

Since God Is Invisible...

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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The first page of Paul's first letter to Timothy is punctuated by this burst of praise: "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Tim. 1:17). And the letter reaches its final crescendo as Paul magnifies the one who "is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords; who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen" (1 Tim. 6:15-16). God's invisibility is one characteristic that makes Paul want to praise God in each of those passages. Why is invisibility a characteristic that makes God praiseworthy? Can you deny that invisibility would make your top ten list of most wanted superpowers? With God, invisibility is one more quality that makes him unrestricted by the physical and material traits that make us human.

Since God is invisible, many people assume he is unreal. Never mind that "the heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork" (Psalm 19:1) or that "his invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made" (Rom. 1:20). Ignoring the Word of God about the Son of God who is "the image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15), people fail to see what matters most.

Since God is invisible, even we who are Christians tend not to count on him like we should. We gravitate toward what we can see, hear, and feel. But Jesus assures us, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (John 17:23). This

has always been true of the high and lofty one, who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite" (Is. 57:15). God's invisibility in no way diminishes his availability to help us when we need him most.

Since God is invisible, even we who are his children tend not to give him his due. "Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD" (Jer. 23:23-24). Though we cannot see God, he always sees us. What a comfort when we consider our true dependence on him! What an incentive to always do what pleases him. Some day we will see him, and on that day we will give an account for what he has seen us do.

Since God is invisible, we need to connect with him in the ways he has designed. Though we don't see them, radio waves and cell phone and wifi signals are all around us. We need the right equipment to make use of them. Just so, ever deeper faith (Col. 2:6-7) and constantly growing love (Phil. 1:9-11) equip us to keep in touch with God.

Our invisible God does things we cannot see. He bathed us with salvation when we were baptized (1 Pet. 3:21-22). He works continually for the good of those who love him (Rom. 8:28). God's invisibility limits him in no way. Do not let it limit your awareness of him, your trust in him, or your love for him. Let it spur your desire to finally see him face to face.

Danny Boggs

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14



Betty Ball, Jack Brodie, Ed Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Jerry and Louise Faules, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Faye Haught, May Hill, Wilma Hill, Doris Jones, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Mark Strohl, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Richard Tink, Bobbie Tuggle, Robin Van Dorn, Margaret Wald, Ruth Ann Wilson, Treva Wolgamott, Velda Wood, and Neosho Christian School.

- Jerry Faules is hospitalized at Freeman West.
- Richard Tink has moved to Gran Villa.



The Lads to Leaders group will be travel to the convention in Memphis this weekend. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel.

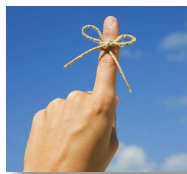
Sympathy: We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Teresa Hanger in the passing of her mother, Jean Hanger, last Wednesday. Funeral services were held Monday.

Men's Barbecue Night: Next Thursday, April 20 at Big R's in Joplin. Meet at the Hillcrest parking lot at 6:00.



Kids and Families Devo: All families with kids below seventh grade are invited to the Boggs' home for a campfire devotional at 5:30 Saturday, April 29.

Fifth Sunday Giving: Our next opportunity to give specifically toward the payment for our new fellowship building will be Sunday, April 30. Make prayerful plans as we anticipate moving in soon.



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. Don Deffenbaugh

P.M. *The Fatal Flaws of Goliath vs the Fearless Faith of David* (Tim Murray)

Neosho Christian School invites you to their annual Benefit Banquet on April 22. A few seats are still available. Hors d'oeuvres and silent auction begin at 5 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6 p.m. This year's guest speaker is Anderson Maestri, educator, author, and public speaker. See the invitation posted for more details.



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.



Our week at Green Valley Bible Camp is only 61 days away! Register at greenvalleybiblecamp.com. Whoever gets the most friends to come to camp with them will get a cash award of \$123.03!

Remember to give an extra dollar every Sunday to help someone in need. Last Sunday we were able to help a resident from Goodman who lost her home in the tornado.



Upcoming Area Events:

- The church of Christ in Bella Vista invites you to a seminar next week Sunday through Wednesday with Brent Newton. The theme is "What Jesus Did for Us."
- The ladies at the Fordland church of Christ invite all ladies to their 5th Annual Ladies Retreat on April 22, with guest speaker Donna Faughn.
- The ladies at the Aurora church of Christ invite all ladies to their Ladies' Day on April 22 from 9:30-noon. Lunch will be served.
- The Miami church of Christ invites you to a gospel meeting with John Moore April 23-26.

Who is graduating from high school or college this spring? Please notify Jessica.



ASSIGNMENTS

Prayers Sunday, April 16

- AM Opening: Aaron Wilson
- AM Closing: Pat Andrews
- PM Opening: Trace Wilson
- PM Closing: John Deffenbaugh

Scripture Reading Sunday, April 16

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Zane Berner
- Prayers Wednesday, April 19**
- Opening: Kaden King
 - Closing: Nolan Murray

RECORDS	04-09-17	04-10-16
Bible Study	138	143
AM Worship	190	181
PM Worship	127	132
Wednesday	122	134
Contribution	\$8,787.57	\$6,862.50
Budget	\$7,630.58	\$7,075.67