

WELCOME

WEST END CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

June 18, 2023

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SUNDAY

- 9 AM Bible Class
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WEDNESDAY

- 7 PM Bible Class

IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US, YOU ARE OUR HONORED GUEST!

Please scan the QR Code to fill out a visitor's card or ask one of the members! We would love to get to know you better!



BECOMING ALL THINGS TO PEOPLE

MATT WILSON

In 1 Corinthians 9:22, the Apostle Paul wrote, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." This statement shows Paul's approach to evangelism and his willingness to adapt his behavior and practices to effectively reach different groups of people with the message of the Gospel.

Paul's ministry was characterized by his deep desire to bring the message of Jesus Christ to people from various backgrounds, cultures, and belief systems. He recognized that different audiences required different approaches to effectively communicate the Gospel message and establish connections (Acts 17). Consequently, Paul displayed remarkable flexibility and adaptability, being open to adjusting his behavior, customs, and personal preferences to meet people and engage with them effectively.

When Paul says, "I have become all things to all people," he underscores his readiness to set aside his own personal preferences or even rights for the sake of winning others to Christ. His primary objective was to share the message of salvation and help people come to faith in Jesus. To achieve this goal, he was willing to go to great lengths to bridge the gap between himself and diverse groups of people.

However, it's important to note that Paul's statement does not imply compromise or abandoning his belief (Galatians 1:8). He remained committed to the teachings of Jesus and the principles of the Gospel. What he adjusted was his approach and presentation, recognizing that different cultural, social, and personal contexts required different means of communication.

Paul's example serves as a model for believers today, encouraging them to be sensitive to the cultural,

social, and personal differences of those they encounter. His approach reminds Christians to seek common ground with others, genuinely understand their perspectives, and adapt their methods of communication to effectively share the love and truth of Christ. Paul's remarkable ability to become all things to all people should inspire believers to develop a similar openness, flexibility, and willingness to engage with others on their terms, ultimately fostering more meaningful connections and enabling the spread of the Gospel.

SUN AM

Call to Worship

Song Leader

Jim Holton

Scripture Reading

Gerald Barr

The Lord's Supper & Giving

Dale Laird

Opening Prayer

Daryl Price

Sermon

Erik Borlaug

Closing Prayer

Ben Edwards

SUN PM

Song Leader

Gary Cassibry

Scripture Reading

J. Montgomery

Opening Prayer

Brad Wood

Sermon

Mike Thomas

The Lord's Supper & Giving

Jon Lindsey

Closing Prayer

L.R. Kennon

WED PM, 6/21

Invitation

Brian Smith

Song Leader

Brian Smith

Closing Prayer

Bill Cobb

New Prayer Requests

- Tamra Heath is at home recuperating from surgery.
- Allen Dotson, friend of Todd and Anjie Embry, has been diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. Please keep him and his wife, Tammy, in your prayers.
- Faye Alford (at Ray's Branch) is recuperating from a tiller accident last week.
- The Bruncks request prayers for the family of a friend (Tony Blomquist) who passed last week. He was at their wedding a few weeks ago.

Ongoing Need of Prayers

- Cookie Embry
- Orby Massengill
- CG Haley
- Jonathan Holden
- Beatrice McPherson, Venita Smith's mother
- Bill Robinson's daughter, Alyse Nash
- Makaylah Cason, niece of Alice Taylor
- Mark and Joy Woodward
- Jonathan Holden



SHARING BURDENS

JIM HOLTON

What did Paul mean when he says in Galatians 6:1, *"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."* This verse is about knowing one another. How can I know you are "overtaken" if I don't know you? Next, if I do know you by investing time in building a relationship with you and I sense you are overtaken, what am I restoring you to? I think of restore as making something back to the way it was. If you've ever restored a piece of furniture or a car or literally

anything you know restoration takes time depending on what you're restoring.

The letter goes on in 6:2 to say, *"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."* We have examples of the fulfilling the law of Christ in bearing one another's burdens in so many accounts in the Bible. Look up and read I John 4:7-9. This scripture talks about the love we should have for one another that comes from being born of God. It also says His love for us was so great He sent Jesus to die for our sins, bearing our burdens and wiping out our sins. Why? So we could have a

relationship with God and Jesus now and for eternity. So, you and me, all of us need to spend more time getting to know one another, loving one another, restoring one another and so fulfilling the law of Christ.



NO LONGER SCYTHIAN

MIKE THOMAS

One of the defining features of Christianity is social equality. The apostle Paul emphasized this point when he told the Colossians that in Christ **"there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all"** (Col. 3:11). They were to no longer see each other as barbarian or Scythian (SITH-ee-uhn). What did he mean by that?

The Scythians were a race of people that lived in what is modern Russia and were notorious for brutality and inhumane behavior. *Nelson's Bible Dictionary* says, "Eventually they became allies of the Assyrians and oppressed western Persia for almost three decades...After the Medes became a world power, they finally drove the Scythians back to southern Russia" (p. 959).

Their legacy, however, became a permanent concept in Jewish ideology of cruelty and ignorance. "They were nomads who neither plowed nor sowed...they had the most filthy habits and never washed in water...they drank the blood of the first enemy killed in battle, and made napkins of the scalps and drinking bowls of the skulls of the slain" (Herodotus). Not exactly the kind of person to welcome into your home.

So what was Paul's point to the Colossians? Were they to ignore personal safety and associate with the most violent of people? No, of course not. He was writing to a group of people who had **"put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge"** (Col. 3:10-11). Because of this commitment to righteousness, the Colossians

were to no longer view each other with the life they had before Christ, whether Greek, Jew, barbarian, or Scythian. They were part of a special family as the "holy and beloved" of God, and were to treat each other with the same tender, forgiving spirit that Christ had shown them. The mercy of God and the cleansing power of Christ's blood permit Him to "remember our sins no more" when we meet the terms of forgiveness (Heb. 10:17; 1 John 1:7). In love, we should do the same for one another. A forgiven Scythian is no less godly than a forgiven Jew or Gentile. We all are equal in Christ as pardoned sinners.

BIBLE CLASSES FOR ALL

Listen to all class recordings online at westendchurch.com

ADULT CLASSES

Auditorium

Sun AM

Sermons in Acts

Matt Finley

Wed PM

The Heart of the Matter

Joey Elms

Mike Thomas

Back Classrooms

Sun AM (B-7)

Themes in Scripture

Erik Borlaug

Wed PM (Room B-7)

Christians in the Workplace

Kelly Holt

Jon Whitaker

Sun AM & Wed PM (A-7)

Gospel of John

Gerald Barr

Todd Embry

YOUNGER CLASSES

Sun AM & Wed PM

High School

Middle School

9 Months - 6th Grade



ELDERS

David Lanphear

270.792.4511

Jim Holton

606.219.7030

Joey Elms

270.999.0204

Clint Laird

270.421.5749

EVANGELISTS

Mike Thomas

270.256.3671

Erik Borlaug

651.263.4927

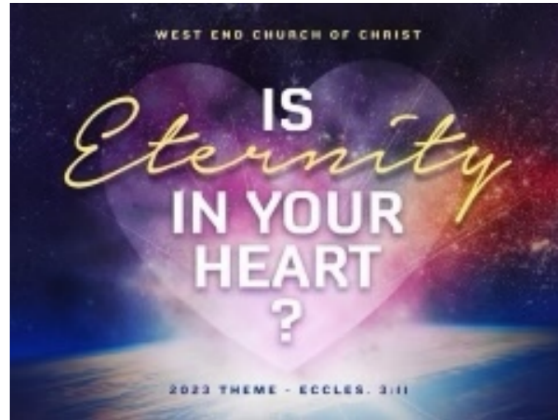
OPPORTUNITIES

June 27-30

VBS

July 14-16

Teens in the Green



WEEKLY VERSE

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, 26 but now has been disclosed, and through the Scriptures of the prophets, in accordance with the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;

Romans 16:25-16