

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Sunday Morning Service

- Song Leader Philip Steele
- Scripture Reading Kelly Knepley
- Opening Prayer Kelly Knepley
- Lord's Supper Akel Marshall
Jim Tobias
- Closing Prayer Luke Collinsworth

Sunday Evening Service

- Song Leader Akel Marshall
- Opening Prayer Tom Haddox
- Closing Prayer Philip Steele

Wednesday Evening Service – March 6th

- Song Leader Akel Marshall
- Opening Prayer Philip Steele
- Closing Prayer Jim Tobias

Today's Sermons:

AM – The Goodness and Severity of God

Scripture Reading: **Romans 11:22**

PM – I Am Chosen!

Wednesday Adult Class Study: **1st Samuel**

“Let Brotherly Love Continue”

Hebrew 13:1

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SERVICES OF THE CHURCH

Sunday



Local Cable 18

@ 7:00 AM and 4:30 PM

Bible Class	9:30 AM
Morning Worship	10:30 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class	6:30 PM
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March 3, 2013

Loving God With Enthusiasm

by Randall Caselman, Bella Vista Church of Christ

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

A teacher of the Law came asking Jesus, “*What is the most important commandment?*” Jesus’ answer gives us insight into the real priority in life. What can we learn from His answer?

Loving God is an imperative. Loving God is not optional. It’s something we must do. Jesus is repeating a command from Deuteronomy chapter six. There Moses is found saying: “*Love your God.*” Moses and Jesus are both speaking to people who already have a relationship with God. Even though we have a personal history with God, we must make up our mind every morning, every hour, to love Him with all our heart, mind, strength, and soul.

With all our heart. The heart is that part of mankind that houses: our desires, our affections, our passions, our wants. It was David who wrote: “*As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.*” Question! Does our heart thirst for God? Pant for God? Do we long to be with Him like a deer longs for water? What is our life passion: money and material things, power and political clout, popularity and prestige? What is our “*heart’s desire and prayer to God?*” We must admit that sometimes we find ourselves craving for something other than God... Right? Jesus is calling us to: love God deeply, passionately, love Him with all our heart.

With all our mind. In the Greek, the word for mind means: our understanding, our intellect, our decision. Loving God is a function of our will. We love God because we determine to do so. Sometimes we must grab our want-to by our will and determine to place Him first and foremost in every arena of life.

With all our soul. The Hebrew and Greek word for soul can be translated “breath or life.” Loving God with all our soul means we must be willing to: “*fight the fight, finish the course, keep the faith.*” Jesus said: “*Faithful unto death.*” No, not just physical death! Paul tells us we are to “*die daily!*” We die daily for Jesus by doing what He wants rather than doing what we want. Jesus said... “*You cannot be My disciple unless you are willing to deny self... ‘die to self’... Pick up your cross and follow Me.*” Paul speaks of genuine New Testament conversion as “*crucifying the old man and living a new life in Christ.*” Becoming “*living sacrifices.*”

With all our strength. Our King James says... “*With all our might.*” The Greek of Jesus’ time could be translated ability. The Hebrew word

means wholly or diligently. The idea from Moses and Jesus is that we love God in every way, with all our resources He has given us: time, talent, treasure, energy, and truth. Loving God is not a Sunday morning only affair. Paul put it in these words: “*Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord.*”

The story is told of Eugene Ormandy, the famous conductor of the Philadelphia orchestra, that led with such enthusiasm he dislocated his shoulder. When was the last time we worshipped and served God with such intensity that we were in danger of dislocating anything? God help us to love and serve Him with such enthusiasm! Amen?

Upcoming Dates to Note:

- **VBS planning meeting** – Today, after we share lunch together
- **Ladies’ Class** – March 5th @ 10:00 AM
- **Potluck** – March 10th, immediately following AM service.
- **Monthly Men’s Meeting** – immediately after Potluck.
- **Men’s Breakfast** – Saturday, March 16th @ 7:30 AM at Big Boy’s followed by Bible Study in the fellowship hall.

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study (02/24) – 15
Sunday Morning Service (02/24) – 19
Sunday Evening Service (02/24) – 18
Wednesday (02/27) – 17

Statistics:

Contribution Last Week (02/24) - \$1011
Average Contribution (per week, up to 02/24) – \$1020
2013 Weekly Contribution Goal – **\$1015**

Remembrance in prayer:

- **In Search of the Lord’s Way** local TV broadcast
- **Mitchell Morris** – (nephew of Amy Knepley)
- **Celeste Stone** – (friend of Carl’s)
- **Phyllis Darling** – on-going struggle with dementia
- **Doug Marshall** – therapy to recover from a stroke
- **Jamie Valen** – (friend of Mary’s) cancer
- **Ron Hollandsworth** – (Tom’s father)
- **Rick Tobias** – Jim’s cousin, has stage 4 kidney cancer
- **Shannon Tobias-McKenna** – back injury
- **Samantha Schneider** – knee injury
- **God’s Blessing Upon This Congregation**