OCTOBER 25TH, 2026



The Searcher

Published By

SOUTHAVEN CHURCH of CHRIST

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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES AND SEEKING THE LOST

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MAKING TIME FOR GOD EVERYDAY

Jonathan Burns

Life can become busy quickly. Work, family, appointments, responsibilities, and entertainment can fill nearly every moment of the day. If Christians are not careful, we can become so busy with life that we neglect the One who gave us life.

Psalm 1 describes the person who delights "in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1:2). The result is spiritual stability: "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water" (Psalm 1:3). Regular time in God's Word strengthens us because it keeps our hearts rooted in truth.

Jesus also demonstrated the importance of prayer. Mark 1:35 says, "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed." Jesus had people demanding His attention, yet He still made time to pray. If our Lord valued time with the Father, we certainly should.

The Bereans provide another example. Acts 17:11 says they "searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so." Studying God's Word was not merely an occasional activity. It was part of their daily lives.

Making time for God requires intentional choices. Read Scripture before reaching for your phone. Pray before becoming consumed with the day's problems. Prepare your heart for worship instead of treating worship as another appointment. Turn off distractions and give God your attention. We often make time for whatever we consider important. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:21). Do not simply give God whatever time remains. Give Him your attention, your prayers, your worship, and your heart. A busy schedule does not have to produce an empty spiritual life. Make time for God every day, and allow His Word to shape the way you live.

LET ME NOT BE ASHAMED

Clifton Angel

David hymned and we sometimes sing, “Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed” (Psalm 25:1–3). This psalm is also a prayer. In this hymned prayer, David requests personal protection (2), and he requests protection for God’s people (3). Our focus will be upon the humble request: “Let me not be ashamed.”

Paul wrote to Timothy, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim 2:15). While we request, “Let me not be ashamed,” God answers by providing us His inspired Word (cf. 2 Tim 3:16) whereby we can diligently find our way to avoid shame.

Twice in his letter to the Roman church, Paul cited Isaiah 28:16. In the first occasion he wrote, “As it is written, Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed” (Rom 9:33). Not long after, he penned, “For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed” (Rom 10:11). Therefore, faith is also needed to avoid shame, and Paul informs us this faith comes from hearing God’s Word (Rom 10:17).

In his first epistle, Peter wrote, “Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf” (1 Pet 4:16). The faith we find in the Word of God leads us to follow Him no matter the opposition. This faithful following leads to the avoidance of shame and the assurance of salvation.

Finally, we return to Paul’s letter to the Roman church where he proclaims his faithful following of Christ that leads to forwarding the Gospel to as many others has he possibly can. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom 1:16).

David also requested, “Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness’ sake, O LORD” (Psalm 25:7). The Hebrews writer reminds Christians how that living under the new covenant of Jesus means we are living the fulfillment of Jeremiah’s prophecy: “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more” (Heb. 8:12; 10:17; cf. Jeremiah 31:31–34). Do you have this assurance? Have you found the faith that leads to following God and forwarding His Gospel?

ARE YOU CHECKING THE TAPE?

Jameson Steward

In the post-game press conference after a football team loses, most coaches will be asked about specific failure points during the game, and their response often includes the need to go back and "check the tape." What they are talking about is going back and watching the video of the game to identity where their team's problems exist in order to try to fix them in the following week's practices. Checking the tape is about self-examination. We all expect our favorite football teams to do this. But are we as focused on doing it ourselves?

James reminds Christians that we must examine ourselves in the "mirror" of God's word. "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:21-25). Basically, James is saying, "Are you 'checking the tape' of your own life and comparing it with God's word?"

Now, sometimes we like to "check the tape" on someone else's life while ignoring our own life. Jesus warned us not to do this. "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye" (Matthew 7:1-5).

Humbly examining ourselves in the light of God's word is something we must do as God's people. If a football team fails to "check the tape" and make the necessary changes, they will likely lose more games. While that result is unpleasant, it's not especially meaningful in the long run. But if we fail to "check the tape" in our lives, the consequences may be eternally serious. "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Sunday Sermons

Stunted? (AM)

The Subtelty Of Pride (PM)

Bible Passages To Consider

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall (Proverbs 16:18)

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Vern Schrimsher is in Baptist Desoto Hospital. He is being treated for an infection in his foot.

Sarah Hechavarria is taking chemotherapy.

Joyce Valentine is on Hospice Care.

James Mason, father of Jennifer Christian, experienced a mini stroke on his way home from Chicago. He is now in the hospital in Champaign, IL.

Luke Massey, grandson of Anita Sanders, has been discharged from the hospital.

Dennis Hawkins, father of Clint & Blake Hawkins, had surgery on Monday. He is recovering at home.

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

Lannie Smart, husband of Danna Smart, has completed 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:

Dale Shull, 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 & 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 Butler**, sister in law of Larry Butler; **Lily Jane Jordan**, neighbor's grand daughter of Terry & Brenda Harris; **Oakleigh Free**, great grandaughter 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 Goldton at Southaven Room #116.

MEN TO SERVE - October 25th, 2026

Preside: Jonah Adams

Serve: Ron Bobo, Michael Gahagan, RJ Jolomi, Dalton Wieneke, Blake Hawkins, Lucas Gahagan, Mike Jones, Griffin Rister

AM Opening Prayer: Jason Bayless

AM Closing Prayer: Larry Nagle

PM Opening Prayer: Aaron Gallagher
PM Closing Prayer: Nick Parker

Wed. Opening Prayer: Brian Briscoe

Wed. Closing Prayer: Jason Griffin

Announcements: Andy Young

Song Leader: David Rister
Scripture Reading: Reed Rister
Security: Brian Williams

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER FOOD TEAM

Captain: Ann Chilton

Mina Lambert, Jeannie Woody, Veronica Rapp, Becky Harville

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.

OUR RECORDS

Bible Study	220
A.M. Worship	281
P.M. Worship	169
P.M. Wed. Worship	158
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