



# BROAD STREET

## BANNER

December 9, 2020

BROAD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOL. XXXV NO. 47



*From Where I Sit . . .*

### "Is Your Religion Relevant?"

Religion needs to be relevant in order to be beneficial. It seems sad to think that an individual could wander through an entire life's span without ever really understanding why religion should play such an important part in one's life. Unfortunately, it appears that there are many people who have a form of religion who hardly understand why, or wherefore. As if in a trance, some are merely going through the motions. We ought to be able to think of religion as a source of comfort, and as a power which enables us to face life and its responsibilities nobly and victoriously instead of something that must just be performed and endured.

Religion is loosely defined as one's devotion to God, or, for those of a pagan world, to "gods." The expression of religion can be either vain or pure as per the teaching of **James 1:26-27**, "*If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*"

From the text above, **real religion is an applied religion**. It takes on relevance to our manner of living and makes a difference in who we are. It takes much thought, feeling, and prayer to attain to the level of pure religion described here. Notice, however, that real religion isn't about goose pimples, tears, euphoria, but about relevant, practical issues (self-discipline, purity, and benevolence - James 1:26-27). One may feel many wonderful emotions as a result of a relevant religion since God equipped us with the ability to feel emotions, but emotional religion is not relevant if it is not transforming. Pure religion changes lives!

These verses would be similar in thought to the stirring reminder in **2 Timothy 3:1-5**, "*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers . . . . Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*" Practicing a form of godliness, but denying its power, makes religion merely a ritual.

Furthermore, these practical or relevant changes in our lives, coupled with our expressions of devotion and praise in worship, are to be "before God and the Father" (**James 1: 27**). The fact that we do these things "before God and the Father," and do them from the heart and not as a mere ritual, separates such expressions from mere humanism where man is treated as his own god, and the source of all that is good.

When Jesus becomes the focus of our lives our acts of worship take on relevance and significance to us, and our service becomes a natural outgrowth of this religion. Otherwise, we make a mere ritual out of the observance instead of a truly religious expression of devotion to God. It is, however, a vain gesture if it doesn't transform, if it isn't relevant to where we live.

**The Expression of Devotion Toward God through Christ, Coupled with the Transformed Life, Makes Our Religion Relevant.** Is your religion relevant?

. . . . Terry Broome



*Please pray for our sick and remember them with cards, calls and visits.*

**Libby Crona** is having some health issues and in need of our prayers.

**Pat Washburn** will be having back surgery at Huntsville Hospital on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Our prayers are requested.

**Buddy & Jenny Holt** are dealing with some sickness and would appreciate the prayers of the church.

**Ron Graham** had his second cataract surgery on Tuesday.

**Don Wilbanks**, step-dad of Jeremy Paschal, is in serious condition and under the care of hospice. Our prayers are requested.

**Jackie Loyd**, member of the Gonce church of Christ, is in ICU at Crestwood Hospital with Covid pneumonia. He has had Covid for 14 days and each day he is progressively worse. Please pray for him to overcome this illness.

**LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST**

- Stan Hastings**
- Polly Franklin**
- Tammy McGuire**
- Alicia Woods**
- Bill Price**
- Irene Gist**
- Ken Lawrence**
- Meghan Cornelison**
- Joan Jackson**
- LaRue Anderson**
- Vara Stiles**
- James Rice**
- Ginger Myers**
- Becky Russell**
- Sam Wright**
- Harold Reynolds**
- Judy Roberts**
- Jackie Evans**, employee of Woods Cove Florist, 2661 Snodgrass Rd. 35769.
- Judy Solomon**, sister of Martha Pendley.
- Kenny Jimenez**, son-in-law of Dave & Elane Bagley and brother-in-law of David & Ashley Dover, 124 Helen Ave., Modesto, CA 95354.
- Winston Busby**, brother of Doris Laney, 198 Weaver Rd., Henagar, AL 35978.
- Sally Abbott**, aunt of Bill Price, 440 2<sup>nd</sup> St., S Naples, FL 34102-8620.
- Shep Knight**, child of Jo Reed Brumley's cousin.

**Tom & Mary Ann Worst**, Libby Crona's brother & sister-in-law.

**Jordan McCormack**, US Navy

**Trent McCormack**, US Navy

**Jordan Holt**, US Navy

**Abigail Holt**, US Navy

**Nathan Bridges**, US Air Force-Reserve

**Paige Chrisman**, US Air Force

**Nathaniel Doan**, US Marine Corps

**Anthony Worst**, US Marine Corps

**NURSING HOME RESIDENTS & HOMEBOUND**

<b>Cloverdale Manor</b>	<b>Rosewood Manor</b>	<b>Southern Estates</b>
412 Cloverdale Rd. Scottsboro, 35768 Helen Ott	1513 Co. Park Rd. Scottsboro, 35769 Doris Johnson	212 E. Stewart Rd. Scottsboro, 35769 Tommy Bellomy

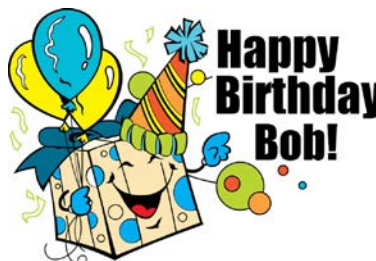
- Jean Hancock** 1703 Stewart Rd., 35768
- Polly Franklin** 9440 Hwy. 79 Bypass, 35768
- Mark Little** 107 Benson Lane, 35768
- Elsie Goodman** 406 S Houston St., 35768
- Martha Nan Baker** 701 Monroe St., NW, Russellville, 35653
- Nell Anderson** 121 Brookridge Dr., Apt. 148, Madison, 35758
- Al Evett** 4411 McAllister Dr. SW, Rm. 315, Huntsville 35805

*Calendar of Upcoming Events—*

December 19 — Christmas Charities delivery, 9 a.m.

<i>One Measure Of Our Love</i>	Wed. Bible Study..... Sunday Bible Study..... Sun. A.M. Worship..... 100 Sun. Night Worship..... Contribution..... \$8015 Budget..... \$7556.00
--------------------------------	--

**Bob Rice will be celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 14, 2020. Since we can't gather together to have a party on his big day, we'd**



**like to celebrate him by sending cards and well wishes. His address is 311 S. George Adams Rd. Scottsboro, 35769.**

## “The Man Upstairs”

by Kyle Butt, M. Div.

Maybe you have been in a conversation when a person used the phrase “the Man upstairs.” In fact, it might be the case that you have used it yourself. Most people understand that this phrase is supposed to refer to God. The famous country singer Garth Brooks performed a song, titled “Unanswered Prayers,” in which he referred to God as “the Man upstairs.” Let’s consider some possible implications that this idea may contain.

There seems to be a human tendency to view God as “the Big Man,” or “the Man upstairs,” and attribute to Him human qualities. Most of the time, when a person uses such phrases, that person attributes to God more power than other men, and places God higher (upstairs) than other men, but still views God as some kind of giant, powerful Man. In fact, the Greek and Roman religions took the “Man upstairs” idea to its logical conclusion and attributed to their gods personalities and character flaws that were seen in mere men. The pagan deities lied, cheated, stole, consorted, and murdered like “little” humans, only their dastardly deeds were perceived to be on a cosmic scale.

In truth, the Bible repeatedly insists that God is not a man. In Numbers 23:19, in an inspired oracle, Balak stated: “God is not a man, that He should lie.” The prophet Isaiah wrote: “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (55:8-9). The true God of heaven is nothing like the ancient pagan deities with their lies and hypocrisy. The God of heaven “cannot lie” (Titus 1:2), nor can He even be tempted with evil (James 1:13). In fact, God is perfect in every way, “a God of truth and without injustice, righteous and upright is He” (Deuteronomy 32:4).

While it is true that the Bible sometimes describes God with human traits (called anthropomorphisms), like having hands or eyes, it is not true that God is just a bigger, higher Man. He is altogether perfect, “Whose judgements are unsearchable and Whose ways are past finding out” (Romans 11:33). Let us always bear in mind as we approach our God in worship and prayer, that we are approaching the Perfect God of Heaven “to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (1 Peter 4:11).

Note: Of course we understand that Jesus was called the Son of Man, and became a Man. Unlike other men, however, Jesus lived a perfect life and never sinned. This brief article is solely intended to encourage us not to view God as having the same character flaws, failings, and limitations as men and to refer to him in an accurate, reverent way. Taken from apologeticspress.org

Christmas Charities gifts should be wrapped with card securely attached to the outside of the package and returned to the building by December 16<sup>th</sup>. Delivery of the gifts will be on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. If you want to help deliver, please meet at the building by 9 a.m.



*Deloris Steele, aunt of Chad Brown, passed away and her funeral service was conducted on Monday. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Chad and his family in the loss of their loved one.*

## CIA NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Christians In Action group will have about 50 cards available again Sunday on the table in the foyer. We need your help to send these out to our sick, shut-ins, homebound, etc. Thank you for helping with this important ministry.



Broad Street church of Christ gratefully acknowledges a donation to our food pantry fund from Sam & Roxie Wright in memory of Betty Precise Buchanan and Lila McCarver.

There are sign up sheets for L2L and CYC on the bulletin board in the foyer. We need to get an idea of how many are wanting to go. Even if you aren't for sure, please sign up if you are hoping to go.

## Do you hear the voice of JESUS?

*<sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. <sup>21</sup> The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

*Revelations 3:20-22*

**ELDERS**

TOMMY BELLOMY 574-3573 DAVID PRECISE 574-3790  
PAT RUSSELL 259-0800 BRAD WILHELM 244-0561

**DEACONS**

Dave Bagley Josh Baird Rick Baird  
Jo Reed Brumley David Dover Joel Gardner  
Nick Ledbetter Joe Manning Roger Myers  
Nelson Page John A. Porch Dave Precise  
Mark Price Scott Roberts  
William Underwood Russell Wilhelm

TERRY BROOME, Minister. .... 575-2454  
E-mail address. .... [tbroome@scottsboro.org](mailto:tbroome@scottsboro.org)  
CHAD BROWN, Youth Minister. .... (334)799-2382  
E-mail address. .... [chadpandj@gmail.com](mailto:chadpandj@gmail.com)

OFFICE PHONES. .... 574-2489 & 259-6162 Fax 259-5057  
E-mail address ..... [chchrist@scottsboro.org](mailto:chchrist@scottsboro.org)  
Our Web Site: ..... [www.broadstreetchurchofchrist.com](http://www.broadstreetchurchofchrist.com)

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

**WORSHIP**. .... Sunday 9:55 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.  
**BIBLE STUDY**. .... Sunday 9:00 A.M.  
and Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
**LADIES BIBLE CLASS**. .... Tuesday 10:00 A.M.

**Those to Serve. . .**

**SUNDAY, December 13, 2020**

Announcements: Trey Russell

Song Leader: Chad Brown

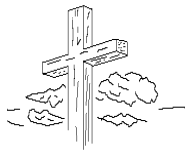
Prayer: C.B. Laney

Serve at the Lord's Table:

Presiding: Rabon McCormack

Speaker: Tanner Shelton

Closing Prayer: Russell Wilhelm



**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY:**

Scripture: Tim Allen

Song Leader: Chad Brown

Prayer: Brad Wilhelm

**CONTACT ELDER: Brad Wilhelm**

**OPEN & CLOSE BUILDING FOR THE MONTH:**

**By Committee**

**If you are unable to serve, please call:**

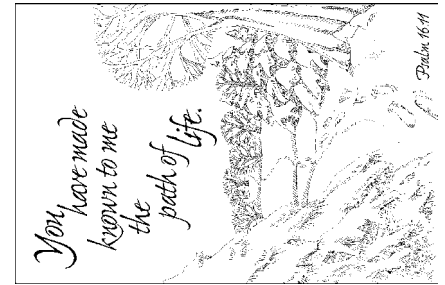
**Dave Precise 256-599-6668 -or- Dave Bagley 256-609-6468**

**The Learning Center Pre-School (Infants - 4 yrs.)**

**Debra Wilhelm, Director ♦ 259-0005**

**Requires  
First Class  
Stamp Here**

*The Word of God (the Bible) never changes.  
If you go to worship to hear something other  
than His Word,  
You have gone for the wrong reason.  
If you hear something other,  
You are at the wrong place.*



**BROAD STREET BANNER**  
Published Weekly By The  
Church of Christ  
613 S. Broad Street  
Scottsboro, AL 35768-1709

**10 Things To Avoid**

1. Remorse over yesterday's failure.
2. Anxiety over today's problems.
3. Worry over tomorrow's uncertainty.
4. Procrastination with one's duty.
5. Resentment of someone's success.
6. Criticism of a neighbor's imperfections.
7. Hatred of another's differences.
8. Impatience with youth's inexperience.
9. Skepticism of the church's future.
10. Unbelief in God's providence.

sending you  
**Warm  
Wishes**

