

JULY 26TH, 2026



The Searcher

Published By



SOUTHAVEN
CHURCH of CHRIST

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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES AND SEEKING THE LOST

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Brett Rutherford- Devonport,
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Glen Tattersall- Launceston,
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Joe Ruiz, Hispanic Ministry,
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Memphis School of Preaching
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Local Evangelism

Faith in Action Program
Annual Ladies Day
Annual Gospel Meeting
Local Hispanic Ministry--Joe Ruiz
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Benevolence

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

LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?

Cody Westbrook

How incredible it must have been to have witnessed the miracles of Jesus. To see the dead raised, lepers cleansed, and storms subdued must have produced unshakable faith within those who experienced it first hand. Or, at least it should have. Miracles were not an "end" in and of themselves but were rather a "means to an end." Their purpose was not to "wow" the crowds into following Jesus, but to prove the veracity of His claims and point them to His Word (Mark 16:20). Sadly, many who saw His wonders were willing to follow Him until they were challenged by and stumbled at His words.

The events of John 6 illustrate this phenomenon perfectly. Jesus fed the multitude with 5 loaves and 2 fish, and the effect was so powerful that the crowd intended to force Him into kingship (John 6:15). The next day, He preached to them and challenged them, and many turned away. It was on this occasion that Peter expressed the truth which the multitude rejected-the words of Jesus are what really matter (John 6:68). Filling the people's stomachs was remarkable but bread cannot give eternal life. Only the "words of eternal life" can accomplish that. Thus, there should be within us a desire to seek and find the words of life. When the crowd discovered that Jesus had departed, they made their way to Capernaum to seek Him (John 6:25). Their desire to find Jesus was commendable but their reason was not (John 6:26). The people were not interested in what Jesus had to say, they were interested in what He had to give. They wanted to be fed physically, not spiritually.

Thus, Jesus admonished, "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life..." (John 6:27). "Labor" involves great effort, and thus the exhortation is to put forth a great deal of effort to obtain the spiritual nourishment our Lord provides.

This desire should be exclusive. The keynote of the context is John 6:35-"...I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." The emphasis of the imagery is that Jesus, and Jesus alone, has the ability to fulfill man's greatest need-life. Moses

may have provided manna in the wilderness but that was physical and temporary. What Jesus provides is spiritual and eternal and thus He deserves our exclusive attention. Peter's question "Lord, to whom shall we go?" implies that there is nowhere else to go to be fed, to be led, and to be given life.

Our desire must also be enduring. Ultimately the crowds could not abide the teaching of Jesus. His teaching was "hard" (John 6:60) which literally means "harsh" or "offensive." He challenged their thinking, rebuked their misplaced priorities, and corrected their false concept of the Messiah.

So they were offended and "went back and walked with Him no more." How easy it is to embrace the words of Jesus when we find them easily agreeable and encouraging but how shall we react when they challenge and correct us? So, what will we do with the life giving words of Jesus? We should give ourselves entirely to learning and living them. But will we? Will we be like the multitudes who were happy to hear Him as long as He coalesced with our opinions and desires? Or will we be like Peter who recognized that there is nothing in this world more important than "the words of eternal life?"

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

THE SIMPLE GOSPEL

Kenneth Randolph

Curtis Cates, Sr., told of hearing Charlie Wheeler preach when brother Cates was but a boy. He said that Wheeler's sermon was so simple that, though but a lad, he thought to himself: "I believe I could preach like that; it is so simple!"

Wheeler's simplicity in preaching stirred the idea of preaching in a young man's heart. That simple style later characterized Cates' preaching also. True gospel preaching is simple because the gospel is simple.

To say that the gospel is "simple" does not mean that it is not rich and deep. It means the gospel is free from complexity; it is not complicated. It is not hard to understand; it is unaffected, natural, and plain.

The gospel comes to the point. It declares plainly that man is a sinner who cannot save himself. It speaks in clear and tragic tones of the consequences of a life of sin. The gospel makes no attempt to classify sinners into categories, such as rich and poor, black and white, young and old. It starkly declares: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

The gospel does not complicate the means by which sinners are saved. It states plainly that there is but one way, through Christ (John 14:6). In coming to God, the sinner has simple facts to believe—the death of Jesus "for our sins," His burial, and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1–4). He has simple commands to obey—believe, repent, confess, and be baptized (Mark 16:16; Romans 10:10; Acts 2:38). Belief of those facts and obedience to those commands secures the simple but sublime promises: forgiveness of sins, all spiritual blessings, and hope of life eternal! The gospel teaches that the way of life is plain and narrow, but lighted by the lamp of eternal day.

The gospel is declared to be "the power of God to salvation" (Romans 1:16). It draws its power from a rugged and bloodstained cross. The cross at its core gives the gospel the simple, rational appeal to reach the intellect; it paints the story of divine love in vivid colors to move the emotions; it storms the ramparts of the stubborn soul to change the will.

The gospel story tells of the Son of God as a man moving among the common people, who heard Him gladly (Mark 12:37). It speaks of love that came down (John 1:14). It pictures Christ concerned about the problems of life: the plight of the poor (Matthew 25:40); the fever of Peter's mother-in-law (8:14–15); the fear of the disciples (17:6); and the sorrow of Mary and Martha (John 11:35). It shows Him moved with compassion for the ignorant, the straying, and the lost (Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 20:34; Mark 1:41; Luke 7:13).

God made the gospel simple so we could all learn and follow it. Have you?

Sunday Sermons

Why Is It Great To Be A Christian?-Part 1 (AM)

Why Is It Great To Be A Christian?-Part 2 (PM)

Bible Passages To Consider

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"
(Romans 3:24)

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Erica Stuckey is in room 302e at Methodist Germantown Hospital. She continues to take dialysis. She has learned that she has an infection in her leg that is causing the swelling.

Larry Everson continues to recover from a recent heart attack.

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.

Luke Massey, grandson of Anita Sanders, is in need of a kidney transplant.

Jean Clemmer, sister of Larry Melton, has been released from the hospital.

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

Cali Bayless, daughter of Jason & Ginger Bayless, was in an automobile accident on Monday. She did not suffer any broken bones or fractures. She is dealing with a lot of soreness.

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**, & **Karen Oglesby** 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 But-**

ler, 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.

RESPONSES

Ron & Annette Pilcher were baptized into Christ on Monday. Please be sure to keep them in your prayers as they begin their new walk with Christ.

Skylar Mansel responded to the Lord's invitation on Sunday desiring to be restored. Please be sure to speak a word of encouragement to her.

MEN TO SERVE - July 19th, 2026

Preside: Nick Parker

Serve: Larry Nagle, Jason Griffin, Tyrone Willingham, Jayden Parker, Wesley Williams, Carter Gahagan, RJ Jolomi, Jonah Adams

AM Opening Prayer: Brian Williams

AM Closing Prayer: Bruce Dunaway

PM Opening Prayer: Joe Ruiz

PM Closing Prayer: Chris Tice

Wed. Opening Prayer: Joel White

Wed. Closing Prayer: Robert Chamberlain

Announcements: Andy Young

Song Leader: Jason Bayless

Scripture Reading: Dustin Rowe

Security: Michael Gahagan

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

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	185
A.M. Worship	239
P.M. Worship	127
P.M. Wed. Worship	179
Contribution	\$



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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