast all our worries at His exalted feet: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:6, 7 ESV). 