

JUNE 14TH, 2026

The Searcher



Published By



SOUTHAVEN
CHURCH of CHRIST

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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES AND SEEKING THE LOST

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ARE YOU A GENUINE WORSHIPPER OF GOD?

Jameson Steward

While engaged in a surprising discussion with a Samaritan woman, Jesus turned her question about the proper place of worship toward the heart of the matter. He said a time was approaching when a certain location would not be required to worship the Father (John 4:9-21). Jesus also referenced the many inaccuracies and errors of the Samaritan people when it came to worship (John 4:22). The Samaritans were woefully limited in their knowledge of God and His will because they rejected the Scriptures except for the five books of Moses. But a far-reaching change was imminent for everyone - including the Samaritans.

The Father Seeks Genuine Worshipers. Jesus said: "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him" (John 4:23). The word "true" can be translated "genuine," and is the "opposite to what is...counterfeit" (Thayer's Greek Lexicon). Jesus then states, "God is Spirit" (John 4:24a), and based on this fact, He tells the Samaritan woman what genuine worship is.

Genuine Worship is in Spirit. Because "God is Spirit," He must be worshipped in spirit. He cannot be approached on a mere physical level. Many of the Jews mistakenly believed that if they "checked all the boxes" for worshipping God - offering the right sacrifices at the right time, tithing correctly - then they had worshipped correctly. However, they gave little thought to worshipping God "in spirit." The Lord made it clear that this kind of shallow worship was unacceptable. Jesus rebuked this approach to worshipping God on multiple occasions (Matthew 15:7-9; 23:23-24). We may do all the "outward" actions of worship correctly, but if our thinking, attitude, and emotion are not involved, then we are not worshipping God in spirit (1 Corinthians 14:15).

Genuine Worship is in Truth.

Jesus not only addressed the shortcomings of many Jews' worship, but He also once more addressed the Samaritans' failings when He added that genuine worship of God is in truth. Worshipping in spirit must also be to the one true God in accordance with the truth, His will, as He has revealed in the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We must carefully study the Scriptures (2 Timothy 2:15) to present ourselves as acceptable to God. This extends to ensuring we worship God according to His word. The Christians in Scripture met together on Sunday to worship God (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Their worship together included eating the Lord's Supper, praying, praising God in song, listening to God's word being taught, and gathering a collection as there was need.

Can we rightly say that we are "genuine worshipers" of God?

YOU'RE INVITED!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SOUTHAVEN CHURCH OF CHRIST
681 Church Rd E Southaven MS, 38671

FEARLESS FAITH

JUNE 27th, 2026
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

LUNCH PROVIDED



GUEST SPEAKER:

DJ GREEN

PETER'S SERMON



GUEST SPEAKER:

FLETCHER NORROD

STEPHEN'S SERMON



THE BLESSING OF FRIENDSHIP

John Baker

A true friend is a rare treasure indeed, and such a treasure should never be taken for granted. What does God's word have to say about friendship?

Friendship is an investment – Valuable possessions are not obtained cheaply or easily, and that includes friendship. In our busy and harried world it is surprisingly easy to “settle” for little more than casual and shallow relationships with others. However, the example of Jesus demonstrates that there is value in investing in an “inner circle” of friends to the glory of God. Jesus was available and accessible to everyone, but He was especially close to Peter, James and John (Matt. 17:1; Mark 5:37; Mark 13:3; Mark 14:33; John 19:25-27). The treasure of a good friendship must be carefully and diligently cultivated by investing time, energy and effort in that friendship. By so doing, we may be laying up treasure in heaven as well (Matt. 6:19-21).

Good friends can help us grow – “As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend” (Prov. 27:17). What a blessing to have a friend who is interested in helping us grow in faith. David had Jonathan (1 Sam. 18:1), Elijah had Elisha (1 Kings 19:21), Jeremiah had Baruch (Jer. 36:4-8), Naomi had Ruth (Ruth 1:14-17), and Paul had Barnabas (Acts 15:35). Nobody goes to heaven in isolation. Good friendships can serve as tremendous encouragement as we grow in godliness (2 Pet. 3:18). It has been well said: “A friend is someone who knows us and likes us anyway.” Thank God for friendships which have helped us grow in faith and maturity over the years!

Evil friends can corrupt us – “Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul” (Prov. 22:24-25). Friendships need to be evaluated in light of their influence on us for good or evil – there is no such thing as a “neutral” friendship. “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits’” (1 Cor. 15:33). While nobody is perfect (Rom. 3:23), the biggest question regarding our friendships is whether the friendship encourages both parties in the direction of heaven (Matt. 7:13-14). “The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray” (Prov. 12:26).

Jesus is our dearest Friend – He said, “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you” (John 15:14). The Lord is generous (2 Cor. 8:9), kind (Acts 10:38), patient (1 Cor. 13:4), caring (1 Pet. 5:7), loyal (Matt. 28:20) and wise (John 12:48). His present ministry is to intercede to God on our behalf (Heb. 7:25). He has done more for us than anyone else ever could (John 15:13; Rom. 3:25; 2 Cor. 5:21). Everything Jesus does is intended to bring out the best in us (John 10:10; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). As we often sing, “There’s not a friend like the lowly Jesus, no not one, no not one!”

God wants us to be a friend to others – Everybody wants good friends like the kind described in this article, but curiously, not everyone wants to BE a friend like that to others. “He who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother” (Prov. 18:24). A true friend, “Loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity” (Prov. 17:17; cf. Acts 9:26-27). May God help more of us to be a great friend to others.

Sunday Sermons

The Love of God (AM)

Lessons Learned From Paul's Sermon
On Mars Hill (PM)

Bible Passages To Consider

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren"
(1 John 3:16)

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Betty Culbreath is in Baptist Desoto Hospital. She is being treated for low blood pressure.

Lucy Chamberlain is recovering at home following a recent stay in the hospital.

Brenda Dreher has been placed on Hospice Care.

Justin Camp, husband of Kim Camp, father of Lily, will be resuming cancer treatments.

Rona Johnson learned recently that her arm is not healing properly. She will have a follow up visit on the 29th to see if surgery is needed.

Jerry Baird is making improvements in his recovery from pneumonia.

Vern Schrimsher has developed a closed pressure wound on the back of his heel.

Dorothy Butler is slowly improving.

Rannie Butler is taking therapy at Senatobia Healthcare and Rehab.

Jean Jones is taking therapy at Desoto Healthcare.

Arcadio Acosta, father of Michel Reyes, is recovering at home from a recent stay in the hospital.

David Jones, friend of Terry & Brenda Harris-member at Goodman Oaks, is in Baptist Desoto Hospital. He is being treated for pneumonia.

Please continue to remember the following: **Joyce Valentine, Don Sykes, Meredith Peek, Barbara Day, 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.

MEN TO SERVE - June 14th, 2026

Preside: Chris Tice

Serve: Jerry Mitchell, Joel White, John S. Stubblefield, Steve Fiveash, Mike Jones, Sammy Terrell, Jefferson Mendoza, Jarrett Roberts

AM Opening Prayer: Duane McCrory

AM Closing Prayer: Perkins Cochran

PM Opening Prayer: Larry Everson

PM Closing Prayer: Allen Roberts

Wed. Opening Prayer: Andy Young

Wed. Closing Prayer: Jason Griffin

Announcements: Andy Young

Song Leader: David Rister

Scripture Reading: Carter Gahagan

Security: Jack Etheridge

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

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. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

June 27: Vacation Bible School 9am-12pm: If you are willing to help in any way (teach, assist, crafts, decorate, snacks) please sign the sheet in the foyer.

JUNE FOOD TEAM

Captain: Christy Gahagan

Mary Barch, Lisa Craig, Missy Kelley, Jennifer Stubblefield

OUR RECORDS

Bible Study	196
A.M. Worship	284
P.M. Worship	143
P.M. Wed. Worship	155
Contribution	\$



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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