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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</b>	5:00P.M.
<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>	6:00 P.M. ALL AVAILABLE ONLINE
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	

<b>IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY</b>	
Sundays at 7:30 AM on KOCB—TV34	
January 02,	"A New Life"
January 09,	"Lawless Ways"
January 16,	"Jesus Is The Lord"
January 23,	"Saying No to God"
January 30,	"The First Gospel Sermon"

**Reading the Bible in a Year Together**

- January 17, 2021  
Genesis 40-41
- January 18, 2021  
Genesis 42-44
- January 19, 2021  
Genesis 45-47
- January 20, 2021  
Genesis 48-50
- January 21, 2021  
Exodus 1-3
- January 22, 2022  
Exodus 4:1-6:27
- January 23, 2022  
Exodus 6:28-9:35



**The Gospel Guide**

January 16, 2022 Vol. L 26, No. 03

**Elders:**

- Paul Harris
- Steve Kelly
- Bob Stephens

**Deacons:**

- Dale Beard
- Joe Curtis
- Tracy Gettle
- Keith Lawrence

Dalton Path

Scott Perry

Ron Taffe

**Secretary:**

Lois Carter

**Minister:**

Logan Edmison

**Missions:**

- Haiti Children's Home
- Hope Harbor Children's Home
- Lilyfield Christian & Adoption Nicaragua
- In Search of the Lord's Way
- Southern Africa Bible College

**You Can Find Our Worship Service On:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/centralchurchofchristshawneeok/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq8ft4soarDDSYok8ol9xpw?>

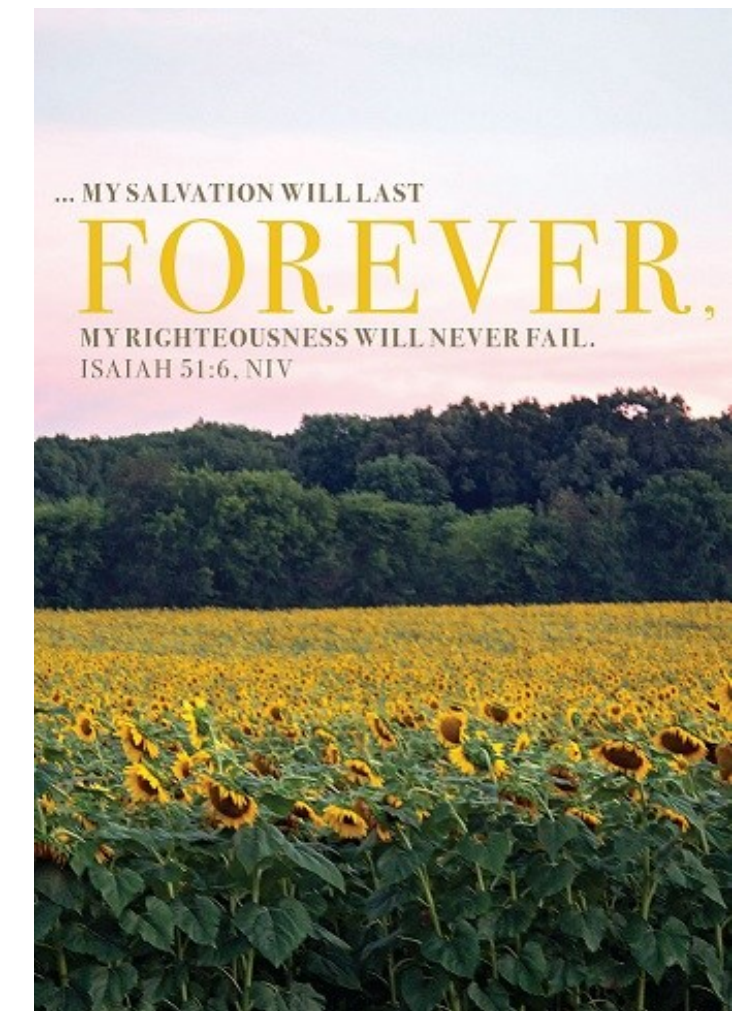
**Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Sunday Evening 5:00 P.M.**

<http://www.shawneecentralcofc.org/media.php/t=sermons>

**Videos will be uploaded later in the day.**

**If you would like to mail your offering, 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 or pick up your contribution please call the Church office at 405-273-3065, or you can contact one of our Elders or Deacons.



Tenth and Bell—P.O. Box 1228—Shawnee, OK 74802-1228

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## 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.

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."

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 10th 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.

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.

- - -Bob Perry

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Many of our members continue to have health issues.

Doris Phillips  
Alisa Beal  
Blake Carter  
The Edmison's  
The Markle's  
The Path's

Alisa Beal is in the hospital with some health concerns. She had surgery on Tuesday the 11. The doctors are still trying to determine what is causing her health issues.

### SERVING

"There is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn't matter who gets the credit."  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

When you really don't care who gets the credit, then you can enjoy yourself and do all kinds of good deeds for others. The beauty is that good is done regardless of who receives the credit. The knowing God above will assign the credit when and where credit is due.

### TIPTON HOME

Our Tipton Home collection for the months of **January, February, and March** will be: **toilet paper, trash bags, and paper towels**. Please place these items in the barrel in the foyer. Thank you



## RECORD FOR January 09, 2022

<b>Bible Study</b>	46
<b>Worship Service</b>	68
<b>Sunday Evening</b>	29
<b>Wednesday Evening</b>	30
<b>Contribution</b>	\$4,162.61

## SERVING THE CONGREGATION January 16, 2022

<b>Announcements:</b>	Bob Stephens
<b>Scripture Reader:</b>	Steve Kelly
<b>Song Director:</b>	Austin Beard
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Clavin Norwood
<b>Sermon:</b>	Dennis Brodersen
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Tom Chesnut

<b>Lord's Supper:</b>	Eddie Beard
<b>Elevator Side:</b>	<b>Annex Side:</b>
Tracy Gettle	Paul Harris
Tracy Wilcox	Chris Nipper

<b>Projection:</b>	<b>Video/Audio:</b>
Dale Beard	Keith Lawrence

### CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS

Don Mack	Chad Beard
Carla Dame	Carl Weeks
Boyd Cheney	Lola Mullinax
John Rampey	John Sullivan
Winona Seikel	Frank Romberg
Debra Campbell	Diane Lawrence
Fredith Hanifan	Selene Williams
Sandon Hilditch	Dorothy Strickland
Thearlene Morris	Gary Knoles

### LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday Bible Study at 6:00 pm