

He's Not So Far Away

By Kevin Cauley

Praise God that He is not absent from this world. In fact, He has created all of us with the purpose that man "should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him..." (Acts 17:27). You and I are built with an instinct seeking God to know Him, but the last part of Acts 17:27 is most encouraging, "though He is not far from each one of us." God has not left us as "babes in the woods" but freely reassures us that He is there for us, ready to offer help, and ready to accept our worship. He's close, but how close? He's close enough to each one of us that:

We don't have to go to extreme lengths to please Him. It seems that in Acts 17, the Athenians' altar to the "unknown god" was their effort to avoid angering or neglecting the god they did not know. How many people today are searching and thinking that God is calling them to do extreme things before He is pleased? Grueling pilgrimages, child sacrifices, snake handling, charismatic outbursts, and holy wars are all extreme inventions of man in an effort to please a God whom they do not know. He's not that far away.

We don't have to do extreme things in worship to be heard by Him. Elijah's contest with the prophets of Baal in I Kings 18 teaches us that a man whom God approves will follow God in worship to Him. The prophets of Baal had to make up their own worship because they made up their own god. Their efforts to cut themselves, leap upon their altars, and cry aloud failed to produce a spark which would "light the fire." However, a simple prayer by an obedient man of God caused a fire within a nation to realize what was right, even if it was short-lived. God calls us to make our lives and worship as He directs (Jn. 4:24; 14:15). When our imaginations run wild with the things we think or imagine are ok, we forget that He's not that far away.

We don't have to be anyone great to be acknowledged by Him. "You see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called" (I Cor. 1:26-27). The gospel call is to everyone; however, it is not the ones that this world views as great that have accepted it. Some people, because of who they are or what they have, are the only ones who have access to the president or celebrities or other people our world views as great. Yet, we have access in our humility to the one who created this world (Eph. 2:18). In fact, one cannot find Him without child-like humility (Matt. 5:3; 18:1-4). He's not that far away.

We don't have to grope around in the dark to find Him. One of the most frightening things to me is to be lost in the blackness of a cave without a light. Some have the idea that this is how God has left us: groping around in this world without knowledge of what He wants. This is not the case! God has given us His Light to shine in the darkness, to illumine our path, to guide us home, and to lead others to Him (Ps. 119:110; Jn. 1:4-5; 8:12; II Tim. 3:16-17). Whenever we kneel to pray, or pick up our Bible to study, or fellowship with the saints, or serve the needy, or help the lost, may we always remember that our God is always right there. He's not that far away.



STERLINGTON

Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82
1095 Highway 2
Sterlington, Louisiana 71280
www.sterlingtoncoc.com

Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

9/28/25

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Those to Serve

Today

Announcements- Wayne Fowler **Opening prayer-** Ronnie Hayes
Communion- Jerry McDonald **Closing Prayer-** Paul Simpson
Sermon- Don DeLukie

Next Sunday

Announcements- Don Delukie **Opening prayer-** Gary Harris
Communion- Wayne Fowler **Closing Prayer-** Jerry McDonald
Sermon- Don DeLukie

Announcements

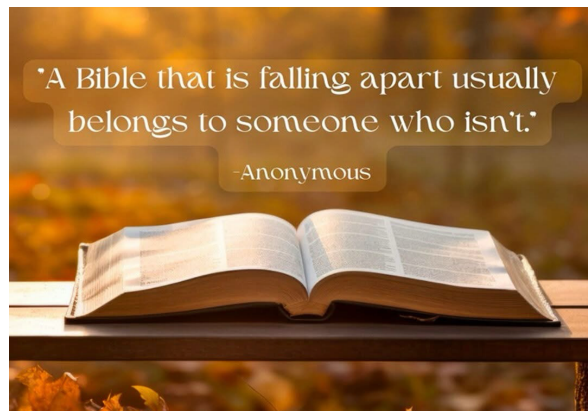
— **Check the bulletin board in the foyer for local events and Gospel Meetings happening in our area.**

— **Question & Answer Series:** Our next Question & Answer Series will be when enough questions are collected. Give your questions to Don.

— **Children's Home Collection:** Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.



Scan the QR
code to visit
our website.



Please Pray For:

Rhonda Rogers, Louvenia Dickson, Katherine Riley, Kathy Gilbert, Phillip Simmons, Verlinda Gooden, Oddie Cameron, Gavin McDaniel, Rick Cook, Tyler Gillikin, Eli Simmons, Sheila Long, Carol Fletcher, Blayne Atkins, Vee Boren, Ralph Malone, Lynn Urban, Diane Alexander.

Bereaved: Family of Ada Turner, Leon Riley.

Needing Long-Term Prayers:

Joyce Moses, Pam Few, Debbie Walker, Carey Day, Leo & Shirley Goodwin, Tommy Franklin, Arthur Binford, Dan Ross Jr, Dena White, Larry & Joanne Randolph, Bettye Flowers, Dave & Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, Bobby Barker, Cindy Smith, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross.



September Birthdays

9 - Carlon Hollis
16 - Tyrese McFarland
17 - Sherry Miller
18 - Wanda Simpson
19 - Linda Herlong
22 - Jodie Chisley
23 - Maddie Magee
27 - Shirley Goodwin

September Anniversaries

5 - Matt and Danielle Scharf
25 - Lyle and Miriam Russell

