

OCTOBER 18TH, 2026



The Searcher

Published By



SOUTHAVEN
CHURCH of CHRIST

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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES AND SEEKING THE LOST

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A TIME TO...

Robert Jefferies

A In Ecclesiastes chapter three Solomon tells us that there is a time for everything under the sun. Today, we can apply those same thoughts and realize there is time to look back at the cross, a time to look within, and a time to look up. For this article, let's consider those three things.

A Time To Look Back At The Cross. The book of Deuteronomy serves as a reminder for God's people. On nine different occasions in this book, Moses will use the word "forget." There were times that God's people had forgotten what God had done for them or the covenant they had made with Him. Sometimes today, there may be some who have forgotten what Jesus did for us at Calvary. In fact, God knew that mankind has a tendency to forget and gave us a weekly memorial so that we never forget what Jesus did for us at Calvary. On the first day of the week we have an opportunity and privilege to partake of the Lord's Supper. The Apostle Paul gives us one of the reasons why we do this week. "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me" (1 Corinthians 11:23-25). May we never forget the sacrifice that was made on our behalf so that our sins could be forgiven and we could have a home in Heaven (Matthew 26:28; John 14:1-6).

A Time To Look Within. Sometimes, we need to take self-inventory spiritually. As the Apostle Paul concluded his second inspired letter to the Corinthians, he penned the following words, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (2 Corinthians 13:5). What are some questions that we can ask as we look within? 1) Am I in Christ? Have I done what I am supposed to do to be in Christ? After all, that is where all of our spiritual blessings are found (Ephesians 1:3). So how does a person get in Christ? The Apostle Paul answers that very question for us as he wrote to the Galatians, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). 2) Do I have the marks of Christ in my life? (Galatians 6:17). Can others see that I am a Christian, that I belong to Christ? There are at least three ways for others to tell that we are Christians, and they are all found in the Gospel account of John. Jesus said ye are my disciples if you abide in my word, loving one another, and bearing fruit (John 8:31; 13:34-35; 15:8). 3) Am I faithful to Him? (Revelation 2:10).

A Time To Look Up. Sometimes we sing the song, "Did you think to pray?" Prayer is such an important part of the Christian's life. As Christians, one of the greatest spiritual blessings that we have is to be able to talk with the creator of the universe. The Apostle Paul told the Ephesians to "continue in prayer" (Ephesians 4:2). When the church first began Luke tells us that those early Christians "continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). If you are not praying daily, it is time to start the habit and talk to God daily.

HOW TO CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH

Johnny Scaggs, Jr.

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

The book of Jude contains only twenty-five verses, yet it delivers one of the strongest warnings in the New Testament concerning false teaching. Jude originally desired to write about “the common salvation,” but circumstances demanded that he address a more urgent danger. False teachers had entered among God’s people, and Christians needed to defend the truth. That need remains today. Religious error, moral compromise, human traditions, and worldly philosophies threaten the purity of the church. Christians must therefore know how to “earnestly contend for the faith.”

We must understand the faith. Jude did not tell Christians to contend for personal opinions, family traditions, denominational doctrines, or human creeds. He told them to contend for “the faith.” In this passage, the faith refers to the complete system of truth revealed through Jesus Christ and His inspired apostles. It includes the gospel, the doctrine of Christ, the plan of salvation, acceptable worship, Christian living, and the organization and work of the church.

We must recognize that the faith has been delivered. Jude said that the faith “was once delivered unto the saints.” The word “once” means once for all time. God did not deliver part of His will in the first century and leave later generations to complete it. The apostles received all the truth necessary to guide the church. Jesus promised them: “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13). Peter declared that God had given them “all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (2 Pet. 1:3). The Scriptures therefore provide a complete and sufficient revelation of God’s will. We do not need latter-day revelations, modern prophets, church councils, denominational creeds, or the traditions of men. The gospel does not change with society. What was truth in the first century remains truth today. Paul warned: *“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed”* (Gal. 1:8). To contend for the faith is to stand upon the final authority of God’s written word.

We must use the word of God. Human wisdom cannot defeat spiritual error. Christians must use the weapon “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:17). When Jesus was tempted, He answered Satan by saying, “It is written” (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10). He relied upon the Scriptures. We must do the same. Our feelings are not the standard. Popular opinion is not the standard. What our families have always believed is not the standard. The only reliable standard is the inspired word of God. Peter

commanded Christians: "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Pet. 4:11). Before accepting any doctrine, we should ask: Where is it taught in the New Testament? Is it authorized by Jesus Christ? Can it be supported by a command, an approved apostolic example, or a necessary conclusion from Scripture? If a religious practice cannot be authorized by God's word, Christians must reject it.

We must live the faith. It is not enough to defend the truth with our words. We must also defend it through our manner of life. A Christian whose conduct contradicts his teaching weakens his influence and gives others an opportunity to criticize the gospel. Paul instructed the Philippians: "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ" (Phil. 1:27). Christians contend for the faith when they worship according to truth, maintain moral purity, show kindness, remain faithful in marriage, care for those in need, teach the lost, and refuse to compromise with sin.

We must be courageous. Contending for the faith requires courage. The truth is not always popular. Faithful Christians may be ridiculed, rejected, or falsely accused. Nevertheless, we must not be ashamed of the gospel. Paul declared: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Rom. 1:16). We must never compromise the truth merely to avoid controversy. Peace is desirable, but peace cannot be purchased by surrendering the doctrine of Christ. Christians are commanded to "prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:21). Courage does not mean harshness. We must combine the boldness of Elijah with the compassion of Christ. We should be firm without being cruel and confident without being arrogant.

The faith has been completely revealed, and it must be faithfully defended. Christians contend earnestly for it by knowing the Scriptures, recognizing their authority, exposing error, teaching the truth in love, living holy lives, and courageously refusing to compromise. The church does not need a new message for a new generation. It needs renewed devotion to the ancient gospel of Jesus Christ. May we possess the courage of Paul, the love of Christ, and the conviction of Jude. Let us stand firmly upon God's word and "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Sunday Sermons

A Closer Look At Singing (AM)

Questions and Answers (PM)

Bible Passages To Consider

"What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also" (1 Corinthians 14:15)

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Karen Oglesby has been released from the hospital.

Sarah Hechavarria is taking chemotherapy.

Joyce Valentine is on Hospice Care.

Dale Shull is making improvements at home following a recent stay in the hospital. If you plan to visit, please go to Tommy & Peggy's door.

James Mason, father of Jennifer Christian, continues to take therapy at a hospital in Chicago.

Luke Massey, grandson of Anita Sanders, is in the hospital with a kidney infection.

Dennis Hawkins, father of Clint & Blake Hawkins, will be having outpatient surgery on October 19 at Baptist Collierville.

David Chadwick has an abdominal aneurysm. He is scheduled to have surgery on October 27.

Lannie Smart, husband of Danna Smart, continues to receive wound care.

Julia Ross, mother of Annette Prater, has been moved to NEA Rehab in Jonesboro.

J. R. Ross, father of Annette Prater, had a large spot on his arm removed recently that might be cancerous. Please continue to remember the following: **Erika Stuckey**, **Jerry Baird**, **Betty Culbreath**, **Lucy Chamberlain**, **Don Sykes**, **Meredith Peek**, **Barbara Day**, **Alan & Linda Stone**, **Debbie Shull**, **Pat Pierce**, **Beverly Parnell**, **Jean Jones**, **Dorothy Butler**, & **Rannie Butler** 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 grand daughter 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

Debi Hall, sister in law of **Karen Oglesby**, passed away. Her funeral is scheduled for Saturday. Please keep her family in your prayers.

MEN TO SERVE - October 18th, 2026

Preside: Brian Williams

Serve: Steve Fiveash, Tyrone Willingham, Dillan Fiveash, Jack Etheridge, Edwin Reyes, Tim Vanderhook, Mike Jones, Sammy Terrell

AM Opening Prayer: Tommy Kelley

AM Closing Prayer: Allen Roberts

PM Opening Prayer: Wesley Williams

PM Closing Prayer: Nick Parker

Wed. Opening Prayer: Gary Barch

Wed. Closing Prayer: John Stubblefield

Announcements: Chris Tice

Song Leader: David Rister

Scripture Reading: Walter Warren

Security: John Stubblefield

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

October 18: Bridal Shower for Jasmine Cole. She is registered at Amazon.

October 18-21: Gospel Meeting at Nesbit with Anthony Flunder. Please see the bulletin board for more information.

October 18-21: Gospel Meeting at Coldwater with Jamie Long.

October 24, 5pm: Trunk or treat, potluck, and family game night at the church building.

OCTOBER FOOD TEAM

Captain: Ann Chilton

Mina Lambert, **Jeannie Woody**, **Veronica Rapp**, **Becky Harville**

OUR RECORDS

Bible Study	203
A.M. Worship	290
P.M. Worship	173
P.M. Wed. Worship	167
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