

Do We Look Back or Look Ahead?

The great American baseball player Satchel Paige once said in jest, "Don't look back, something may be gaining on you." In contrast, George Santayana, a Spanish born American author said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

So which is it? Do we move on, never looking back, or do we dwell on our past errors to avoid making them again?

Scripture seems to indicate that we should do a little of both. We do need to think back on our lives and learn from our mistakes. That's part of the process when we confess our sins and ask God for forgiveness (1 John 1:9). We need to think about our disobedience long enough to seek God's mercy and then choose to "go and sin no more" (John 8:11).

Forgiveness is God's way of clearing the slate, but it's our responsibility to avoid repeating the errors of the past. For example, the apostle Paul acknowledged his past mistakes and then focused on becoming more like Christ (Philippians 3:13-14).

So, is it best for us to look back or to look ahead? We would be wise to do a little of both: We need to look back for forgiveness, then look ahead, focusing on Christ and the "milk of the word" for future spiritual growth (Proverbs 4:23-27; cf. Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:1-2).

*More like the Master I would live and grow,
More of His love to others I would show;
More self-denial like His in Galilee,
More like the Master I long to ever be.* ""Gabriel

NEW STUDY ON Wednesday Nights!

Bro. Mahan will begin a new study of Romans on Wednesday Nights beginning Jan. 2nd. If you have not been coming on Wed. night, please take this opportunity to start the new year. One commentary says, "Romans has had a life changing impact on the lives of millions of people. It's not hard to argue that this letter written to a small group of Christians over 2000 years ago has changed world history. It's probable that more churches have split and friendships have ended over topics covered in Romans—more than any other book in the Bible." This study will help us to be grounded in our understanding and be able to talk with others about the important points Paul emphasized for Christians.

**Trezevant
church of Christ**

114 Church St.
Trezevant, TN 38258

Freeman Mahan, Minister

Services:

Sunday Morning
Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Evening: 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

Elders:

Dale Aden
Cell: 731-415-1161
David Bryant
Cell: 731-418-1311
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Steve Foster
Cell: 731-225-4395

Deacons:

David Brasher
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Greg McClain
Cell: 731-694-0766
Mark Wright
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YOUTH COORDINATOR

Nick Bryant: Cell
(731)694-2983

MISSION WORK: Dorian

Flynn
& Partners 4 Africa –
West Tennessee Children's
Home

Hear weekly sermons on www.trezevantchurchofchrist.org

BIRTHDAYS:

December: 29- Brian Shepherd

JANUARY: 8-Mary Bryant, 11-Mark Wright, 14-Benji Lawrence, 18-Tanya Box, 23-Kate Meade, 26-Zoe Morgan
29- Du' Yoonas, 30- Edward Ray Ford, 30-Hunter Lindsey

ANNIVERSARIES: 30th- Kyle & Ginger Foster

LET YOUR BIRTH FOSTER KNOW IF WE DID NOT HAVE YOU LISTED HERE ON YOUR MONITOR.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

We must hear the word of God. Romans 10:17

We must believe the word of God. Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16; Mark 16:15-16

We must repent of our sins. Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

We must confess Christ before men. Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

We must be immersed for the remission of our sins. Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Peter 3:21

We must live faithfully until death. Revelation 2:10; Romans 12:1-2

•THOSE TO SERVE – JANUARY LIST IN FOYER

(Please check for your assignment and PLEASE contact one of the Deacons if you know you are going to be absent on that date).

DATES TO REMEMBER:

•January 13th: Fellowship Meal

•PARTNERS 4 AFRICA: Clothes and Shoes for Partners in Africa can be taken to the Atwood Church the week before January 17th. Please sort into Mens/Womens; Boys/Girls Clothes/Shoes. They will pack the banana boxes there so not required but they would appreciate if we have access to any to bring them. Another container will be shipped in April; collecting closed toe shoes (all sizes), linens, blankets, towels.

SHUT-INS /NURSING HOME:

Martha Nell Reed, Lakeside Retirement Community, 390 Dr. Smith Lane, McKenzie 38201

Elvy Sauls Jr, Life Care of Bruceton, 105 Rowland Ave., Bruceton 38317 ; Dwayne Bateman, NHC Milan

PRAYER REQUESTS Sympathy for the family of Allison Keen in the passing of her grandmother, Barbara Rimmer last Sunday; Penny Warren referred to Pulmonologist for treatment of lung condition; Wanda Smith; Mike Ferguso ; Lori McLain; Tori Riggs; Janice Newman; Lisa Meals; Steve Hughes; Alex Meals; Mike Foster; Lisa Ashby, Christopher Dunavant; Kaffie Green,, Betty Hodge (Brownsville); Becky Cupples; Shawn Lovelace, George Aylor; Lacey Appleton, Jimmy McClain; Sybil Hamilton, Tom Aden, Doris Haskell, Mary Bryant, Harold Hutcherson, Charles Foster, Vicki Murphy (Lexington), Mike Lane, Ruth Bennett, Heather Harris, Chris Bowers; Aaron Sutton, Valerie Allen

CANCER: Kody Grass; David Scates; Celisa Williford, daughter of Lorraine & Robbie Hickerson; Brian Caton; Pauline Fultz; Meklisha Ridgely; Tabitha Caviness, T. J. Goodrich, Billy Arnold, Brent Cox, Dan Foster, Ray Box, Denise Clemmer, Kenneth Foster, Joe Gordon, Linda Cherry; Jackie Smith, Keith Inman. Lynn Harrison, Deborah Browning, Christine Johnson, Jimmy Greene, Lalanie Murphy

(Please provide update. Names normally remain on prayer list for 1 month, unless requested to remain)