

The church of Christ at Luverne
67 North Woodford Ave.
Luverne, AL 36049
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Assembly Assignments for March, 2009

The Lord's Supper

Andrew Moorer / Isaac Sanders / John Frost / Jim Johnson

Announcements

Dale Sanders

Building Duties

Steve Sanders

Greeters

Steve Sanders
Darrin Sanders

Nursing Home Duties

Jace Sanders
Robb Sanders

Lord's Supper Preparation

Jean Sims

Scripture Reading

Reed Kilcrease

Privileged to Serve on March 22, 2009

Morning Prayer

Frankie Sims (opening)
Robb Sanders (closing)

Evening Prayer

John Frost (opening)
Sam Sanders (closing)

Song Leader

Dale Sanders

A/V Equipment

Zack Wilson

All announcements need to be written and turned in before each assembly!

The Messenger



From

The church of Christ at Luverne

67 North Woodford Avenue
Luverne, Al. 36049
(334) 335-5089
office@lcoc.net
www.lcoc.net

Services

Every Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Every Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

MORALITY ALONE CANNOT AND WILL NOT SAVE!

Raymond Elliott

There is the tendency among many people to equate morality with being a Christian. While it is true that every devout Christian is a good moral person, it does not follow that every good moral person is a Christian. The moralist, separate and apart from Christ is a sinner. The apostle Paul, quoting an Old Testament passage, stated that *"There is none righteous, no not one."* He further declared, *"for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:10, 23). It isn't that a man is born a sinner; he simply becomes one through violating the commands of God (1 John 3:4).

The moralist may be known for his sweet disposition, his kind words, his charitable deeds, his good citizenship and his participation in community affairs. But, if he has never obeyed the gospel of Christ he is in a lost condition. When a person as previously described passes from this life, his peers are apt to say, *"Well, he was not a member of any church but he certainly was a good man, worthy of salvation."*

The basic difference between a moralist who is not a Christian and a Christian is morally clean is found in their relationship with God. The moralist exclaims that he deserves to be saved upon his own meritorious goodness. This attitude was found in the Pharisees *"who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others"*; and, is found in the words of a self righteous individual as recorded in Luke 18:9 – 12), *"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men-extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess'.* The Christian admits his inability to save himself and submits to the will of God. He cries out, *"God, be thou merciful to me a sinner"* (Luke 18:13). If one moralist can be saved without the blood of Christ, then it must be concluded that all moralists can be saved. If this be true, Christ died in vain. There was no need for his crucifixion on Calvary.

Surely, if any moralist could have been saved without the vicarious death of Christ, the man Cornelius would have been. It is rather doubtful that any living person would have been more moral in character than Cornelius. He was a centurion in the Roman army. This meant that he was a Gentile. He was a devout man and one that feared God. He was a benevolent individual and was habitual in his prayers to God. He is referred to as a righteous man and one who enjoyed an excellent reputation, even among the Jews (Acts 10:1, 2, 22). In spite of such high standards, Cornelius was instructed by an angels of the Lord to *"Send to Joppa, and fetch Simon, whose surname is Peter; who shall speak unto thee words, whereby thou shalt be saved, thou and all thy house"* (Acts 11:13, 14). This morally upright person needed to hear the gospel of Christ in order that he might be saved. It is no different today. God is no respecter of person. He saves all men alike and in like manner – through the blood of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:34; Ephesians 1:7). God requires faith, repentance, and baptism on the part of the alien sinner in order to receive remission of sins (Hebrews 11:6; Acts 17:30; Acts 2:38). If we are saved, it is not by our own goodness but by God's grace (Ephesians 2:5, 8).



In Our Prayers

- Rita Blakeman – pain from disk deterioration
- Doug Brown – cancer treatments
- Marie Clemmons – back at home
- Joe Griffin – general health
- Hayden Helms – ear surgery went well
- Leslie Helms – local hospital, room 129
- Bobbie Sue Henderson – cancer
- Cecil Kelley – COPD; general health
- Chris Kyser – a little better, still serious condition
- Clinton Laird – heart attack; surgery
- J. T. Owens – lung cancer
- Teresa Parker – health problems
- Weaver Robinson – problems with his legs
- Lindsay Turner – continuing recovery

In Luverne Nursing Facility:

- Frances Burgans Margaret Hall Allene Mount
- Fanny Nichols Charles Phillips Edwina Rolling

- *Pray for those who have lost loved ones.*

- *Pray for soldiers overseas.*

Kevin Singleton

-Pray for missionaries, for leaders, for our congregation, and for our efforts to carry out God's will.

Announcements

- **Fifth Sunday Schedule on March 29th** – Plan to remain after morning worship services for a covered dish fellowship meal. The final service for the day will be around 1:00 p.m.
- **Gospel Meeting** – Evergreen church of Christ – April 12-15, 2009. Speaker – Jack Cates.
- **Congregational Singing** – Opp church of Christ – Friday, March 27th, 2009 from 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.
- **Men of Honor and Women of Virtue Day** – A day of learning about purity and spiritual growth for young men and women – April 4, 2009, 9:00 – 3:00. Girls will start at Dalraida and guys will be at University. Lunch and afternoon sessions will be combined.

"Glad To Have An Ox To Sell"

A lawyer and businessman were touring a foreign land. Their guide was a missionary, who also served as an interpreter.

"That's a curious picture. I suppose they are poor," said the businessman, pointing to some workers in a field.

"Yes, that's the family of ChiNouri. When the church building was being erected, they were eager to give, but had no money. So they sold the only ox they had and gave the money. This spring they are pulling the plow themselves."

The men were silent for several moments. Then the businessman said, "That must have been a real sacrifice."

"They did not call it that," said the preacher. "They thought it was fortunate they had an ox to sell."

The two men had little to say after that, but when they returned home, the lawyer took a picture of this family to his preacher and told him of the incident. "I want to double my contribution to the church," he said, "and give me some plow work to do. I have never known what sacrifice to the Lord meant. A converted heathen had to teach me. I am ashamed to say that I have never given anything to the church that cost me a thing."

Copied from Glad Tidings of Good Things, Jacksonville, AL via Opp's Friendly Visitor of March 8, 2009

What Must We Do to be Saved?

1. **Learn the truth (John 8:31-32; Rom. 10:17).**
2. **Believe in Christ: John 8:24**
3. **Repent of his sins: Acts 17:30; 2 Cor. 7:10**
4. **Confess his faith in Christ: Matt. 10:32**
5. **Be baptized for the remission of sins: Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:20, 21**
6. **Be faithful unto death: Rev. 2:10; Matt. 10:22)**