

Green's Lake Road church of Christ

"*Holding forth the word of life*" (Philippians 2:16)

May 21, 2018

GREEN'S LAKE ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

1209 Green's Lake Road
Chattanooga, TN 37412

423-867-7115

glrchurchofchrist@att.net

www.glrcoc.com

Bible Correspondence Course

Call or write us to enroll.

Schedule of Services

Sunday . . . 9:30 a.m.
and 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday . . . 7:00 p.m.

Bishops

Larry Clark
423-624-2591

Jim Lewis
423-867-9499

Deacons

Danny Brown
Les Clark
Dennis Paladeni
Josh Perry
Mickey West, Sr.

Evangelists

Roger D. Campbell
423-920-4980

Jim Lewis
423-867-9499

"You Need to Keep Your Religion to Yourself"

"Hi, my name is Roger and I'm a Christian. Today I am in your neighborhood talking to people about Jesus and a great gift that God has for all people." As you can imagine, I get a wide variety of responses when I say such words to a stranger.

One particular man on whose door I knocked was not at all happy with me and my brief reference to Jesus and God's gift. The thrust of his response was, "What you are doing is wrong. You need to keep your religion to yourself. The Bible says to go into your room and pray, so you need to leave other people alone."

Jesus *did* teach His disciples to go into their closet/room, shut the door, and pray in secret (Matthew 6:6). It is false, however, to claim that (1) the Master's words require that we engage in spiritual activities *only* behind closed doors or that (2) His teaching forbids us from approaching lost people with the gospel.

First of all, some living quarters do not even have a room or closet with a door that one can close to assure his privacy (I'm thinking about a tent). Jesus said the Son of man did not have a place to lay His head (Luke 9:58), so not all of His spiritual activities were carried on behind closed doors.

Second, Jesus Himself sometimes prayed in the presence of others, as He did when He gave thanks for the food which He used and multiplied to feed thousands of people (John 6:10,11).

Third, Jesus' charged His followers to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every person (Mark 16:15,16). We call it "the Great Commission," and today we still live under those marching orders. Obviously, we cannot accomplish the task of declaring the Lord's good news to every inhabitant on the planet if we barricade ourselves inside a room/closet.

Jesus' message about praying inside a closed room was spoken in a context in which He was teaching not to pray in order to impress others. Instead, pray *as if* it were only you and God alone.

-- Roger D. Campbell

Do We Really Desire to Follow Jesus?

In Luke 9:57-62, the Bible records for our learning what Jesus said to those who expressed their desire to follow Him: *“Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, ‘Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’ Then He said to another, ‘Follow Me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.’ And another also said, ‘Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.’ But Jesus said to him, ‘No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.’”*

Here’s what we learn from the above account:

① Following Jesus will not be easy – even *“the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”* It will be a tough road ahead. Often, some have misunderstood the statement of Jesus in Matthew 11:30 *“for My yoke is easy and My burden is light”* to mean that we have no yoke or burden at all. We still have got to carry our cross: Jesus said: *“And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple”* (Luke 14:27). But compared to the yoke and burden of the world, we *“consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”* (Rom. 8:18)

② Following Jesus requires one to prioritize spiritual matters of the kingdom above earthly obligations: *“Let the dead*

bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.” The preaching of the gospel of the kingdom of God will have to take precedence and urgency. There are many who can do the work of this world, but there are very few laborers in the vineyard of the Lord (Matthew 9:37).

③ Following Jesus requires immediate commitment to the urgency of the work – one ought not to prioritize other things above His calling – such as *“let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.”* It is not something that we can “take our own sweet time” to do. After Paul was baptized, the Bible recorded thus: *“Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God”* (Acts 9:20). He did not delay his service to God. Some have said that they will devote their lives to the preaching of the gospel once they have made adequate provisions for their families (financially secure) or upon their “retirement” from their secular employment. The reality is, if one does not realize the urgency of the work of the kingdom, then one falls short as a disciple of Christ. The Bible tells us that when the church at Jerusalem was persecuted, its members were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. But *“those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word”* (Acts 8:4).

Many have achieved financial security and also have “retired” from their secular employment – but are they actively preaching the gospel? If the work can be delayed *then*, it can be delayed *now*! If we have delayed our service to God, then it is high time that we truly repent from our procrastination and start without any

further delay. We do not have “all the time in the world” to do His work.

④ Following Jesus means that we should not look back to the things of the world – “*No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*” One who looks back to the world does not possess the mindset required as a member of the kingdom of God. He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways (James 1:8). Jesus said in Matthew 6:24: “*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.*”

Let’s persevere in following Jesus and doing the will of God (1 Corinthians 15:58). “*For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: “For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.” But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul*” (Hebrews 10:36-39).

-- Steven Chan [Klang bulletin; 04-15-18]

Health update:

Sam Vandergriff and Richard Manning are continuing to recover at home following recent surgeries.

Our shut in or in special care facilities:

Otis Samples (Standifer Place), John Robinson (Martin-Boyd), Mary Frances Prophater (Martin-Boyd), Ed Taylor (Martin-Boyd), Dot Green (Martin-Boyd), Treva Long, Alma Vance, Lorine Hughes,

John Fields, Sara Payne, Jean Morgan

Special prayer requests:

Ken Grignon, Cynthia’s husband, cancer
Parents of Tony Parris, health problems
Jeannie Granger, daughter of Madelyn McNabb, serious health problems.
Sue Lowery, health problems
Remember Les & Natasha Clark’s family as they are in Ukraine. Les spoke on Sun. May 20 in Cherkassy, where Sergei B. preaches.

Pantry: Canned Fruit

Card shower: Choice of sick or shut-in

Coming up on the GLR calendar:

May 27 – Finger-food fellowship after p.m. services. We will be honoring Emily Cass as a high school graduate . . . plan to come.

June 3-7 – VBS – a study of Joseph

- Services will be from 7:00-8:45 each evening – that **includes Sunday**. The actual Bible classes will end at 8:10.
- We have 40 VBS “yard signs” available for advertising. Please take & use them.
- Donations for VBS refreshments can be given to Lisa or Tony Parris. If you would like to donate cookies, please bring these to the bldg. by Mon. June 4.
- June 8 – VBS Friday cookout at 6:00

July – conduct services at Martin-Boyd

July 9-14 – McCroy Bible Camp (see Roger or Donna for info and application)

Aug. 4 – Youth Lectures

Area activities:

May 29-June 26 – Tuesday night summer series at N. Hamilton

June 3-6 – Gospel Meeting at Lookout Hall with various speakers.

June 9 – Ladies Day at Avondale with Shelby Coates and Katrina Brown as speakers.

**WHAT MUST I DO TO
BE SAVED?**

Hear the gospel
(Romans 10:17)

Believe in Jesus as God's
Son (John 3:16-18)

Repent of past sins
(Acts 17:30)

Confess faith in Jesus
(Romans 10:10)

Be baptized for remission
of sins (Acts 2:38)

Live faithfully
(1 Corinthians 15:58)

GREEN'S LAKE ROAD
CHURCH OF CHRIST
1209 Green's Lake Road
Chattanooga, TN 37412

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage Paid
Chattanooga, TN
Permit No. 345

Our statistics:

May 16 Bible classes	53
May 20 a.m. worship	88
May 20 Bible classes	67
May 20 p.m. worship	59
May 20 contribution	\$4,214

Works Supported by Green's Lake Road

- Sergei Boiko (Cherkassy, Ukraine)
- Houston McClure (MSOP)
- Potter Children's Home
- FTI Children's Home (India)
- In Search of the Lord's Way (Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on Comcast 13)

Home of the Chattanooga School of
Preaching and Biblical Studies since 2000

Order of Worship – May 27, 2018

Announcements	Mickey West (a.m.) Rodney Jones (p.m.)
Opening prayer	Daniel Wolfram (a.m.) Les Clark (p.m.)
Bible reading	Mark Lewis (a.m.) Josh Perry (p.m.)
Closing prayer	Daniel Brown (a.m.) Hunter Hancock (p.m.)

"Let all things be done decently and in order"
(1 Corinthians 14:40)

Van drivers in May: Sun. – Mark Lewis
Wed. – Larry Clark