

**TIMES OF SERVICES**  
Sunday Bible Study 10:00 AM  
Sunday AM Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday PM Worship 2:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 PM  
Ladies Bible Class Tuesday  
10:00 AM

**THOSE SERVING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**  
Dwayne Watson

**SONG LEADER**  
Jan 07 Rob Stroud  
Jan 14 Chris Tidwell  
Jan 21 Bruce Stroud  
Jan 28 Boyd Cribb

**PRESIDE:**  
Jan 07 Todd Bryant  
Jan 14 Rob Stroud  
Jan 21 Steven Pütz  
Jan 28 Wiley Ballard

**SERVING ON LORD'S TABLE:**  
1. Romund McConis  
2. Hubert Grier  
3. Wade Peters  
4. Chris Hughes  
5. Ed Singleton  
6. George Awuley  
7. Dominic Comisso  
8. Eric Johnson

**DOOR GREETERS**  
Jan 07 Mary Cole/Amy LeBlanc  
Jan 14 Boyd/Jean Cribb  
Jan 21 Bobby/Marie Fincher  
Jan 28 Hubert/Alene Grier

**PREPARING LORD'S SUPPER**  
Susan Barnett

**EVANGELIST :**  
Tommy Tidwell  
Office 770.948.5119  
Cell 770.365.2133

**SERVED BY:**  
**ELDERS**  
Boyd Cribb - 678.793.3911  
Tommy Tidwell - 770.365.2133  
Dwayne Watson - 678.548.4626

**DEACONS**  
Steven Pütz  
Eric Johnson  
Rob Stroud  
Chris Tidwell



1776 Clay Road  
Mableton, GA 30126  
Phone 770-948-5119



January 07, 2018

## WRESTLING WITH GOD



It is a small note in Scripture, but one to which we should give more thought. Jacob was returning to the land of Canaan after living with his uncle Laban in Mesopotamia. The deceiver, who had deceived his father Isaac as well as Esau, had been deceived by Laban (be sure your sins will find you out—Numbers 32:23), and was going back home. He had not left on great terms with Laban, and Laban had come to “have it out” with Jacob, but been warned by God not to harm Jacob in any way.

Jacob knew that Esau was coming out to meet him with 400 men, and Jacob was concerned about that Esau was still angry and wanted to kill him (Genesis 27:41). So he sent presents to Esau to appease him. He divided his camp, thinking that if Esau and his men fell on one group, the other would be spared. He was then left alone and a Man (capitalized in Scripture) wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Finally, the Man touched Jacob’s socket, and his hip was out of joint.

Jacob would not let the man go until he had received a blessing. And we read these words, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob (hell grabber) but Israel (Prince of God), for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.” (Genesis 32:28).

Let us think about the idea—is it wrong to wrestle with God? One brother asked me this last week, after I made a point in a Bible class. On the face of it, we say YES, because when we wrestle with God we know that we will always lose. The Man stuck Jacob’s hip socket and made him go limp. One cannot wrestle with God and win. Many spend their entire lives wrestling with what God has said and what he commands, determined to live their lives their own way. Jacob was not an honest man—he had deceived others in his own family; but his sin had found him out and he had been deceived and tricked over ten different times by Laban.

Let us consider it another way, however. Is it a blessing to wrestle with God—even though we know we will lose? Is it not the fact that wrestling make us stronger? You may be blessed as he shows you that you cannot wrestle with God and win. You may then see how much you need God, and while the wrestling made lead to pain and heartache, it may make you trust God more than ever.

What is sad is that Israel’s descendants became a people who wrestled with God throughout their existence. They wrestled with him by being disobedient even though he had blessed them and brought them out of the

(continued inside)

**IN THE MILITARY:**

Ishmael Gordon-California  
Jesse Blanton-Germany  
Jon Shipp-Texas  
Micaiah Thompson-CA  
Malachi Bien-Aime-VA  
Micah Thompson -FL

**SHUT INS**

**Fannie Pigg/Kevin Bierley**

**IN NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING**

**Melba Shinholster**

Memory Unit - Room 403  
Cedar Hills Senior Living  
402 E. Ellawood Ave.  
Cedartown, Ga 30125  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Sarah Harmon**

Presbyterian Village  
East/West Connector  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Thelma Pirtle**

Powder Springs Nursing Home  
room 305  
Powder Springs GA  
770-222-7056  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Jerry/Roslyn Anderson**

Delmar Gardens  
Smyrna GA  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Eva Lou Satterfield**

Pruitt Nursing Home  
Mulkey Rd. Room 528  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Joy Rebb**

Powder Springs Nursing Home  
room 213  
Powder Springs GA

**MISSIONS:**

GA AGAPE  
RAINTREE VILLAGE  
CHILDREN'S HOME  
RAINBOW OMEGA  
ROBERT MARTIN Pacific Islands  
A Missionary in Dubai  
WAYNE PARKER—Pohnpei  
SPENCER BROOME LAM

**OUR SICK & PRAYER REQUEST**

**AMANDA WOODS** has good days and bad.  
**BEN WILLIAMS** (nephew of Marice Allen) brain cancer.  
**BRENDA MITCHELL**, member of Fayetteville Church, is waiting for a liver transplant.  
**DAVID NIXON** is doing well.  
**DIANA NIXON** is back at home.  
**ED THOMPSON** is home and doing better.  
**FRITZ TELCIDE** (Joanne Bryant's father) early onset dementia.  
**JAMES BROWN** (Dwight Reese's Stepdad) Prostate Cancer.  
**JULIE**, a friend of Danielle Fincher, lost her fiancé at the age of 32. He leaves behind 2 children ages 1 and 3.  
**LARRY SHEEHY**, Susan Jackson's brother, is having health issues due to the treatment for lymphoma.  
**LESSIE DANIELS** went to the doctor this week and found that she does not have to take treatment for lymphoma at this time.  
**LINDSEY DURHAM** has inflammation around the hair follicles on her head.  
**MARICE ALLEN** will take 6 1/2 weeks of radiation beginning Monday January 8th.  
**MIKE GATTIS** is in Douglas County hospital room 302.  
**SHIRLEY GLOSSON** is at home after being at Cobb taking IV antibiotics. Still no date for surgery.  
**STEVE WATTS** has pancreatic cancer. His nephew **BUCK BAKER**, also has cancer.  
**VERNA HITE** is again at home and doing better.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Eric will be out of town on business and is in need of volunteers to help during the Health Fair. Please get with Eric to let him know if

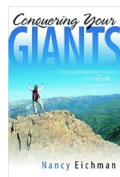
**IF YOU HAVE ANY BIBLE QUESTIONS PLEASE GIVE THEM TO TOMMY AND HE WILL STRIVE TO ANSWER THEM IN THE BULLETIN EACH WEEK.**

**THE COLORS OF LOVE**

Purple was the robe, the beaten Jesus wore (Matt. 27:28)  
Brown, the thorny crown which in much pain He bore (Matt. 27:19)  
White, the sinlessness from which He didn't shrink (Heb. 4:15)  
Yellow, the bitter gall that He'd refuse to drink (Matt. 27:34)  
Green, the lovely plants nearby Calvary's hill (John 19:41)  
Red, the precious blood that today heals us still (1 Pet. 1:18-19)  
Orange, the noon-day sun before it was covered o'er (Luke 23:45)  
Black, the darkened sky as black as ne'er before (Luke 23:44)  
Gray the ashen hue of a dying Man's face (Luke 23:46)  
Blue the beautiful heav'n whence came God's saving grace (1 Pet. 1:10-12)  
How vivid Calv'ry's scene emblazoned from above Could it be God brought forth colors to remind us of His love?  
Edd Sterchi, Campbellsville, KY

**LADIES BIBLE CLASS**

Meet at 10am on Tuesday mornings.

**What You Don't Know Can Hurt You!**

Do you know how to recognize the warning signs of a stroke? If you or someone you know is experiencing any of the below symptoms, call 911 right away. It is important to seek medical treatment immediately

- Sudden Numbness
- Difficulty Speaking
- Severe Dizziness
- Loss of Coordination
- Sudden Loss of Vision
- Sudden Intense Head ache
- Brief Loss of Consciousness

Protect your health by participating in the Life Line Screening health screenings that will be at South Cobb Church of Christ on Friday, January 12, 2018.

Through ultrasound we evaluate the carotid arteries for the buildup of fatty plaque, which is the leading cause of stroke.

Register today for the Stroke, Vascular & Heart Rhythm package, which includes four screenings: carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and atrial fibrillation. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit**

[www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle) or text the word circle to knowledge is empowering.

**ATTENDANCE AND CONTRIBUTION**

**December 31, 2017**

Sunday AM Bible Study ??  
Sunday AM Worship 129  
Sunday PM Worship 80  
Wednesday Bible Study 57

**CONTRIBUTION**

Budget \$4,500.00  
Contribution: \$3658.00

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Jan 11th** Senior Luncheon at the building at 12pm. Menu is soup and sandwiches. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

**Jan 20th** Men's Breakfast at the building at 8am.

**Jan 21st** Elder/Deacons Meeting at 3pm.

**Jan 28th** Congregational Meal

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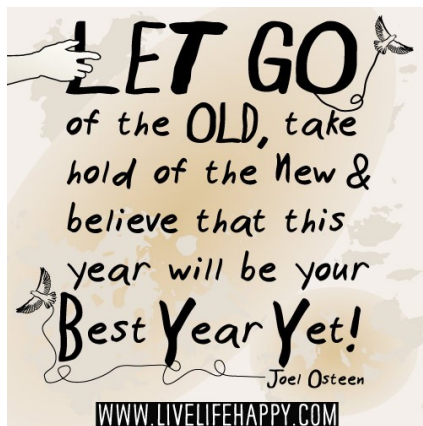
land of Egypt, fed them in the wilderness, and spurned his command to take the land. Once they had taken the land, they were blessed as they continued to follow God, but we then see the sad, sordid tale of the Judges, and their desire to have a king like the nations around them. We see that God then punished them because they refused to obey God, even though he warned them through prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah and others of their sin and rebellion. But God still saved the remnant of them, because he wanted his Only Begotten Son to come into the world through them. Their wrestling with God caused them to be punished, but God's grace had bigger plans because through them Jesus would come and save not just the Israelites who believed in him, but the whole world.

Blessings come from God, even though we wrestle with God about obedience. Struggles make us stronger, but let us always remember that you will never win against God. He wants us to be saved, but if we continue to wrestle with him until we die; if we continue in disobedience and sin, we will perish. But if we learn what he wants us to learn; become obedient to him and His word, and love him with all of our heart, then the struggles we go through will be worth in the end. And that is what is most important!

**WHY HIDEST THOU?**

Why do We sometimes feel that God is far away? There are times we need to feel He is nearby. Psalm 10:1 says "Why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?" David dared to ask the question. It is okay to ask questions of God. All the great people of the Bible had troubles of one kind or another. The thing that made the difference is they asked God about it. They didn't ask someone else. They didn't even trust their own feelings. Feelings can change what God's word never changes. The Lord never promised that following Him would be a trouble free journey. He never promised to take us around the valleys. He always promised to walk us through them. Psalms 23:4 says, "Ye though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil," for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."

Mark Dillon, Corning AR



### MAKING SURE NEW IS BETTER

It was one of the ancient scholars who said, “Nothing is permanent, except change.” Things in life are going to change. You cannot stop change. You age. You go through different periods of life, and you cannot return to the past. I look at another year coming and going – there have been changes in family and friendships because of the losing and the gaining of people. There is also the development of different traditions and experiences. William Arthur Ward said, “Change, like sunshine, can be a friend or a foe, a blessing or a curse, a dawn or a dusk.” How we respond to inevitable change is really the difference in the impact such changes have on our lives.

If you don't think things are constantly changing, just consider the things people were buying this past Christmas compared to the years before. Next year something else will be the hot ticket item and it is probably not even invented yet. Everything is always new, new, new! We are consumed by “new and improved!” But new is not always better. We need to make sure that whatever is introduced into our life is worth keeping. At the forefront of the correct response to change is the recognition of what is constant. The only true constant is God (Mal . 3:6; Heb. 8:13).

Here a quick list of new things that aren't necessarily better: politicians, legislation, toys, jewelry, homes, information, cars, methodology, clothing, tools, technology, music, software, medications, wrinkles and gray hair...

How can we measure something to be better when it is new?

1. Has it strengthened or improved my relationship with God?

Acts 9:22 – “*But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.*”

Luke 2:52 – “*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*”

2. Has it made me more effective or useful?

2 Tim. 2:21 – “*Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from being a vessel of dishonor, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.*”

3. Has it blessed my life and caused my life to be blessing others?

2 Tim. 4:11 – “*Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.*”

4. Would its absence be a greater blessing than its presence?

Psalms 20:7 – “*Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.*”

Change is inevitable – and things that are new continue to be introduced into our lives. We need to be mindful of what we allow to become a part of us. We have to power to accept or reject it and we need help from God and discernment to know the difference.

So as we look to a new year, we need to exalt Christ and let our relationship with Him be the determining factor as to how we deal with the new. After all, He is the one who really changed everything for the better forever. He is the ultimate of “new and improved.” He is the answer. He is the only one who can renew us daily. Everything He is changing in us is a needful change.

“*Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’*” – Rev. 21:5

“*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*” – 2 Cor. 5:17

AUTHOR: [Jeremiah Tatum](#)