October 8, 2026

"DON'T BECOME BLIND"

GPS is certainly a wonderful invention. Before GPS, travelers depended on paper maps, road signs, written directions, landmarks, and sometimes stopping to ask for help. One wrong turn could mean driving for miles before realizing you were lost. GPS changed all of that. With digital maps, turn-by-turn directions, traffic updates, and road-closure alerts, traveling went from, "I think we're somewhere around here on the map," to, "Turn right in 500 feet."

But as wonderful GPS might be, I wonder if sometimes we tend to trust that little voice more than our own eyes. For example, in May of 2023, a pair of tourists in Hawaii were following their GPS to reach a manta-ray excursion and drove their vehicle down a boat ramp straight into the water. A witness of the event even stated, "I was just sitting there trying to seek shelter from the rain, and then the next thing, I saw a car drive directly past our boat straight into the harbor at a pretty decent speed. It was so confidently done, they didn't have a look of panic on their face. They were still smiling." Thankfully, no one was hurt. And you would think that would be the end of the story, but a little over one month later, another tourist did the exact same thing in the same harbor. At some point, you would think the driver would look around and say, "I don't care what the GPS says, this road is turning into an ocean!"

The truth is, Sincerity does not turn the wrong road into the right road. And the same is true spiritually as well. If the person giving us directions is wrong, faithfully following those directions will still take us to the wrong destination. Jesus warned in **Matthew 15:14**, "*Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."* That is especially true when it comes to religious teachers. James said, in **James 3:1**, "*Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.*" Teaching God's Word is serious because the things we teach can help lead someone toward heaven, or away from it.

The religious leaders of Jesus' day knew the Scriptures, but their pride and traditions often kept them from recognizing the One who is "*the way, the truth, and the life*" (**John 14:6**). In **John 7**, when officers were even sent to arrest Jesus, they came back saying, "*No one ever spoke like this man!*" (**v.46**) Yet, the Pharisees replied, in **John 7:47-48**, "*Have you also been deceived? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him?"* In other words, "If the religious leaders do not believe in Jesus, neither should you."

Jesus condemned that kind of leadership. He said the scribes and Pharisees were shutting the door of the kingdom in people's faces (**Matthew 23:13**). They were supposed to lead people to God, but instead they were standing in the way. That danger still exists today. Many people believe something simply because, "That is what my preacher says," "That is what my church teaches," or "That is what I have always heard." But no preacher, teacher, parent, or tradition should ever take the place of God's Word.

Take the Lord's Supper for example. In **Acts 20:7**, when Paul was in Troas preaching, they did not primarily come together to hear Him speak. Instead, their focus of worship was the breaking of bread. In **Acts 2:42** we see that the first century church, "*devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers*." Yet many churches today only observe the Lord's Supper occasionally, if at all. The question should not be, "What does my church practice?" but "What does the Bible teach?"

The door of truth is also blocked by religious leaders who blindly minimize what the Bible teaches about baptism and salvation. Many are taught that baptism is only an outward sign of salvation. Yet Ananias told Saul, "*And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'"* (**Acts 22:16**). Before following any spiritual direction, open the Bible and examine the road. Compare what you hear with the Word of God. When it comes to eternity, following the wrong guide has consequences far more serious than driving into a harbor. Jesus warned, "If the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

Andrew Spivey

Those who devise good meet steadfast love and faithfulness.
Proverbs 14:22

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – Numbers 9&10
Wednesday Read – Numbers 11&12

Reading from last week; Leviticus 16 & Numbers 1-4

Questions:

1. What animals were offered for the burnt offering and the sin offering for Aaron and his family and the sin offering for the Israelites?
2. What was the scapegoat, and what happened to it?
3. When the Israelites stopped to camp, where did each tribe camp?
4. Where was the tabernacle when they camped?
5. Who were the Gershonites, Kohathites, and **Merarites;** and what did they carry when the Israelites traveled?

UPCOMING EVENTS

All of October; FOOD DRIVE
October 15 – Senior Group 5pm
October 16-18 – Fall Series w/ Aaron Gallagher
October 17-Clean Up Day/Outside 9am-2pm
October 24-Trunk or Treat/Chili Cookoff 6-8
October 30- Ladies Get Together 6pm

FALL SERIES

NRCC will have **Aaron Gallagher** as guest speaker for our Fall Series.
Friday, October 16 - Sunday, October 18.
Please make plans to come and bring family and friends.



ORDER OF SERVICES
SUNDAY
October 11, 2026
9:00 AM
BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song Leader….....Bob Brown
Opening Prayer.....Charlie Seals
Auditorium Lesson.....Tim Strickland

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....,....Jim Cherry
Scripture Reading.....,...Josh Johnson
Song Leader.....,.....Bob Brown
Opening Prayer.....David Johnson
Lord's Supper.....Allyn Hosman
Servers.....Tony Butler, Jacob Tooley, Zach Tooley
Zeke Tooley, Adam Williamson, Nick Williamson
Lesson.....Tim Strickland
Closing Prayer.....Brent Smith

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome….....Jim Cherry
Song Leader.....Bob Brown
Opening Prayer.....Tim Cummins
Sermon…….....Tim Strickland
Lord's Supper.....Rick Gallagher
Closing Prayer .....Matt Elllis

WEDNESDAY
October 14, 2026

Welcome.....Jim Cherry
Song Leader….....Bob Brown
Opening Prayer.....Jonathan Senn
Lesson…....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer .....Kevin Siler

Ushers for Oct.....Robert Buck / Eric Stephenson
Communion Care/Oct.....Office

Door Greeters –West Door.....Brent & Marila Smith
East Door.....Eric & Diana Stephenson
Sound Room.....Ken Veale

Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Sherry Perry

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL
Brent Smith.....615-238-7482
Church Office.....615-452-3431

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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

Ann Tyler has returned to NHC in Hendersonville. **Eddy Edwards,** brother of Sara Savells has begun radiation treatments for prostate cancer. **Pat Harrison** cousin to Pam Newby is home from hospital and waiting for results of bone marrow biopsy. **Rod Gallagher,** brother of Rick Gallgher has completed radiation treatments. **Kenneth Norman,** nephew of Carolyn Vester has been diagnosed with liver cancer. **Larry Hammock**, brother n law to Keith Spivey & uncle of Andrew Spivey is at home on hospice care.

PRAYER LIST

Ray Key; Syble Johnson; Larry Bailey son of Tina Bailey; **Gordon Bolton** father of Courtney Yates; **Rachel McCloskey** former member**; Justin Beam,** friend of Brenda Veale; **Chuck Tooley,** father of Zach Tooley, **James & Mae Oldham**; **Kerry Howell** son of Myra Rasnick and brother of Merdith Andrew; **Ann Tyler; Shirley Ralph; Cathy Lemley; Jack & Anita Cato; Wanda Seals; Lena Baggett; Kenneth Stephens; Stella Messer; Hugh Fulford; Jackie Williams; Maddie Andrews; Ottis & Maxine Cothron; Shauna Lockett; Jean Knowles; Mary Ann Reinhart; Sandi Jones**; **Betty Melcher** former member; **Warren Vaughan**, father of Rita Strickland; **Pat Watson**; **Frances Catron**; **Pat Crump; Chuck Maxey; Joann Lockett,** mother of Darrel Lockett**; Pat Lemley,** mother of Michael Lemley**; Derrick Woods,** cousin to Karen Luster **Wayne Hunt,** cousin of Tim Cummins**; Richard Bouchard,** uncle of Amy Williamson; **Heather Lemley** daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley; **Jean McCurdy** mother of Olivia Nelsen; E**laine Reynolds**, friend of Christie Coleman; **Alan Greene,** nephew of Carl & Pam Newby; **Ty Tyler** son of Ann Tyler; **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.

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

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study…….....74
Morning Worship….....137
Sunday Evening.....65
Wednesday.....49
Contribution.....**$7,949**
Youth Group Acct.....**$3,416**

Elders

Tony Butler……615-452-0560
Jim Cherry…….. 615-479-2149
David Johnson……615-300-9084

Deacons

Carl Newby Jonathan Senn Brent Smith
Eric Stephenson Adam Williamson



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ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister

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