

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Sunday Morning Service

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| • Song Leader | Philip Steele |
| • Scripture Reading | Luke Collinsworth |
| • Opening Prayer | Luke Collinsworth |
| • Lord's Supper | Tom Haddox |
| | Jim Tobias |
| • Closing Prayer | Kelly Knepley |

Sunday Evening Service

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| • Song Leader | Akel Marshall |
| • Opening Prayer | Jim Tobias |
| • Closing Prayer | Philip Steele |

Wednesday Evening Service – Jan 22nd

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| • Song Leader | Tom Haddox |
| • Opening Prayer | Jim Tobias |
| • Closing Prayer | Philip Steele |

Today's Sermons:

AM – The Fear of the Lord

Scripture Reading: [Psalm 111:10](#)

PM – We Must Lift Up Christ Jesus As Lord!

Wednesday Adult Class Study: [2nd Samuel](#)

“Let Brotherly Love Continue”

Hebrew 13:1

CHURCH of CHRIST

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SERVICES OF THE CHURCH

Sunday



**IN
SEARCH**
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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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January 19, 2014

A New Year's Challenge

by Randall Caselman, Bella Vista Church of Christ

Christianity is a religion of fresh starts and new beginnings. Here we are with a clean slate for 2014. What will we resolve for this New Year? Let me challenge our hearts with these thoughts...

Resolve to never violate our conscience. The word conscience speaks of that invisible instrument God placed within us that: provides a sense of right or wrong; determines moral guilt or innocence in thought, attitude, disposition, and behavior; instills blamelessness or remorse; makes us aware of our *true* character.

Conscience is used some thirty-one times in the NIV. In 2 Corinthians 1.12, Paul tells us our conscience testifies as to how we have conducted ourselves in the world. He instructs Timothy to not violate his conscience: *"Hold on to faith and a good conscience" (1 Timothy 1.19)*. The Hebrews writer indicates that our conscience can be cleared of its guilt by obedience to God: *"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10.22)*. When Peter wrote about baptism in 1 Peter 3.21, he states that it is *"not for removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God."*

If we know to live right: live morally pure lives, treat all others with the love and respect of Jesus, do good works, care for the poor, visit the sick, forgive without prejudice, and walk in the light religiously... And we don't, then we're guilty. Conscience convicts us. We suffer under the burden of remorse. So, the answer is, don't violate the conscience. We must live up to what we know is right, and life will be more meaningful, joyous, and fulfilling.

Resolve to be a truth seeker. Conscience must be educated. Jesus said: *"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth" (John 8.32 & 17.17)*. Knowing right from wrong. Being able to separate truth from error. Knowing how to live. Truth is found in God's Word, Scripture, and is demonstrated in the life of Jesus. Peter has something to say about truth and its conscience cleansing power: *"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart" (1 Peter 1.22)*.

So, we must ask ourselves: Are we seeking truth daily? Or, are we living by the traditions of our parents, today's political correctness, perhaps we are making up our own rules, living as we want to live? Do

we really, really, want to know how to live life as it was intended to be lived? We'll only know truth when we immerse ourselves in the Word, when we *"fix our eyes on Jesus" who is "filled with grace and truth."*

Indeed, Christianity is a religion of fresh starts and new beginnings. But one doesn't have to wait until a new year rolls around to begin his or her resolve. Jesus came to cleanse our conscience, set us free from guilt and remorse, not only once by the washing of baptism, but every day, moment-by-moment, as we walk in the light. Read these verses and joyfully accept the truth they teach. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* *"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, continues to cleanse us from all sin" (1 John 1. 9 & 7).*

May God bless our resolve... Amen?

Upcoming Dates to Note:

- **Church Family Night– Movie night, Saturday, January 25th @ 6 p.m. Join us as we watch "Courageous".**
- **Potluck** – February 9th, immediately after the morning service.
- **Monthly Men's Business Meeting** – Immediately after the potluck.
- **Men's Breakfast** – Saturday, February 15th @ 7:30 AM at Big Boy's followed by Bible Study in the fellowship hall.

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study (01/12) – 20
Sunday Morning Service (01/12) – 25
Sunday Evening Service (01/12) – 15
Mid-week (01/15) – 19

Statistics:

Contribution Last Week (01/12) - \$852
Average Contribution (per week, up to 01/12) – \$900
2014 Weekly Contribution Goal – **\$1015**

Remembrance in prayer:

- **Betty Navin** – ongoing health issues.
- **Ashley Veatch** – (Tom & Kristine's daughter) her health and the baby. A little over a month away from the due date.
- **Chuck Chamberlain** – healing from foot surgery
- **Sami Knepley** – recovering from wrist surgery
- **Kristine Haddox** – severe Bell's palsy
- **Melva French** – (Cheryl French's mother) fell and had to have surgery this last week.