

Do You Confess Your Sins to God?

Elders:

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons:

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Alan Cook
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs
Luke Yates

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

Phone

(417) 451-2724

Email

info@neoshochurchofchrist.org

Website

www.neoshochurchofchrist.org



Few things in life are harder than admitting that we are wrong. It's not a malady of the mouth but the holdup of a proud heart. It's easier to say that everybody has sinned and everybody does sin (Rom. 3:23, 1 Kings 8:46) than to say like David did to Nathan, "I have sinned" (2 Sam. 12:13). My favorite comic character Calvin told his friend Hobbes, "I feel bad that I called Susie names and hurt her feelings. I'm sorry I did it." Hobbes advised, "Maybe you should apologize to her." Calvin pondered for a moment then replied, "I keep hoping there's a less obvious solution."

The Bible quite obviously teaches us to confess our sins. David's model was followed by John's listeners (Mark 1:4-5) and by the new believers in Ephesus (Acts 19:18). And then there's the unwavering affirmation of 1 John 1:8-9: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

We need to confess all our sins to God. "If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened" (Ps. 66:18). "And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Heb. 4:13). God already knows what we have done and what we have failed to do; he wants us to acknowledge it for our own good. "Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy" (Pr. 28:13). Don't try to conceal your sins. Don't try to cover them up. Confess your sins! Change of scenery, passing of time, doing good works, and rationalization cannot accomplish what we need—forgiveness. It requires confession.

The New Testament Greek word most often translated "confess" is *homologeō*, "to agree, to admit." Etymologically it is "to say the same." In other New Testament passages the word is *exhomologeō*, even more expressive—"to say the same

out," picturesque of our phrase "get it off my chest." To confess your sins to God is to say the same thing that God says about you and what you have done. He is right. I was wrong. I agree. I admit it. I shouldn't have done that. I shouldn't have said that. I shouldn't have let that moment to do good pass me by. Confessing to God is not giving him new information, but showing him humility and contrition.

I'm afraid some of us walk around lost without realizing it because we never talk to God about our sin! How do we avoid such a dangerous condition?

- Confess immediately. Don't let time rob you of the timely and temporary gift of guilty feelings. They're meant to lead you to the throne of grace.
- Confess daily (Matt. 6:12). Make confession a habitual part of your prayers.
- Confess the first day of every week (1 Cor. 11:27-32). Offer the results of a real self-examination to God during the Lord's Supper.
- Confess specifically. Tell God exactly what you have done that leaves you in need of forgiveness. This will help you to clean up your act instead of continually dumping a generic load of admission at God's feet.

Besides saying the same thing that God says about you, confession is often saying to God the same thing that your conscience says about you. Sometimes you don't forget about it; you just don't do anything about it, or you don't do the right thing about it. Read Psalm 32:1-5 to see what a difference confession of sin made for David. Holding it in made him sick. Through confession he found forgiveness and relief. You will, too.

Danny Boggs



Kay Anderson, Betty Ball, Yvonne Barker, Carol Bessman, Jack Brodie, Shannon Brodie, Derek Campbell, Charles Collinsworth Sr., Pete and Leona Conrow, Dan Cornell, Jace Cornell, Steve Cornell, Vera Cornell, Lana Couch, Lee Crabtree, Robert Crawford, Glenda Daniels, Kenneth Daniels, Kristie Deffenbaugh, Wayne Deffenbaugh, Wayne Douthitt, Emily Enfield, Titus Farley, Jerry and Louise Faules, Mary Jane Flint, Reva Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Beverly Garrison, Faye Haught, Margaret Hawkins, Wilma Hill, Larry Jones, Wilma Knoll, Barry Koch, Brandon Lay, Guy Lewis, Pearl McLeary, Connie Mills, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Linda Patterson, Cindy Patton, Dale Privett, Jim Privett, Russell and Sarah Puckett, John Starmer, Mark Strohl, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Richard Tink, Bobbie Tuggle, Robin VanDorn, Mary Van Nelson, Margaret Wald, Eric Wilson, Ruth Ann Wilson, Dorothy Wolgamott, Treva Wolgamott, and Velda Wood.

- **Kristie Deffenbaugh** had a good pathology report and is cancer free.
- **Richard Tink** has transferred to Wildwood for rehabilitation.
- **Susie Tomlin** is now recovering at home.

Thank you for a wonderful birthday party! I was so surprised and appreciate everyone's part in it.

Love,
Wilma Knoll

Don't forget! Everything given above our budget this Sunday will help to pay for our new building. We expect concrete to be poured within the next few days, and then the shell will go up fast. Keep thinking about how to use this new facility to glorify God, build our church family relationships, and reach out to others.



Juice boxes: We're collecting juice boxes to help with the Bright Futures effort to send needy Neosho children home with nutrition over the weekends. Place your donations in the west nook of the foyer.



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. *The Gospel: Answers for Our Adversaries*
(Danny Boggs)
P.M. *Women In Worship*
(Luke Yates)



Youth and anyone else who wants to join... We will be doing some visiting this Friday afternoon once everyone is out of school. Meet at the church building around 3 pm to pray and divide up. After visiting, we will eat dinner and play games at the Boggs' house. You do not need to bring anything for dinner. Please let Luke know if you can come. If you are an adult who would like to do visits, let Luke know as soon as you can so he can organize it more accurately. Anyone who is unable to visit can still come eat dinner and play games at the Boggs' house. Hope to see you there!

The Thursday morning ladies' morning Bible class will meet at 10:00 this Thursday for a study of Exodus 21.

Persistent and Passionate Prayer

To pray or not to pray was not a question King David struggled with. David wrote in Psalm 55:17, "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice."

Persistence was one of David's goals when it came to prayer – is it one of ours? Do we even have a goal? When is the last time you prayed three times in one day? Was it last week when you attended all the services on Sunday? Was it on your way to see the doctor? Was it on your way to a job interview? Was it a day filled with turmoil, or a day of rest? Was it just "another" day? Which day was the last day that you talked with God at least three times, and why did you do it?

According to James 5:16, "...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much." Would you say that fervent covers three times a day? Could it be more? Could it be less? Does it matter?

Numbers aside, I would suppose that whether you are talking about "showers of blessings" or just "plain rain," James is pointing out the truth about prayer – it works when it's used passionately!

Now, does that mean just because we ask for something fervently (whether it's for us or for someone else) that the Father will agree with it? Not necessarily; there might be a reason that we don't see as to why our prayer is not answered with a yes...at least for the moment.

Don't forget that Jesus taught His people to make their way through life by praying passionately and persistently, even when the answer seems like a definite no (Luke 11:1-13).

Praying three times a day can keep a lot of things away from us or it can bring a lot to us. So keep in touch with God, and don't be surprised when His blessings touch you.

Eugene Adkins
Keltonburg church of Christ
Smithville, TN
Via *Bulletin Digest*

ASSIGNMENTS

Prayers Sunday, January 29

- AM Opening: Wayne Douthitt
- AM Closing: Dale Privett
- PM Opening: Elijah Boggs
- PM Closing: Josh King

Scripture Reading Sunday, January 29

- Jeremiah 17:7-10, Joe McLain
- Prayers Wednesday, February 1**
- Opening: Tyler Phillips
- Closing: Troy Risley

RECORDS	01-22-17	01-24-16
Bible Study	132	156
AM Worship	187	190
PM Worship	113	132
Wednesday	141	71
Contribution	\$7,816.17	\$6,860.95
Budget	\$7,630.58	\$7,075.67