

Those Serving This Week:
Announcements:
Wayne Schultz

Lord's Table:
Presiding:
Tony Ward

Serving:
Bob McAlister
Ryan Thornsberry

Song Leader:
Ron Schultz

Scripture Reading:
AM – John Shelton
PM – Singing

Sun. Bible Study Prayer:
Jesse Philippi

Opening Prayer:
Sun. AM – Ronnie McAbee
Sun. PM – Bob McAlister
Wed. – Wardell Barnhart

Closing Prayer:
Sun. AM – Wardell Banhart
Sun. PM – Nick Ward
Wed. – Wayne Schultz

Anna Church of Christ
104 Nile Street
Anna IL 62906

Did You Think To Pray?

Consider the following truth: **“Jesus went more readily to the cross of Calvary than we do to the throne of grace in prayer.”** But why is that so? Is it because of a lack of faith? A spirit of independence? Carelessness? Yes, yes, and yes.

Friends, when I meditate upon that opening statement, I am put to shame. What about you? Well, if you're like me, you have a choice to make. Will you go your own way and act as though you were never confronted by this truth, or will you decide to do better?

If my Lord could willingly face the horrors of the cross, then surely I can with more consistency approach the gracious throne of God with my petitions and intercessions. What about you? Give it some thought.

- Steve Higginbotham, via *MercEmail*



Nile Street Notes

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Website: www.annachurchofchrist.com

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Welcome to the Anna Church of Christ

Elders

Wayne Schultz - 697-5477
John Shelton - 833-5090
Ryan Thornsberry
(573) 339-1633

Deacons

R.W. McAlister
Robert McAlister

Preacher

R.W. McAlister
618-697-0351
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Services Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Television Program

In Search Of The Lord's Way
Ch. 49 Sunday 7:00 a.m.

Newspaper Ministry

The Preaching Pen
Gazette Democrat

ALLEGATIONS

The past several weeks have been rocked with allegations. There were allegations made against Herman Cain, one of the presidential candidates and also against a former defensive coordinator of the Penn State University football team. Allegations sometimes prove to be factual. Sometimes they are false. A person is, however, innocent until proven guilty.

Jesus had a number of allegations leveled against Him. They were all false. The allegations had malicious intent. They were designed to find fault with Him so that His enemies could find a reason to have Him put to death. The allegations against Jesus came in three areas: political, religious, and social.

The political allegations came based on a misunderstanding of the kingship of Christ. Luke records the multitude accusing Him: “We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He himself is Christ, a King.” (Lk. 23:2) Jesus is not the king over a physical kingdom, but a spiritual one. (John 18:36)

Religiously, there were a number of allegations made against Jesus. He was accused of having a demon. (John 8:48) The scribes accused him of blasphemy because He forgave sins. (Matt. 9:3) The Pharisees said he cast out demons by the power of Beelzebub. (Matt. 12:24) All these allegations were made because the religious elite of Jesus' day did not understand that He was God in the flesh. (Matt. 1:23) They also did not accept Him as the Christ.

Socially, He was accused of being drunk. (Matt. 11:19) This allegation was made because His critics did not like Jesus being around sinners and other people they considered unsavory. Yet Jesus came for all men. He gave Himself for the sins of all mankind. (Gal. 1:4; Rom. 5:8)

Despite all the allegations against Him, Jesus finished the work the Father gave Him to do. (John 17:4) As a result, all men can be saved today through His blood. (Mt.26:28; Rev. 1:5) We become children of God through faith in Him and put Him on in baptism. (Gal. 3:26, 27) When we do this, all the allegations He suffered are worth it since He came to seek and save those that are lost. (Lk. 19:10) - Bill Brandstatter

The Authority of The Bible

We recognize the constitution of the United States as the supreme law of our land. It sets forth the rights, privileges, and consequences of wrongdoing for everyone fortunate enough to live in this country. It makes clear definitions of things that are right and things that are wrong. If there was ever to be a dispute over whether or not the people of this country have the right of free speech, how would we settle it? Obviously, we'd refer to the document that is recognized as being the final authority on the matter, the constitution. We'd find that the first amendment guarantees us the right of free speech, and the matter would be settled. Likewise, when we are faced with a question of what is right and wrong in God's eyes, where should we go to find our answers? We should go to the Bible, God's inspired word. It is the ultimate authority on what's right and what's not for all mankind. In the first chapter of Galatians, we find the apostle Paul greeting the Galatians, then springing into the midst of his subject in verse 6, *"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another, but there would be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."* We see Paul's astonishment that the gospel of Christ has so soon been disregarded in favor of some other writing. He continues in verses 8 & 9 to say that if anyone preaches something other than the gospel they've received, let him be accursed.

Turning to the book of II Tim., chapter 3, we are warned of the perilous times to come, during which mankind will stray further and further from sound doctrine. However, we are not to abandon the Bible. Verses 16 and 17 of 2nd Timothy 3 read, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* The idea here is that the scriptures are all-sufficient and given to us by God so that we may be complete. In other words, no writing of man could possibly add anything of value to the divine word of God, yet we've heard of many writings that claim to be lost chapters of the Bible, supplements to the Bible, etc. God hasn't approved our usage of any other writing to govern our lives. Furthermore, when we accept commandments and beliefs of man as spiritually binding and ignore all or part of what the Bible teaches us, we venture into very dangerous territory. Notice Revelation chapter 22, verses 18 & 19, *"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."*

As we struggle with the multiplicity of religious teachings and various problems of life, may we always look to the Bible as the final authority and source of our strength.

R.W.

SERMON TOPICS

A.M. – "Feeling Disconnected?"
(Psalm 51:10)

P.M. – Singing Service

Those For Whom We Are Praying:

Kathleen Ritchey

Mellie Karraker – Lutheran Home in Cape, room 402.

Joe Johnson

Rose and Carlos Wright - Carlos is suffering from brain tumors and Rose will have hip surgery soon.

Sheilah Whittington – Has strep throat and ear infection.

George Lackey

Brenda Phillips – Kris' cousin. Has renal cell cancer in her lungs and trachea.

Grant Capel

Hali Prater

Rosemary's son-in-law, Michael Davidson. Will have stress test soon.

Sherry McAbee – broke ankle last week.

Sherry McAbee's sister-in-law's sister, Marjorie has melanoma on both lungs (100 tumors total) and only a few months to live.

Ronnie Allstun - Renee's dad –Stage 3 kidney disease. Will treat w/diet.

Larry Miles

Welcome! If you're visiting with us, we extend you a special welcome and invite you to come back at every opportunity. If our worship seems unusual to you, please let us know what you find different. We endeavor to worship "in Spirit and in truth" (Jn. 4:24) and do only what scripture authorizes (Col. 3:17, Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18-19).

Quotable Quote: "The only way you can control how you're seen is by being honest all the time" – Tom Hanks

Wisdom From Proverbs: "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith." (Prov. 15:17).

NEWS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

* **Please remember to mute or turn off cell phones. Also: If you must take a phone call, please step outside the building so as not to disturb those who are worshipping.**

* Please review your information in the directory. A rough draft is in the foyer.

* Freed-Hardeman Lectureship Feb. 5-10.

* Ladies' Bible Class tomorrow night at 7.

* **2012 challenges:** Let's read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation in 2012! Daily reading guides are in the foyer. **Also:** let's increase our individual contributions by \$5/week or more this year!

* The communion preparation list from 2011 is on the bulletin board. If you'd like a different month this year, please make a note on it. Will finalize it this week.

* Items needed for the food pantry: canned fruits and vegetables.

* Please consider signing the petition on the bulletin board to keep marriage between a man and a woman in the state of Illinois.

* Hearing assistance available upon request.

* **If you have any sermon suggestions/Bible questions, feel free to put them in the Question Box in the foyer.**

BIBLE QUESTION/ANSWER:

Last week's answer: Tentmakers (Acts 18:1-3).

New question: In the parable of the Ten Virgins, how many virgins went into the wedding banquet with the bridegroom?

Sentence Sermon: "The best daily exercise is walking with the Lord."

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Wyatt Jones - 1/21