

Periodical  
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<b>CENTRAL'S ASSEMBLIES</b>	
<b>BRING A FRIEND AND ATTEND</b>	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:30 A.M.
<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>	10:30 A.M.
<b>WORSHIP A.M.</b>	Canceled
<b>WORSHIP P.M.</b>	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
<b>MID-WEEK CLASSES</b>	7:00 P.M.

Love one another with a pure heart  
fervently.  
I Peter 1:22 KJV

**IN SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY  
"These were more noble...  
they searched the scriptures daily..."  
(Acts 17:11)  
Sundays at 7:30 AM on KOCB—TV34

**SEARCH PROGRAMS:**  
July 19, "Christ is Our Hope"  
July 26, "A Friend to Jesus"  
August 2, "Why Jesus Died"  
August 9, "The Sacrifice"

**LAST WEEK'S RECORD**

Bible School No Classes  
 Worship Service 47  
 Sunday Evening No Services  
 Wednesday Evening 18  
 Contribution \$2,831.30

Cleaning Team for this week is #1

You can find our worship service on:

Central's Facebook Page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/centralchurchofchristshawneeok/>

Central's YouTube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq8ft4soarDDSYok8ol9xpw?>

Central's Webpage:  
[http://www.shawneecentralcofc.org/media.php/t=sermons](http://www.shawneecentralcofc.org/media.php?t=sermons)

If you would like to mail your offering in the mail to the church, you can mail it to:

Central Church of Christ  
 P.O. Box 1228  
 Shawnee, OK 74802

If you would like for someone to bring you communion supplies, pick up your contribution, or have any other needs please call the Church office at 405-273-3065, or you can contact one of our Elders or Deacons.

Our recorded worship services will be ready by 2:00 p.m. on Sunday you can find this on our Church website.



July 26, 2020 Vol. L 24, No. 29

# THE GOSPEL GUIDE

**ELDERS:**

- Dennis Brodersen
- Paul Harris
- Steve Kelly
- Bob Perry
- Bob Stephens

**DEACONS:**

- Dale Beard
- Jim Cross
- Joe Curtis
- Tracy Gettle
- Keith Lawrence
- Ron Taffe

**Secretary:**

- Lois Carter

**MISSIONS:**

- Haiti Children's Home
- Hope Harbor Children's Home
- Liflyfield Christian & Adoption
- Nicaragua
- Search
- Southern Africa Bible College

**The Importance of Purpose and Meaning**

*"I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun."*

Solomon, Ecclesiastes 2:10, 11

The word *WHY* is a question of purpose. It is perhaps the most intriguing and perplexing question we face. The above passage from *Ecclesiastes*, written about the great king Solomon, could well describe the materialistic culture in which we live. In an age of unparalleled wealth and prosperity, many live in utter despair. No point in time has ever provided more economic opportunity, more leisure, or more luxury for the masses than the current age. We deny ourselves "nothing our eyes desire" and deny ourselves few "pleasures." We work hard, accomplish, and achieve, but still there seems to be something missing in the lives of many.

( Continued inside, Column 1)

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## Continued from Front Page

Solomon

Solomon is described in I Kings 10:23 to have, "excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom." He accomplished great things, denied himself no pleasure, had great wealth, and was blessed with wisdom, power, riches, and influence. Solomon influenced and authored three Biblical books, the *Song of Solomon*, *Proverbs*, and *Ecclesiastes*. These three books reflect Solomon's attitude and thinking at different periods of his life.

The *Song of Solomon* is a youthful book brimming with romance and hope. The writing is rich in imagery and filled with beautiful descriptions of the material surroundings.

*Proverbs* could be described as Solomon's middle-age book, packed with practical wisdom. The short, pithy sayings are powerful instruction on how to live life financially, socially, morally, successfully, and spiritually.

*Ecclesiastes*, however, is a more distressing and perplexing work. This writing expresses Solomon's questioning about the purpose of life. Whereas the *Song of Solomon* characterizes hope and *Proverbs* epitomizes practical wisdom, the book of *Ecclesiastes* is cynical and filled with despair.

*Ecclesiastes* reads like a mid-life crisis, a search for the meaning of life by a man who has everything, yet wonders what it all means. The word or idea "vanity of vanities" (other translations use the word meaningless) is used over 35 times in the short book of *Ecclesiastes*. The opening passage of *Ecclesiastes* states the book's theme in Ecclesiastes 1:1,2, "Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! **All is vanity.** What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?"

*Ecclesiastes* desperately explores the meaning and purpose of life. The book rants about the meaninglessness and vanity of human wisdom, of philosophy, of disappointing experiences, of wealth, and of honor. It describes the torment of a life without purpose. After examining the meaninglessness of life, the writer of *Ecclesiastes* concludes the only purpose of man is to believe and revere God, and obey his will. The closing thoughts of Ecclesiastes 12:13 conclude Solomon's deep searching with a bold statement about the purpose of humankind, and the meaning of life. "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man."

(continued in next column)

Like Solomon, we have toiled, worked, and labored to attain comfort, pleasure, and physical delight only to find that "all is vanity and a striving after wind." Suicide, alcoholism, drug abuse, and depression are serious problems facing society today. In the United States, over 42,000 people commit suicide each year. Approximately 112 people a day or one person every 12.8 minutes finds life so hopeless that they take their own life. Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for all Americans. Among people 15-24, suicide is the second leading cause of death. These horrific social problems come from feelings of hopelessness, helplessness, or worthlessness; a basic failure to find meaning and purpose in life.

### Application

Purpose is a driving force for a person, particularly in times of stress. Thoughts of self-doubt and struggles with defining a purpose in life are common. Traumatic events often throw us into a feeling of chaos and despair.

These are typical feelings based on secular intellect, wisdom, and experience. Life, in a physical sense, is terminal. This can leave one feeling depressed, meaningless, and hopeless. The writer of Romans 8:6 said, "To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."

Spiritual renewal begins with an acceptance of a higher power. A person must believe, rely, and have faith in God as the creator of the universe, as the Father. One vital step in spiritual renewal,

**Establish God as your Purpose.**



### DRIVE BY BABY GIRL SHOWER FOR JESSICA ALLEN

We have another baby coming. Jessica and Ethan Allen are expecting their new arrival in August. Due to the Covid -19, this will be a drive by shower. Let's shower this young couple (and new members) with Central Love.

DATE: Sunday, July 26

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

MEET: At the church building

Baby Girl Allen is registered at Target and on Amazon. If you would like to contribute to a group gift, see Lindsey Borcharding or Mary Kelly.

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

**Roger, Lori, and Cody Farris** are all very sick and prayers are appreciated. There is a meal train set up. Restrictions apply when dropping off the meal.

**Keith Lawrence's** mother, **Sandra Pollard**, is now at home and doing better. Please continue your prayers for Keith and his mother.

**Ann Ziolkowski - Kevin Taffe** mother-in-law has two brain bleeds and a broken cheek caused by a recent fall. Kevin is the son of Ron and Debbie Taffe.

Sympathy is expressed to Lacey Goodman and Family. Lacey's mother passed away Tuesday July 21.



**Mark Autrey** passed away last Tuesday. There will be no services. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to American Diabetes Association.



Tipton Home Truck will be coming the week of August 24th. There are a few things they are in need.

Assorted Cereal, Presweetened Kool Aid, Ritz Crackers, Club Crackers, Pop tarts, Spaghetti Sauce, Vegetable Oil, Spam, Apple Juice, Jelly, Tomato Sauce, Canned Diced Tomatoes

**Supplies—** Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels, Bleach, Window Cleaner, and Sanitizing wipes.

Please join us Wednesday at 7:00 for another great lesson by Bob Perry.



## CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS

Chad Beard, Ann Bivins, Carol Brodersen, Debra Campbell, Harold Carothers, Blake Carter (great grandson of Sue Merritt), Boyd Cheney, Carla Dame (daughter of Betty Emery), Thelma Divine, Fredith Hanifan, Sandon Hilditch, Diane Lawerance, Hayden Leonard, Don Mack, Thearlene Morris, James Reeves, Dorothy Strickland, John Sullivan, Debbie Taffe, Carl Weeks, Emma White, Beverly Woodard, Selene Williams, Kristin Path, and Sandra Pollard.

**All these members and friends have continuing health concerns or other special circumstances.**

**They appreciate your interest and prayers.**

## NOTICE TO ALL MEMEBERS AT CENTRAL

**In compliance with state statutes governing Not For Profit corporations, the members at Central will hold their annual meeting immediately following the Sunday morning worship service, July 26, 2020.**

The Lord hath been mindful of us:  
He will bless us.  
Psalm 115:12 KJV



## TIPTON HOME

Our Tipton Home collection for the month of July is **Kleenex**. Please place these items in the barrel in the foyer. Thank you.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Sunday morning worship service will be at 10:30a.m.**

**Wednesday Night services 7:00pm**  
**July 26- Annual Meeting**  
**July 26- Drive By Baby Shower**