

WORSHIP—SUNDAY—6:00 PM

Announcements.....Steve Anderson
Song Leader.....Adam Jolley
Scripture Reading.....Ethan Crockett
First Prayer.....Kaleb Bush
PM Sermon.....Sam Willcut
Lord’s Supper.....Glen Reece & JW Leonard
Closing Prayer.....Brian Smith

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY—7:00 PM

Announcements.....Steve Anderson
Song Leader.....Jacky Carver, Sr.
First Prayer.....Justin Draper
Opening Prayer.....George Clay
Invitation.....Kaleb Bush
Closing Prayer.....Roger Draper

Prepare Communion for **FEBRUARY**—Teresa Clay
Suggested Daily Bible Reading for February—**James 1-5**

PRAYER LIST

Opal Agee (Concordia Nursing and Rehabilitation of Smith County, Carthage, Room 705B), **Patti Birdwell** (sister-in-law of Mel Smith, upcoming surgery for brain aneurysm), **Sawyer Cole** (grandson of Larry & Vickie Cole), **Linda Phillips** (friend of Janice Pinckley, battling pancreatic cancer), **Florence Shoulders** (friend of Patsy Turner) is now home from the hospital, **Ruby Mae West** (friend of many) is now living with her daughter

OUR RECORD OF LOVE FOR CHRIST

The week of 2/3/19
Worship Sunday AM.....92
Bible Study Sunday AM.....85
Daily Bible Readers.....45
Worship Sunday PM.....70
Wednesday (1/30/19).....65
Offering.....\$3,545.00

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 24—Timothy & Dorcas classes
February 24—Fourth Sunday Fellowship
March 3—Elders/Deacons/Preachers Meeting
March 10—Instructor from SEIBS
March 22—Montrose Annual Singing

AREA EVENTS

February 10—Singing, Drapers Crossroads, Lafayette, 2:00 PM

February 15—Mid-TN Friday Night Singing, Findlay, Sparta, 7:00 PM

February 22-24—CYC, Gatlinburg, TN

April 13—Ladies' Day, East Main, Murfreesboro

Faux Religion

One of our young people recently submitted the following question: *“Why do people use the terms ‘good vibes’ or ‘good vibes only’? Why do they say, ‘good karma’? For example, some will say, ‘Send good vibes my way so that such and such may happen for me.’ Is this the equivalent to saying a prayer? If not, what is the equivalent of ‘good vibes’ in the Bible?”*

This is a good question, and it is one that I have been mulling around in my mind and upon which I have been meditating for quite some time, as I have seen the very same things that this young person has seen. I have two Facebook “friends” (it may not surprise you that these individuals are not faithful Christians) in particular who have posted requests along these very same lines—at various points in their lives, whenever they need support for difficulties, they make a plea for some sort of “energy,” as if George Lucas was writing truth instead of fiction when he made the Star Wars series and described “the force.” What is extremely sad is that various people have adopted such notions as truth!

There is nothing in the Bible about such, except in its condemnation, for all such attributions are attempts at creating and practicing a faux religion. Oh, such attempts recognizes the existence of a spiritual realm—something beyond our physical existence—but instead of searching the Creator (cf. Acts 17:27-29), they are searching within themselves and in what God created (Romans 1:20-25). That is why such individuals who practice a number of world religions that would fall into this category (Eastern mysticism, New Age religions, witchcraft, Reiki, and such like), for they are, in fact, no different that any of the established Eastern religions with sacred scriptures (the Vedas of Hinduism, the Pali Canon of Buddhism, the Yi-Ching of Confucianism, and such like). Individuals constantly speak of “positive vibes,” “positive energy,” and so forth, because of their incessant thirst that ultimately leaves them confused and constantly searching.

Thus, rather than honestly and credibly searching for truth, they appease the thirst for a spiritual appetite by formulating a faith of their own (or adopting one that someone else has created). This creates the challenge for those of us who are Christians—to demonstrate a genuine, objective faith in Christianity by declaring its truths and pointing, not to “good vibes” or “good energy,” but the Supreme Being that created the heavens and the earth—God (Genesis 1:1), and the One who takes care of His beloved today through prayer. Yes, research has proven that prayer works, and because of such, it is no wonder that individuals who continue to refuse to believe in Jesus Christ will attempt to counterfeit religion with all of its aspects.

While karma/vibes/energy does not work, prayer works, because of the God who answers prayers, and the power of the gospel (Romans 1:16) working through the lives of the ones who believe in Him!

—Sam Willcut

Only the Obedient Will Be Saved

“Once saved, always saved” is a common belief today. It is argued that if a person is truly saved, possessing the true Spirit of God, he cannot and will not fall away, and if he falls away, he never was saved in the first place.

This “doctrine of perseverance” is simply not true. It is possible, and it is common, for people to be truly saved, lost, restored, and even lost again. In fact, even the Holy Spirit warns us not to turn away after being saved:

Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, “Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: when your fathers tempted Me, proved Me, and saw My works forty years.” Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, “They do always err in their heart, and they have not known My ways.” So I swear in my wrath, “They shall not enter into My rest.”) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God [Hebrews 3:7-12].

Our words and actions determine our acceptability with God. Jesus said, “*If a man loves Me, he will keep My words...*” (John 14:23), and, “*He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings...*” (John 14:24). The Holy Spirit reminded the apostles of this same teaching in John 14:26.

Friend, do not entertain the idea that salvation is certain, regardless of our actions. If we would be saved, we must obey the Lord. Any other doctrine is not the Lord’s doctrine.

—Rick Cunningham