

New Prayer Concerns:

Robby Dittmann is continuing to recover from a sinus infection.

Others in our Prayers:

Wayne Bonner, Jim Shockley, Rusty Hatton

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Lester & Dora Gatlin, Royce & Nada Whittington, the Hall family, Missy Williams, Sherry West, Robby Dittmann, Pearson Martin, Frank Faircloth, Hilda Barnett, C.E. Comerford

Prayer List Updates:

If you have prayer list items that need to be added or deleted, please make sure to let one of the Elders know! Names will be removed from the prayer list after 3 weeks if there is no update.

Upcoming Celebrations:

June

1st – Jay West's Birthday
3rd -- Dee Waddell's Birthday
3rd – Mitchell & Renee Comerford's Anniversary
4th – Lester Gatlin's Birthday
10th – Eric Martinez's Birthday
11th – Tim & Hannah Mahler's Anniversary
11th -- Lester & Dora Gatlin's Anniversary
13th – Troy Mahler's Birthday
15th – Patricia Williams' Birthday
15th – Bob & Nora Day's Anniversary
18th – Mariam Dittmann's Birthday
19th – Charlie & Martha Hall's Anniversary
24th – Don & Janice Rabon's Anniversary

Upcoming Events:

June 21st – Father's Day
(no fellowship meal)

Contribution:

not reported

Contacts:

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Welcome to the Bainbridge Church of Christ

1001 Culbreth Street
Bainbridge, Ga. 39819

June 14th, 2009



Elders

Lester Gatlin
Royce Whittington

Deacons

Mitchell Comerford
Don Rabon
Chad Waddell

Minister

Tim Mahler

Services:

Sunday: 10:00am Bible Study 11:00am Worship
6:00pm Worship/Youth Program
Wednesday: 6:30pm Bible Study

Missing the Obvious © 2009 Bill Elliff

*The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus,
they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven.
But He replied to them...*

*"Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky,
but cannot discern the signs of the times?"
And He left them and went away. (Matthew 16:1-4)*

Blindness is amazingly comprehensive. It allows a person to stand in the presence of the obvious and be unaware. Spiritual blindness, though, is a far greater disability. Those with this disease can be blissfully oblivious and eternally debilitated. Here, so-called religious leaders stand in the presence of the Son of God and cannot recognize Him. The depth of their spiritual darkness is seen in the silliness of their request. They ask to see a sign from heaven while staring into the face of the single greatest Sign from heaven ever given.

This can be explained in light of their lost condition. They did not have the Spirit of God. They could not see. But those of us who know Christ have no such excuse. Our vision is often so filled with the "lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the boastful pride of life" that we miss the obvious. We have the ability to see. We hold multiple copies of God's clear revelation before us. Within us dwells the Interpreter of all truth who gives us the mind of Christ. Of all people we should discern the signs of the times.

What is occurring before our eyes? When the economy bottoms out, is this merely a product of human failure or is there a Divine Voice shouting to materialistic people to repent? When terrorists crash into the World Trade Center on 9/11, does God have a word to say to the church? Is this manifestation of pure, unadulterated evil communicating anything to us about the state of our world in its rebellion towards God? Does the meteoric rise of a religion diametrically opposed to Christ and committed to the total annihilation of Christianity mean anything?

When "wars and rumors of wars" abound is there no biblical prophecy that puts this in context? If we looked back in history and observed a nation that killed one million babies a year for the sake of personal convenience, would we not see it for what it is? When a new President of the United States proudly proclaims that we are no longer a Christian nation, is that a blaring "sign of the times" or merely a passing political statement with no meaning? Something to be casually disregarded?

continued →

Raintree Village Children's Home Items

Today, please bring **scissors**.
Next Sunday, please bring **pencils**.

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Or closer to home: when I lose my job, is God there speaking? When my finances fail, is the Lord silent? As my marriage slowly crumbles, why do I not pick up on the signs of coming disaster and make necessary spiritual adjustments BEFORE the crisis occurs? When children of the church are turning away from Christ in record numbers as they reach adulthood, is this not shouting to us? When the church in America consistently fails to reproduce itself, shouldn't men and women recognize this decline and respond in repentance and revolutionary change led by God? Are we driving right past God's massive, neon billboards and never looking up?

The most sobering statement in this scenario with the Pharisees is the last: "And He left them and went away." Continued inattention to Christ can mean the loss of Christ. He moves on to those with eyes to see.

Be Mindful If You Are Absent

There are many things that are unique to a small congregation; some positive and some negative. In a small congregation, we are more likely to notice when someone is in need than in a large congregation where people can come and go without notice. Yet, while we may be more likely to see a need, we have fewer workers to meet those needs.

Please be mindful of the congregation when you cannot be present. Remember that the absence of a few can leave a large hole. The absence of a few men can make it difficult to organize the worship service. The absence of one or two families can empty an entire classroom.

If you won't be here for worship, let someone know who can relay the message. If your children won't be in Bible Class, make sure you let their teachers know. When someone works to put together a lesson and has no students, it can be very discouraging.

Remember that this congregation is your Christian family, and when we don't know where you are, we worry!