

Worship Servants:

This week: 7/23/23

Sermon: Matt J
 Preside: James M, Don C
 David H, Justin H
 Opening Prayer: Glenn E
 Closing Prayer: Barry S
 Singing AM: Doug M
 Singing PM: Bert S

Next week: 7/30/23

Sermon: Matt J
 Preside: Lee S, Alex H,
 Doug M, Dylan N
 Opening Prayer: John S
 Closing Prayer: Scott S
 Singing AM: Alex H
 Singing PM: Prayer Evening

Special Announcement

East Tuscaloosa Area Wide
5th Sunday Fellowship

Cottondale East Pointe Hillcrest Mercedes Drive

Sunday
 July 30, 2023
 5:00pm

PROGRAM LOCATION:
 17303 Highway 11 N
 Vance, AL 35490

PROGRAM LED BY:
 Mercedes Drive Congregation

**WE ARE PROVIDING TACOS AND THE
 TOPPINGS THAT GO WITH TACOS. PLEASE,
 GET WITH HEATHER / BETHANY ON WHAT
 TO BRING.**



MERCEDES DRIVE

CHURCH of CHRIST

July 23, 2023

VOL. 16 NO. 30

Welcome

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY | August 1st, 6:30pm
 MDCOC Fellowship Hall
 Held monthly on the first Tuesday.

SATURDAY SISTERS | August 12, 9am
 Host -
 Teacher -

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY | August 8th, 6pm
 MDCOC Fellowship Hall
 Held monthly on the second Tuesday.

TEENS IN THE WORD | August 15th, 7pm
 At West Blocton VBS

MEN'S BREAKFAST | July 23rd @ 7:45am
 At the building.

GIRLS FOR CHRIST | will be canceled for this month

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

Service Times

Sunday:

Bible Class 9 AM
 Worship 10 AM
 Worship 6 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Class 6 PM

Elders

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

Deacons

John Sloan
 James McDonald

Minister

Matt Jones 205-616-1165
 EMAIL: matt65jones@gmail.com

Church Contacts:

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- facebook.com/mdchurchofchrist

**Check the bulletin in the foyer for more
 announcements and upcoming events.**

Introduction to Love in The Old Testament

Tyler King

The Hebrew word for love appears more than 250 times in the text of the Old Testament. This number of occurrences should come as no surprise to anyone who is familiar with the content of God's word. Love serves as a pivotal motivation, an unconditional expression, and a powerful reaction in the relationship between God and humanity. אהב (or "ahav") can be defined as the "affection or attractive force found between two parties" (Holladay, 5). Interestingly, the two parties in which the love is exchanged can consist of divine, human, or animal and it can even extend to inanimate objects.

The first instance of אהב does not appear until the 22nd chapter of Genesis. Though, it is in this inceptive appearance of Genesis 22:2 that love establishes its gravity. Prior to Genesis 22, God made a promise to Abraham which included the gifting of a land to his offspring (Gen. 13:15). As Abraham's relationship with God developed, he eventually speaks to God regarding his lineage, "O Lord God, what will you give me for I continue childless" (Gen. 15:2). God affirmed and reassured Abraham numerous times that he would indeed bear children through Sarah (Gen. 15:4,5; 17:16). Abraham and Sarah found themselves in a state of disbelief after getting news that she would bear a child; for this seemed impossible to someone of her age (Gen. 18:12,13). As the narrative progresses, the reader discovers God as one who keeps His promises as He provides Isaac to the elderly couple (Gen. 21:2). Isaac's birth was much more than a miracle; it was an event that highlighted the power and faithfulness of the Lord.

Here's where things get interesting (as if the miracle of Isaac's birth wasn't cool already). After Isaac had grown and Abraham had sojourned, God commanded Abraham to rise, take his son Isaac, and offer him before the Lord. Though it is in this very command that God observes, "your son whom you love" (Gen. 22:2). That's the first instance of the word. Additionally, the Hebrew is identified as QAL perfect, 2nd person masculine, meaning, it is God who is looking and witnessing the אהב (ahav) that a father has for his child. Isaac was one of the most cherished gifts that Abraham had received and his affection for him was obvious.

In establishing the foundation of Israel's holiness, the Lord commanded to "love the Lord with all of your heart, all of your soul, and all of your might" (Deut. 6:5). If anyone seeks to follow God, it requires the utilization of one of the most powerful actions/emotions given to humanity: אהב. God instructs that this love is to be powered by all that an individual has in their character, all that they have in their identity, and all that they have in their strength. When one fully comes to terms with giving all that they think, seek, and do for God, they understand how love becomes the propellant that moves a faithful relationship through the most difficult and most joyous of occasions of life.

While love can be a one-sided affair, such is not the case on God's behalf. God is one who continually loves and shows that love through unwavering steadfastness. In the chapter after Deuteronomy 6 and the instruction of the Shema, God reminds the listener of His love for them. Deuteronomy 7 begins with how God has destined His people to prosperity, success, and blessing on the condition that they follow Him. The intent of God is unveiled in Deuteronomy 7:8, "it is because the Lord loves you." This use of אהב appears as a noun feminine singular construct. God is indicating His love is something that embodies who the Lord is and what He does. Later in the text, in 7:13, God's love is described as an verb QAL perfect; something that God does for His people. Love is who God is and what He does. When we love, we are perfectly representing God's truest attribute. So love. Love your family, love your friends, love your enemies.

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- **TODD TEAL**, Doug's niece's husband, had stint put in and is recovering.
- **RONNIE HOWARD** and his recovery from open heart surgery
- **MELISSA DEWBERRY**, Ramay's Daughter, her recovery from foot surgery
- **KIMBRO FAMILY** in Oklahoma with loss of 11yr old daughter
- **KEN RAMAY** and all of his health struggles (thankful for new plan)
- **TODD PIERCE**, Jay's neighbor, recovery from Knee surgery
- **JESS**, Ruth Edward's DIL, her recovery from car accident
- **TAMMI JONES** with her broken arm.
- **Peace and Comfort for Jack Adkins and Family**
- **MARK AND SHANA**, members at Central, they were in bad car wreck
- **TIM NOLAN**, member at Hillcrest, back in the hospital
- **CONGRATULATIONS BRAXTON!** He put on Christ in Baptism June 30, 2023
- **DAILEY FAMILY** as they make preparations to move to Oklahoma
- **DON CICERO** and his recovery from surgery (doing better)
- **WILKEY FAMILY** and the lost of Lisa's mother.
- **BRENDA**, friend of Koli, is doing better
- **JACK ADKINS** and his recovery from surgery
- **FAMILY OF JOHN TAYLOR**, Stephanie Mill's coworker, he passed away this week
- **KENZI SWINDLE**, 6 years old, is fighting cancer and broke her leg
- **KEN AND BETTY RAMAY** and health struggles (Good news about Ken)
- **BARBIE SMITH'S FATHER** and all of health issues
- **ANDY CADDELL** and his road to recovery

ATTENDANCE

Worship A.M. ... 76

Worship P.M. 34

Wed P.M.33

CONTRIBUTION

Last Week.....\$2,629.00

BUDGET

Weekly.....\$3,000.00

