

The Bible is full of good advice and words of wisdom. Being written by the creator of the universe, I would expect nothing less. There are even bits that have become phrases or expressions that are part of our daily language that come from biblical teachings. Phrases like the blind leading the blind (Matthew 15:14), Cast pearls before swine (Matthew 7:6), A fly in the ointment (Ecclesiastes 10:1), a leopard cannot change its spots (Jeremiah 13:23), and there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9). All phrases that bring forth a great truth and are taught in simple words. But then there are other teachings that start off really good and wise, but in the end become hard to understand. One example of this is found in **Ecclesiastes 7:1**, “A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.”

The first part of this verse is what one would expect to find in the Scriptures. After all, **Proverbs 22:1** tells us, “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.” However, the second part becomes somewhat puzzling. How can it be? How can the day of death be better than the day of birth? You might even express disagreement upon thinking about what is being said. Is Solomon putting down life and joy of someone’s birth into God’s creation? Well... no. What actually makes this true is that our death, as a righteous person, has many advantages over out birth and when you look at it from the big picture, death has many advantages over our birth and is actually better. But what are the advantages? Let’s look as some differences between birth and death and see if you can split them.

One of the first thoughts is that we face an uncertain future when we are born. You don’t get to pick your family or what you are born into. You don’t get to pick and choose your life out before it takes place. Instead, you have to play a game of chance with all you do until you figure out or learn your own skill and ability. **James 4:14** says, “yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.” However, for the righteous in Christ, they do not die with uncertainty. Instead, they know where they are going. **1 John 5:13** says, “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.” There is no guess work involved or trial and error when death comes to a righteous child of God.

Another difference is that when we are born we must face the burdens of living in the flesh. From learning how to crawl and walk as a baby to learning how to even get out of bed without hurting as we age. From dealing with pain from injury to dealing with sickness. There are constant pains, burdens, and aches that come along with living in these

bodies. However, we gain freedom from that burden in death. Paul says in **2 Corinthians 5:4** “For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.” But not only are we free from the burden of the flesh, we are also no longer away from God. Paul goes on to say in **2 Corinthians 5:6** “So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.” He then says in **verse 8** “Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”

One final advantage is that when the righteous die, they continue to teach others even after death. Because of the good example of Abel, he continues to teach us about faith and proper worship even after his death. Because of Noah’s faith, he teaches us how to be a dedicated and obedient worker for God. Because Abraham obeyed, he teaches us that we must be willing to sacrifice it all, our comfort, our relationships, even ourselves to seek the better reward in Christ. We learn in **Revelation 14:13** that a voice from heaven told John “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!” The fact is our works follow us when we die. Not only do they follow us, but we must face the consequences of what we have done. **2 Corinthians 5:10** says, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. For the righteous person who dies, this is a blessing, and it also gives the opportunity for the positive influence to be carried on even after we are gone. Death involves the removal of evil to peace as well. **Isaiah 57:1-2** says, “The righteous man perishes, and no one lays it to heart; devout men are taken away, while no one understands. For the righteous man is taken away from calamity; he enters peace; they rest in their beds who walk in their uprightness.” While on this earth, we are constantly burdened with hardships of all kinds, but for those who are in Christ die, it transforms to a state of peace.

As you can see, what Solomon said in **Ecclesiastes 7:1** is quite true. But there is one condition. Death is only better than birth when one is in Christ. (**Matthew 7:21-23**) And in order to be in Christ, you must be born again. (**John 3:5**)

Andrew Spivey

SYMPATHY

Our love and sympathy to the family of **Kenneth Yarbrough**, a former member, who passed away on January 11,2025. A funeral was held on January 15 in Joelton TN.

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES
Sunday Read – Genesis 7
Wednesday Read – Genesis 8

Questions for last week's reading of;
Genesis 5&6

- Questions:
1. What Happened to Enoch and Why?
 2. Who was the oldest man, and how old was he when he died?
 3. Name Noah’s 3 sons.
 4. Why did God plan to destroy the earth, and how did He feel?
 5. Describe the ark’s size and the material used to construct it.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * 4:15 Singing class every Sunday**
Truth Seekers every Sunday @ 5pm
Feb 1 – Dorcas Classes 9:00 – 10:30 am
Feb. 4 – TNT 6:00 pm
Ladies Class 6:30 pm
Feb. 8 – Dorcas Class 9:00 – 10:30 am
Feb. 14-17- Youth Winter Camp
Feb. 15 – Dorcas Class 9-10:30am
Feb.18 – TNT @6pm
Ladies Class @ 6:30 pm

THANK YOU NOTES

To our Nashville Road family, First I want to say thank you for the food, snacks and the beautiful wreath you sent to our family when my dad passed. I can’t tell you how much you all mean to us. My parents were so blessed to be a part of the Nashville Rd congregation. Also, thank you for the cards and donations made to the youth fund. Your kind words and actions have lifted us up these past few weeks. You are all blessings to our family.

Alan, Melissa, Cassie & Jackie

It is hard to express just how much your words of loving support meant to me during the most difficult time in my life. Losing my beloved Charlie has been unbelievably hard. I am still struggling from day to day, but I have been comforted and encouraged by all the many acts of kindness shown to me by my church family, during this difficult time. All the cards, phone calls and just being in your thoughts have meant so much. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Penny Cliburn

ORDER OF SERVICES
SUNDAY
January 26, 2025
9:00 AM
BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song Leader.....Jonthan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Fate Evans
Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Allyn Hosman
Scripture Reading.....Kevin Siler
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Adam Williamson
Lord's Supper.....Ken Veale
Servers.....R. Buck, C. Newby, D. Johnson
M. Lyle, T. Strickland, R. Gallagher
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Josh Johnson

4:15 Singing Class

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....Allyn Hosman
Song Leader.....Jonthan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Bob Sever
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Garrett Rowlett
Closing Prayer.....Tim Cummins

WEDNESDAY
January 29, 2025
7:00 PM

Welcome.....Allyn Hosman
Song Leader.....Jonthan Senn
Opening Prayer.....David Thompson
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Bob Brown
Ushers for January.....Z. Tooley/E. Stephenson
Communion Care for January.....B/T Brown
Door Greeters – West Door.....C/P Newby
East Door.....B/T Brown
Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Diana Stephenson

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL
Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935
Church Office.....615-452-3431

Nashville Road Church of Christ
1883 Nashville Pike
Gallatin, TN 37066
Web Site: nashvilleroadcoc.org
E-mail: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

SICK LIST

Evelyn Harris had knee replacement surgery and is now at NHC Summer Place. **Tony Perry** is back in the hospital. **JoNell Vaughn**, mother of Rita Strickland, is in rehab at Greenwood Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Bowling Green, KY, Rm 109. **Ethan Huffard** son-in-law of Carl & Pam Newby has completed his chemo treatments. He returns to the doctor in six months. **Larry Bailey**, son of Tina Bailey a former member, has been diagnosed with lung cancer. He has begun chemo.

PRAYER LIST

Lena Baggett; Hugh Fulford; Maddie Andrews; Mary Spivey; Ottis & Maxine Cothron; Sara Hosman; Shauna Lockett; Tony Perry; Myra Rasnick; Jean Knowles; Zach Tooley; Mary Ann Reinhart; Shelby Ross; Sandi Jones; Lena Baggett; Pat Watson; Frances Catron; Jackie Williams; Pat Crump; Scott Seals son of Charlie & Wanda Seals; Ethan Huffard son-in-law of Carl & Pam Newby; Heather Lemley daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley; Jean McCurdy mother of Olivia Nelsen; Elaine Reynolds, friend of Christie Coleman; Alan Greene, nephew of Carl & Pam Newby; Bethany Shoulders, granddaughter of Evelyn Harris; Vycki Puckett, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato; Ty Tyler son of Ann Tyler; Ida Lou Sherrill, mother of Alex Sherrill; Taylor Lackford, niece of Brenda Veale; Dustin Lackford, nephew of Brenda Veale; Larry Conley, friend of Wanda Proctor; Harold Cole, friend of Lena Baggett; Bobbie Carter, sister of Janice Johnson; Walter Wooten, brother of Wanda Sherrill; Aza Topik, grandson of Charlie & Wanda Seals.

SHUT-INS

Jean Deaton, Mary Spivey
(new addresses for both Jean & Mary,
please call the office)

We depend on families and friends to help us update
this list. Please notify us of any changes.

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....92
Morning Worship.....138
Sunday Evening.....97
Wednesday Evening.....65
Contribution.....\$5,989.00
Youth Group Account.....\$11,326.00

Elders

Tony Butler..... 615-452-0560
Jim Cherry..... 615-479-2149
David Johnson.....615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935
David Thompson..... 615-598-6621

Deacons

Carl Newby Jonathan Senn Brent Smith
Eric Stephenson Adam Williamson



Nashville Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

1883 Nashville Pike
Gallatin, TN 37066

Phone (615) 452-3431

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Web Site: www.nashvilleroad.org

Email: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net

ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister
GARRETT ROWLETT, Youth Minister

