

**PRIVILEGED TO SERVE TODAY:**

	AM	PM
Opening Prayer	Dale Aden	David Brasher
Song Leading	Dale Ballentine	Jacob Peevyhouse
Scripture Reading	Jacob Keen	Joshua Brasher
Closing Prayer	Joshua Brasher	Dale Aden

**NEXT WEEK:**

Opening Prayer  
 Song Leading  
 Scripture Reading  
 Closing Prayer

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Elders:**

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**Deacons:**

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 Mark Wright Cell: 731-571- 5606  
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**Minister:**

Freeman Mahan Cell: 573-624-6575

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

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**SUNDAY:** Bible Class 9:00 AM  
 Worship 10:00 AM & 5:00 PM  
*(Meet-Eat-Meet each fifth Sunday)*

**WEDNESDAY:** Bible Study 6:30 PM



**Trezevant Church of Christ**

114 Church Street  
 Trezevant TN 38258

# The Follower

September 26, 2021

## My Responsibilities to the Local Church

by Todd Clippard (part 1 of 2)

The church is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23). Most Christians understand this. However, knowledge of a fact and the application of it are different matters altogether. Many Christians are under the impression that they can have a high personal commitment to Jesus without being equally committed to the local church. This is evident as one sees an increasing number of church “floaters.” Floaters have an aversion to placing membership, preferring to “float” from one congregation to the next and back again as it suits them. Eldershops caught up in the numbers game will tolerate these individuals in hopes they will eventually “land” with them. Floaters are less concerned with what they can do for the church than with what the church can do for them. Feeling no sense of loyalty to the local congregation, they have little, if anything, of value to offer the local body. No level of commitment. No sacrifice. No encouragement. No love.

Note the relationship between the local church and the person of Jesus as given in the accounts of the life of Paul. In Galatians 1:13, Paul said he had “persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it” (NKJV). In Acts 26:9-10, Paul said, “I thought within myself to do many things contrary to

the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem..." But when Jesus appeared to Saul (Paul) on the road to Damascus, He asked, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" (All emphasis mine- JTC). Paul asked, "Who art thou, Lord?" To which Jesus replied, "I am Jesus, **whom** you are persecuting."

Do you see the connection between Jesus and the church? They are spoken of as one and the same. I realize Jesus now sits at the right hand of God (**Col. 3:1**), but the direct relationship between the two is undeniable. When I act in such a way as to promote good among the local church, I do so as if doing it directly to Jesus. If I gossip and think evil of my brothers and sisters in Christ, it is as though I do it directly to Jesus. Is this not what the parable of the sheep and goats teaches in Matthew 25? (See also Colossians 3:23.)

I have a personal responsibility to **preserve unity** in the local body. In speaking of his work as an evangelist in comparison to that of Apollos, Paul said, "We then, as workers **together with Him.**" There exists a three-way relationship in my service to God: partnership between me and my brother (and vice versa), and partnership between me and God.

The use of the word "preserve" is significant. We are not commanded to **create** unity, but rather to **preserve** it: "**keep** the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3). To keep is to "take care of" (Strong's), "to hold firmly" (Thayer's), and to "not lose" (Arndt & Gingrich). Partnership with God and faithful brethren is a provision from God's Spirit to all who obey the gospel. Effective partnership requires singularity of purpose. Jesus prayed for this very thing in John 17:17-23. When I am in partnership with God and with faithful brethren, my focus and my efforts are channeled with theirs. This oneness of focus is a natural outgrowth of being led by the one Spirit (**Eph. 4:4**). This is the very reason we cannot have partnership with the denominational bodies. Those who do not obey and follow the one Spirit have not the Spirit, and as such are not children of God (**Rom. 8:14-17**).

*Next week: preserving peace, preserving purity, and preserving a posterity.*

## Remember in Prayer...

- **Edward Ray** has his follow-up with the surgeon tomorrow.
- **PRAYER LIST:** Miss Mary; John; Edward Ray & Jean; Orvaline; Tracy Hughes (Jeanie's brother); JoAnn Moore; Lois Arrington; Jeff Hutcherson; Craig Ballentine; David Whitlock; Mary Ann Ramaker; Richard Climer; Gaylon Sydnor; the school system as it deals with Covid; residents and staff of area assisted living facilities....

## News and Notes...

- **Welcome to our assembly!** We encourage our visitors to stay following services and let us get acquainted with you.
- **Wednesday night devo: Mark Wright**

### MEMORY VERSE - John 4:24:

*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

