

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~  
DECEMBER 3, 2023

**REJOICE:** Carson Kinney was added to the Lord's church last Sunday night when he responded to the Lord's invitation and was converted. We want to encourage him as he encouraged us!

**PRAYERS:** Reese Kinney responded to the invitation last Sunday desiring the prayers of the church, confessing sin, and seeking encouragement.

**SICK:** Kim and Mario Arrington, Shelly Cates, Maggie and Mason Cooper, and Karter Shamblin were all struggling with health problems this past week. Mary Ruth Brown has undergone some health procedures recently. Suzanne Brown has successful hip replacement surgery on Wednesday; she is now undergoing therapy. Wanda Jackson will have a heart procedure December 14th. Mary Ray is still experiencing serious dizziness. Karen Tuttle was to have some tests for cancer this past Friday. Billy Bland (elder at Coldwater) is still experiencing severe pain due to a herniated disc in his back. Roger Chambers' (local preacher and missionary whom we support) surgery was successful; he is home and limiting the amount he speaks. John Mitchell (an MSOP student) remains in Georgia to learn if he has multiple sclerosis. Priscilla Patterson (mother of a friend of Dan Cates) is having tests to determine whether bone lesions are cancerous. Mark Ray, Mary Ray's son, is facing back surgery.

**PROTRACTED:** Brandi Beavers—fibromyalgia; 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; Shelby Cooper—facing mitral valve prolapse surgery between eight months and two years from now; Janet Daniel (sister of Melinda Haas)—lupus; Martha Clayton (Tabatha Clayton's mother-in-law)—congestive heart failure; 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; Denae 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; 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:** Annette Cates (Dan Cates' mother who is in a care center in Pensacola, FL), Sadie Darnell (Allene Baldwin's sister-in-law who is in rehab in Senatobia); Orelia Ferguson (home), 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).

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*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](http://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](mailto:dsmccates@yahoo.com))  
Chris Cook (318-558-0458; [christophercook308@gmail.com](mailto:christophercook308@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 (Chris Cook)  
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 XLIX: Ephesians

Ephesus receives quite a large amount of attention in Scripture, from Paul's first speaking in the synagogue there (Acts 18:19) to Jesus' letter to the waning congregation some half a century later (Rev. 2:1-7). The church likely met in the synagogue for a period (Acts 18:26) as "the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified" (Acts 19:17), as "many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds" (Acts 19:18), as "mightily grew the word of God and prevailed" (Acts 19:20), and as the church there ultimately faced strong opposition (Acts 19:23-41). The New Testament reveals that the church there had known some great laborers including Paul (Acts 20:31), Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:18-19), Apollos (Acts 18:24), Gaius and Aristarchus (Acts 19:29), Timothy (1 Tim. 1:3), Tychicus (2 Tim. 4:12; Eph. 6:21), Trophimus (Acts 21:29), and Onesiphorus (2 Tim. 1:16-18). Over time, the church in Ephesus would serve as an example of a sound congregation of the Lord's church (Ephesians) which was overseen by faithful elders (Acts 20:28) though threatened by persecution (Acts 20:19; 19:23; 2 Cor. 1:8); sadly, however, she would also see false teachers arise (Acts 20:29,30) and leave her "first love" (Rev. 2:4).

To this church in Ephesus Paul wrote this beautiful letter (Eph. 1:1), a favorite among many. Some have suggested that this book was not written to the Ephesians but was meant to be circulated as was the letter to the Colossians (Col. 4:6); however, its needing to be circulated would not preclude its having been written first to a singular congregation; in fact, it is likely that every New Testament book would be freely shared between congregations of the Lord's church regardless of the initial audience of any given book [one will remember that the complete Bible was in production]. While Paul was the author of the letter (Eph. 1:1; 3:1), Tychicus was likely Paul's amanuensis (Eph. 6:21). Tychicus undoubtedly at least delivered the epistle to those good brethren since Paul was bound in a Roman prison (Eph. 3:1; 4:1; 6:19-20)--likely this was the imprisonment alluded to in Acts 28:30,31. The time period would have been roughly around A.D. 57-59.

Paul's purpose in writing to the Ephesians is provided by him: "But that ye also may know my affairs, *and* how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things: Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and *that* he might comfort your hearts" (Eph. 6:21,22). Paul's knowing from his long labor there--three years (Acts 20:31)--the character and needs of the congregation and his insight into what would face the Ephesians (Acts 20:29,30; 1 Cor. 13:2),

likely not only made him want to encourage those brethren with this letter but caused him to see their need to have such encouragement. (*To be continued next week*)

*"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)*

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### BIBLE QUESTION:

This week's question: Who told Israel, "I will provoke you to jealousy"?

Last week's question: Who was laid at the rich man's gate?

Last week's answer: Lazarus (Luke 16:20)

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**SERMONS:** A.M. Sermon: "That They Might Be Saved" (Romans 10:1)

P.M. Devotional: *Dylan Cooper* will deliver this evening's message.

P.M. Class: *The Beginning of Our Confidence*: Chapter 28: The Church and the Denominations

### DAILY BIBLE READING (December 4-10):

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
<b>Acts</b>	20:3-22:30	23-25	26-28			<b>Colossians</b>	1-4
			<b>Ephesians</b>	1-3	4-6		
				<b>Philippians</b>	1-4		

**READ SCRIPTURE (DECEMBER):** Conor Cates (Matthew 28:19,20)

(*JANUARY*): *Chris Cook*

**PRESIDE OVER LORD'S SUPPER (DECEMBER):** Chris Cook

(*JANUARY*): *Thomas Massey*

**ASSIST ON LORD'S SUPPER (DECEMBER):** Sonny Stewart and Ray Stanford

(*JANUARY*): *Conor Cates and Carson Kinney*

**CLEAN BUILDING (DECEMBER):** Thomas and Sheila Massey

(*JANUARY*): *Maggie Cooper and Shelby Cooper*

**PREPARE COMMUNION (DECEMBER):** Maggie Cooper, Shelby Cooper, and Reese Kinney

(*JANUARY*): *Tabatha Clayton*

### UPCOMING SUNDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL SCHEDULE:

*December 3 Dylan Cooper*

*December 10 Cody Hadley*

*December 17 Chris Cook*

*December 24 Cameron Hadley*

**PANTRY NEEDS:** Canned goods.

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

December 17

**Youth devotional and holiday party** for the young people—more details will be announced.

December 23

We will have a **memorial service** for Lorraine Hounshell here at the building.

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**WELCOME VISITORS!**