

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

SICK: Destiny Clayton and Karter Shamblin were both sick this past week. Martha Clayton (Tabatha Clayton's mother-in-law) is hospitalized with congestive heart failure.

PROTRACTED: Scooter Birmingham (friend of Destiny Clayton); Brian Brown (Paul Brown's nephew)—epilepsy; Lauren Brown (niece of Paul Brown)—heart; Suzanne Brown—arthritis; Shelly Cates—fibromyalgia; Janet Daniel (sister of Melinda Haas)—lupus; Addliae Farrow (Tabatha Clayton's great niece)—heart; Ella Cobb, granddaughter of the Houses—seizures; Elizabeth Ferguson (wife of former preacher here)—dementia; Jimmy Ferguson (former preacher here)—heart rhythm; Jane Haas (Wesley Haas' mother)—hip; Melinda Haas—Lyme's Disease; Cody Hadley—Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever; Kaylie Hadley—UCTD; Paula Harrison—Meniere's Disease; Wanda Jackson—a-fib; Monica La Rock (granddaughter of Orelia Ferguson and mother of Noah); Garrett Lentz (son of a co-worker of Cody Hadley)—seizures; Dena Miller (occasional visitor)—recovering from surgeries; Becky Munns (Tabatha Clayton's aunt)—heart problems, Crohn's Disease; Shelby Peyton—knee; Robert Rawson (preacher at Crockett)—diabetes; Ray Reynolds (Sheila Massey and Mary West's dad)—memory trouble; Brett Rutherford (Dan Cates' friend)—MS; Francis Wallace (friend of Mary Ray); Anthony Stacks (nephew-in-law of Allene Baldwin and Syble Embrey)—strokes and Alzheimers, respectively; Erica Swindoll (the Massey's daughter)—baby due October 9th; and Jerry Worthington (neighbor of the Hounshells)—physical and emotional difficulties.

CANCER: Neil Bennett (friend of Dan Cates)—thyroid; Alicia Busby (from the community); Dan Cates—melanoma; Tish Clarke (wife of the MSOP director)—melanoma; Gary Darnell (Ella Darnell's son)—leukemia as well as diabetes; Pablo Horna (missionary)—carcinoma; Nathan Jones (the Hounshells' neighbor's son)—brain; Sara Kiestler (an FHU student)—Hodgkin's; Wade Loggins (member of congregation in Elkmont, AL); Dorothy Mosher (wife of an MSOP instructor); Carol Ogelsby (family of Sonny Stewart and the Browns)—stomach; Tommy Pierce (the Browns' friend); Ruby Reynolds (Sheila Massey's mother); John Riley (member of the church who lives in this community)—lung; Laykan Rutherford (cousin of Shelly Cates); and Tabby Waters (Tabatha Clayton's sister-in-law)—leukemia.

SHUT-IN: Orelia Ferguson (home), Annette Cates (Dan Cates' mother who is in a care center in Pensacola, FL), Lorraine Hounshell (home), Ruth House (Lawayne House's mother who is at home), Edward Watkins (brother of Shelby Peyton's sister-in-law who is under hospice care).

SERVING: Cameron Hadley (Marines), now stationed locally. Also, please continue to pray for Kyle Embrey (Syble Embrey's grandson—policeman) and all other military [especially who are going or remain abroad] and for all those in authority that we might live "quiet and peaceable" lives (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

Independence Church of Christ

8543 Highway 305

Coldwater, MS 38618

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Informer



8543 Highway 305

Coldwater, MS 38618

662-560-8045

www.independencechurchofchrist.org

Services: *Sunday 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 4:45 p.m. (pew-packers), 5 p.m.*

Wednesday 7:15 p.m.

Ministers: *Every Christian*

Elders: *Dan Cates (662-560-8045)*

Carl Hounshell (812-653-2358)

Evangelists: *Dan Cates (662-560-8045; dsmccates@yahoo.com)*

Savion Rayson (903-742-1187; savionrayson1@gmail.com)

Missions *[the latest reports from these works are on the bulletin board in the foyer]*

Kakinada, India [Providing Bibles and Overseeing Funds]

Memphis School of Preaching

Brown Trail School of Preaching (Spanish Department)

Tri-Cities School of Preaching (David B. Jones)

Jason Moore (Four Seas Bible College, Singapore)

Warm Heart Missions (Roger Chambers)

Pablo Horna (Panama) [Overseeing funds]

Netcasters and Fishers of Men (Tim Wilkes, II)

Tennessee Children's Home, West

School of Biblical Studies (Jos, Nigeria)

Save Asian Souls (Providing physical and spiritual aid)

Other one-time, domestic and overseas, mission efforts

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Daniel F. Cates

Part XLIV: Acts

(Continued from last week) As has been suggested, Luke is the author of this book which was written for Theophilus. While those two points are not questioned if one regard Luke as writer of the eponymous Gospel account, the questions of when and from where the book was penned is yet important. Luke could have been penned anywhere from the early 40s A.D. to the early 60s; this much is known: Acts was penned after. The dating is made even easier given some other benchmarks in the book itself: Gallio's Achaian proconsulship (A.D. 51) [Acts 18:12] and Festus' Judean procuratorship (A.D. 56) [Acts 24:27] require the book have been penned after A.D. 56, while having no mention given concerning Nero's burning of Rome (A.D. 64), Paul's martyrdom (traditionally between A.D. 66 and 68), or Jerusalem's destruction (A.D. 70) suggest the book was written before A.D. 64. A safe date, then, for Acts is some time between A.D. 56 and 64. Acts' ending with Paul imprisoned in Rome and Luke's being with Paul at least some during his imprisonment (Col. 4:14; 2 Tim. 4:11), suggest that the book was written from Rome. The purpose in writing would have mirrored the purpose of Luke's Gospel account (Luke 1:1-4): Theophilus needed the next chapter so he could "know the certainty" not only of Jesus' history, but also of the Apostles' and the early church's history; incidentally, it is interesting that while there are four Gospel accounts, there is only one account of the early church--certainly the epistles which follow help to supplement this history.

The key words of Acts are "church" (used eighteen times, four more in the plural), "baptized" (used twenty-one times), and "witness" (used twenty times in its varied forms); in these words are found the body, the means of entry, and the mission. The key phrases are the five "what shall/must we/I do" questions preceding command and obedience. The key verse of Acts shows the church's consistent growth (Acts 2:47). The key chapters record the establishment of the church (Acts 2), the death of the first Christian martyr (Acts 7), and the spread of the Gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 10).

More of the Bible's magnificent lessons are found in this wonderful record: first, God is not concerned with one's national or ethnical background, only his soul (Acts 2; 8; 10; cf. 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11); second, baptism is essential for salvation (Acts 2:38,41; 8:12,13,16,36,38; 9:18; 10:47,48; 16:15,33; 18:8; 19:5; 22:16); third, Christians must care for each other (Acts 2:44-46; 6:1,2; 20:34,35; cf. Gal. 6:2); fourth, even the "chief" of sinners can change (Acts 8:3; 9; 22; 26; cf. 1 Tim. 1:15); fifth, some judge themselves unworthy of salvation (Acts 13:46); sixth, when ones cannot work together, they can still be relied upon to work effectively (Acts 15:36-41); and, seventh, it is hard to say goodbye to a faithful co-laborer, especially when there may never be another meeting (Acts 20:36-38)—at least on this side of eternity. Two other lessons are seen throughout: first, the righteous will face persecution; second, the church must be mission minded.

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" (Ephesians 4:14,15)

BIBLE QUESTION:

This week's question: Who was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead"?

Last week's question: With what did God crown man?

Last week's answer: "Glory and honour" (Psalm 8:5)

SERMONS: *The Voice of Jesus* (John 5:24-29)

The Beginning of Our Confidence: Chapter 17: A Very Special Day

DAILY BIBLE READING (September 18-24):

| | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thur. | Fri. | Sat. | Sun. |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Ezekiel | 25-27 | 28-30 | 31-33 | 34-36 | 37-39 | 40-42 | 43-45 |

READ SCRIPTURE (SEPTEMBER): Cameron Hadley (Matthew 7:28,29)

(OCTOBER): Cody Hadley

PRESIDE OVER LORD'S SUPPER (SEPTEMBER): Carl Hounshell

(OCTOBER): Savion Rayson

ASSIST ON LORD'S SUPPER (SEPTEMBER): Savion Rayson and Ray Stanford

(OCTOBER): Mario Arrington and Gavin Arrington

CLEAN BUILDING (SEPTEMBER): Thomas and Sheila Massey

(OCTOBER): Tabatha Clayton

PREPARE COMMUNION (SEPTEMBER): Melinda Haas and April Kinney

(OCTOBER): Shelly Cates

PANTRY NEEDS: A list of children's home needs is in the foyer.

UPCOMING EVENTS (For particular details, check the bulletin board for flyers):

September 24-27

The Thyatira Church of Christ will have a **Gospel meeting** on *Bring Your Favorite Sermon*. Monday and Tuesday nights will be at 7:00 P.M. with Scott Cain and Aaron Gallagher speaking.

October 6-8

Creation evidence seminar at the Nesbit Church of Christ with Paden Reed speaking.

October 14

The Batesville Church of Christ will host a **ladies day** on *Honor the Father*. Kathy Brummett will be speaking to the ladies.

October 17

The truck from the *Tennessee Children's Home* will be here.

November 5

The Coldwater congregation will host a **Fishers of Men course** taught by Tim Wilkes. The class will be from about 2:00-4:30 each Sunday afternoon for about 12 weeks. There will be daily assignments.