

MAY 17TH, 2026

The Searcher



Published By



SOUTHAVEN
CHURCH of CHRIST

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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES AND SEEKING THE LOST

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HOW IS LIFE PICTURED?

Robert Jefferies

Life here upon this earth is brief. Even if we were to live 969 years like Methuselah, it would still be very short in the grand scheme of things. Did you know that throughout God's Word there are several pictures that pertain to the brevity of life? What pictures does God share with us?

Life Is Like A Flower & Grass. The old saying is "April showers bring May flowers." In Peter's first inspired letter, the Apostle Peter quotes from the prophet Isaiah, and shares a very powerful illustration about life using a flower. "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away" (1 Peter 1:24; Isaiah 40:6-8). In essence he is telling us that life is brief. Did you know that there are some flowers that can last for decades and there are some flowers that only bloom for a day? When we think about grass, currently the grass is really starting to grow and getting greener. However, in just a few months, grass will be brown once again. That is similar to life here upon this earth. It can be here one minute and gone the next.

Life Is Like A Sigh. The Psalmist wrote, "For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away" (Psalm 90:9-10 ESV). Have you ever went to the doctor and they placed the stethoscope on your chest and said "Take a deep breath. Now let it out. Now do it again." That breath that we let out is a sigh. That is the picture that David used to describe the brevity of life.

Life Is Like A Vapor. James, the brother of Jesus, penned the following words about life. "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14). Have you ever boiled water upon the stove and seen the vapors rise? How long do they stay? They vanish rather quickly.

Life Is Like A Weaver's Shuttle. Job described his days as just a few and a fleeting shadow in Job 14:1-2. Prior to this he gave another description. "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope" (Job 7:6). Have you ever seen a weaver's shuttle? I have not personally, but I did watch one on YouTube. It is quite fascinating as it moves the yarn back and forth rapidly. The picture that he is drawing is that it simply flies by. Life is gone before you know it. Sometimes I hear those who are older say, "Don't blink. Because if you do, your children will be grown."

Why does God share with us information about the brevity of life? One of the most important reasons is for us to be prepared to meet Him one day. Are you ready to meet Him? Remember, we are not promised tomorrow.

FACEBOOK ETIQUETTE FOR CHRISTIANS

Steve Higginbotham

Editors note: the following article applies not only to FaceBook, but to all forms of social media.

I've been a Facebook user since 2006. Since that time, I would consider myself a moderate user (my children would choose the term "creeper"). Whatever term best identifies me, I've been around long enough to be "put off," "disappointed," "embarrassed," and "shocked" by some of the things I've read and seen. Therefore, I'm going to share a few "Etiquette Tips" for Christian Facebook users. Now, I'm no "Emily Post" (for those of you who don't know who Emily Post is, Wiki her), but I do think the following suggestions would go a long way in making Facebook a more productive experience. So here's my "Top Ten List."

1. DON'T CRITICIZE THE CHURCH OR YOUR BRETHREN. Remember, the world is looking on! When King David learned of Saul's death, he instructed Israel to "tell it not in Gath... lest they rejoice" (2 Samuel 1:20). Gath was a Philistine city, the home of Goliath. David didn't want the sad news of Saul's death to be used as an opportunity for his enemies to rejoice. Can you identify problems and imperfections in your local congregation? Of course you can, because the church consists of imperfect people. But may I suggest that when you are able to identify weaknesses and failures among your brethren, "Tell it not on Facebook." After all, Jesus has a better way of dealing with it, doesn't He (Matthew 18:15-17)?

2. DON'T CONSTANTLY WHINE. Or would it be more biblical to say "murmur and complain" (Philippians 2:14)? Now, I know there are times when you want to share the events of your life with others, and sometimes those events are burdensome. That's not what I'm talking about. In fact, one of the redeeming qualities of Facebook is that it can be a forum to encourage, edify, and bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). I'm not talking about one who uses Facebook for those purposes. I'm talking about the constant complainer. The one who seems to be unable to count his blessings, but sure can count his/her problems. Listen, if you're a Christian, regardless of what your problems are, your blessings infinitely exceed your trials.

3. DON'T TAKE CRYPTIC "POT SHOTS" AT SOME UNNAMED PERSON WHO, WHEN THEY READ YOUR POST, WILL KNOW YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THEM. If you have something to say to an individual, go to that individual and don't take your problem public (Matthew 5:23-24). By going public, you only pique the curiosity of others and potentially and unnecessarily pull them into something that is none of their business.

4. THINK BEFORE YOU POST. Innuendos and off-color comments should never be posted (Ephesians 4:29).

5. DON'T POST INAPPROPRIATE PICTURES. Pictures showing you breaking the law, abusing alcohol, wearing immodest clothing, etc. damage your influence and do not glorify Christ. Better yet, do not engage in these activities in the first place.

6. DO SOME SELF-EVALUATION. Look at your profile. What do you have to say about yourself? If you proudly identify yourself as a Christian and the Bible as one of your favorite books, then please make sure the rest of what you like is consistent with that profession. Saying you're a Christian and

love the Bible, while in the next breath identifying as your favorites some of the most salacious books, movies, and performers causes others to blaspheme God (Romans 2:24).

7. DON'T USE FACEBOOK AS AN ESCAPE FROM REALITY. If you're unhappy about your marriage, get off Facebook and work on your marriage! I know of too many stories where Facebook became the medium for adultery and broken homes. You know why you're "friending" people. You know why you're talking with them more and more. Stop deceiving yourself and flee from that which can flame inappropriate desires and actions (2 Timothy 2:22).

8. BE KIND (Ephesians 4:32). I've sometimes witnessed a person express some biblical error or misunderstanding only to be met with harsh and judgmental words. The fact that one may be in error doesn't imply sinister motives. I'm convinced that the impersonal nature of the Internet emboldens people to act "bigger" and "tougher" than they really are. I once had a dog that when she was in the safety of her cage sounded as though she would eat a person alive. But let her out of the cage, and she became as meek and cowardly as can be. I'm convinced that some of the harsh, hateful, judgmental words that I have seen typed would never be spoken if they were face to face with their offender. Paul instructs us to preach with all "longsuffering" (2 Timothy 4:2). That's true of what we preach as well as what we type.

9. DON'T GOSSIP. The rules of the tongue apply to the keyboard as well. Give care that what you say is true as well as helpful. If James were to write James 3:6 today, it might read as follows, "And the keyboard is a fire, a world of iniquity..." Lying, gossiping, stating as truth what we do not know to be true, etc. are as wrong on Facebook as they are when speaking to another face to face.

10. AND FINALLY, USE IT FOR GOOD (1 Corinthians 9:22). Speak of your faith often, encourage others, point people to Jesus, take advantage of opportunities to speak for Jesus, and let people see that there is an undeniable family resemblance between you and your heavenly Father. If we would do these things, Facebook would be a better place. Come to think of it, if we would do these things the world would be a better place.

Sunday Sermons

The Importance Of Making Wise Decisions (AM)

The Purpose Of A Pattern (PM)

Bible Passages To Consider

"Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount" (Hebrews 8:5).

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Dorothy Butler continues to recover at home following a recent stay in the hospital. She is still very weak.

Don Sykes had a pacemaker put in last week. He continues to recover at home.

Rannie Butler is taking therapy at Senatobia Healthcare and Rehab.

Joyce Valentine is on a management medication for her cancer.

Jean Jones is taking physical therapy at Desoto Healthcare.

Tommy Shull suffered a fall recently. He has several bruises, but no broken bones.

Bob Lawrence, father of Erica Stuckey, suffered a heart attack on Monday evening. Doctors have also detected an aneurysm and blood clots.

Jamie, 18 month old nephew of Rona Johnson, continues to recover from skin graph surgery.

Edward Oglesby, son of Karen Oglesby, is recovering from a four wheeler accident.

Patrick & Oliver Wright, uncle and cousin of Isabella Wright, are recovering from recent surgeries.

Please continue to remember the following:

Meredith Peek, Betty Culbreath, Vern & Angie Schrimsher, Barbara Day, Brenda Dreher, Danna Smart, Alan & Linda Stone, Debbie Shull, Pat Pierce, Beverly Parnell, Lucy Chamberlain, & Karen Oglesby in your prayers.

BATTLING CANCER

Please remember those who are fighting, or recovering from cancer: **Alan Stone; Brenda Dreher; Pam Eaton; Charlene Farris; Justin Camp**, husband of Kim Camp; **Andrew Utz**, great nephew of Peggy Shull; **Varda Cole**, sister in law of Linda Davis; **Don Cheathour**, friend of the Sykes family; **Joe Daly**, online viewer in England; **Houston Hall**, great nephew of Karen Oglesby & Beth Roney; **David Taylor**, neighbors of the Sykes; **Dan Manuel**, friend of Tommy & Peggy Shull; **Heather Butler**, daughter of Lewis Dawson; **Vickie Parker**, sister of Nick Parker; **Kim Butler**, sister in law of Larry Butler; **Lily Jane Jordan**, neighbor's granddaughter of Terry &

Brenda Harris; Oakleigh Free, great granddaughter of Alan & Linda Stone; **Mandi Singer**, friend of Erica Stuckey; **Mandy Dunbar**, friend of Erica Stuckey; **TJ Holt**, cousin of Amber Wallis; **Margarito Zuniga**, father of former member Alan Zuniga; **Becca Reynolds**, niece of Anita Sanders; **Laura Sowell**, mother of Erin Sowell, **Doreen Harris**, former member, **Glenn Jenkins**, the husband of Bonnie Reid's niece, **Carol Tierce**, sister of Peggy Shull & **Whitley Joy**, great niece of Larry & Elaine Melton.

SHUT-INS/ NURSING HOME

Lucy Chamberlain; Debbie Shull; Brenda Dreher; Beverly Parnell; Pam Eaton; Phyllis Smith, The Goldton at Southaven Room #116.

RESPONSES

Chris Tice expressed a desire to be restored on Sunday morning. **Danny Moore** was baptized into Christ on Wednesday evening. Please be sure to keep them in your prayers.

MEN TO SERVE - May 17th, 2026

Preside: Larry Cox

Serve: Jerry Mitchell, Clint Hawkins, John S. Stubblefield, Greg Wilson, Mike Jones, Tyrone Willingham, Lucas Gahagan, Tyler Williams

AM Opening Prayer: Neal Weatherford

AM Closing Prayer: Perkins Cochran

PM Opening Prayer: Jonah Adams

PM Closing Prayer: Allen Roberts

Wed. Opening Prayer: Andy Young

Wed. Closing Prayer: Jason Griffin

Announcements: Con Lambert

Song Leader: Michael Gahagan

Scripture Reading: RJ Jolomi

Security: Brian Williams

REMINDER:

If you are a song leader, scripture reader, or have opening prayer, you are asked to sit on the front pew when worship begins.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 17: We will be honoring our high school graduates following afternoon worship. Our graduates this year are Lily Camp, Griffin Rister, & Lydia Young.

June 14-20: Sardis Lake Christian Camp. If you would like to help send a child to camp or with camp expenses please see Vern Schrimsher. The cost per child is \$200 but any amount is greatly appreciated.

MAY FOOD TEAM

Captain: Christie Hawkins

Camille Bobo, Grace Childers, Bonnie Ruiz, Michele Teske

OUR RECORDS

Bible Study	246
A.M. Worship	325
P.M. Worship	150
P.M. Wed. Worship	176
Contribution	\$15,139



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josh.walker8898@gmail.com

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Class.....	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....	10:00 a.m.
Sunday P.M. Worship.....	1:00 p.m.
Wednesday P.M. Service.....	7:00 p.m.

ELDERS

Gary Barch
Larry Everson
David Rister

DEACONS

Bruce Dunaway
Michael Gahagan
Aaron Gallagher
TJ Johnson
John Stubblefield
Chris Tice
Andy Young

MINISTERS

Robert Jefferies
Josh Walker