

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of July 28, 2024 -

Sunday School -----	16
Sunday Morning Service -----	39
Sunday Evening Service -----	27
Wednesday Eve., 07/31/24 Service -----	14

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of July 28, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 6,649.50
Children's SS Missionary Fund -----	\$ 14.75
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund -----	\$ 290.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/28/24:	\$ 6,954.25

- Week of July 21, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 6,051.14
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/21/24:	\$ 6,051.14

- Week of July 14, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,346.79
Sign Repair Fund -----	\$ 1.00
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund -----	\$ 116.22
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/14/24:	\$ 1,464.01

- Week of July 7, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,446.45
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund -----	\$ 150.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/07/24:	\$ 1,596.45

- Week of June 30, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 2,362.44
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund -----	\$ 130.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 06/30/24:	\$ 2,492.44

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,600.00



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



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Church Directory

Todd W. White -----	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd -----	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly -----	Greeter
Kim Phillips; Shirley White/LeAnna White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; & Keith Shufelt -----	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars -----	Outreach
Keith Shufelt -----	Men's Prayer Group
GinaMarie Shufelt -----	Ladies Bible Study/Flowers
Seth White -----	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, Derek Quinnelly, David Smith -----	Trustees

REMINDER



TWELVE HABITS OF SOUND-MINDED THINKERS

by James L. Melton, Pastor
Bible Baptist Church - Martin, Tennessee

Most people will not read this due to either being lazy or being indifferent in regards to the title heading, but eternity will reveal that this is a most crucial subject and far too many believers made light of it. I refuse to be one of them.

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?” (Rev. 13:1-4)

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” (II Tim. 4:3-4)

We open with these two texts in order to show where the world is headed, how society ends. It ends with people becoming so stupid that they believe fables instead of facts and they worship Satan instead of God. That's where society is headed. That's where the devil's train is going, all loaded down with blind followers who have been deceived into thinking that they are wise and that they are superior to those of us who still believe in the old-time religion and in the old-school, time-tested principles of the past. The devil's train is full of people like that, and more people are climbing on every day. They've been taught to feel and to follow, but not to THINK for themselves and reach sound conclusions, and God's own people are climbing aboard that train at an alarming rate, and it's because they too have been taught to feel and to follow, but not to THINK.

II Timothy 1:7 is a great verse. It says, *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”* A SOUND MIND. Do you have a sound mind? Do you have a mind that brings honor and glory to God? Does God like the way you think? I've heard many messages through the years about glorifying God with holy living, but I've never heard much about glorifying God with a sound mind, yet there's plenty in the scriptures about the mind and about how God wants it to be ruled by soundness, wisdom, righteousness and understanding, as opposed to fables, feelings and fads. Clear back in Deuteronomy 4:6, God wanted other nations to look at His people and say, *“Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”* Does anyone say that about you? Do people come to you for counsel because they respect your sharp mind and they know you have some answers for them?

God says in *Proverbs 22:20-21*, *“Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?”* That means that people will naturally come to you for wisdom, if you have it, and the more you have the more they will come. They will want to “pick your brain,” as they say, because they will respect you as a great thinker with a sound mind, a rare commodity these days. That's by God's design, and that's one of the ways in which we glorify God. Let me give you some points on being a great thinker.

Twelve Good Habits of a Great Thinker . . .

I. PRAY FOR WISDOM - James 1:5 says, *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and*

(continued inside)

upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” So have enough humility to ASK. Don’t assume that you know everything. Don’t be too proud to ask. Confess to God that you are ignorant, that you lack wisdom, and that you need His help. That’s called a poor and contrite spirit, and God will not refuse it (Isa. 66:2).

II. ASK QUESTIONS - I recall back when I was a child in school, teachers would often say that the only dumb questions are the ones that are never asked. So ask! Each time you ask and get an answer, you grow a little wiser. Don’t worry with what people think - they’re mostly idiots boarding the devil’s train, remember? You’re better than that. Ask questions and learn.

III. BE SKEPTICAL - I Thessalonians 5:21 says to **“prove all things.”** Don’t be skeptical of God or God’s word, but always be skeptical of people and the things that they say and do. This doesn’t mean that people are always out to deceive you, but the devil sure is, and he will use people unwittingly.

Someone told me that UPS drivers make \$30 to \$40 per hour. He told that because someone else told him. I told him that I don’t believe it. He said this new contract will give them \$49 per hour. LOL! I told him that I don’t believe that either. I looked it up and found that the average UPS driver in Tennessee makes under \$22 per hour and that the contract issue concerns all full-time WORKERS AVERAGED, not just drivers. Big difference. If you don’t think skeptically, you’ll fall for anything, and THAT does not glorify God.

For many years I heard people say that there are 365 “fear nots” in the Bible, one for each day of the year. TOTAL NONSENSE! No matter how you word it and slice, it’s not true, yet, if you aren’t skeptical, you’ll think that’s cool and neat and needs to be propagated. If you want to be a great thinker with a sound mind, be skeptical.

IV. SHUT YOUR MOUTH - Ecclesiastes 3:7 says that there is **“a time to keep silence,”** and when you need to be thinking, it’s a real good time for silence. There’s a time to talk, and there’s a time to think, and you can’t think very well with your mouth running. **That’s the number one reason why some people are still stupid: they never shut up long enough to learn anything.** It’s like the wise old owl that sat in the oak . . . the more he saw THE LESS HE SPOKE. Why? He was THINKING.

I read a story once about an employee that complained to the boss about another employee that was just sitting at his desk staring into the distance. The boss said, “Leave him alone. He’s thinking. One day he saved me a million bucks doing that.” The other guy was just talking.

V. LISTEN CAREFULLY - There are two ways to listen: carelessly and carefully. Carelessly is when you let information go in one ear and out the other. CareFULLY is when you obey the words of Jesus and **“Let these sayings sink down into your ears” (Luke 9:44).** You really let it SINK IN, meaning you THINK ABOUT IT. You meditate on it. All sound-minded people make it a regular habit to listen carefully and think about the information.

Take the UPS issue for instance - the guy didn’t listen carefully, else he would have realized that the article was about

WORKERS, not just drivers. That could include high level management which would pull that average pay amount way up, even though it didn’t apply to drivers specifically. But only a thinker would get that.

VI. IGNORE LABELS - Paul said to think on things that are TRUE (Philip. 4:8), not on things that are popular, politically correct, or traditionally acceptable. The labels of men will stop you from learning and growing, so ignore them. *Go for the substance.*

I have two books in my office on different subjects, both filled with good information, yet both written by Campbellites. Had I refused to read Campbellite books, I would not have gleaned the information. The best church history book in my office is not even written by a Baptist. Doesn’t matter; I’m looking for truth, not labels. Some people never learn that, so they never grow into sound-minded thinkers.

VII. READ SERIOUSLY - Reading develops and sharpens the mind like nothing else, and God knows it, which is why He gave us over 700,000 words to READ, yet not one picture or video. Then He said, **“Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read.” (Isa. 34:16)** Read God’s word, and read other good books and sources that offer useful information. TV and videos have their place, but they should never replace reading. All great thinkers know this, because all great thinkers are great readers.

VIII. STUDY PEOPLE - While it’s true that people at large are lost and unwise, most everyone has something useful to offer. When your mechanic explains why your car didn’t start, listen to him and learn something. When your accountant explains a tax issue, listen and learn. People have skills, and you can learn much from them.

I work with a man who knows a lot about investing and finance. While I would not consult him for any spiritual advice or fellowship, I’ve learned to listen to what he says about money, and I have profited from doing so. Study people and learn from them.

IX. TURN OFF EMOTIONS - The Bible rule is fact, faith, then feelings, not the other way around. We have Bible FACTS. Then we exercise FAITH in those facts (Rom. 10:17). Then the right FEELING comes as a result of our obedience. Emotions have their place, but their place is not in the driver’s seat. People who are driven by emotions are not sound thinkers, and they usually end up with troubled lives.

X. HAVE WISE COMPANIONS - Proverbs 13:20 says, **“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”** You can’t always choose who you will be around day by day, but you can choose who influences you. Keep your guard up against most people and allow yourself to be influenced only by the wise. Remember where this world is headed, where their train is headed and who drives it. Think of certain wise people as “one of my influencers,” so to speak, and refuse to be influenced by the world at large.

XI. HAVE OPINIONS AND CONVICTIONS - Ignore the “judge not” crowd. Those people will poison you, if you allow them. Learn from wise sources, develop opinions and convictions and STAND on them! The whole point in learning and growing is to be a better and more useful individual, so never be afraid to have strong

beliefs and to stand for them. More than ever, society needs people of conviction. Sound thinkers know this and always step up to the task.

XII. TEST YOUR THOUGHTS - As we’ve seen already, the Bible says to PROVE ALL THINGS. That includes your own thoughts. Put them to the test, and discard them, if they fail. Never embrace error just because it is YOUR error. Wrong is wrong, no matter who does it, so always make sure that you aren’t wrong in your thinking.

I read something just a few days ago from a brother who thought (or maybe FELT) that he had a great idea. Frankly, it was the dumbest thing that I have read in a good while, yet some were actually agreeing with him and encouraging him in his folly! It was incredible. He was clearly wrong with a dumb idea, yet he refused to test his idea, as far as I know. He might have been a great feeler, but he was not a great thinker, because great thinkers are more than willing to put their ideas to the test. Being merely “thought of” as right is not enough; great thinkers want to BE right. A great thinker wants to know that his ideas are solid and sound, so he never runs from a test. To the contrary, he welcomes them.

Folks - I cannot stress this enough! Sound-minded believers are becoming tragically scarce. I cannot even count the number of times that I have given up on an argument only because my opponent was incapable of sound thought and could not move his mind in an intelligent manner and reach sound, logical conclusions. He could recite talking points and catch phrases that he had memorized, but he couldn’t connect solid ideas and build strong conclusions. Such people suffer from very serious brain damage, but they don’t know it, and almost no one is addressing the issue. But I’ve addressed it today, and you’ve addressed it by reading these words. For that, I thank you. Have a great week in the Lord. ■

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

□ **OLYMPICS GLORIFYING HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA** - The summer Olympic Games in Paris are flaunting the homosexual agenda. Three drag queens (Minima Geste, Nicky Doll, and Miss Martini) participated as torch bearers to bring the Olympic flame from Greece. The opening ceremony and contests themselves continued this theme. One display at the opening depicted drag queens pretending to be Christ and the apostles in a blasphemous re-enactment of Leonardo Da Vinci’s Last Supper. *“From the moment that the 2024 Paris Olympics launched its opening ceremony ... it became clear that pushing the LGBTQ agenda was at the top of the program with a sequence that made the opening the ‘gayest opening ceremony ever.’ ... Despite many global sports organizations ruling against allowing transgender and non-binary players to participate, two non-binary competitors will compete in this year’s games”* (Breitbart, July 26, 2024). (“Binary” refers to male and female.)

Sodom is mentioned multiple times in the New Testament in the context of the end-times, Christ’s return, and God’s judgment upon impenitent sinners. **“But the same day that Lot went out of**

Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed” (Luke 17:29-30). **“Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities” (Jude 1:7-8).**

□ **NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT AFFIRMS IRAN’S GOAL TO DESTROY ISRAEL** - “Iran’s President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday reaffirmed Tehran’s dedication to destroying Israel, saying its proxies across the region will not allow the Jewish state’s ‘criminal policies’ to continue. ‘The Islamic Republic has always supported the resistance of the people of the region against the illegitimate Zionist regime. The support of the resistance is rooted in the fundamental policies of the Islamic Republic,’ Pezeshkian wrote in a missive to Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah. ... Pezeshkian’s win is not expected to produce any major policy shift in Tehran’s nuclear program or support for Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, or the various militias in Iraq and Syria” (“Iranian president-elect,” Israel Today, July 9, 2024). Iran’s fervent, persistent, unreasonable desire to destroy Israel is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Iran was called Persia until 1935, and according to the prophecy of Ezekiel 38, Persia will be a major part of the Gog Magog (Russia) military coalition that will attack Israel during the day of the Lord. Even today, Russia is a major player in providing Iran with arms and nuclear technology. In September 2008, Israel’s ambassador to the United States, Sallai Meridor, warned that Russian arms sales to Iran and Syria are “destabilizing and dangerous for Israel” (“Israel Irked by Iran-Russia Military Ties,” PressTV.ir, Sept. 13, 2008). In 2014, Russia pledged to build two more nuclear power plants in Iran (“Iran, Russia Agree to Continue Nuclear Cooperation,” ITAR-TASS, May 29, 2014). In August 2012, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said “the ultimate goal of world forces must be the annihilation of Israel” (Jerusalem Post, Aug. 2, 2012). On Nov. 8, 2014, Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei tweeted, “This barbaric, wolflike & infanticidal regime of Israel which spares no crime has no cure but to be annihilated.” These threats will turn out to be hot air, because according to Bible prophecy the armies of Persia will suffer destruction with Russia. Jehovah God says, **“And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 38:22-23).** This will mark the time of Israel’s repentance and conversion.

“So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel...” (Ezekiel 39:7, 21, 22, 28, 29).