NOVEMBER 1ST, 2026



The Searcher

Published By

SOUTHAVEN CHURCH of CHRIST

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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES AND SEEKING THE LOST

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Benevolence
Tennessee Children's Home - Spring Hill, TN
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INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT WORSHIP

Robert Jefferies

In school, young people are given a number of assignments by their teacher. Some of those assignments are daily, while others may be weekly or even spread out over the nine weeks. When these assignments are given, in essence, the teacher is giving their students a set of expectations. In Deuteronomy 12, Moses is in the midst of his second speech to the Children of Israel. In this chapter he will direct their attention to a specific set of assignments. These assignments would center around the subject of their worship.

First, they were to get rid of all of the idols and everything associated with idolatry in the land of Canaan. "These are the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which the LORD God of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth. Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree: And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place. Ye shall not do so unto the LORD your God" (Deuteronomy 12:1-4). You see, God knew that their would be a temptation to worship these idols if they were still there. The ways of the Egyptians had rubbed off on them in the wilderness, and He did not want the ways of the Canaanites rubbing off on them in the Promised Land.

Second, Moses would give them inspired instruction about where their worship would take place. Notice what he says, "But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come…Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes. For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you. But when ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and when he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety; Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD: And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you. Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest: But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee" (Deuteronomy 12:5, 8-14).

WOE IS ME

Chris Perry

I believe I can safely say that every one of us, at one time or another, has caught the dreaded “Woe is me!” disease. A hectic schedule, sickness, or the general hardships of life have caused us to throw ourselves a “pity party.” To be sure, self-pity is a part of the human condition; it is certain to affect us all at some point. However, the “Woe is me!” syndrome can be extremely dangerous. It can cause us to lose sight of others’ needs, and it can cause us to question God and challenge His authority. It would be valuable for us all, then, to consider for a moment how to overcome self-pity.

Remember: You are not the only one! One of the most dangerous attitudes that comes from self-pity is the belief that no one else has ever suffered the way we are. Statements such as, “You don’t understand!” poison our outlooks, and can sever relationship and sour our spiritual lives. However, Paul makes an interesting statement in I Corinthians 10:13: “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” Noticed that first statement: our “temptations” [adversity] are “common to man” [literally, human, a part of the human condition]. Because adversity is a thread that runs through all humanity, James can say, “Take, my brethren, the prophets...for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience” (James 5:10).

Remember: You can change your perspective! Statements often emanate from our pity parties that sound much like these: “But it’s not fair!...Why would God let this happen?” These attitudes represent a perspective of the world that should be different for a Christian. In Psalm 73, Asaph submitted his frustration at the state of the world: “For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked” (verse 3). However, he overcame this “Woe is me!” attitude by changing his perspective: “Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end” (verse 17). Likewise, when we approach God in worship, prayer, or bible study, our perspectives should change. Though things in this world often might seem unfair, God has stated, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” (Galatians 6:7-8). A perspective that includes eternity and judgment can alleviate some of the self-pity that comes with the human condition.

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Third, Moses gave an assignment pertaining to the meat they would offer and what to with that meat once it had been offered to God. “Notwithstanding thou mayest kill and eat flesh in all thy gates, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee: the unclean and the clean may eat thereof, as of the roebuck, and as of the hart. Only ye shall not eat the blood; ye shall pour it upon the earth as water. Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand: But thou must eat them before the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that *is* within thy gates: and thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God in all that thou puttest thine hands unto” (Deuteronomy 12:15-18).

What lessons can God’s people learn today from Deuteronomy 12? 1) **God is serious about worship.** He always has been and always will be. From the days of Cain and Abel, to Nadab and Abihu, to the Children of Israel in the Promised Land, to Jesus with the woman in Samaria. Notice what He says to her, “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24). 2) **Blood was important then and it is important today.** No doubt, when sacrifices were made, blood was shed. Today, in order for us to be forgiven of sin, the precious blood of Jesus needed to be shed. Consider the words of John, “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Consider the words that the Apostle Peter penned, “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:18-19). Note the words Jesus spoke about His blood as He was giving the emblems for the Lord’s Supper, “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:28).

Sunday Sermons

What Can We Do For God? (AM)

Man's Greatest Need (PM)

Bible Passages To Consider

"And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee"
(Luke 5:20)

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Dale Shull is in room 520 at Baptist Desoto Hospital. He had surgery on Tuesday to help with a kidney stone.

Vern Schrimsher is recovering from a recent stay in the hospital. He has a PICC line to receive IV antibiotics for the next five weeks. The family has requested no visitors at this time.

Sarah Hechavarria is taking chemotherapy.

Joyce Valentine is on Hospice Care.

James Mason, father of Jennifer Christian, has been released from the hospital and is now back at home.

Dennis Hawkins, father of Clint & Blake Hawkins, is recovering from recent surgery.

David Chadwick had surgery on Tuesday for an abdominal aneurysm. He was released from the hospital on Wednesday, and is now at home.

Julia Ross, mother of Annette Prater, was scheduled to have a heart cath on Thursday.

J. R. Ross, father of Annette Prater, learned that the spot removed from his arm is cancerous. The doctors believe that they got it all.

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 & 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 granddaughter 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 & **Kim Blackburn**, neighbor of Nell Parker.

SHUT-INS/ NURSING HOME

Lucy Chamberlain; Debbie Shull; Beverly Parnell; Pam Eaton; Phyllis Smith, The Goldton at Southaven Room #116.

MEN TO SERVE - November 1st, 2026

Preside: Tyrone Willingham

Serve: Joel White, Greg Wilson, TJ Johnson, Clint Hawkins, Jefferson Mendoza, Wesley Williams, Nick Parker, Allen Roberts

AM Opening Prayer: Dunae McCrory
AM Closing Prayer: Perkins Cochran

PM Opening Prayer: Chris Tice
PM Closing Prayer: James Caldwell

Wed. Opening Prayer: Andy Young
Wed. Closing Prayer: Hilton Jefferies
Announcements: Josh Walker
Song Leader: Michael Gahagan
Scripture Reading: Lucas Gahagan
Security: Andy Young

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 18: Gifts for the Children's Home are due.

NOVEMBER FOOD TEAM

Captain: Sheila Simpson

Tabitha Johnson, Annette Prater, Jina Suh, Emily Griffin

HELP IS NEEDED

If you would like to help with Christmas gifts for the Paragould Children's Home, please go to the Fellowship Hall and see the information on the tables and see how you can help. Please see Shelley Selby or Angie Schrimsher for questions.

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	210
A.M. Worship	265
P.M. Worship	160
P.M. Wed. Worship	160
Contribution	$

SOUTHAVEN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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