

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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January 09, 2022

I Want To Go To Heaven

"Every athlete exercises self-control...They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one..." (1 Cor. 9:25)

John "Pepper" Martin played for the St. Louis Cardinals and was the star of the 1931 World Series. Following one of those games Pepper was interviewed by a newsman. The first question he was asked was, "Pepper, what's your chief ambition?" Without hesitating Pepper responded, "My chief ambition is to go to heaven."

The newsman who interviewed Pepper Martin laughed at his response and said rather sarcastically, "Oh, you want to play a harp, eh?" Martin shot back at him, "My friend, I don't think that is funny. I know you don't mean to be a smart aleck, but there's something wrong with a person's attitude when he's flippant about serious things. If there's anything foolish about reading the Bible every day and believing what it says, and if there's anything funny about wanting to go to heaven when you leave this world, then I'm afraid life here isn't worth living."

What a goal! To go to heaven. I've often asked people, "If you could go anywhere and do anything, what would you choose?" The responses have been interesting. A common response is, "I'd like to go to Europe, Paris, or to Greece, etc." I don't remember anyone saying, "I'd like to go to heaven."

What is your goal? What do you want to be your legacy? To be wealthy? To be popular? To live in the finest house imaginable? Or, to be acclaimed as a renowned scholar? These goals are limited in their scope. They fall short because they are time-limited or selfish in nature. In themselves, they don't reach beyond the grave.

The Christian life is like running a race. In the ancient Olympic games the winner received a perishable wreath of ivy or pine. We are in a race for an imperishable wreath that will never decay. We want to go to heaven. Nothing we gain in life in our careers or accumulate through wealth will be taken into our caskets. Our friends will not go with us. We will go alone. All earthly treasures will be left behind. But, we look beyond these temporary trinkets to an eternal home where we will live for all eternity. In the words of our hymn, "Heaven will surely be worth it all."

Al Behel

Other News

-Welcome New Members: We are delighted to welcome **Paul and Debbie Nieves** to our church fellowship. They have come to us from Muscle Shoals, AL. Both are effective Bible class teachers/speakers. Paul is an OBGYN and is practicing in Sevierville. He is also active as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserves. We are happy you have chosen to be part of our congregation.

Ladies: Your Monday night Zoom Bible Class will resume Monday, January 10, at 6:45 pm. Polly Cline will be leading the study entitled, "O To Be Like Thee." All ladies are invited to log in for the class. If you are not receiving emails (bulletins, etc.), please turn in your email address to Linda in the sound room or give to Polly for the ladies class.

-Al is out sick today. **Danny Cline**, our associate minister, will be speaking for our morning and evening services.

-**Online worship** for those who cannot be with us in person is available at our website: greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com or on our Facebook page. We continue to receive reports of worshippers joining us from throughout the US and around the world. We are also offering a free Bible Correspondence Course. Please pray for the success of this outreach.

Food Contact For Month: Polly Cline

Elder Contact for Month: Jim Anderson 865-924-1067

Sermon Topics: A.M.— "The Source, Force, & Course of A Growing Church"
P.M.— "Forebearance" (Col. 3:13) (Danny Cline)

Archived sermons and Al's Blogs available at albehel.com

Our Known Sick

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

-**Linda Valentine**— battling cancer.

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

-**Marijane, Doug, and Marce** were diagnosed with Covid this week but all are doing better. Marijane has been able to go back to work.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-Keep **Tracey's dad and mom, Ron and Judy Pitts**, in your prayers. 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.

-**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.

-**Priscilla Dick** has completed her chemotherapy and is doing well.

-**Bill Pierce**, father of **Carol Kizer** (wife of Nelson), has been placed in Smoky Mtn. Rehab Center in PFs. Please keep this wonderful family in prayer.

-**Tricia Hayes'** mother, Debbie Odham, has been diagnosed with leukemia with only months to live. Her father is also struggling with COPD and is in critical condition. Please keep Tricia and her family in prayer.

-We are happy to report that **David Byrd** (Herb and Sybil's son) has improved and has been able to return to Louisiana and is tentatively back at work. Also, **Joel Davenport**, their son-in-law has been downgraded from stage 4 to stage 1 kidney failure 10 months post-covid.

This was a difficult week for many of our members who suffered major power-outages in the midst of the snow storm. If anyone does not have a secondary heat source or is unable to move to a safer location, please let one of the elders or Al know and we will try to provide assistance to you in the event of future winter challenges.

A Little Humor: A fellow went to the doctor who told him that he had a bad illness and only a year to live. So he decided to talk to his preacher. After the man explained his situation, he asked his preacher if there was anything he could do. "What you should do is go out and buy a late '70 or early '80 model Dodge Pickup," said the preacher. "Then go get married to the meanest, ugliest woman you can find, and buy yourselves an old house trailer in the panhandle of Oklahoma." The fellow asked, "Will this help me live longer?" "No," said the preacher, "but it will make what time you do have seem like forever."

Sunday Adult Class
A Study in Acts
Al Behel

Teen Class

Jacob Forman

Wednesday Night Class

Monday Night Ladies Study
Resumes Mon., January 10

Topic: "O To Be Like Thee"

January 10, 6:45 pm

Teacher: Polly Cline

Building Loan Balance

\$647,293.90

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