

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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### Contending With God

*"Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him?" (Job 40:2)*

Contending with God? Can you imagine it? After suffering extensive losses Job began to question the Almighty! Oh, he wasn't seeking information. He was questioning God's handling of his needs. Maybe God had forgotten him. Maybe his friends were right about Him...maybe God had turned on him.

Man has a hard time listening...especially when God seems to be silent. Does God really have any authority over us? Can He tell us what we should do, or what He will accept? Does He have a right to tell us how to live our lives? After all, isn't His Word kind of out-dated and irrelevant for a technologically sophisticated world?

Can man contend with God and win? Just because we decide to reject His teaching doesn't alter His divine will. Whether man accepts God's arrangement for a man-woman marital relationship, or His teachings regarding human sexuality, or anything else God has said, doesn't change His law. Does He have a right to command obedience? Does He change what He expects because we refuse to accept what He has said?

Obviously not! God is unchangeable and His Word will stand unchanged forever. Public opinion or legislative actions don't modify or redefine God's eternal will. Contending with God is like arguing with truth...it doesn't change because we refuse to see and acknowledge it.

Can we contend with God about His plan of salvation and win? Will He alter what He has spoken or required just because we don't agree with it? No, God's word is unchangeable. His word will stand whether I believe it or not.

God turned the table on Job. He said, *"Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you and you will answer me..."* (Job 40:7). We have no right to contend with God or argue with His teachings because we don't like them or think they are irrelevant. He does have a right to question us and our refusal to do what He commands us to do. When I am tempted to question Him, I need only ask, *"Who is the Creator, and who is the created?"*

—Al

### Other News

-**Carl Naylor**-reports that he is improving from Covid. Thanks for your prayers.

-**Rick Cliett** is battling bladder cancer. He saw the oncologist on Thursday and was encouraged with the report. The doctor wants to do more surgery on the tumor and try to remove the rest of it, and assess how much tissue and muscle involvement there is. Then he will decide about further surgery, and other treatments. Hopefully the surgery will not be as extensive as had been feared originally. However, Rick is in a considerable amount of pain. Surgery is planned for 2-3 weeks. Please keep them both in your prayers.

-**Rajitha, Raja's wife**, has been battling covid but is improving. Please continue to pray for Raja's family and all our church family in India.

-**Karen Ferguson**, friend of Phil and Carolyn Collier and frequent visitors with us, is suffering from an evolving hemorrhage in the brain.

-**Pris Dick**-continuing treatment for cancer. Prayers continue for her and Gary.

-**Mark Haynes**-prayers as he awaits esophageal test results.

**Online Worship:** Online worship will continue for those who are not able to attend in-person worship. Also, the online Bible class is still offered. You may access these through [www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com](http://www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com).

### Our Known Sick

-**Don Mayhall**— still needs our prayers. His condition is fairly stable.

-**Hubert Compton**—confined to home with health issues.

-**June McGowen**, is in Pigeon Forge Nursing Home. Her condition has deteriorated significantly over the past few months.

-**Jeanette Dyer** is struggling with several health issues.

-**Linda Valentine**— battling cancer.

-**Anna Ruth Franklin**— Prayers for several health issues.

### Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-**Carolyn Yates' daughter, Linda Wolf**, - battling cancer

-**Tracey's mom, Judy Pitt**, is continuing to improve slowly following her colon cancer surgery. Please keep Judy, Ron, Tracey, and their family in prayer. Her address is: Judy Pitt, 313 Monticello Rd., Franklin, TN 37064

-**Treavor Hayes**, 7 year old grandson of Marc and Sue is receiving treatment through a port which has been installed to make his treatment easier. He has a tumor on optic nerve. Please keep him in prayer.

-**Prayers requested for the daughter and brother of Linda Boyers.** Linda has joined our online worship and Wednesday night Bible class for many months. Her daughter, Stephanie, is battling Melanoma and her brother is dealing with heart issues. He is doing better.

-**Jan Luft**, sister of some of George and Melanie's best friends in Michigan (Jim and Kim), is not doing well. Chemo has been stopped. Please keep her in your prayers.

-**Chris Heathcox**, brother-in-law of Bryan and Beth, is suffering from pancreatic cancer. This is a hard time for him and his wife, Bena. Please keep Chris and Bena in your prayers along with their children.

-**George Tolliver's sister, Mossie Simpson**, is battling COPD. She is staying with her son. Prayers still needed.

### Sunday AM Bible Class-9:30 am

"The Church in the Beginning-Acts" (Al Behel)

### Wednesday Night Bible Class-7 pm

"Colossians" (Danny Cline)

### Ladies Bible Class

Not meeting during summer months through July

### Teen Bible Class

Sunday and Wednesday - (Jacob Forman)

### Current Building Loan Balance

\$689,858.37

Additional Contributions Appreciated

### OPEN FOR ALL SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 am

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Evening Worship 6:pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm

Please join us as we re-open all services

### Scripture Sermons

"A good name is to be more desired than great wealth; favor is better than silver and gold" (Proverbs 22:1)

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Proverbs 25:11)

in turned to his younger brother and said,  
**Food Contact For Month:** Tracey Kilberg

**Elder Contact for Month:** Mark Haynes (865-805-2293)

**Sermon Topic:** A.M—"Great Women of the Bible, Mary, The Mother of Jesus"

**Evening Worship:** Grace Upon Grace, Gospel of John Series

Archived sermons and Al's Blogs available at [albehel.com](http://albehel.com)