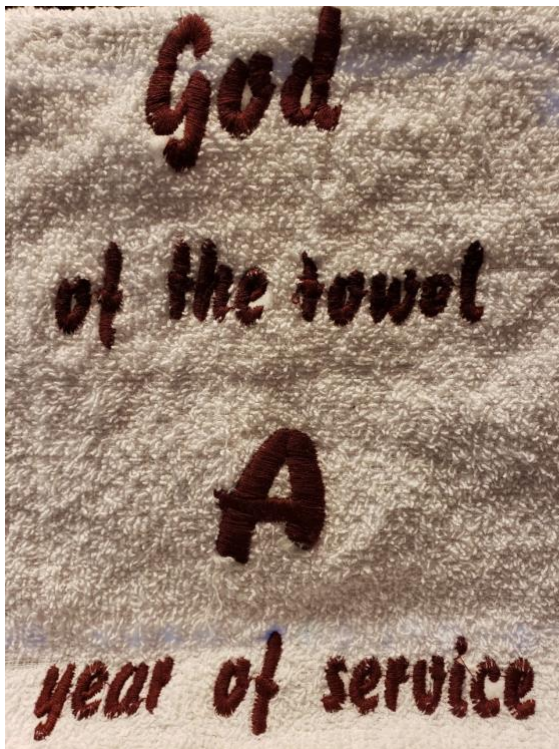


# BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE 4: VOL. 4



## 2019 THEME: The GOD of the Towel – A Year of SERVICE

- ✚ FACTS ABOUT THE WORD SERVE
- ✚ Harmless Looking - But Deadly - Bro. Walls
- ✚ Never Walk Alone – Bro. Walls
- ✚ GOD Will Deliver – Testimony Without Words- Bro. Ricks

### MISSION STATEMENT:

WE, The FAMILY of GOD's people at 428 Bird Street are devoted to:  
Worshipping GOD,  
Loving One Another,  
Caring for Those in Need,  
Growing in the UNITY of the SPIRIT, and Sharing the Gospel of JESUS, so that CHRIST May Be GLORIFIED!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:  
10:00 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:00 AM – MORNING WORSHIP  
5:00 PM – SUN. EVENING WORSHIP  
\* 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP  
6:00 PM – WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY  
\* \* 4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER AND SONG SERVICE

#### JOHN 13: 4, 12-15

4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'TEACHER' and 'LORD,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your LORD and TEACHER, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have SET you an EXAMPLE that you should DO AS I HAVE DONE for you.



## LEADERSHIP

*BRO. ELL T. BIGGERS*

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### SEE SUNDAY BULLETIN:

-  PRAYER REQUESTS
-  SICK AND SHUT-IN
-  MEMBERS AT HEALTHCARE FACILITIES
-  BIRTHDAYS
-  YOUTH ACTIVITIES/SPOTLIGHT
-  ANNIVERSARIES
-  NEW MEMBERS
-  RESTORATIONS
-  ANNOUNCEMENTS

[BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST PRAYER WARRIORS \(Group\)](#)

[BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST @ BIRDSTREETCHURCHOFCHRIST \(Page\)](#)

[WWW.BIRDSTREETCOC.ORG](http://WWW.BIRDSTREETCOC.ORG)

VISIT BIRD STREET ON FACEBOOK:

**SERVE is the Word!!! Fun facts(per KJV): Number of times mentioned in the Bible – Yes, I “googled” it ☺**

Servant(s) mentioned 965- 489(476); **SERVE** mentioned **209**; Service mentioned 132; SERVED mentioned 74; Servile mentioned 12; Servant’s mentioned 9; Serveth mentioned 9; Serving mentioned 7; Servants’ mentioned 4; Servest mentioned 2; Servitude mentioned 2; Servedst mentioned 1; Servitor mentioned 1 **TOTAL FOR SERVE OR A FORM OF THE WORD SERVE: 1427 TIMES IN THE BIBLE**

**FROM THE GREEK-HEBREW KEY WORD (KJV VERSION) BIBLE**

**SERVE *Diakoneo* (dee-ak-on-eh-o)(1247) – TO BE AN ATTENDANT i.e. to wait upon(mentally or as a host, friend or [figuratively-teacher]; techn. to act as a Christian deacon: – (ad)minister (unto), serve, use the office of a deacon**

**-from *Diakonos* (1249), servant, deacon. To serve, wait upon minister to**

**(I) to serve at a table, to wait upon (Matt 8:15, 20:28, 27:55; Markb1:31, 10:45, 15:41; Luke 4:39, 10:40, 12:37, 17:8, 22:26, 27; John 12:2. In Acts /6:2 to serve over money tables i.e., have charge of the alms and other pecuniary matters.**

**(II) To minister to the wants of someone, to supply someone’s needs (Matt 4:11, 25:44; Mk 1:13; Lk 8:3)**

**(III)Used also of the alms collected by the churches, the distribution of alms (Rom 15:25, Heb 6:10, 1 Pet 4:11)**

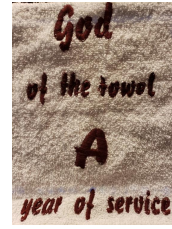
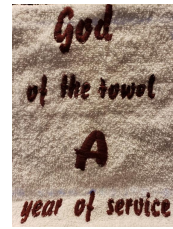
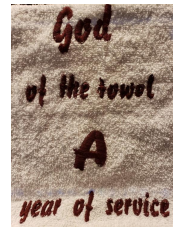
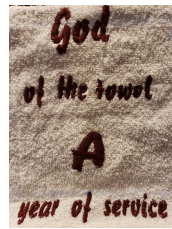
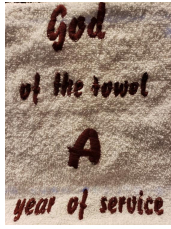
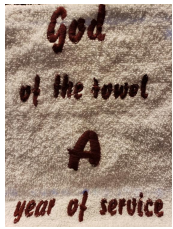
**(IV) To be an attendant or assistant to someone as Timothy and Erastos were said to be ministering to Paul Acts 19:22. Spoken of service in the early church; to fill the office of a deacon i.e. to have charge over the poor and sick I Tim 3:10, 13**

**(V)Of things to administer, provide something for someone. Spoken of prophets who minister ie deliver the divine will I Pet 1:12 Also to minister something to someone; to administer, provide (2Col3:3, 2 Tim 1:8) By implication: to minister to one’s wants 1Pet 4:10)**

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**PSALM 2:11 SERVE the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling**

**Rm.12:11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; **SERVING** the LORD**



## GRACE MERCY PEACE

Paul is writing to Timothy from the Roman prison. He is enduring his imprisonment in the Roman jail for the sake of the GOSPEL! Of note when Paul addresses the Churches in his letters, his salutation includes **Grace and Peace** but when Paul addresses individuals his salutation is **Grace, Mercy and Peace!**

**Here is the example in Colossians: Colossians 1 (KJV)**

**1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother,**2**To the **saints and faithful brethren** in Christ which **are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace**, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. And you would find this similar language at the beginning of Ephesians, Thessalonians, Galatians, and so on. Paul also is letting the church know that grace, mercy and peace are promised from God and Jesus.

In writing to Timothy, here is the introduction which you find similarly in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy and Titus

**1 Timothy 1 (KJV)**

**1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;**2**Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: **Grace, mercy, and peace**, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

GRACE – Unmerited Favor/Pardon – it goes very deep in scope and meaning than just pardon  
In the OT – “Charis or Heseed” means Lovingkindness - describing GOD’s Character which is LOVE and KINDNESS. - In the NT – Charis is DIVINE FAVOR In Ephesians 2/8 we are SAVED by GRACE

That which gives/brings JOY – Grace – That which is a free gift

**GRACE is GOD doing for us what we could never do for ourselves and doing for us what we do not deserve.** While we were yet sinners (undeserving of the gift), Grace was LOVE when there was no love given in return. It is LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY which is “in spite of” love.

When you have a feast – don’t just invite those who can pay you back – invite those who are unable to return the favor.

Justice is GOD giving us what we do deserve but instead God chose to be gracious giving us grace...that we do not deserve.

MERCY-God does not give us what we DO deserve. We deserve death and hell but confessing HIM we get the gift of eternal life. It is not something we can work for or earn.

GOD’s Grace is IMMEASURABLE – HIS Mercy is INEXHAUSTABLE – HIS Peace is INEXPRESSABLE



GOD's grace never ends and we should manifest God's grace so that ours should never end. Mercy never runs out – It gave the Prodigal son a chance to return home – Grace gave him a feast. Love keeps no record of wrong. Mercy is love the response to human need in an unexpected or unmerited way.

The concept of Unconditional sets the context for many of the teachings of Jesus. The story of the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18/22-35). He was forgiven a tremendous debt by his master. But instead of as we say today paying it forward, the servant immediately went to someone who owed him a debt and demanded it from the man immediately. His fellow servants who witnessed this and went back to their master and reported what happened. When his master learned of the servant's actions, he was very angry and had the servant brought to him. The master asked the servant why he had not shown the same mercy that was afforded to him. He made the servant repay the debt he originally forgave. This story is to let us know that GOD will do the same as the master if we do not forgive every brother of trespasses. **Another way of looking at it is when you are forgiven of a lot – you must be willing to forgive a lot.**

Hosea 6/6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings. What GOD desires vs. what GOD requires. Mercy not sacrifice. Grace and Mercy from GOD shows just how good GOD is. MERCY – GOD withholds from us what we deserve. He has extended it to every one of us!



## Bro. David Ricks – TESTIMONY WITHOUT WORDS

Psalm 68:3-5 King James Version (KJV)

**3 But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.**

**4 Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name Jah, and rejoice before him.**

5 A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 King James Version (KJV)

8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

<sup>10</sup> Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

## **I AM EXPECTING GOD TO DELIVER**

ALL Human Trials are specific to each of us – we are either coming out of a trial or entering a trial.....we sometimes forget GOD's power (that HE has delivered us from previous trials) though it is evident that HE has delivered.

@Cor – God of all Comfort Paul has to defend his apostleship/ authority vs. spirit of Paul

Paul defends self and mentions grace – do we think grace or what they deserve. The Grace and Peace of GOD should allow us to not major/focus on our problems/circumstances but HIS Grace SHOULD allow us to get to Peace easier/quicker!

**BLESSED BE GOD – PRAISED BE GOD - He will comfort us in all things.**

Trials and Tribulations are for HIS GLORY – HE will show up for us and deliver us and we SHOULD GIVE HIM GLORY and PRAISE so that Others who don't know GOD can KNOW HIS POWER – HIS GRACE – HIS MERCY. GOD has a purpose and plan for our lives and anyone of us he can choose to bring someone to HIM because they are watching Us and how we handle our situations. In our lowest place, we MUST hold to GOD's Unchanging HAND and KNOW that HE will bring us out/through. When HE is ready for us to work in someone's life HE Equips us with all that we need. So we must be vigilant in how we act in our situation/ someone is watching you - in order to bring GOD the GLORY.

## **PROFESS CHRIST**

Comfort those in trouble – Put the light of Christ back in the room

Grace and Peace Reminder of the Work – not just for self but for something other than self so that others see GOD in me

Confident for Salvation – We are consoled because we have been saved from our troubles, messes and our formerly messed up lives.

God does not leave us in a predicament – HE has to move because HE has promised in HIS WORD (Psalm 34/17, Psalm 107/6, James 5?16, John 15/7, Psalm 40/13, Daniel 3/17,

Daniel 6/23 Daniel 6:23 *Amplified Bible (AMP)*

<sup>23</sup> Then the king was greatly pleased and ordered that Daniel be taken out of the den. So Daniel was taken out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, *because he believed in and relied on and trusted in his God.*

– If HE doesn't deliver us we have no testimony. Pray to GOD to show us where we are – to place in me what is needed for the next level – Press us with a pressure that makes us a diamond – we will sometimes need to fall into

the crockpot instead of the microwave. Our faith needs to be slow cooked so that we are perfectly prepared to be a witness to GOD's grace and power. Acts 19/23-41 Paul went into the city and had denied the idol gods which was messing with money and revenue of the businesses that sold the replicas of the gods. They wanted Paul and his assistant's life for disrupting their business as people were following Christ and turning away from purchasing the idol gods. In order to protect those new converts, Paul was asked not to come into the city because of the disruption of commerce and the persecution to Paul and the new converts.

**Colossians 3/1 - FOCUS on things ABOVE**

**2 Corinthians 4/8. Paul gladly suffering for our benefit -**

**SERVE GOD with an honest heart and HE will work for us-While we are serving GOD - GOD starts serving our problems  
GLORY and HONOR to GOD when HE pulls us out-so that we can continue to SERVE**

**Keep SERVING and Pushing Forward**

**STOP worrying about the how and FOCUS on the WHO!**

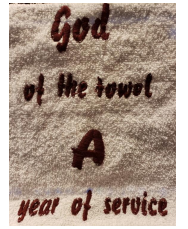
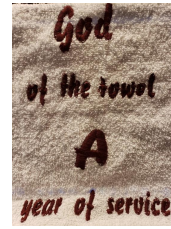
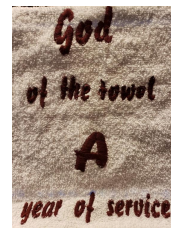
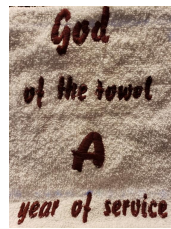
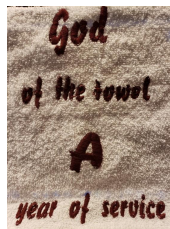
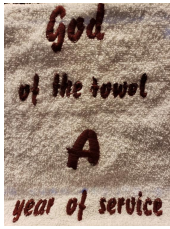
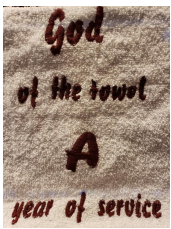
**No need to major (focus) on problems - when we LOVE the PROBLEM-SOLVER!!!**

**Our purpose is not about living our best life - IT (our Purpose) IS about SERVING GOD - GOD has already given real life**

**Something to think about Barabbas - Jesus**

**The crowd "chose to save" Barabbas instead of JESUS**

**Barabbas was treated as JESUS should have been and JESUS was treated as Barabbas should have been. Who was really saved? Did the people really "save" Barabbas.....We WERE.....we are Barabbas-by grace and mercy we were saved. There are other people in the world that need our testimony to be saved.**



## Brother Walls: Harmless Looking – But Deadly

**Matt:7/15-17 – Prov. 14/12; 16/25; 12/15; 16/2; 21/2; Isaiah 5/21; Eccl 9/12; Prov. 3 5-6; Psalm 73/24; John 16/13; Ephesians 5/6; Col 2/8**

Every day constantly bombarded in our daily living and through society with experiences that go against God's word. But We cannot forget WHO we ARE/WHO We BELONG TO. There are all kinds of information sources (CNN, NBC, MSNBC-round the clock TV, news on the internet) that can provide all types of information that is contradictory to God's word but presented in a way that would make it seem harmless. Every week we have the opportunity individually and collectively to meet, worship and reinforce ourselves in the promises of GOD'S WORD. But also reinforce ourselves with how GOD wants us to really live in HIS WORD (Commands, Directions, Rules).

MATT/15-17. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits do men together grapes of thorns or figs or this'll's even so every good tree bringing forth good fruit but a corrupt tree bring a forth evil fruit.

Jesus told us to beware of false prophets – take into account GOD'S Thoughts are - what GOD'S Will is - What GOD'S eyesight is – NOT what our own thoughts/man that come from his own eyes and can be errant.

Proverbs 14/12 There is a way which seems right onto Amman but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 16/25 There is a way that seems right onto a man but the end there are other ways of death.

Proverbs 16/2 Every way of a man is writing his own eyes but the Lord ponder with the hearts.

Grandfathers and grandchildren are full of concepts but how to apply a Biblical concept will be different for each person depending on being securely in a covenant relationship with Christ! The grandfather has time on side and spiritual



meat and experience. The grandchild may be still be taking in spiritual milk and has lack of knowledge and lack of experience and can only go on what is taught.

Evolve into being a person that does GOD's will not because it is required – we are doing it not to please God but that it is a part of our nature -walking upright in the LORD – We change/ We are growing to a person who does it because of love of God that he gives us and the kind of bond that need to have with GOD. A love that evolves into something that can't described. Automatically incorporate what HE wants without being told!

Harmless looking but deadly: We have so many friends and acquaintances that we follow on social media, in news (printed and internet) we may have the results of entrapment-caught up in all of this thought/need a way out of entrapment. Sometimes we may question other times we may decide to respect others thoughts. That us the importance of having Christian friends are important - don't be one-sided get both sides (discernment) and go with the side that follows GOD's WORD and WILL.

IN Isaiah GOD pronounces a "WOE.

Isaiah 5/21 **WOE unto them that are wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight.**

Paying attention is something HE expects from us leads to unexpected insight. Our thoughts/ways are just one viewpoint! But most people do it with an attitude of that it's probably okay – a thought maybe an idea but we think not too bad but is our own eyesight! Putting /Viewing it in God's eyesight- it is different! Think like that because of our beliefs is harmless but deadly.

**Ecclesiastes 9/12. For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time when it falleth suddenly upon them.**

Solomon talks about death and getting snared by things of the world. A snare catches bird because it does not see it. If we are in a relationship with CHRIST, we will not be caught in a snare of thoughts and beliefs of the world.

Proverbs 3 56. Trust in the Lord with all my heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. in all ways acknowledge HIM and HE please will direct thy paths.

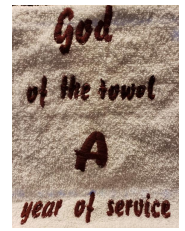
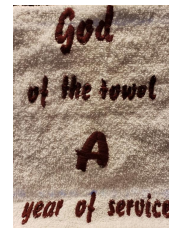
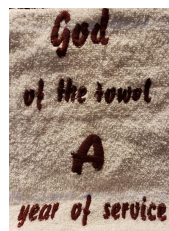
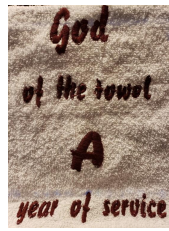
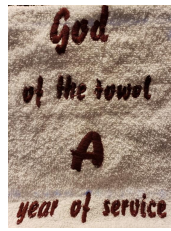
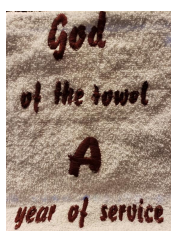
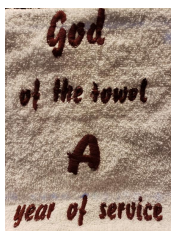
The thinking of man to understand God they're here it's Being wrong and not education that ....Wanted to get rid of poker machines in stores then it grew to wanted to get rid of gambling. To get rid of all of it from simply removing the poker machine. Man is now trying to justify which bathroom to use. Some people see it as no problem - others see it as a problem and each has middle of the road to the extreme thoughts. Even if you are right in a thought there is the danger of how far twisted thinking will take you. It can go from harmless to deadly. Maybe consider putting people in office who have a relationship with GOD to be able to discern wrong to right and evil to good to get them to work for the good of all people. Make sure they have a concept of GOD's word and we'll get out of it to trust in the Lord and all HIS ways!

John 16:13 howbeit when the Spirit of truth is come he will guide you in all truth for he shall not speak of himself but whatsoever he shall hear that shall he speak and he will show you things to come.

Number 11 Speaking to apostles some of this is infused to us by Holy Spirit he will guide and help us when knowing what God wants.

Peter gets to know God at Antioch associated with Christians to follow him must belong to him warning don't be deceived. Ephesians 5:6 Let no man deceive you with same words for because of these things, the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit at the tradition of men. After the rudiments of the world and not after Christ  
13 Morning newspaper/ Newscast - avoid paying a lot of attention to any of it when it conflicts with GOD's word!!!!



## Brother Walls: Never Walk Alone

This is a sermon that is meant for encouragement/strengthen to us all when life sends hard times/troubles and heartache our way. The song "You'll Never Walk Alone" is from the **Broadway musical called "Carousel"**!

*When you walk through a storm  
Hold your head up high  
And don't be afraid of the dark.  
At the end of the storm  
Is a golden sky  
And the sweet silver song of a lark.*

*Walk on through the wind,  
Walk on through the rain,  
Tho' your dreams be tossed and blown.  
Walk on, walk on  
With hope in your heart  
And you'll never walk alone,  
You'll never walk alone.  
~Rogers and Hammerstein*

The story follows a young woman who lost her husband and is struggling with her situation.

*"When you walk through the storm keep your head up high" - Hold your head up high - And don't be afraid of the dark."*

God first gives us what we need to face trials/troubles: 2 Tim 1/7 for God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

*"At the end of the storm is a golden sky". "And the sweet silver song of a lark."*

HE sees to it that our troubles do not last always!

Psalm 30/5 For HIS anger and endureth but a moment: in HIS favor is life; weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning.

2 Cor 4/16-18: For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction which is but for a moment work is for us eight far more exceeding any internal wait of glory 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

*“Walk on through the wind,  
Walk on through the rain,  
Tho' your dreams be tossed and blown.  
Walk on, walk on  
With hope in your heart”*

Romans 8/28 And we know that all things work together for the good to them that love GOD, to them for call according to HIS purpose.

1Pet 1. **3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus**

**Christ!** In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7** These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. **8** Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, **9** for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*“And you'll never walk alone, You'll never walk alone.”*

Psalms 94/14 For the LORD will not cast off HIS people neither will he forsake HIS Inheritance.

Hebrews 13/5-6. Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as you have for HE hath said I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say the LORD is my helper and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Psalms 33/12 blessed is the nation whose GOD is the LORD and the people he has chosen for HIS OWN Inheritance.

1Peter 1/3-5 blessed be the GOD and father of our LORD JESUS CHRIST which according to his abundant mercy have to gotten us again unto a lively hope the resurrection of JESUS CHRIST from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5Who are kept by the power of GOD through faith unto salvation and ready to be revealed in the last time.

**Inheritance** to the Kingdom **is the key** that we have in our possession. The Lord is our helper. In order for the Lord to walk with me I must obey HIM. We need to be the example of obeying GOD so that non -Christians/those without a relationship with JESUS will desire that RELATIONSHIP.

1Cor 1/9 **He will also keep you firm to the end**, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Peter told us that it is GODs will that NONE should perish that all should be saved. **But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

John 3/16 For GOD hello god so loved the world Betty gave his only begotten son Bethel so ever believes in him should have everlasting life Luke 2447 repent confess and be baptized

WALK WITH JESUS AND YOU WILL NEVER WALK ALONE – OUR HOPE IS IN HIM!!!!

**1 Samuel 30:6**



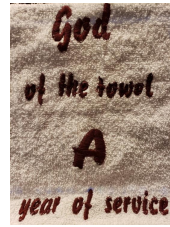
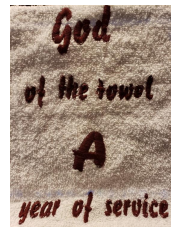
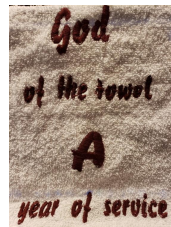
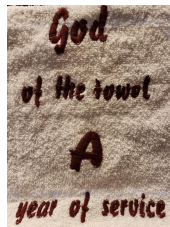
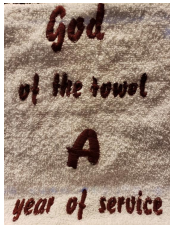
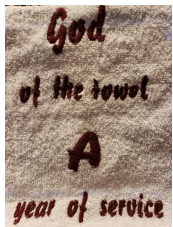
And **David** was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: **but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.**

[1 Thessalonians 5:11](#) [\[Full Chapter\]](#)

**Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,** just as in fact you are doing.

Acts 9 :31. Amplified Bible (AMP)

<sup>31</sup> So the church throughout Judea and Galilee and Samaria **enjoyed peace [without persecution], being built up [in wisdom, virtue, and faith]; and walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort *and* encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it continued to grow** [in numbers].



# THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR the PRECIOUS SOULS committing their life to JESUS







# A C T I V I T I E S



**Back to School Giveaway**  
Saturday July 27  
11:00: a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
While Supplies Last.  
Notebooks, paper, folders, pencils, and more  
Bird Street Church of Christ Fellowship Hall  
428 Bird Street Shelbyville, TN

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
Date: August 14  
Time: 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.  
Location: Bird Street Church of Christ



**Blood Drive**

vice

