

Weekly Bible Reading – Week 10

- *Sunday* John 8:21 – 9:12
- *Monday* John 9:13 – 10:21
- *Tuesday* John 10:22 – 11:37
- *Wednesday* John 11:38 – 12:26
- *Thursday* John 12:27 – 13:30
- *Friday* John 13:31 – 15:8
- *Saturday* John 15:9 – 16:24

“Is any 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 shall save him that is sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, it shall be forgiven him” (James 5:14, 15 ASV).

Bryan Bailey Sr’s father • Jo Byrnes • Joyce Coones • Sleatha Gore
Faye Kilpatrick • Pat Hunt • Gary Ogden

Area Gospel Meetings

- October 5–10 • S. Pine congregation (Ocala) with John Zellner. 7:00pm Monday through Friday.
- October 5–9 • Midway congregation with Danny Allen. 7:30pm Sunday through Thursday.
- October 12–17 • Bethel congregation with Frank Jamerson. 7:30pm Sunday through Friday.
- October 12–16 • Crystal River congregation (Hwy 44) with Bob Dickey. 7:30pm Monday through Thursday.
- October 19–24 • Cherry Sink congregation with Various Speakers (our own bro. Hinds will be speaking Thursday night, Oct. 23). 7:30pm each night.
- November 2–7 • Chiefland congregation (our own) with Jeff Himmel. 7:30pm Monday through Friday.

Birthdays

Minnie Lee Boyette (Tue) • Joyce Coones (Fri) • Jerry Smith (Sat)

↪ 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 —

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“Covetousness, Which Is Idolatry”

By Jamey Hinds

There’s a lot of stress right now in the financial markets across the globe resulting in a lot of stress with those who are involved with the stock market. The announcement that Congress rejected the \$700,000,000,000 (seven hundred billion dollar) bailout has resulted in a nearly 778 point decline in the DOW.

The day after the largest points decline ever — even greater than the day after 9/11 — an article was published on *cnn.com* written by an uncharacteristic politician: U.S. Rep. Jim Marshall of Georgia. He’s currently serving his third term as a Democrat. In the middle of his exceptionally keen article, he wrote:

Some politicians — and a few economists — would say that America is drunk on credit and just needs to go cold turkey. But it’s more accurate to say we’re addicted to credit. Too much credit. Good credit, bad credit, anything that lets us live the high life.

Maybe what we need is to be blunt. Americans don't think about themselves as being greedy, but we are. Recently, I heard a preacher make the statement that he'd never had anyone come forward to confess self-righteousness or covetousness. His testimony is true — I haven't either. Of course, I can also testify that I haven't heard any *preachers* confess of themselves that they were self-righteous or covetous.

More to the point, from God's viewpoint covetousness *is* idolatry — “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, *and greed, which amounts to idolatry*” (Colossians 3:1–5). “But immorality or any impurity *or greed* must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints” (Ephesians 5:3).

In another passage of scripture, the apostle writes, “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, *nor covetous*, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:9–11).

One of the best passages dealing effectively with greed is 1 Timothy 6:6–10, 17–19:

But godliness is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and

many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. . . . Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

Jesus said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. . . . No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. . . . But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble” (Matthew 6:19–21, 24, 33–34).

Maybe we have not publicly confessed that we're covetous, but we all need to very seriously consider in ourselves, including the preacher, whether or not we are greedy. Are we content with what we have? “For by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved” (2 Peter 2:19).

Be thankful in word and deed, giving God all the glory for the things He has blessed us with. “Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, ‘I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,’ so that we confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?’” (Hebrews 13:5–6).

