

THE PROCLAIMER



WILLOW AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST VOL. XXXVII ISSUE #7 FEBRUARY 15, 2017

Why Don't People Believe in Hell?

A recent study found that 72% of American adults believed in heaven, while about 58% believed in hell. These numbers are down from past decades. The concepts of eternal rewards and punishments are just not as accepted as the once were – but why?

In particular, the reality of hell is something that many people in the 21st century are just not willing to believe. Again we might ask why. After doing a good deal of reading and research on the opinions of those who do not believe in hell, the following seem to represent their most cited opinions:

- *An eternal place of punishment seems like an unjust consequence for sin.*
- *An all-benevolent, all-loving God would never send His created children to everlasting torment.*
- *The concepts of hell were not in the original writings of Scripture but were added by the church.*
- *The teachings of hell are only for the purpose of trying to scare people into religious submission.*

If one were to engage in further study and conversation with those who do not believe in hell, they would discover a multitude of additional reasons why some have consciously decided not to believe. Now remember, what was listed are just a few simple reasons given by non-believers as to why they, in their opinion, do not believe in hell. Now I would like to offer my own reasons why I think people don't believe in hell:

- *Believing in hell means giving up control of our own carnal desires and wishes and brings us into a realm of responsibility for our personal actions that leads to an uncomfortable accountability.*
- *Hell is incredibly inconvenient for the sinner.*
- *Hell is seldom preached and therefore is seldom believed.*
- *People allow the media, society, and things that are currently PC to shape their religious views, and anything that seems judgmental, harsh, or intolerant in today's world is basically rejected.*
- *Even many of the most well educated people have not studied the Bible in its entirety. They do not know about the origin of the text. They do not know about the content of the text.*
- *People in our world today base their religious views more on feelings than facts.*
- *Many first decide what to believe and then seek any evidence or opinion that will agree with them.*
- *People don't know the true Jesus. They don't know what He preached about hell. They don't understand His true purpose for coming to the earth.*

This short article could turn quickly into a book. Perhaps that can be written another day. But the discussion of this topic addresses an important point: Whenever a false doctrine or belief prevails in the world there are usually two reasons why. 1. People believe what they want to believe. 2. People are misinformed. This is why God chose "...the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe" (1 Cor. 1:21).

As an interesting side note, the study conducted on beliefs in heaven and hell revealed that even a small percentage of agnostics and atheists believed in both. It is just a part of human nature to consider what exists beyond the grave. In reality, what lies and moves deep inside of each one of us was simply never made for here. And that is just hard for anyone to completely deny.

"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." – Matthew 25:46

Jeremiah Tatum

Sermon Topics February 19, 2017

9:00 a.m. – Jeremiah Tatum
“Why Did My Savior Come To Earth?”
Matthew 10:34-39
6:00 p.m. – Jeremiah Tatum
“Love Never Fails”
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

CENTURION OF SCRIPTURE
February 12 - 9 Christ our Cornerstone
Ephesians 2:2

“Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.”

Congratulations to Holly Carmack for completing her 100 memory verses for Lads to Leaders last year. Good job Holly!

*We extend our sympathy to:
Jimmie Loftis in the death of his uncle Don Rieder.
Rachel Welch in the death of her step-father, Jerry Smith.
The family of Edna (Jane) Frances Carter. She was the aunt of Judy Hix, and the great aunt of David Hix and Brittany Allison.*

*We have received “Thank You” cards from:
Robert & June Cowan*

<u>FOR THE RECORD – FEBRUARY 12, 2017</u>	
9:00 a.m.	475
10:15 a.m.	378
6:00 p.m.	312
Wed 2/8	338

WELCOME

Jayson Moulton has met with our elders and expressed his desire to be a part of the Willow Avenue congregation. Be sure to meet Jayson and make him feel like part of the Willow Avenue family.
Jayson Moulton, 1322 Gainesboro Grade, Apt. H-4, Cookeville, TN 38501.
Phone: 931-255-1759

REQUESTING PRAYERS

Sunday morning Chuck Wilson requested the prayers of his church family on his behalf stating that he had made some wrong decisions and asked for forgiveness. Let’s lift him up in prayer in the coming weeks.

Sunday night Candice Peek also asked for the prayers of her church family stating that she had not been the Christian she should be. Please encourage her and keep her in your prayers.



A Special Happy Birthday to Willie Mae Reeves who celebrates her 90th birthday on February 15.



A Special Happy Anniversary to Bill & Angie Bilbrey celebrating 54 years on February 16.



PANTRY ITEMS

- February 19 - 25**
#14 - Dewight Stamps' Class
Chicken Noodle Soup
#15 - College Class
Tuna
#16 - Mike Dyer's Class
Jelly
#17/18 - Jeremiah's Class
Salmon
Auditorium Class
Boxed Spaghetti



WILLOW MEALS

Make a difference in someone’s life – sign up to prepare a dish to help with Willow Meals. The menus are posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen.

BUS DRIVER



Bus driver for Sunday, February 19 and Wednesday, February 22 is:
Glenn Stockton (931-260-6513).

WE NEED PEOPLE TO SIGN UP TO COOK FOR THE MEALS!

LADS TO LEADERS

Practice for Sunday, February 19 -

4:30 Speech

5:15 Song Leading & Song of Praise

There will be no practice February 26.



LADIES

There will be a meeting this Sunday afternoon, February 19, at 5:15 in classroom #14 for all the committees involved with the Ladies day in April.

Also just a reminder of the ladies activity on Friday, the 24th at 5:30. Dinner at the church and concert afterwards.



GoldenAires - Sign up for your trip in March to eat at the park and go to the Cumberland Playhouse. See the GoldenAire board for details.

BIBLE BOWL 2017 BOOKS MARK – PHILIPPIANS - COLOSSIANS

Contact elder for February is
Reed Wilson 931-265-2752

3rd Sunday Putnam Country Singing, Sunday, February 19, at 2:00 p.m. at Silver Point Church of Christ.

Middle Tennessee Friday Night Singing will be Friday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Findlay Church of Christ in Sparta.

Happy Haven Home will have their 52nd anniversary banquet on Thursday, March 30 at 6:30 at the Leslie Town Centre. See the bulletin board at church for more details or call Happy Haven at 931-526-2052.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE ELDERS

For the safety of our children – please do not prop open the entrance doors and leave them unattended. We do not want little ones to wander out the door into the traffic in the parking lot. THANK YOU.

PRAYER LIST

It was good to see Karen Dyer able to be at worship Sunday.

- > *Irene McBroom is sick at Bethesda Healthcare.*
- > *Rick Ramsey is home with the flu.*
- > *Jane Brown (mother of Rhonda Leonard) had surgery on Wednesday, Feb. 15.*
- > *Earl Clack (step-father of Susan Melton) is in the hospital in Sparta.*
- > *Daryl Randolph (nephew of David Randolph) is at home.*
- > *Glen Webb (father of Susan Ashburn) is in the hospital.*

Sick or Recuperating at Home: Aileen Alred, Patty Dyer, Katherine Gaw, Faye Jackson, Ricky Sherrell, Cynthia Tate

Our Members dealing with cancer: Rosemary Andrews, Harold Kinnaird, Bud Scott

Those dealing with ongoing health problems: Michael Allison, Carl & Aileen Alred, Susan Ashburn, Helen Burgess, Kelly Fletcher, Pat Goodpasture, Sherree Hawkins, Judy Hix, Rose Keith, Donna Kinnaird, George Reitenour, Billy Sliger, Owen & Maudean Sparks, Peggy Sparks, Amos Spurlock

Shut-Ins at Home: Dib Anderson, Bud Bartlett, Patti Boyd, Belle Butts, Robert Cowan, Florene Davis, Ruth Gentry, Ben Gore, Rick Grimes, Mamie Henry, Marie Jackson, Reda Judd, Doug & Pearlene McCulley, Virginia McGee, Ressie Pharris, Jean Pitts, Rachel Stafford, Betty Tinch

Bethesda: Nola Judd, Irene McBroom, Jimmy Sitto, Aubrey Stockton

Cedar Hills Senior Living: Phyllis Julian, Sara Lewis, Zina Mitchell

Heritage Point Assisted Living: Bud Scott

Life Care Center Sparta: Leslie Cole, Eddie DeLoach, Billie Watson

Senior Lifestyles: Shelby & Bonnie Forkum

Signature Healthcare: Bud Bartlett, Doris Haile, Juanita Nation

Mabry Healthcare Gainesboro: Olga Szalay, Kathleen Ragland, Betty Richardson, Glenn Webb

Morningside: Pearl Cockrum, Mildred Palk, Edith Stewart

NHC: Ann McWaters, Rebecca Brown

CARE LINE: 931-432-6333

Willow Avenue Church of Christ
1150 South Willow Avenue
Cookeville, TN 38506

ELDERS

Jeff Gaw - Larry Harp
Dan Huffines - John Hudson
Roy Johnson - Gary Risley
Reed Wilson

DEACONS

Barry Allison - Ralph Bryant
Tom Bumbalough - Mark Caldwell
Charles Cobb - Tyler Gaw - Dennis Hood
Todd Hudson - Buddy King
David Lancaster - Phil Phillips - Paul Pippin
Steve Qualls - Rick Ramsey
Denny Richardson - Tim Richardson
David Ray Smith - Ryan Smith
Tom Stafford - Glenn Stockton
Don West - Richard Wood

MINISTERS

Jeremiah Tatum - Preacher
Mike Dyer - Involvement Minister
Chase Fletcher - Youth Minister

SECRETARIES

Vickie Stockton & Cathy Whiteaker

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship 9:00
Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:15
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:00

RADIO BROADCASTS

Sunday Morning Worship 10:15 AM
WHUB - AM1400
"Minutes of Meditation"
Three Times Daily Monday - Friday
WLQK 95.9 FM and WLIV 104.7 FM

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.
Office Phone 931-432-2333
Fax Line 931-432-2338
Care Line 931-432-6333
Website www.willowcofc.net
Email willowcofc@twlakes.net

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP – FEBRUARY 19

Lead Singing – Roy Johnson
Read Scripture – Hubert Qualls
First Prayer – Rick Ramsey
Last Prayer – Dennis Hood
Announcements – Buddy King
Give Thanks – James Tiensvold

Serve the Congregation –

<u>South Side</u>	<u>North Side</u>
Phil Phillips	Bobby Whiteaker
Dan Miller	Ryan Smith
Mark Caldwell	Lewis Coomer
Johnny Goodwin	Justin Asbury

Take Communion to the Shut-ins – Ronnie Brown
Danny Phillips

Usher in the Auditorium – L.B. Johnson & Bill Maynard

Usher in the Vestibule and Assist with Outside Doors
(Please be here by 8:30 am)

North Door – Todd Hudson
South Door – Justin Pace

Sound Booth: Sunday & Wednesday
Songs – John Hoffmeister
Sound – Brian Dudney

Parking Lot Patrol – Tyler Gaw

Keep Nursery – Jill Stalnaker & Tammy Wilson
(If you cannot serve call Lisa Bumbalough at 931-260-8817)

Greet at Doors before Service & Hand Out Flyers
(Please be here by 8:30 am)

Door #1 – Shirl Allen
Door #2 – Debbie Birdwell & Marcia Borys
Door #3 – Jim & Bo Briggs
Door #4 – Ty Briggs & Bill Brown
Door #5 – Rose Anderson

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP – FEBRUARY 19

Lead Singing – Tom Stafford
Read Scripture – Mike Briggs
First Prayer – Neil Ashburn
Last Prayer – Tim Richardson
Announcements – Buddy King

Serve The Lord's Table – David Ragland & Ralph Bryant

Keep Nursery – Gwen Mann & Sherri Webb
(If you cannot serve call Lisa Bumbalough at 931-260-8817)

Parking Lot Patrol – Tyler Gaw

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – FEBRUARY 22

Lead Singing – Tyler Carr
Invitation – Jared West
Announcements – Buddy King
Prayer – Charles Bean
Parking Lot Patrol – Tyler Gaw

Pens-Pencils-Pews – Week of February 19-25
James & Kitty Teinsvold

**IF YOU CANNOT SERVE CALL:
Charles Cobb 526-4337 or Lewis Coomer 252-2051**