

Times of Service

Sunday Morning
Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning
Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Night
Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night
Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

April Birthdays

April 1
Hilda Acree
Lionell Harrod

April 2
Dorothy Ground

April 3
David Thompson

April 9
Heidi Roysse

April 10
Timothy Secula
Casey Meeks

April 11
Morgan Mills

April 15
Jennifer Hendrick
Geoffrey Whitley

April 19
Levi Secula

April 20
Shayla Forrest

April 23
Danny Lee Pate

April 26
Sydney Mills

April 27
Allan Peay

April 30
Colby Ray Burgett
Matt Cardwell

Anniversaries

April 5
Brandon & Katrina Eadens

April 6
Brian & Kendra Meredith

Three Forks Church of Christ

April 2009

The Lamp

... as a light shining in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:19



Do Not Refuse Him Who Speaks

See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, (Hebrews 12:25 NKJV)

In the times of the Old Covenant men and women were to hear and obey the words of God. We are told in scripture that, ***“every transgression and disobedience received a just reward” (Hebrews 2:2b)***. We understand that God required of his people faithful obedience to the things He had spoken. Yet these things were spoken by angels, and prophets, and Moses and the Hebrew writer warn us that now one who is greater speaks. What will be the result of transgression of His words? ***“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.” (Hebrews 2:1-3)***.

It is Jesus to whom we must now listen and to whom we must now by faith submit ourselves in obedience. ***“Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” (Hebrews 5:8-9)***

Are we considering the will of Christ? Are we truly listening to what He has said and the words which He has spoken?

By: Nick Secula

Standing Before the Areopagus

In the book of Acts and chapter 17 Paul arrives in the city of Athens. Many hear the name of that ancient city and thoughts of grandeur and great thinking are quickly stirred. The great Philosophers of the Grecian world and culture may rise to the top of our consideration yet Paul didn't see the city with such a romantic view when he arrived. In fact Luke records for us, ***"Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols."*** (Acts 17:16)

Paul didn't see a city of romantic splendor and achievement, instead he was troubled to see a city given over to idols. In all the great thinking of the men of the day and the philosophers who made up the Areopagus Paul saw not grandeur but a city that worshipped every god made by human hands yet they did not acknowledge the only true God. Paul would stand before these "thinkers" and proclaim to them the God they recognized only in accident having enshrined an alter to "THE UNKNOWN GOD." How indeed fitting an inscription for this God they truly did not know.

Anthropologists confirm to us that in every human culture ever discovered evidence of religious activity has been seen in the records of the earth. Like man made religions and worship of gods before them, the Greeks recognized a higher being but the divine being(s) of mans hand were never that close to man. In fact most worship was done to stave off wrath or to impress gods. Their view of gods did not impress and intimate relationship between

gods and mortals. Gods made by the minds of human thinking did not overly concern themselves with the affairs of men. The true God they certainly knew not.

Paul begins to preach of the God they so desperately needed to know. ***"Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their reappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."***

Paul's words may seem so common to us today especially within the perspective Christian thinking; however, understand the words of Paul were scoffed at by many

in that day. What appeared foolish was the truth about God and man. One true God, the creator and sustainer of all things, the very essence of our existence. One true God who in times before overlooked ignorance on the part of man but now commands repentance. One true God who will judge the world by the Man He sent to the cross and is now resurrected from the dead. Paul spoke by the inspiration of God the truth in these matters yet many received it as foolishness.

We often stand before modern "Areopagus" counsels, "great thinkers" of the day. We proclaim to the best of our ability the words and the truth to which Paul proclaimed in the grand city so many years before and often with the same result. But as we look around us may be there is something for us to take note of. The "Areopagus" never denied there was something of a divine nature did they? They scoffed at the idea of one being raised from the dead but not at the concept of the divine. The same is true today. The pantheist may reject God's existence yet they proclaim the creation to be divine. Other's may reject the truth about God and worship other gods, but we see with the objective eye that man has always sought to worship something as divine.

It may be a cow, or a golden calf, it may be an emperor, a pharaoh or a king or it may be a document, an object or the universe itself but man seems to display that which is within him and that which is 'strange' to him out of all species, an inherent acknowledgement that something is divine. Paul stated in Romans, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is

manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things."(Romans 1:18-23)

You and I have a choice that must be made, are we willing to glorify God as God? Are we willing to turn from futile thoughts that we may show thankfulness unto God or.... will we heap for ourselves gods and images, philosophies and doctrines that in their end will bring forth the wrath of the One we refuse to glorify? May we seek out the One True God through His word.

By: Nick Secula

Women of Worth

The W.O.W. Ladies Bible Study will meet on Friday, April 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship building. The lesson for this meeting will be over one of the Bible's most loved ladies, Ruth, and her incredible story of love and devotion. Please join us for this study and stay for refreshments and fellowship after class.

PRAYER LIST

Sick

Gerald Watt
Bette Gilmer
Leah Botma
Riley Daniels
Vivian McDaniel
Cane Kinser
Richard Hurt
Phil & Joyce Crick
Natalie Williams
Cassie Dubree
Kane Martin
Becky Dubree
Rouble & Wilma
Lawrence
Tammy Edwards
Billy Burnett
Phillip Ginsler
Ruth Ann Cayton
Daniel Pedigo
Lana Young
Jackson Blackford
Kent Madison
Bettye Hendrick
Warren Lindsey
Diane Zelsnickar
Toni Dearing
Jonell Phelps
Lily Dishman
Juliette Butler

Soldiers

Theo Raymer
Jason & Melonie Jones

Mission Work

India
Athens
Disaster Relief

Shut-Ins

Maxie & Dorothy Grounds

Special Requests

Bonnie Lamberson for
Strength

SERVICE LIST

Announcements

Patrick Staples

Preparing Table

Keith Grinstead

Waiting on Table

*Wade Cole *Ryan Cole
Tim Watt Brandon Eadens

Reading

April 5 - Gene Grinstead
April 12 - Wade Cole
April 19 - Terry Crabtree
April 26 - Don Mills

MARCH

Average Attendance:

Sunday Morning Worship: 73

Contribution

Total for Feb. 22 - March 22
\$6399

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

April dates to be announced.

*Just a reminder that the
5th Sunday Contribution in
March will going to the building fund.*

**THREE FORKS**
CHURCH OF CHRIST

200 Three Forks Road • Smiths Grove, KY 42171
270.563.6649 • email: 3forks@inchristianlove.com
web: threeforkscofc.org