

Playing The Blame Game

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

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Not long into the text of the Bible we see a great tragedy transpire. After God created all things in six days, pronouncing His creation as very good (Genesis 1:31), an encounter took place between Adam, Eve, and the cunning serpent (AKA, the devil). Genesis 3:1-6 reads, “Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God actually say, “You shall not eat of any tree in the garden”?’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.”’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.” Satan deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit and Eve likewise deceived Adam to do the same.

When God approached the three about their sin, how did they react? The text continues by saying, “Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ And he said, ‘I heard the sound of

you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.’ He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.’ Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’” (Genesis 3:7-13). Notice the reactions of the man and woman. Instead of taking the blame himself, Adam blames his wife for his own sin (v. 12). Instead of taking the blame herself, Eve blames the serpent for her own sin (v. 13).

Adam and Eve were the first to play the blame game and they were certainly not the last. For millenniums, people have wholly blamed others for their sin, much like Adam did to Eve in Genesis 3:12. For centuries, people have wholly blamed Satan for their sin, much like Eve did in Genesis 3:13. Whether externally or internally, people love to say, “I’m not at fault! Satan made me do it!” But God made sure that both Satan and Eve were punished for their respective roles in the transgression (Genesis 3:14-16). And lest we forget about Adam, remember that he too was subsequently punished for his sin (Genesis 3:17-19). Even though Satan certainly had a part in their sin, Adam and Eve each had the free moral choice to refuse to give into the temptation he presented. We need to be mature and own our own transgressions, or else we will never be able to repent of them. Don’t give Satan and others too much benefit for your sins, or else you might fall into the deadly trap of playing the blame game.

Luke Yates



Kay Anderson, Pam Babb, 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, Emily Enfield, Titus Farley, Jerry and Louise Faules, Mary Jane Flint, Reva Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Beverly Garrison, Jean Hanger, Faye Haight, Margaret Hawkins, Wilma Hill, Wilma Knoll, Barry Koch, Brandon Lay, Guy Lewis, Pearl McLeary, Connie Mills, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Katja Ortiz, Linda Patterson, Cindy Patton, Dale Privett, Jim Privett, Russell and Sarah Puckett, John Starmer, Mark Strohl, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Richard Tink, Susie Tomlin, Bobbie Tuggle, Robin VanDorn, Mary Van Nelson, Margaret Wald, Eric Wilson, Ruth Ann Wilson, Dorothy Wolgamott, Treva Wolgamott, and Velda Wood.

- **Jack Brodie** had a stent put in.
- **Jean Hanger** is now at Medicalodge, room 310.
- **Richard Tink** is at Wildwood for rehabilitation.

Hillcrest family, Thanks can never be enough for everything done for my family and I. The prayers, food, visits, hugs and love. God has blessed me so much.

Love,
Kristie Deffenbaugh

What a wonderful, caring church family we have. Thank you all so much for the many cards, the food, and especially your prayers for my recovery from my knee replacement.

Mary Jane Flint

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.

Senior Saints will meet this Saturday at noon in the fellowship room for food, fun, and fellowship. Join us!



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. *Why Did I Marry Jezebel?*
(1 Kings 21:25, 1 Peter 3:1-6, Danny Boggs)
P.M. *You Must Be Perfect*
(Matt. 5:48, Danny Boggs)

A **welcome basket** will be given to Cynthia Guy, speaker for our upcoming **ladies' seminar**, March 3-4. If you would like to help with this project, please give cash donations to Brenda Kimbrough.

The **Tri-State Youth Series** for this year will kick off this Sunday at Vinita. The van will leave the Hillcrest parking lot at 2:45.

The annual **area-wide church leaders sweetheart banquet** will be held at 6:30 Friday, February 24, at the Southwest Missouri Bank Community Building at 7th and Duquesne in Joplin. Don Deffenbaugh will be the featured speaker. Cloud's Meats of Carthage will cater the event, which will consist of two meat choices, two sides, bread and dessert. It will be served buffet style along with iced tea and coffee. The cost is \$10 per person. Please sign up at the bulletin board if you plan to attend. The deadline to register is February 15.

Before He's One

Before your child has come to seven
Teach him well the way to heaven!
Better still the truth will thrive,
If he knows it when he's five!
Better yet, if at your knee
He learns it when he is only three!
Best of all when you have begun
To teach of Jesus before he's one!

Author Unknown
BulletinDigest.com

Ladies, our seminar is just over a month away! Pick up fliers to share with friends and family.

Life Is Like a Box of Chocolates
Hillcrest Church of Christ
2017 Ladies Seminar
Friday, 7:00 P.M., March 3rd
"Comparing Ways Our Life is Like a Box of Chocolates."
Join us after for some sweet treats.
Saturday Registration at 9:30 A.M.
10:00 A.M., March 4th
"You Never Know What You Are Going to Get"
Join us for lunch on Saturday

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Cynthia Guy
Author of:
What About the Women?
Struggle, Seek, Grow
co authored Sweet Truths

ASSIGNMENTS

Prayers Sunday, February 12

- AM Opening: Nathan Babb
- AM Closing: Tim Murray
- PM Opening: Luke Yates
- PM Closing: Peter Wald

Scripture Reading Sunday, February 12

- Psalm 113, Charlie Collinsworth
- Prayers Wednesday, February 15**
- Opening: Aaron McCarthy
- Closing: Troy Risley

| RECORDS | 02-03-17 | 02-07-16 |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Bible Study | 111 | 144 |
| AM Worship | 184 | 177 |
| PM Worship | 110 | 118 |
| Wednesday | 130 | 141 |
| Contribution | \$8,360.41 | \$6,026.30 |
| Budget | \$7,630.58 | \$7,075.67 |