

AUGUST 2ND, 2026



The Searcher

Published By



SOUTHAVEN
CHURCH of CHRIST

681 Church Road E
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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES AND SEEKING THE LOST

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Tennessee Children's Home
- Spring Hill, TN
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- Paragould, AR

THE CHURCH AND THE KINGDOM

Robert Jefferies

The New Testament declares that Jesus came to establish a spiritual kingdom (John 18:36; Matt. 4:17). Every legitimate kingdom requires four basic elements: a ruler, a code of laws, subjects, and a domain or jurisdiction. One unique characteristic of the Kingdom of God is that its domain is spiritual, not geographic. The only territory that Jesus the King is interested in conquering is found in the hearts and minds of people (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

Not only did Jesus say He would establish a spiritual kingdom, but He also promised to build His church (Matt. 16:18). The church that belongs to Jesus was established on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2; every reference to the church beyond that point in Scripture describes the church as a present reality.

What is the relationship between the church and the kingdom of God? Consider the following:

Jesus used the terms "church" and "kingdom" interchangeably – "And I say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven..." (Matt. 16:18-19). In our Lord's mind, the people who would make up the church are also the people who would make up the kingdom.

The blood of Jesus purchases both the church and the kingdom – The church is purchased by the blood of Jesus (Acts 20:28). Not only that, but Revelation teaches that the blood of Jesus purchased those who are in the kingdom: "You have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth" (Rev. 5:9-10). The people who make up the church and the people who make up the kingdom share the same purchase price; therefore, they are the same people.

God calls people in both the church and the kingdom, "saints" – Paul addressed 1 Corinthians, "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints" (1 Cor. 1:2). In another passage He described Christians as, "Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (Col. 1:12-13). Everyone in the church is a "saint." Likewise, everyone in the kingdom is said to be a "saint." Both the church and the kingdom are comprised of "saints."

People enter the church and the kingdom the same way – Those who are baptized are added to the church (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13). Not only is baptism the means of entrance into the church, but it is also the means by which one enters the kingdom of God: "Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God'" (John 3:5). People gain citizenship in the spiritual kingdom of God by being born into it through Scriptural baptism.

The church and the kingdom share a unique relationship: both have the same King, both are purchased with the same blood, both are comprised of the same people and they both have the same entrance requirements.

Are you part of the Lord's kingdom today?

WEATHERING THE STORM: FINDING STRENGTH IN TRIAL & HARDSHIP

Date	Title	Speaker
8-Jul-26	Weathering the Storm By Building on Solid Rock	Joe Ruiz
15-Jul-26	Weathering the Storm When the Storm Strikes Without Warning	Jameson Steward
22-Jul-26	Weathering the Storm When the Clouds Gather	Tommy Haynes
29-Jul-26	Weathering the Storm When the Storm Lasts Longer Than Expected	Chris Perry
5-Aug-26	Weathering the Storm By Remaining Calm in the Midst of the Storm	Cody Westbrook
12-Aug-26	Weathering the Storm By Holding Fast in the Storm	Chris Butler
19-Aug-26	Weathering the Storm Battling the Storm Within	Chad Ramsey
26-Aug-26	Weathering the Storm Light Through the Dark Clouds	Josh Walker
2-Sep-26	Weathering the Storm Because the Storm Refines Us	Andy Brewer
9-Sep-26	Weathering the Storm ... of Opposition	Aaron Gallagher
16-Sep-26	Weathering the Storm By Rising After the Storm	Mark Teske
23-Sep-26	The Storm Weathered: When the Sky Clears	Robert Jefferies

A TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO HEAVEN

Arthur Pigman (House to House)

Accommodations: Arrangements for accommodations must be made in advance (John 14:2).

Passports: Persons seeking entry will not be permitted past the gates without having proper credentials and having their names registered with the ruling authority (Revelation 21:27).

Departure Time: The exact departure date has not been announced. Travelers are advised to be prepared to leave on short notice (1 Corinthians 15:52).

Tickets: Your ticket was purchased by a Friend named Jesus. It should be claimed by learning the gospel, believing in Christ, repenting of sins, confessing Jesus, and having sins washed away in baptism (Romans 10:17; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Matthew 10:32). Keep its promises firmly in hand (John 5:24; Hebrews 5:8–9).

Luggage: No luggage is needed or allowed (1 Timothy 6:7).

Immigration: All passengers are classified as immigrants, since they are taking up permanent residence in a new country. There is no maximum quota, so all are invited to come (Hebrews 11:16; Revelation 22:17).

Air Passage: Travelers go directly by air (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Vaccinations: Not needed, as there are no diseases there (Revelation 21:4).

Currency: Deposits may be forwarded to await passenger's arrival. Make deposits regularly (Matthew 6:20–21).

Clothing: A complete and appropriate new wardrobe is provided for each traveler (Isaiah 61:10).

Reservations: Booking is now open. Since departure time is unknown, you should apply at once. If you wait, it may be too late (2 Corinthians 6:2).
To learn more, please consult the Holy Bible.

Sunday Sermons

4 Truths About Grace (AM)

Brett Rutherford Preaching (PM)

Bible Passages To Consider

"For by grace are ye saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of
God" (Ephesians 2:8)

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Erica Stuckey is in room 321 Pavilion at Methodist Germantown Hospital. She continues to take dialysis. She is anemic and battling shortness of breath. Her pain levels are improving.

Karen Oglesby is receiving treatment at Lakeside Hospital.

Sheila Winstead is taking physical therapy.

Jerry Baird continues to be on oxygen at home.

Dorothy Butler is dealing with low oxygen levels.

Rannie Butler is taking therapy at Senatobia Healthcare and Rehab.

Jean Jones is taking therapy at Desoto Healthcare.

Lannie Smart, husband of Danna Smart, is receiving wound care. He is tentatively scheduled to have a skin graft on August 11th.

Kim Blackburn, neighbor of Nell Parker, is battling cancer. Meleia Brown, Kim's daughter is also battling cancer as well as Meleia's father.

Tim Harris (former member and nephew of Terry & Brenda Harris) is in Methodist North Hospital with Afib. He was scheduled to have his heart shocked back into rhythm on Thursday.

Please continue to remember the following: **Betty Culbreath**, **Lucy Chamberlain**, **Joyce Valentine**, **Don Sykes**, **Meredith Peek**, **Barbara Day**, **Alan & Linda Stone**, **Debbie Shull**, **Pat Pierce**, & **Beverly Parnell** in your prayers.

BATTLING CANCER

Please remember those who are fighting, or recovering from cancer: **Alan Stone**; **Pam Eaton**; **Charlene Farris**; **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**; **Beverly Parnell**; **Pam Eaton**; **Phyllis Smith**, The Gold-ton at Southaven Room #116.

SYMPATHY

Billy Joe Martin, brother of **Fred Melton**, passed away last Wednesday. His funeral was on Monday.

MEN TO SERVE - August 2nd, 2026

Preside: Duane McCrory

Serve: Joel White, Colin Iglinsky, TJ Johnson, Jefferson Mendoza, Reed Rister, Carter Gahagan, Sammy Terrell, Mike Jones

AM Opening Prayer: Larry Cox

AM Closing Prayer: Chris Billingsley

PM Opening Prayer: David Rister

PM Closing Prayer: James Caldwell

Wed. Opening Prayer: Brian Briscoe

Wed. Closing Prayer: Jason Griffin

Announcements: Con Lambert

Song Leader: Michael Gahagan

Scripture Reading: Lucas Gahagan

Security: James Stuckey

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

August 2, 6pm: Area Wide Youth Devotional at Southaven. Everyone is welcome to attend.

August 9: Baby Shower for Lindsey Means following afternoon worship. Hunter & Lindsey are having a baby girl and are registered at Babylist.com.

AUGUST FOOD TEAM

Captain: Mary Baldwin

Bonnie Reid, Charlotte Dunaway, Rhnea Grady, Kim Wallis

OUR RECORDS

Bible Study	203
A.M. Worship	275
P.M. Worship	156
P.M. Wed. Worship	190
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