

# Oxford church of Christ

*Living the truth, loving the lost and lifting the brokenhearted."*

**Luke 4:18 NKJV**

**September 13, 2017**

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I WAS VERY encouraged by our first **God's Great Leader's Class**.

There were thirteen good brothers in attendance including, Roger Burleson, Drew Pettus, Glenn Fulmer, Steve Hicks, Lewis Higgins, Clyde Huckeba, TJ Shepherd, Jason Campbell, Ronnie Nordan, Murray Beasley, Bruce Dickerson, Clay Blackwell and myself.

We poured over 1 Kings 13 for the first forty-five minutes and studied Solomon's request for wisdom as he began to reign over Israel.

The last half of our study involved a case study where we discussed how we might lead our congregation through a specific challenge.

We all gained insight from the biblical text, we grew in our friendships with one another, and we talked about how to be more effective leaders in the kingdom.

Our next class is scheduled for September 19 at 6:00 PM.

Come grow in the Lord with us. —Mike



**Sunday:**

9:30 AM Bible Class  
10:30 AM Worship  
5:00 PM Worship

**Wednesday:**

6:00 PM Bible Class

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# “Let’s Kill Lazarus...”

By Mike Benson

It is impossible to read the sentence without some incredulity. John records, “...The chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death...” (**John 12:10**).

Think about that word - “priests.” It’s plural.

One spiritual leader didn’t scheme to murder Lazarus; many spiritual leaders schemed to murder Lazarus. And these guys were suppose to be the religious right - the moral elite of ancient Jewish society!

The ESV says, “...The chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well.” “As well...” In truth, they didn’t want to murder just one man, but two. They wanted to kill Jesus (cf. **John 11:53**) and Lazarus.

“Why?’ you may ask. Re-read **John 12:9-11**. A great many Jews believed in Jesus. And why did a great many believe in Jesus? Because Lazarus had been raised from the dead.

Remember that the Sadducees taught that there was no resurrection (cf. **Matt. 22:23-28**). Unfortunately for them, Lazarus illustrated that their dogma was at obvious variance with the Biblical data. He was a living, breathing entity despite the fact that he had been entombed for four days.

Lazarus was concrete evidence to the contrary; he was the doctrinal deathblow to their misguided, man-made tradition.

It was impossible for the chief priests to argue with or against him. Any sane, thoughtful, sincere individual wouldn’t even attempt to debate with Lazarus. He was absolute proof that Jesus could perform miracles. He was the undeniable corroboration of the divinity of Christ (cf. **John 20:30-31**).

And that’s why the chief priests wanted to kill Lazarus and Jesus.

A few thoughts rattle around in my neocortex as I ponder this curious incident:

- If Jesus could resurrect a dead man, why did the chief priests entertain the idea of killing Lazarus in the first place? Couldn’t Jesus resurrect Lazarus again, if he so desired? What this teaches me is that you can’t expect coherent thinking and behavior from people who **insist** on upholding their agenda over truth.
- If Jesus could, and obviously did, bring a dead man back to life - as Jesus had also done previous occasions—e.g., the son of the widow of Nain (**Luke 7:11-17**) and the daughter of Jairus (**Luke 8:40-56**) - wouldn’t that serve as affirmation of his divine power? Had the chief priests really thought about the futility of trifling with the miracle Man of God?

The chief priests in John’s story remind me of a critical point: unbelief is not due to a lack of evidence; unbelief is due to a lack of conviction. People don’t reject the truth because there are no facts; they reject the truth despite the facts.

Even when there is incontrovertible testimony, some folks simply choose not to believe. If their hearts are hard and their motives are impure, you can expect them to be antagonists towards truth and to engage in sinful, destructive behavior.

On the other hand, if their hearts are soft and their motives are pure, you can expect them to investigate, believe in, and follow the Lord.

- Was the world created in six literal days?
- Is there life beyond this transient walk?
- Is immersion necessary in order to be saved from sin?
- Is it possible to live in adultery?
- Is homosexual behavior sinful?

It depends. It depends on whether or not a person wants the truth and is willing to follow it to its inevitable conclusion.

The chief priests weren’t willing to do that. Dear reader, are you (cf. **2 Thes. 2:10**)?

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Kara Harmon (mother of Eric Harmon); Virginia Batey

**Continue to Remember:**

Sharon Nowland  
Ann Coody  
Sandra Coffin  
Drew Pettus  
Mike Randall  
Vickie Cole  
Doris Dickerson  
Bobby Coley

**Home:**

Clellon Tims  
Frances Pugh  
Juanita Meredith  
Reba Kendrick  
Charles Norton

**Nursing Homes:**

May Rene Turner— Autumn Cove  
Phoebe Strickland—NHC Place  
Lillian Dollahite—Gadsden Healthcare  
Wayne Greer—Franklin, TN  
Brooksie Adams—Fountain Inn, SC

**Memphis School of Preaching**

We received update letters from all four of our sponsored Memphis School of Preaching students this week. Stop by the "Kindness" bulletin board next to Mike's office and see what these men and their families have been doing.

**Upcoming Events:**

9/14- Teen Discussion - 6 PM  
9/14 - Cancer Care Group - 6 PM  
9/17 - Team 2 Lunch and Meeting  
9/17 - L2L Speech - 3 PM  
9/17 - L2L Bible Bowl Practice - 3:45 PM  
9/19 - Diversicare Devotional - 10 AM  
9/19 - God's Great Leaders Class 6 PM  
9/24 - Team 3 Lunch and Meeting

**Area Events:**

Lincoln church of Christ:  
Gospel Meeting: September 17th - 20th  
Speaker: Jeff Clark

Antioch church of Christ: Snead, AL  
Gospel Meeting: September 17th - 20th  
Speaker: Chad Dollahite

**Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

Bea McConathy	9/15
Billy Helms	9/18
Jacob Umetsu	9/19
Blake Wudarczyk	9/22
Jane Mullally	9/23

**Oxfordfest**

**Oxfordfest will be Saturday, October 7th. We need volunteers to work our booth handing out water and church related information. There is a sign-up sheet located in the back of the auditorium for different times to work our booth. Please find a time slot that works best for you.**

**Food Pantry**

We have had a lot of activity regarding the Food Pantry in the last two months. We are in need of the following items:

- Saltine Crackers
- Peanut Butter (16oz jars)
- Jelly (16oz jars)
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Soup (with pop top opening)
- Beane Weenees (with pop top opening)
- Spaghetti sauce (jars)
- Spaghetti noodles
- Chili (with pop top opening)

# Youth Bulletin Board

## Evangelism

Bible Correspondence  
Bible Tracts  
Campaign For Christ  
CD Ministry  
Cliff Goodwin, "Preaching the Word"  
Curacao Mission Work  
Friends & Family Day  
Gospel Broadcasting Network  
Guyana Preacher Training  
House To House  
Oxfordfest  
Spring & Fall Gospel Meetings

## Benevolence

Childhaven  
Coat Drive  
Golden Age Day  
Disaster Relief  
Food Pantry  
Four Students at MSOP  
Nursing Home Fruit Baskets  
Rainbow Omega

## Edification

Area Wide Youth Devo  
Annual Youth Day  
Backwoods Christian Camp  
Bible Classes  
Cancer Care  
Exposure Youth Conference  
GAP Group  
Go Forth Class  
Diversicare Nursing Home Devo  
GOT MILK Class  
Ladies' Day  
Lads-To-Leaders  
NHC Nursing Home Devo  
Teen Discussion Class  
Vacation Bible School

**Thursday, September 14th - Teen Discussion Class at 6 PM**

**Sunday, September 17th - Speech Practice at 3 PM**

**\*Have your topic ready to review with coordinators.**

**Sunday, September 17th - Bible Bowl Practice at 3:45 PM**

## WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS September 17th

Welcome/Announcements: Bruce Dickerson

Song Leader: Clay Blackwell - AM

James Jenkins- PM

Prayer Leaders: Opening Prayer: Tom McKleroy - AM

Marty Hill - PM

Closing Prayer: Louis Higgins - AM

Milton Cole - PM

Communion:

Murray Beasley (Head)

Clyde Huckeba

Dexter Bland

Drew Pettus

Keith Luker

Kris Bell

Josh Moorey

Alternates:

Blake Shomber

Chris Shomber

Back: Andrew Adams

Reid Nordan

PM Service: Buddy Cranmer

Wednesday Announcements: Louis Higgins

Building Lock-up: Murray Beasley

Greeters: Murray and Judy Beasley

Communion Preparation: Sandy Higgins

Contact Elder: Tom McKleroy