## **PRIVILEGED TO SERVE** SCHEDULE OF SERVICES SUNDAY MORNING **BIBLE CLASS** May 1, 2016 WORSHIP **EVENING** WELCOME: Darren Dent Jim Sutterfield SONG LEADER: **BIBLE CLASS** OPENING PRAYER: Gary Bradford LORD'S TABLE: Tom Barkley Michael Cole LADIES BIBLE CLASS ASSIST: Phillip Short Elders: **Clayton Dent** Gene Blair 501-499-5868 **Rick Camp** Deacons: **Brian Drewry** Michael Cole 815-622-1874 CLOSING PRAYER: Michael Gilbow (benevolence, pantry, greeters) Gary & Becky Bradford **GREETERS**: Jarrod DeValle 501-450-8719 Steve & Joanie Hart (education & teachers) Miguel Montenegro, Jr CARDS: Michael Gilbow 501-208-2909 (nursing home, fellowship room set up) Austin Gilbow Donna Allensworth VISITOR GIFT/ Ministers: Dorothy Tatum Glen Elliott HOSTESSES: Spencer Cromwell 731-438-1206 SCRIPTURE READER: Eli Leonard Acts 4:12 Church Office: 501-679-3647 SUNDAY EVENING **GREENBRIER CHURCH OF CHRIST** May 1, 2016 12 Wilson Farm Rd. Greenbrier, AR 72058 SONG LEADER: Kevin Lovell Jarrod DeValle OPENING PRAYER: LORD'S TABLE: **Ratis Yeager** Ron McInturff CLOSING PRAYER: Cayden Leonard WEDNESDAY EVENING May 4, 2016 Don Barnett SONG LEADER: OPENING PRAYER: Jackie Horton **DEVOTIONAL:** Michael Gilbow CLOSING PRAYER: Gene Blair \*Please contact Mike Wolff if you are unable to serve.

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. **THURSDAY:** 10:00 a.m. Darren Dent 501-581-3052 Del Hines 501-733-4645 (finance & technology) Mike Wolff 501-472-8912 (building & grounds) 501-314-9999

Greenbrier church of Christ **12 Wilson Farm Road** Greenbrier, Arkansas 72058

E-mail: office@gbcofc.com (501) 679-3647 May 1, 2016

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## SAVED LIKE THE THIEF (4)

In recent weeks, we have examined the story about the thief on the cross as recorded in the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter of the gospel of Luke. In applying this or similar events in the earthly ministry of our Lord, there are several important principles to keep in mind. Namely, that Christ had authority on earth to forgive sins in whatever manner He chose and that the events surrounding the thief on the cross occurred prior to Christ's death and, therefore, prior to the time when His Last Will and Testament, the New Testament, came into force,

A third principle to keep in mind when applying the story about the thief on the cross is that we are responsible to follow whatever law is in force at the time we are living. In the Constitution of the United States, Article 1, Section 9 tells us that there shall be no "ex post facto" law. What that means is that laws are not retroactive. We are responsible for those laws which are in existence at the time we are living. For example, neither Abraham Lincoln nor George Washington could be prosecuted for their failure to pay income tax. Why not? Because they lived before the paying of income tax became a law. They were still good, lawabiding citizens even though they did not pay any income tax. Why can't we do the same? Because we live in time when paying income tax is the law.

The same argument applied to baptism. The thief on the cross was saved; but was not baptized. Why can't we do the same thing today and be saved without baptism? After all, Moses was not baptized in the baptism of the Great Commission. For that matter, neither was Abraham or David. However, they lived and died under a different law. We must respect the law under which we live—the law of Christ.

The law of Christ is the New Testament. If there are conditions in that law which must be met before salvation from sin may be enjoyed, then we must meet those conditions regardless of what may have been true under previous laws. The conditions for salvation in the New Testament include faith, repentance, confession, baptism, and faithfulness to the Lord. Every example of New Testament conversion in the book of Acts includes baptism. How can law-abiding citizens of the kingdom of Christ teach a plan of salvation from sin that does not include baptism?

Do examples such as the thief on the cross nullify what is said concerning New Testament baptism? Not at all! The thief lived and died under a different law. The story about the thief on the cross does not teach that salvation can be obtained without gospel obedience. Christ's death had not vet occurred and so His covenant was vet to be ratified by His blood. We live under the conditions of the New Testament—conditions which must be met if we hope to enjoy the promises of Christ. Ours is not to question what happened under a different law but to live by the covenant Jesus shed His precious blood to establish. --Glen Elliott--

## **CARE GROUPS:**

Care group 1 (Yeager) -Saturday, May 21st at 6pm in the home of the Rhyne's

Care group 4 (Wolff) -Saturday, May 14th at 5pm in the home of the Barkley's

Care group 5 (Haves) -Sunday, June 5th after morning services in the home of the Leonard's

## **Directory pictures** THIS IS FOR ALL MEMBERS!! Pictures will be taken for a couple more weeks - - Please see Dorothy Yeager or Donna Allensworth about a time **OR** they will be available 10 minutes before & after

services on Sundays.

OUR RECORI	)
<u>APRIL 24, 201</u>	L <u>6</u>
SUNDAY CLASS:	18
SUNDAY WORSHIP:	26
SUNDAY PM:	11
WEDNESDAY (27th):	14
BUDGET:	\$5,400

186

269

116

143

BUDGET:	<b>\$5,4</b> 00
<b>OFFERING</b> :	\$6,031
YTD average:	\$5,875
YTD ahead/behind:	\$8,072



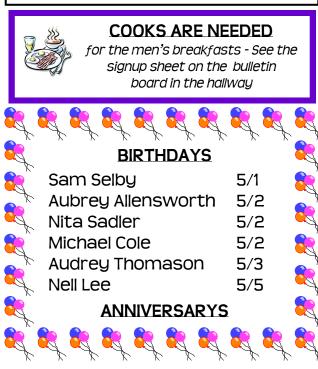
\*Vic Byrd is in Conway Regional. Please keep him in your prayers.

\*Remember Edie Singleton, Jim Burkett, and Herb Tatum as they await test results.

\*Jarrod, Dena, and Nick DeValle will be adopting a baby girl due in May and ask for prayers for health and smooth proceedings.

\*Continue to keep Ivana Selby; Robin Linn's dad, Michael; Kevin Barley's brother and dad; Rod Wilson; Linda Black & Jan Biggs uncle, A.J. and Brian Wright's grandfather, Freddy Richardson in your prayers.

\*Remember our shut-ins including Jeanne Haithcote, who is in the Greenbrier Nursing Home, & Mack Hankins, who is at home.





I have rejoiced in Your laws as much as in riches. I will study Your commandments and reflect on Your ways. I will delight in Your decrees and not forget Your Word (vv.14-16). God's laws may not tug on our hearts like the sad and weary eyes of the oppressed, but we must never forget that the primary reason we care is because God cares, and His Word instructs us to fight for them. "Seek justice. Help the oppressed," urges Isaiah. "Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows" (1:17). James concurs: "Pure and genuine religion . . means caring for orphans and widows in their distress" (1:27). Here's one way to tell whether our right concern for social justice is replacing our passion for God's Word. When we read

something in Scripture that seems to oppose the rights of others, do we brush off the passage, or do we submit to it as God's best for them? For example, do we believe God when He declares that homosexual practice is sin (Romans 1:26; 1 Corinthians 6:9), or do we look for a reason to

The best way to love people is to love God's Word. Make Scripture your primary passion, then do what it says. You'll help a lot of people. -Spencer Cromwell

