

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Don't Give A Place To The Devil

"...and give no opportunity to the devil" (Ephesians 4:29)

Would you invite Satan into your home to live with you and your family? Of course not! The thought is preposterous. Still, many of us provide an opportunity for him to live in our hearts. The Greek word for "opportunity" in this passage can be translated as "place", which suggests a foothold or occasion for Satan to work in us. Would any of us willingly surrender a part of our hearts to him?

There are many ways to let Satan into our hearts. Once inside he tries desperately to take up residence and control our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. Perhaps the easiest way for him to gain access is through our emotional system. In the verses surrounding the text above Paul urges us to be careful about *anger, greed, bitterness, and corrupt speech*. Satan can quickly take over when we become resentful and hostile toward others.

Satan is determined to win. His war is with God but we are the battlefield. He wants a place in our hearts. Even a temporary place. There he launches his assaults from the inside out. He works through our emotions to control our actions and our words. If he can feed our hurt feelings, our resentful attitudes, our selfish motivations, he can take control of our hearts.

Why does he want a place inside us? Why not be content to put obstacles in our way, to work in the environment around us? Why does he want our hearts? Because Satan knows that if he can control our hearts he can control our lives, undermine our commitment to God, and put us at odds with one another. He is an expert at breaking relationships and diverting us from our goals. If we provide him an open door he moves in completely.

May we never allow this deadly enemy a place in our hearts. The only effective prevention is to let God put His Spirit inside us, fill us with Himself, and to surrender every thought, word, and action to His control. Then, Satan has no dwelling place within us.

—Al

Other News

-**Mandi** has been experiencing episodes of fluctuating heart rate and nearly passing out. Her cardiologist has put her on medication to increase her sodium level. Keep her in prayer.

-**Leslie Hanley** has battled covid. She is improving but is still having some residual effects that will delay her full recovery.

-**Bill Pierce**, father of **Carol Kizer** (wife of Nelson), has been placed in Smoky Mtn. Rehab Center in Pigeon Forge. He suffered 3 broken bones in a fall and was taken first to LeConte where there was no room available, then to VA in Johnson City, and was eventually referred back to Pigeon Forge. Carol also had a fall and is recovering. Please keep this wonderful family in prayer.

-The current issue of Magnolia Messenger has a picture of **Maddie Wade** on page 14. We are proud of Maddie and all our teens.

-The ladies of the GSM church are making **Christmas Care Bags** for children and teens in the PF area to be distributed by the police and fire departments. Tracey, Melanie and Tina are coordinating this effort. A list of items needed is on the ladies' bulletin board and table outside the sound room.

Online Worship: Online worship and Bible class may be accessed at www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com.

Food Contact For Month: Tracey Kihlberg

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes, 732-608-4248

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Building Our Youth For Christ" (Jacob)
P.M.—"I Am The Good Shepherd" - John 10 (Al)

Archived sermons and Al's Blogs available at albehel.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

-**Tracey's mom, Judy Pitt**— We are happy to report that she is now cancer free! We give God thanks!

Ronnie Pitt, Tracey's dad, is being treated for uncontrolled A-Fib. Their address is: 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.

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

-Shannon Wade requests prayers for **Harley Tucker**, who is a 24 year old friend of their family. She just started chemo for breast cancer. She lives in MS.

-**Rick Cliett** is battling bladder cancer which has metastasized and is in lymph nodes. Ginny reports that the chemo seems to be working but he is having a mixture of good and bad days. Please keep Rick and Ginny in your prayers. Rick is a former elder at the GSM church. They are deeply loved by us.

-**Priscilla Dick**, former member, is dealing with cancer but reports that she is feeling better. She has completed her chemotherapy. Keep praying for her and Gary.

-**Tennessee Children's Home Food Drive**— Thanks to everyone who contributed food or money to help the children's home in Knoxville with this year's food drive. If you would like to make a financial contribution to the home, please see Beth Hayes. Thanks, Beth, for coordinating this worthy project.

-**Cards For Covid Nurses**— Susan Forman has made 24 handmade cards for covid floor staff at LeConte which were taken there by Jacob. She asks prayers for God's blessings and protection of them. A note was added letting the staff know that we would be praying for them. Thanks to Jacob for his prayer outreach to the LeConte workers.

Sunday Adult Class

A Study in Acts

Al Behel

Teen Class

Jacob Forman

Wednesday Night Class

Danny Cline—Colossians

Monday Night Ladies Study

"O To Be Like Thee"

Polly Cline

Zoom Bible Class Each Monday
Night 6:45-7:45

Follow Email Instructions

Building Loan Balance

\$662,934.33

Additional contributions to building fund are appreciated

Times of Services

Sunday A.M.

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday P.M. 6:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 PM