

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1195

December 24, 2017

I John 5:3, *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”*

If you saw any of the NFL game in Buffalo, New York on December 10, you saw a snow storm as much as a game. During the game, eight inches of snow fell on the field. Players could not see the markings. Fans were encased in snow. It amazes me that people will sit through such conditions to watch an event that means nothing in the long run. Truthfully it means little now. It’s just entertainment.

I can’t help but think how many people will subject themselves to such discomfort for hours but would never consider sitting through worship services. Service times are generally shorter than a football game and much more comfortable. It all comes down to what people want to do.

I’m not surprised the world is like this. Unfortunately many who are members of the LORD’s body are like this. Entertainment and sporting events consume more time and money than does

attendance and giving to the work of the LORD.

We need to make sure that the LORD comes first in all aspects of our lives. We need to work everything else below and around worship times and study.

The LORD has not asked us to do something hard. As John wrote in the above verse, the LORD’s commandments are not grievous. They are not hard or difficult. We have warm (or cooled) buildings. Times are such to make it convenient for everyone.

The commandments of the LORD are something everyone can do. They are not dependent upon our physical condition. We do not have to face the harsh cold of winter or the oppressive heat of summer. We do not have to travel far. The LORD has made it very easy and convenient to serve Him.

People will gladly inconvenience themselves for entertainment, but be “put out” by a service that is a little longer. So often people just don’t feel like coming, but would never consider missing a big game or other event for the same feelings.

Where are our hearts? Are they with the LORD or with the world? Moses told the people in Deuteronomy 6:5, *“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”* Jesus said in Mark 12:30, *“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.”*

The LORD has always commanded we love Him with our whole heart. Our heart cannot be for the world and for the LORD at the same time. To be with the LORD eternally, our whole heart must be with the LORD now.

—Marty Edwards❖

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Sunday 9 AM & 4 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

News

—Continue to remember **Jewell Watkins, Jean Coffey, Alice Thrasher, Steve Seaton, and Brad Terry. Elaine Quigley** is having trouble with a ruptured disk.

—Some are unable to worship at either our morning or evening worship today, so we will be having our evening worship service at 1:00 p.m. There will be no 4:00 service today.

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Ezekiel 11:19, “*And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh.*”

In the previous article we talked about how our hearts need to be totally for the LORD. If our hearts are not “well” and far from the LORD we can get a new heart. It’s not a medical transplant of a new heart, but a spiritual transplant.

The people had a hard and stony heart. The LORD said He would give them a heart of flesh. It is not literal flesh but a heart that was softer and more tender— a heart that would serve the LORD. When we turn to the LORD and away from the pleasures of the world our hearts will soften. Our hard, stony hearts will be replaced by a fleshly, soft heart.

The term “new heart” only occurs three times in the Bible. Each time is in Ezekiel. The first is the above verse. The second is Ezekiel 18:31, “*Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*” When we cast away our sins, we make ourselves a new heart.

continued on back page...

Sunday, December 17, 2017		
Classes	19	I Timothy 5:3-10
Preaching	22	Matthew 17:14-27
Contribution	\$582.12	
Evening	21	Micah 2:1-13
Wednesday, December 20, 2017		
Classes	19	Revelation 4:1-6

Visitors— Dec 17(PM) Clay Glass & Zack Bowles (Hiseville, KY); Faye Edwards (Lonoke, KY)
Dec 20(Wed) Kaylee Shultz (Munfordville)

Bible Quiz

The first beast John saw was like a what?

Last Week’s Answer— With Jesus in His throne (Revelation 3:21)

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The final time is Ezekiel 36:26, “*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*” We are not only given a new heart but a new spirit. If your heart and spirit are not right, a new one is available. You need to live for the LORD. A new heart and a new spirit awaits.

—Marty Edwards❖

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)