

Worship Servants:

This week: 3/26/23

Sermon: Matt J
 Preside: David D, James M
 Phillip E, Bert S
 Opening Prayer: Glenn E
 Closing Prayer: Barry S
 Singing AM: Doug M
 Singing PM: PRAYER SERVICE

Next week: 4/2/23

Sermon: Matt J
 Preside: James M, Don C
 David H, Justin H
 Opening Prayer: David D
 Closing Prayer: Ken R
 Singing AM: David
 Singing PM: Justin H

Sermon Notes:



MERCEDES DRIVE

CHURCH of CHRIST

March 26, 2023 VOL. 16 NO. 13

Welcome

VISITORS, we are glad you are joining us today! We pray that you will find our worship service to be reverent and uplifting. If you have any questions about anything you see or hear, please do not hesitate to ask!

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY | April 4th, 6:30pm
 MDCOC Fellowship Hall
 Held monthly on the first Tuesday.

SATURDAY SISTERS | April 8th, 9am
 Host - TBD
 Teacher - TBD

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY | April 11th, 6pm
 MDCOC Fellowship Hall
 Held monthly on the second Tuesday.

TEENS IN THE WORD | April 18th, 6pm
 At the Jones new home, 2445 Crystal Lake Rd

MEN'S BREAKFAST | April 23rd, 7:00am
 At the building.

GIRLS FOR CHRIST | April 23rd after services

1ST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP | April 2nd
 9AM - Bible Class
 10AM - Worship
 3PM - Kids activities
 5PM - Family Singing / Devotional

LADIES REVELATION STUDY | 2nd & 4th Sundays
 1PM at the building
 Taught by: Helen Mulaparthi

Service Times

Sunday: **Wednesday:**

Bible Class 9 AM Bible Class 6 PM
 Worship 10 AM
 Worship 6 PM

Elders

Danny Dailey 205-799-0917
 David Dailey 205-765-7260
 David Harbin 205-292-3515

Deacons

John Sloan
 James McDonald

Minister

Matt Jones 205-616-1165
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DO YOU LOVE GOD? COREY WADDELL

In a recent Bible class, the teacher made the point that part of growing spiritually is deciding, "Do I love God?" As we pondered the idea, it occurred to me how important the terms are in that question, specifically the term "love." In a room full of Christians, I doubt anyone would have denied loving the Lord. However, it occurred to me that what some of us mean by "love" may not be what God has in mind. For some, what they have is a great deal of respect for God, but maybe not true love for him.

Let me try to illustrate through our human relationships. There have been numerous people in my life (coaches, teachers, bosses, etc.) whom I respected greatly. Most of these held a level of authority over me for a season of life, and while I wanted to do right by them, they were not the kind of relationships that commanded intense devotion and love. Yet, there have been a few people in my life for whom my feelings went well beyond respect. These are the people I have truly loved. They are the ones for whom I would do anything, that I actively sought to make happy with my actions, and grieved over if the relationship went awry. Such relationships are reserved for a select few in our lives because of how deep they go.

Back to the original question: Do you love God? I think it's possible that many Christians today don't really love God as much as they respect God. We acknowledge his rightful place as the authority of our lives. He is the Creator who, alone, names what is good and evil in the human existence. The thing is, acknowledging God as the authority over us and the rest of humanity does not equate to loving him. True love for God is the kind of devotion we feel which inspires us to bend over backwards to make him happy. It's the passion that leads us to think deeply on scripture to "try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord" (Eph. 5:10). When I truly love God, there is nothing I will not do to make him happy. There is no path I won't forge, no risk I won't take, and no mountain I won't climb.

Indeed, loving God is key to our spiritual lives. Like any relationship it is one that takes time to build. We must invest in it by spending intimate time with him daily. But, from time to time, we must also step back and evaluate the relationship. How do we actually view him. Is it merely a lofty respect because of who he is. Or do we really love God?

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- **KEN & BETTY RAMAY** with his health struggles. **MR. SNELLER PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR HIS BROTHER BEING IN REMISSION**
- **DANNY DAILEY** and the upcoming tests
- **BARBIE SMITH AND HER FATHER** she is in Florida helping her dad
- **TAMMI JONES** she just got out of the hospital
- **KING**, age 5, in the hospital at Children's
- **TAMMY TOXEY**, Becky's neighbor has breast cancer
- **JACK ADKINS** and his upcoming decisions about surgery
- **GLENN LAWRENCE**, Andy caddell's uncle, in hospital with bad health
- **DAVID HOWARD**, Andy Caddell's cousin, bad car wreck
- **BILLY GUYTON'S** wife has stage 3 breast cancer
- **LINDA NEWMAN**, Kristy Sloan's Aunt, having surgery prayers for no cancer
- **CORDIA PHILLIPS**, Ken Ramay's Aunt, in bad health
- **JERRY FARLEY**, Donna's Brother in Law, and his recovery from surgery
- **REGINA SMITH**, Lee's cousin, is in need of prayers
- **FAYE CADDELL** is in need of prayers
- **Kids in schools and the administrators**
- **MEDIA SLOAN** with all her tests and surgeries
- **MICHAEL EDMONDSON**, has a fast spreading cancer, given 12-18 mos. to live.
- **LYN'D DUNNWOODY** Debbie's Brother in Law's Daughter, has breast cancer
- **JAMIE KELLEY**, James Hall's daughter, health struggles, is home still needs prayers
- **JAMES HALL** needing prayers and is needing encouragement
- **RUBY MILLIGAN**, Doug's SIL, has T-Cell Lymphoma. Pray for her and Don.

ATTENDANCE

Worship A.M. ... 74
Worship P.M. 50
Wed P.M.50

CONTRIBUTION

Last Week...\$2,165.00.

BUDGET

Weekly.....\$3,000.00

