

The church of Christ at Luverne
67 North Woodford Ave.
Luverne, AL 36049
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Luverne, AL
Permit # 28

Assembly Assignments for March, 2009

The Lord's Supper

Andrew Moorer / Isaac Sanders / John Frost / Jim Johnson

Announcements

Dale Sanders

Building Duties

Steve Sanders

Greeters

Steve Sanders
Darrin Sanders

Nursing Home Duties

Jace Sanders
Robb Sanders

Lord's Supper Preparation

Jean Sims

Scripture Reading

Reed Kilcrease

Privileged to Serve on March 29, 2009

Morning Prayer

Bob Williams (opening)
Russ Kilcrease (closing)

Evening Prayer

Ronald Hilburn (opening)
Jim Johnson (closing)

Song Leader

Josh McCartha

A/V Equipment

Robb Sanders

If you are unable to serve, please contact Danny Rolling.
All announcements need to be written and turned in before each assembly!

The Messenger



From

The church of Christ at Luverne

67 North Woodford Avenue
Luverne, Al. 36049
(334) 335-5089
office@lcoc.net
www.lcoc.net

Services

Every Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Every Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Volume IX

March 29, 2009

Issue 12

A TOTAL COMMITMENT TO CHRIST

Raymond Elliott

We often refrain from using terms that are basically good because of the misunderstanding, misuse and abuse of the said choice of words. The phrase, 'Total Commitment' is a prime example of what I am talking about. Being totally committed to Christ is based on biblical principles; however, some religionists (even brethren) have caused confusion to the meaning of the term because of their extremism. Some suggest that total commitment involves another person regulating one's life even to the point of being told when to have quiet time, what to do with leisure time, who to date and marry and to use every moment to try to convert a person to Christ. In short, your life is not your own, it belongs to a senior prayer partner who regulates all of your activities. Freedom of choice is practically non-existent for the new convert. No wonder brethren are skeptical when a speaker alludes to total commitment in his speech.

The words total and commitment carry the idea of being wholly and completely bound or pledged to someone or to a cause. Many of our songs involve total commitment. We often sing, *"All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live. I surrender all, I surrender all; All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all."* Also, *"Take my life, and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee; Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love. Lord, I give my life to Thee, Thine forevermore to be."* Now that is total commitment!

Please observe that this total commitment is to Jesus Christ, not to someone else, not to an institution nor a doctrine, but to Christ. When we are committed to the Lord, we will follow his teaching and become a member of His body, the church. Our faith is to be in Christ, our loyalty is to the Lord and our commitment is to His cause. When properly understood, total commitment to Christ would eradicate cults, sectarianism and religious divisions in general. Man is often inclined to follow man, to defend a doctrine or to support a movement foreign to the teaching of Christ. Jesus is the author of eternal salvation; therefore, we are to look to Him for leadership (Hebrews 12:1,2). We must understand that what we teach, how we worship and how we live relate to our commitment to Christ.

The problem with many members of the church is that we have not completely submitted our will to Jesus Christ. We hold back. We don't want the Lord to have full control over our lives. The Lord does not accept a person who comes to Him with reservations. Jesus said, *"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"* (Matthew 16:24). The apostle Paul was totally committed to Christ. His example is worth imitating by Christians today. Notice his complete involvement in Christ: *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me: And that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me"* (Galatians 2:20). His commitment caused him to preach Christ and Him crucified (I Corinthians 2:2).

Total commitment to Christ today by the members of His body would mean that the gospel would be preached throughout the world, our buildings would be filled to capacity during our worship assemblies and our lives would radiate the love of God to a world dying in sin. Jesus gave His life for you, what have you given to Him?



In Our Prayers

- Ruby Bush- another bout of bronchitis
- Marie Clemmons – back at home
- Joe Griffin – general health
- Bobbie Sue Henderson – cancer
- Cecil Kelley – COPD; general health
- Chris Kyser – a little better, still serious condition
- Clinton Laird – recovering from heart attack
- J. T. Owens – lung cancer
- Weaver Robinson – problems with his legs
- Candy Sanders – recovering well from carotid artery surgery
- Lindsay Turner – continuing recovery

In Luverne Nursing Facility:

- Frances Burgans Margaret Hall Allene Mount
- Fanny Nichols Charles Phillips Edwina Rolling
- Pray for those who have lost loved ones.
- Pray for soldiers overseas.
Kevin Singleton
- Pray for missionaries, for leaders, for our congregation, and for our efforts to carry out God's will.

Announcements

• Local Happenings

- **"Fifth" Sunday Fellowship** this week, **March 29th** with a covered dish lunch following morning worship services and the final service of the day will be around 1:00 p.m.

- **Young Men's Training class** – 3rd Sunday @ 4:00 p.m.

- **Young Ladies Training Class** – 3rd Sunday at 4 p.m.

- **Ladies Caring and Sharing class** meets on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

• Area Happenings

- **5th Sunday Area Wide church fellowship** at Hamilton Crossroads church of Christ on March 29th with a fellowship meal to follow their 5:00 p.m. worship service.

- **Congregational Singing** – **Opp church of Christ** – **Friday, March 27th, 2009 from 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.**

- **Men of Honor and Women of Virtue Day** A day of learning about purity and spiritual growth for young men and women – **April 4, 2009, 9:00 – 3:00. Girls will start at Dalraida and guys will be at University.** Lunch and afternoon sessions will be combined.

- **Area Wide Youth Devotional – Cedar Grove church of Christ – April 5, 2009,** Scavenger Hunt and Singing at 4:00 p.m., Lesson by Kyle Butt – "Guarding Your Heart," at 5:00 p.m. with food and fellowship following the lesson.

- **Gospel Meeting – Evergreen church of Christ – April 12-15, 2009. Speaker – Jack Cates.**

Fishin'

A group of pleasure seekers went to a woodland stream to spend a day fishing. They had the best fishing outfits money could buy. Hours passed and they had nothing to show for their efforts.

Nearby sat a poorly dressed youngster catching several fish. He had only a tree branch for a pole, a string for a line, a bent pin for a hook, and worms and flies for bait.

The unsuccessful group finally asked the lad about his success. He told it in a few words: "You fellers are fishin" for fun; I'm fishin" for fish."

The fisher-boy's answer has its lesson for all who would be fishers of men.

Anonymous
Copied from March 22, 2009 issue of
Opp's **Friendly Visitor**

"And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." **Matthew 4: 18-19.**