

Green's Lake Road church of Christ

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

September 14, 2020

GREEN'S LAKE ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

1209 Green's Lake Road
Chattanooga, TN 37412

423-867-7115

glrchurchofchrist@att.net

www.glrccoc.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.

Pastors

Larry Clark
423-624-2591

Jim Lewis
423-867-9499

Deacons

Danny Brown
Les Clark
Dennis Paladeni
Josh Perry

Evangelists

Roger D. Campbell
423-920-4980

Jim Lewis
423-867-9499

2020 Has Been a Year of Division over "the P's"

This year will go down as "one for the ages." We are witnessing and experiencing things which are new to us. Widespread division is evident in our country. Some of it headlines the news. Portions of it touch our lives, either directly or indirectly. Many people have felt drained emotionally by all that is going on.

Polarizing stuff is taking place. Actions taken and words spoken/tweeted/shared are heartily endorsed by some Americans, while mocked or even condemned by others. What kind of "P's" are involved in the division which abounds?

Pandemic – How many times have you and I heard that word this year?! Saying "Covid," "Covid-19," "coronavirus," or just "the virus" has become a normal part of our vocabulary. No one likes the virus, that's for certain. Common folks like you and me are left to listen to "experts" who do not agree with each other. And, in some instances, they do not agree with what they themselves said just a few days ago. It has left a lot of people feeling confused, uneasy, and frustrated to the nth degree.

Public figures – This year, there are a lot of "new" people on our radar. Speaking for myself, before 2020 I had never heard of frequently-quoted public figures such as Dr. Anthony Fauci, Dr. Deborah Birk, Kamala Harris, or Candace Owens. Is anyone else raising their hand, too? Some admire them, others do not trust them, and yet others downright despise them.

Police – Some say to *reduce* their funding; others say police departments need *more* funding. There are those who say we should have *less* police officers, but the other side says we need *more*. Right-thinking folks recognize these truths: (1) Police officers are invested with authority, but it is wrong for them to abuse it and/or mistreat human beings; (2) Some police officers are biased and corrupt, but not all are like that. The overwhelming majority are not. I personally know multiple sheriffs and police chiefs who are brothers in the Lord of outstanding character; (3) It

is sad that among those who work in law enforcement, “bad eggs” get way more publicity than “the good guys” do.

Protests – It outrages those with a good moral compass when they see a fellow human being treated unfairly or even abused. On our part, any response to such bad conduct needs to be in accordance with civil law (1 Peter 2:13,14), thoughtful of what is good for others (Philippians 2:3,4), and always in harmony with the example and teaching of our Lord (Matthew 28:20).

Placing a covering on your face – The spectrum of thinking includes: “Wearing masks is *very* helpful,” “Wearing may help *a little*, but not that much,” “Wearing masks does not do *any* good,” and “Wearing masks can be harmful.” Sigh.

Politics/politicians – Perhaps not wanting to share the spotlight with a health crisis, a number of those running for political office have done things which remind us that, in some cases, politicians will do about anything to be in the news and in our thoughts. Some apparently endorse the old adage that any type of publicity, bad or good, is “good for business.” Nastiness, character assaults, and buffoonery flood the printed page, political ads, the internet, and Twitter. Christians who recognize that righteousness exalts a nation (Proverbs 14:34) will make voting choices which have a better chance of leading our country in a righteous path.

Pastoral leadership – Shepherds/elders of God’s flock are faced with pandemic-related issues in 2020 that past generations’ leaders did not have to confront. Our heart goes out to those overseers of a congregation whose heart longs to help God’s people remain strong and loyal to

Him. They are doing the best they know how to do, and in matters of expediency, they need our prayers, moral support, and compliance (Hebrews 13:17), not bickering, name-calling, or threats to go to a different congregation. How happy it would make the devil if God’s church self-destructed in matters connected to a disease that attacks the body (Galatians 5:15).

Posts on social media – If you look hard enough, you may be able to find a Dr./“expert” who agrees with your thinking on masks, the spread of a virus, herd immunity, protestors, racism, or whatever. Before posting, sharing, or giving a thumbs up to an article or video, a Christian would be wise to do due diligence to investigate the source and reliability of the information. Nicodemus’ logical appeal was this: do not judge a man/matter before you *know* what has been done (John 7:50,51). Being slow to speak may sound outdated and un-American, but it still is what God expects of us (James 1:19).

Pro sports/athletes – Some are fed up with professional athletes, coaches, and team owners, to the point of “writing them off” and pledging not to watch the games anymore. Others do not endorse some of the positions taken, but still plan to watch the games for entertainment. Another segment of society praises the outspoken professional players as the courageous heroes of our day. Just mentioning how a player conducts him/herself during the playing of the national anthem will bring out strong reactions across the board.

Yes, this year has seen an abundance of polarizing proclamations, disappointing decisions, and racist rhetoric. As God’s children, however, we must not be

distracted from the Positive P's. While the pandemic, politics, and protests have dominated the news outlets, Christians need to concentrate on other P's. From here to the end of this article, we are *going positive* all the way! Some good P's:

Put our trust in the Lord – Not in prosperity, players, politicians, or parties, but in the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

Prayer – Cast our cares on our heavenly Father (1 Peter 5:7).

Peace of mind – The Bible says, “*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts*” (Colossians 3:15). Embrace His peace.

Peacemakers – Jesus said such folks are blessed/happy. As His disciples, we can appeal for peace between hostile parties and, most importantly, show people how to have peace with God (Romans 5:8-11).

Passion for lost souls – When a person's sin separates him from God, whether he has been sick with Covid or never heard of the virus, that person is lost. The Christ's love compels us to reach out to those dying in sin (2 Corinthians 5:14).

Priorities – God's Cause still comes first in our thinking and life choices (Matthew 6:33) . . . even in a pandemic.

Prepare for heaven – This has to be the number one goal of every member of the Lord's church. The need to do this far exceeds any other “need” in our life!

Do not let the bad P's get you down. Stay committed to the good P's, okay?

– Roger D. Campbell

A new sister: Miranda Hammond obeyed the gospel last week. Be sure to welcome her into God's family.

Special prayer requests:

Carole Gass' daughter, Jane, recovering from surgery

Emily Cass, Covid-19

Donna Smith, friend of Karen Brown, husband passed away

Cathy Fields, knee replacement

Teresa Skiles, Steve Tatum's sister, test results

Carla Cass' brother-in-law, Josh Crouch, lung sarcoidosis and cardiac arrhythmia

Kathy Pollard, friend of Teresa Tatum, cancer

Dallas Richard, friend of Jennifer Hunt, cancer

Yong DeGraff's brother-in-law, cancer

Ted Dickerson, chemo tx each Monday

Freda Lewis, treatment for lymphoma

Kainon and family, Melissa Shirley's nephew, Covid-19

Family of Danny Jackson, friend of the Shirleys, passed away at age 37

Marilyn McCuiston, Teresa Tatum's cousin, cancer

Michelle Pemberton and Steve Tatum, health issues

Cynthia Grignon

Candace Shirley requested prayers for increased trust in the Lord.

Our shut in or in special care facilities:

Dot Green (Martin-Boyd), Treva Long,

Lorine Hughes, Jean Morgan, Sue Lowery,

Mary Frances Prophater (Martin-Boyd),

Chris Reece (Cleveland)

Pantry: small jars of mayo, instant grits, small tubes of toothpaste, bar soap

Area activities:

Sept. 20-23 – Gospel meeting at Ooltewah with Charles Cochran

Card Shower: Emily Cass

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

Hear the gospel
(Romans 10:17)

Believe in Jesus as God's
Son (Acts 16:31)

Repent of past sins
(Acts 3:19)

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

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Our statistics:

Sept. 9 Bible classes	57
Sept. 13 a.m. worship	65
Sept. 13 Bible classes	58
Sept. 13 p.m. worship	47
Sept. 13 contribution	\$3962

Works Supported by Green's Lake Road

- Sergei Boiko (Cherkassy, Ukraine)
- Mark Lance (Chalmette, LA)
- Trent Kennedy (Singapore)
- Potter Children's Home
- FTI Children's Home (India)
- In Search of the Lord's Way TV show
- International Gospel Hour radio show

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Order of Worship – September 20, 2020

Announcements	Rodney Jones (a.m.) Larry Clark (p.m.)
Opening prayer	Shane Shirley (a.m.) Tony Parris (p.m.)
Bible reading	Mickey West Sr. (a.m.) Micah Perry (p.m.)
Closing prayer	Les Clark (a.m.) Patton Garrett (p.m.)

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

Van drivers in September: Sun. – Tony Parris
Wed. – Larry Clark