

Times of Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a. m. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- 2nd Sunday 2:00 p.m. Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- 2nd Saturday 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study—at Ranch House Restaurant, Columbus, MS
- 3rd Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study – (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars monthly meeting (TBA)
- Monthly Ladies Class- October 8, 1:30 p.m., Jeanette Clements' Home.
- Gospel Meeting in Sturgis – Each Tuesday in October at 7:00 p.m.

News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Eula Mae Harless, Joyce Manasco.
- **Limited Health:** Willena Woods, Wade McCrary.
- **Prayer Requests:** Frank and Joann Butler.
- **Others to remember:** Steve Coburn, Jim Ratcliff, David Allen Williams, Jerry Paschall, Elbert Logan, Mike & Marion Butler.
- **Sick:** Marilyn Lavender suffered a broken hand. Lynette Coburn has a knee injury. Lee Gallop has had numerous tests run to determine the nature of his illness.
- **Deaths:** Brother Eldon Barham died Friday, October 4, with services and burial held Monday, October 7 at Lowndes Funeral Home in Columbus. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family.

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East Columbus Bulletin

The Willingness To Be Warned

- by Gary Henry

When God providentially brings warnings into our lives, it is a great mistake to ignore them. When, for example, Paul preached the gospel to Felix, the Roman governor, the text says: "And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, 'Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you'" (Ac. 24:25). Paul's warning about "the coming judgment" was enough to make Felix "alarmed," but Felix did nothing about the warning. Like so many who procrastinate and fail to do anything about the warnings that come to them, this man postponed taking any action with regard to his soul's salvation. For all we know, he never got around to obeying the gospel.

The willingness to be warned is a valuable character trait. It is, in fact, one of the major attributes that distinguish a wise person from a foolish one. Solomon said, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice" (Prov. 12:15). Learning from our mistakes, listening to others' advice, and paying attention to our conscience seem like simple things. Yet we often fail to do them. And when we fail to let ourselves be warned, we lose much

of the benefit of wisdom. We are doomed to repeat our mistakes and to suffer their consequences over and over again. If we're unwilling to be warned, for whatever reason, we will lead a life that is much harder and more unpleasant than it has to be. "Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray" (Prov. 10:17).

It is not fun to be warned. There are more pleasant things that we'd rather hear. But we need to be warned, and God loves us too much not to warn us. He has provided for our salvation in His Son, but that salvation is only for those willing to be warned about their sins. If it is the gospel of Christ that we wish to hear, then we must be prepared to hear its warnings. Concerning Christ, Paul said, "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ" (Col. 1:28). Do we wish to be "mature in Christ"? Then we must welcome the warnings of His word. This week, let's open up our hearts, our minds, and our attitudes to the benefit of God's warnings to us.

The Day of Our Death Is Coming

by Gary Henry, WordPoints.com

"So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

NOT MANY THINGS IN THIS WORLD ARE CERTAIN, BUT DEATH IS ONE THAT IS. For every one of us who is living today, the day of our death is coming. We may delay it, but we can't avoid it.

There is one exception, of course, and that would be the possibility that the Lord might come back before we die. If we happen to be living at that time, we will enter upon our eternal destiny without having died physically (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

But if the Lord tarries, we will die. And since that is true, I believe it's important for us to decide how we're going to think about that reality. Like every other subject, our own death can be looked at from a variety of perspectives, some more comprehensive than others, and some more helpful than others. For example, is the fact that we must die a curse or a blessing, all things considered?

Surely, the answer to that question has much to do with whether or not we die in a right relationship with our Creator. But even among those who, through Christ, expect to live with God in eternity, there might be a difference of opinion about our mortality.

If mankind still lived in the sinlessness of Eden, physical immortality would be a delightful, joyous prospect. But we don't live in Eden, and in the world as it presently is, how many of us would really want to live much longer than the current human lifespan? If only a few of us could die and the rest had to live here forever, wouldn't we see those who could die as the fortunate few?

From the vantage point of the faithful Christian, the day of one's death is not such a bad day after all. In Christ, life in this world can be viewed as good (because it involves service in the noblest of causes), but death looks like an even better prospect. As Paul said, "To live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

But to look at death in this way, we must be ready to die. And to be ready to die, we must reckon realistically with the fact that *the day of our death is coming*. If you are like me, that is a very hard thing to reckon. We know it, but it just doesn't seem real to us. "So teach us to number our days," Moses prayed, "that we may gain a heart of wisdom." May our own death be real to us . . . *right now*.

"Everyone knows he will die, but no one wants to believe it"
(Jewish Proverb).

Note: The East Columbus Bulletin was delayed in publication this month due to my absence on first Sunday. Plans are to resume publication on the first Sunday of each month in November. ew