

Announcements – Bulletin News January 14th, 2018



The church expresses heartfelt sympathy to Dorothy Forbes, Damita Burgess & family due to the loss of Dorothy's father, Richard Junious, the funeral was yesterday.

Wanda Haynes; thanks, the church for their love and support. She is at Sumner Regional Life Center in Wellington KS. Please call the church office for information regarding visits.

January Schedule

Ladies Baptism: Christy Slater, Stephanie Johnson

Bereavement: LaDonna & Brittany Dozier

Medical Staff: Willie Alford

Brothers; the Order of Worship is available on line on Fridays after 3pm

@ www.chisholmtrailcofc.org

Blood Pressure Check; First Sunday

Open Pantry; Jan 25th, 4-6pm.

Budget \$8,000.00

January 7th, 2017

Offerin 6,700. /Benevolence 400.00

Four Ways continued

always struggle in our faithfulness.

Second, we must "seek the law of the Lord. "This means we should search for a greater knowledge and a better understanding of God's word. A strong faith requires knowledge. We need an accurate understanding of the commandments of God. In Psalm 119:10-12 the writer said, "With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord" teach me thy statutes. "God's commandments are so precious that we should seek them with complete eagerness and enthusiasm (Psalm 119:127). God's word is to study. 2 Timothy 2:15

commands, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Third, it is simply enough to know the word of God, we must obey the things commanded by God. Knowing God's work is vital but if we do not obey the teaching, our knowledge is in vain. In James 1:22 we find, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." Proclaiming our faith must be backed-up with action. Jesus asked in Luke 6:46, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" If we love Christ we will obey His commands.

Fourth, we must teach the truth to others. In Mark 16:15-16 Jesus said, Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." We must prepare ourselves to teach others about God. We must be ready to give a good Bible answer to those who ask us about spiritual things. Peter said, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). Paul told Timothy that he had a responsibility to teach the things he had learned to others. In 2 Timothy 2:2 he said, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commi thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

So, in Ezra 7:10 we find four principles which help us to be stronger Christians. Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. If we follow his example, we will become stronger in our faith and better Christians. We must work in these four areas so that we might grow in our faith and become spiritually mature servants of Christ. **Minister, Bro. Barry Gainey.**

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Up Coming Events

Building & Pavilion Usage

The elders are requesting that anyone wanting to use the building in 2018; please turn in a request to the office for the elder's approval, even if you were on the schedule for last year you need to request for usage in 2018. We want to make sure the building is secure at all times.

Metropolitan Chorus; will resume rehearsal on Sunday February 4th after evening worship. Bro. Curtis Franklin Sr. & Sis. Mel Nelson.

Teacher's Meeting; Today after morning worship.

Marriage Committee; will meet today after morning worship in the Ladies Lounge.

Hermeneutics; Saturday January 20th at 10am.

Authentic Manhood Session; Saturday, January 27th at 9:00am.

Ladies Bible Class, Saturday, January 27th at 9:30am.

From the Minister's Desk Four Ways to Be A Stronger Christian

"For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and teach Israel statutes and judgements." (Ezra 7:10)

In our midweek Bible Class, we are studying the importance of Spiritual growth. The Christian life is a life of transformation. In Romans 12:2 Paul said, "And be not conformed to this

world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. "The transforming process takes both time and effort. In 1 Peter 2:1-3 we find, "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babies, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious." Babies grow one day at a time and it is the same for spiritual growth of Christians. There is no shortcut to instant spiritual maturity. Being a Christian requires a lifetime commitment to growth (2 Peter 3:18). In our topic text of Ezra 7:10 we find four principles which we must follow to become stronger Christians.

First, we must prepare our hearts. Preparing our hearts requires the right attitude of submission to God's commands. When one of the scribes asked about the first commandment Jesus said. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and with all thy strength" (Mark 12:29-30). We must be dedicated to obedience with our entire being. How we care for our hearts is very important. Proverbs 4:23 states, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. "If we do not fully prepare our hearts to serve God we will