

PM Sermon.....SEIBS Instructor
Lord's Supper.....Kaleb Bush & JW Leonard
Closing Prayer.....Sam Willcut

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY — 7:00 PM

Announcements.....Dallas Eddie
Song Leader.....Justin Draper
First Prayer.....Jacky Carver, Sr.
Opening Prayer.....Glen Reece
Invitation.....George Clay
Closing Prayer.....Travis Thomas

Prepare Communion for **MARCH**
Patsy Reece

Suggested Daily Bible Reading for March:
Read 7 chapters of **Genesis** each day
(with 8 chapters on the final day of the week)

PRAYER LIST

Opal Agee (Concordia Nursing and Rehabilitation of Smith County, Carthage, Room 705B), **Sawyer Cole** (grandson of Larry & Vickie Cole), **Billy Halliburton** (at St. Thomas—West and will be going to rehab soon), **Peggy Kemp** (having knee surgery on March 15), **Linda Phillips** (friend of Janice Pinckley, battling pancreatic cancer), **Charlie Pinckley**, **Ruby Mae West** (friend of many) is now living with her daughter, **Rhonda Whitaker** (friend of Janice Pinckley)

OUR RECORD OF LOVE FOR CHRIST

The week of 3/3/19
Worship Sunday AM.....98
Bible Study Sunday AM.....80
Daily Bible Readers.....43
Worship Sunday PM.....56
Wednesday (2/27/19).....68
Offering.....\$3795.00

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 9—Youth Laser Tag Trip & Devotional, 3:00 PM—8:00 PM
March 10—Instructor from SEIBS
March 22—Montrose Annual Singing, 5:00 PM
March 24—Timothy & Dorcas classes, 5:00 PM
March 31—Young Men conduct PM service

AREA EVENTS

March 7—Smith County Drug Prevention Coalition Meeting on Addiction, Smith County Chamber of Commerce Community Room, 6:00 PM

March 8—Mid-TN Friday Night Singing, Philippi, Castalian Springs, 7:00 PM

March 8-10—Gospel Meeting, Rome, 7:30 PM

April 13—Ladies' Day, East Main, Murfreesboro

April 13—Ladies' Day, Charlotte Heights, Nashville

April 25—Smith County Drug Prevention Coalition Meeting on Addiction, Smith County Historic Courthouse, 6:00 PM

May 18—Ladies' Day, Philippi, Castalian Springs, 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Lent

This Tuesday is “Fat Tuesday,” the peak of the Mardi Gras celebration, and the Wednesday thereafter is “Ash Wednesday.” One can figure out that Fat Tuesday always precedes Ash Wednesday, which is the beginning of “Lent.” What are these days? Can one celebrate these days as days of worship to God?

Ash Wednesday is “*the first day of Lent, so called from the ceremony of putting ashes on the forehead as a sign of penitence. The ash is from palms blessed on Palm Sunday of the previous year*” (New Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus of the English Language, p. 54). In Roman Catholic and some other Western Christian Churches, Lent is “*the period of fasting and penitence during the forty weekdays between Ash Wednesday and Easter Eve, recalling Christ's forty days in the wilderness*” (Ibid., p. 566). In the Orthodox Eastern Churches, they fast for an additional week until Orthodox Easter. Nonetheless, Fat Tuesday received its name as the day before fasting forty days and filled with riotous, gratuitous and gluttonous living.

Can one celebrate Ash Wednesday and Lent as days of worship to God? What would be wrong with showing additional faith to God by also participating in these rituals? The simple fact of the matter is that God has not authorized us to do so. Nowhere in the Bible has He commanded us to place ash on our foreheads as sign of penitence. Nowhere has He charged us to fast for a specific forty days. Nowhere has He authorized us to fast in recognition of His fasting in the wilderness as Matthew 4 and Luke 4 records. Jesus said, “*But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly*” (Matthew 6:17-18). Jesus states when we fast, it is not to be a public outward expression or ritual, but rather it is to be an inward, secret expression. Paul said it best in Galatians 4:10-11: “*Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain.*” The Galatians were binding certain traditions and ceremonies, especially those back under the Jewish law. Therefore, Paul was fearful that holding such would actually get in the way of serving Christ properly. Jesus gives an example in Matthew 15. Certain scribes and Pharisees came to Jesus and questioned His disciples not following the ritual of washing hands before eating bread. “*But He answered and said unto them, 'Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?'*” (15:3). He later says in Matthew 15:9, “*But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*”

God has authorized exactly what mode and method of worship by which we are to follow. Any other way, such as the observance of Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday or Lent that God has not authorized, would be contrary to the doctrine of Christ and would be sinful (2 John 1:9).

—*Sam Willcut*



March 5, 2019

SINGING

MONTROSE CHURCH OF CHRIST
53 Lakeside Drive
Carthage, TN 37030

MARCH 22, 2019

**WE WILL BEGIN SERVING
A MEAL AT 5:00 PM**

**WE WILL BEGIN SINGING
AT 7:00 PM**

**For more information,
call 1-615-774-3248**

