

## Weekly Bible Reading – Week 17

- ◆ Sun — 1Co 15:12–58
- ◆ Mon — 1Co 16:1 – 2Co 2:2
- ◆ Tue — 2Co 2:3 – 4:15
- ◆ Wed — 2Co 4:16 – 7:1
- ◆ Thu — 2Co 7:2 – 9:5
- ◆ Fri — 2Co 9:6 – 11:21
- ◆ Sat — 2Co 11:22 – 13:14

Bryan Bailey Sr.'s mother and father (Gaskins) • Marissa Black's grandmother • Jo Byrnes • Joyce Coones • Evelyn Griffin • Essielene Henderson • Faye Kilpatrick • Sally Smith

### **Birthdays**

Harley Hinds (*today*) • Ken Carpenter (*tomorrow*) • Hildreth Johnson (*tomorrow*) • Kalee McElroy (*Thursday*)

### **Singing Night**

Wednesday night we will be singing praises to our Lord. It's appropriate since Thursday is Thanksgiving Day.

This is Shane Brewer's last Sunday with us. He is packing up Tuesday and moving to Cullman, Alabama. We bid him grace and peace in this new chapter of his life. Below is his new contact information.

Shane Brewer  
1607 Lee Ave SW, Apt. 115  
Cullman AL 35055  
(256) 735-0833

### 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 were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth”

— [ Colossians 3:1–2 ] —

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## Take Care

By Jamey Hinds

*“A good reputation is more valuable than costly perfume” (Ecc 7:1).*

**T**hough invisible, it can either help us or hinder us throughout life. It is very precious — so precious, indeed, it only takes a moment of thoughtlessness to harm it to the extent that it will take years and possibly decades for it to be healed. I am referring to one's reputation.

Again, each of us possesses a reputation. Some of us have a good reputation and some don't. There might be times when we've had a bad reputation because of nothing we've done: maybe we're only guilty by association (i.e. we've chosen the wrong kind of people to be friends with; see 1Co 15:33). And sometimes we have a good reputation for the same reason: innocence by association (i.e. we've chosen the right kind of people to be friends with). So, we should learn to be

choosy when it comes to our friends. Any friend of ours who tries to stop us from obeying God is not our friend.

We have a choice in what kind of reputation we're going to have — “Choose a good reputation over great riches; being held in high esteem is better than silver or gold” (Prov 22:1).

When someone comes to us looking for an “ear to bend,” how good are we at keeping things in confidence? Do we keep quiet or do we blurt out everything to everyone? The Bible says, “Don't betray another person's secret. Others may accuse you of gossip, and you will never regain your good reputation” (Prov 25:9-10).

When approached about the daily distribution of food among the widows, the apostles said to the people, “Select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task” (Acts 6:3). They weren't told to just choose anyone, but men of good reputation.

The word ambassador comes to mind at this point. An ambassador represents; so, we as Americans would probably not send someone like Mike Tyson to serve as an ambassador to any other nation simply because of his bad reputation based on his actions.

The question we should seriously ask of ourselves is, “Am I a good representative of Christ to others?” If not, then we obviously need to make changes. But be warned, these changes may take a while for others to notice. Be patient with others as they must obviously be patient with our changes. Furthermore, be patient with yourself as you make the necessary improvements. In other words, your reputation may take a while to fix.

“A good reputation is more valuable than costly perfume” (Ecc 7:1).



# Facing Our Limitations

By Jamey Hinds

No one can do it all. We're not all five-talent people, but we're certainly not all one-talent people either. I'd suggest that most of us are in the two-talent spot. And we might remember that the commendation given by the master to the two talent man was exactly the same as what was said to the five talent man — “Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master” (Mt 25:21, 23).

The Bible teaches us that whatever our “hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going” (Ecc 9:10). In the New Testament this same sentiment is expressed by the apostle Paul to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ in Colosse — “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality” (Col 3:23-25).

Satan would certainly be pleased if we'd look down on ourselves and do nothing. Because in doing nothing *for* the Lord we're doing something *against* Him — “He who is not with Me is against Me” (Mt 12:30).

We need to learn to do what we can with what we've been given. “And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as [Jesus] sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head” (Mk 14:3). The reaction was poor by those who witnessed it: indignant is the word used in many English translations. Defending her, the Lord said, “She has done what she could” (Mk 14:8). He'll likewise defend us if we simply do what we can.

We usually find what we're looking for. There are *needs* to be filled all around us if we'd but *look*. Find what you can do, do it with your might, and give all the honor to God!

