

## GOODNESS AND SEVERITY

Sunday night we talked about the goodness and severity of God. Paul stated in Romans 11:22, *“Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.”* We talk about the love and grace and mercy of God, but you do not hear a lot of conversation concerning the severity of God. Paul defines the very word “severity” in the text. It means to “cut off.” It suggests the idea of judgment from God on those who persevere in their disobedience. God’s justice demands punishment (severity) if and when man rejects God’s will and turns to the way that he chooses. There are many examples of such in the Bible, beginning with Adam and Eve in Genesis 3.

One of the points made dealt with the fact that God’s severity is not vindictive. Paul proclaimed in Romans 6:23, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* What we have earned is death. The gift God offers is eternal life through Christ. When Paul and Barnabas concluded in Acts 13, *“It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles”* (Acts 13:46). They judged themselves unworthy because they rejected the words that were taught. *Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God.*

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## WHERE ARE YOU?

Adam and Eve transgressed God’s law—they sinned (Genesis 3:1–6). At that moment, God could have destroyed the world. He could have sent Adam and Eve to eternal punishment prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:46). In so doing, God would have been perfectly upright and just. He is God. He made Adam in His own image (Genesis 1:27). He gave Adam access to the tree of life (Genesis 2:9). He trained Adam to live and gave him a purpose to live (Genesis 2:15). He instructed Adam in righteousness—doing right and avoiding wrong (Genesis 2:16–17). I believe Adam instructed his wife in righteousness (Genesis 3:2–3). Yet, they both chose to go beyond what was right—they sinned. And what did God do? He sought them, taught them, and saved them (Genesis 3:7–24).

God’s first words to Adam after he had sinned were, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9). God does not need GPS. He did not need information concerning Adam’s physical location. He knew where he was. Rather, God was humbling Adam and teaching Adam. It was an opportunity for Adam to realize and say to himself: “I’m not where I’m supposed to be. I’ve done wrong, I’m naked, I’m afraid, I’m hiding, and I need your mercy.” Adam did not make that initial conclusion, did he? Instead, he concluded that God and the woman were to blame (Genesis 3:12). How futile! Eventually, God helped Adam to realize where he was. He helped Adam to realize that he was separated from God—spiritually dead—and as result, he and every person following would also be separated from the tree of life, from the ease of living, and the protection of health.

Adam's sons Cain and Abel were taught to worship God with proper sacrifices (Genesis 4:1–7; see also Hebrews 11:4, Romans 10:17). Cain chose to worship God in his own way. And so, God did not respect his offering. God's rejection of Cain's worship was a form of God saying to Cain, "Where are you?" God wanted Cain to do well and be reconciled to Him. Instead, Cain grew angry and envious, even to the point of murder. Again, God sought salvation for Cain. God asked, "Where is Abel thy brother?" (Genesis 4:9). God knew where Abel was. He was really asking Cain, "Where are you?" He wanted Cain to admit that he had sinned and that he needed God's mercy. Cain did not accept God's attempts to save him and was cast out. It was then that Cain had to face the fact of his new location—outside of "the presence of the LORD" (Genesis 2:16).

And now, the question comes to each one of us. Where are you?

*Clifton Angel, [bulletingold.com](http://bulletingold.com) 10/17*

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## **FALL LECTURESHIP**

**MONTROSE CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

**OCT 15-18th 2017**

**SUNDAY: 9:00 AM & 6:00 PM**

**MONDAY - WEDNESDAY: 7:00 PM**

**SPEAKER:**

**JOHN DANIELS**

from Sevierville church of Christ,  
Sevierville, TN

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**THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE**

**WORSHIP—SUNDAY AM**

**Oct 08, 2017**

Coordinator . . . . . Billy Halliburton

Announcements . . . . . George Clay

Scripture Reading..Acts 8:36,37 Austin Clay

Song Leader . . . . . Adam Jolley

Opening Prayer. . . . . Jacky Carver, Sr.

Lord's Supper-Preside: Mitchell Brooks

Serve: Steve Anderson, Brian Smith

Ethan Leonard, Justin Draper

Closing Prayer . . . . . Ben Silcox

Greeter— Dallas & Paige Eddie

Greeter— Roger & Cynthia Draper

**[Greeters, please be here by 8:40 to greet before services]**

Count Offering. . . . . Dallas Eddie

. . . . . Kaleb Bush

AM Sermon —Confession

PM Sermon —Beginning of Wisdom

**WORSHIP—SUNDAY--6:00 PM**

Announcements . . . . . George Clay

Song Leader . . . . . Adam Jolley

Scripture Reading..Pro. 9:10-11 . Austin Clay

Opening Prayer . . . . . Jacky Carver Sr.

Lord's Supper . . . . . Robert Hackett

. . . . . Ethan Leonard

Closing Prayer . . . . . Steve Anderson

**BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY---7:00 PM**

Announcements . . . . . George Clay

Song Leader . . . . . Jacky Carver, Sr.

First Prayer. . . . . Mitchell Brooks

Opening Prayer . . . . . Dallas Eddie

Closing Prayer . . . . . Justin Draper

Prepare Communion for **OCT**

Cynthia & Paige

**MONTROSE BULLETIN BOARD**

**NURSING HOME:**

Opal Agee-Kindred  
Pearl Anderson—Knollwood Manor,  
Carolyn Clay—Knollwood Manor  
Kasel Dillehay—Overton Co. Nursing Home

**THOSE ON THE SICK LIST;**

W. A. Gibbs, Gladys Bowling,  
Jimmie Faye Cole, Sawyer Cole,  
Opal Green, Ramelle Cole  
Idella Spurlin, Jimmy Craighead

Sympathy to the Dillehay family in the death of their daughter Samantha.

**OUR RECORD OF LOVE FOR CHRIST**

10/01/17

Wednesday. . . . .	50
Worship Sunday AM . . . . .	78
Bible Study Sunday AM . . . . .	67
Daily Bible Readers . . . . .	32
Worship Sunday PM . . . . .	43

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Oct. 14th.** Hayride at Bush residence.

**Oct. 15-18th. Fall Lectureship with John Daniels of Sevierville.** Sunday services will be at regular time. Mon-Wed. at 7:00 pm Meal following Sunday AM services at the Barn.

**READING SCHEDULE FOR OCT**

01 Micah 5-7	11 Matt. 1-3	22 Mark 10-12
02 Nahum 1-3	12 Matt. 4-6	23 Mark 13-15
03 Hab 1-3	13 Matt. 7-9	24 Mark 16;
04 Zeph 1-3	14 Matt. 10-14	Lk.1-2
05 Hag. 1-2;	15 Matt. 15-17	25 Luke 3-5
Zech. 1	16 Matt. 18-20	26 Luke 6-8
06 Zech. 2-4	17 Matt. 21-23	27 Luke 9-11
07 Zech. 5-9	18 Matt. 24-26	28 Luke 12-16
08 Zech. 10-12	19 Matt. 27-28;	29 Luke 17-19
09 Zech. 13-14;	Mark 1	30 Luke 20-22
Mal. 1	20 Mark 2-4	31 Luke 23-24;
10 Mal. 2-4	21 Mark 5-9	John 1