

Unhindered Worship

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



God is holy and more glorious than all that exists (Exodus 15:11; Psalm 22:3). Due to His holiness and glory, God deserves to be worshipped by His crowning achievement – human beings (Psalm 8:3-4). Even though God doesn't **need** our worship (Acts 17:24-25), He **desires** our worship (John 4:23). If we want to please God, then we must likewise desire to worship Him to the best of our ability. In order for this worship to take place, we must first be in Christ (Ephesians 3:20-21). We must be found in His saving body in order to properly pour our hearts towards Him in thankfulness and supplication (Philippians 4:6). Yet, just because we are in Christ that does not mean that our worship is **automatically** pleasing to God. Due to one factor or another, we can actually **hinder** our worship to God.

Malachi told unfaithful Judah, "And this second thing you do. You cover the Lord's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. But you say, 'Why does He not?' Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant" (Malachi 2:13-14). Many of the men in Judah had abandoned their wives and gone off to marry foreign women (Malachi 2:11). Due to their adulterous relationship, God would not accept their offerings. In vivid form Malachi pictures the adulterous men crying on the very same altar where they offer their sacrifices. The point? These men were putting out the very same fires that were necessary for their offerings to God. Adultery will hinder your worship.

Jesus said, "So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother,

and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23-24). Under the Old Law, one had to make peace with a brother or sister before they offered anything to God in worship. If we think that we can hold grudges towards our brethren because we don't live under the Old Law, we better think again. If we love God, then we must also love the brotherhood (I John 4:21).

Hateful grudges will hinder your worship.

Inspired Peter wrote, "Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered" (I Peter 3:7). Husbands, how do you treat your spouse? Are you there for her? Are you listening to her needs? Are you helping her grow in the grace of life? On the other hand, are you domineering over her? Are you ignoring her needs? Are you disrespectful to her? If you are not loving her as Christ loves the church (Ephesians 5:22-33), then don't expect God to accept your worship. Marital irresponsibility will hinder your worship.

Are you hindering your worship to God, first of all, because you aren't in Christ? If you aren't in Christ, you need to be baptized (Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4). If you are in Christ and recognize unrepentant sin in your life, are you willing to truly repent of that sin in order to truly worship God again? Maybe you need to separate from an ungodly relationship. Maybe you need to make amends with someone who has sinned against you, or vice versa. Maybe you need to change the way you treat your wife, loving and respecting her like you once promised. I have no doubt that if you honestly want to please and glorify God, you will make the necessary changes to your life in order to have unhindered worship.

Luke Yates



Pam Babb, Betty Ball, Jack Brodie, Fred Bukowich, John Burlingame, Joyce Clarkson, Angela Collett, Pete Conrow, Ed Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Tim Dawkins, David Fehring, Mary Jane Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Faye Haught, May Hill, Wilma Hill, Doris Jones, Guy Lewis, Olivia Link (granddaughter of Jack and Sue Brodie), Chester Lyons, Judy Martin, Bob Murray, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Ron Naramore, Pat Risley, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Bobbie Tuggle, Margaret Wald, Ruth Ann Wilson, Velda Wood, Sue York.

Sympathy: Ginger Murray's mother, Loretta Yocom, passed away on February 3. Her services were held this past Saturday.

Family Fun Night Fiesta! Food and games starting at 6:30 p.m. Friday, February, 23 in the Activities Center. Taco bar with ground beef and shredded chicken provided. You bring the rest! Art Charades start at 7:30 p.m. followed by pitch and scrabble tournaments. Basketball court is always open! Sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Every One Counts: This past week we helped a local family whose house burned down. Thank you to everyone who contributed an extra dollar! Your work has not gone unnoticed (Hebrews 6:10).



Thursday morning Ladies' Bible class will meet at 10:00 this Thursday with Karen teaching. Join us!



This Sunday's Sermons:

AM: *Praying about a Problem that Won't Go Away* (Danny Boggs)
 PM: *One Word: Love* (Danny Boggs)



Devo & Donuts is every Tuesday at 7 a.m. in the Activities Center, for school kids.

Remember to read your One Word devotionals this week, and come Sunday night to top it off in worship as we think just a little more about the word "love" in the Bible.

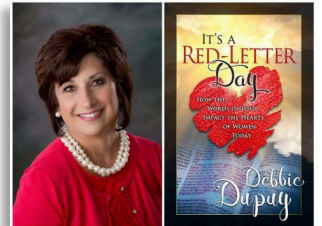


Pantry Needs: It is time to restock the pantry! Items needed are vegetable soup, chicken noodle soup, chunky soups, canned fruits, and canned meats. Please carefully check expiration dates before donating.

Men's Barbecue Night has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 20, at Big R's in Joplin. Meet at the Hillcrest parking lot at 6 p.m. to share a ride.

The Tri-State Youth Series has been rescheduled for this Sunday at Vinita. The van will leave the Hillcrest parking lot at 2:50.

Our Ladies' Seminar with Debbie Dupuy is less than a month away—March 9-10. Take fliers from the foyer and invite friends. If you would like to help provide a welcome basket, please give cash donations to Brenda Kimbrough.



RECORDS	02-11-18	02-10-17
Bible Study	Ice	142
AM Worship	Ice	204
PM Worship	Ice	126
Wednesday	Ice	122
Contribution	Ice	\$8,840.25
Budget	\$7,643.38	\$7,630.58

PRAYER LEADERS	
Sunday, February 18 •AM Opening: Tony Flint •AM Closing: Bill Reiboldt •PM Opening: Tucker Anderson •PM Closing: Charlie Phillips	Wednesday, February 21 •Opening: Karson Thomas •Closing: Kaden King

RECORDS	02-04-18	02-03-17
Bible Study	129	111
AM Worship	174	184
PM Worship	Ice	110
Wednesday	120	130
Contribution	\$8,766.14	\$8,360.41
Budget	\$7,643.38	\$7,630.58