

**We teach
the Bible**

the Southwood Messenger

Southwood Christian Church

Volume 2 Issue 1

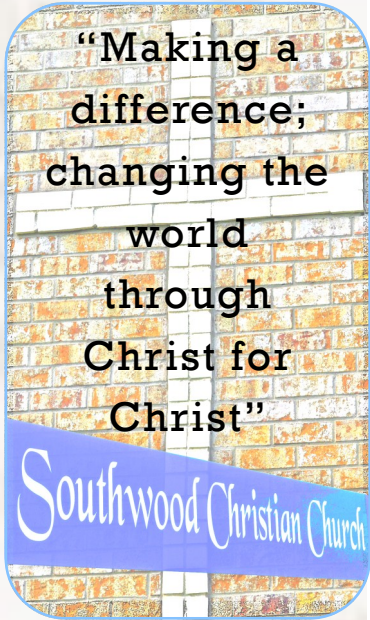
January 2012

Mark: My Words

Brothers and sisters,

Since I will not be here on Sunday the 8th to say this in person, I would like to write this article to clarify something that I said from the pulpit on Sunday (New Year's Day). In the sermon, I pointed out the Biblical position that Jesus is not a person's Savior unless He becomes their Lord as well. While this is supported in MANY Scriptures (e.g. Matthew 7:16-21, Mark 8:34, John 3:36, 1 John 1:6-7), I also feel that I presented it in a way that may not have clearly stated the point. No one has approached me about this, but nonetheless this article is meant as a gentle response to anyone who may have had an internal struggle with the comments that I made.

One of the most prevalent truths of the Gospel message as Jesus preached it is that a person **MUST** be born again (John 3:6) and must "repent and believe" (Mark 1:13)--in accordance with their rebirth. One of the parables that Jesus tells makes the explicit point that God's grace can still be available to those who claim to have repented but shown no fruit...IF in fact, they **DO** repent and show fruit. In Luke 13:5-9, Jesus alludes to an unfruitful tree which is given a little more time to bear fruit after a gardener (Himself) digs around it and puts dung on it (interesting comparison!) If the tree then fails to produce fruit, it is to be uprooted and destroyed.



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As a man to whom God has given the daunting but exhilarating task of preaching the Word to His people, I feel that I would not be doing my job and calling if I preached a lesser gospel teaching that grace is distributed and God's wrath averted simply by a person agreeing to a set

(Continued on last page)

January Schedule

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Jan. 10th, 6:30 pm Ladies' ONO dinner
 Jan. 15th, noon Congregational meeting,
 Pizza lunch provided

Sundays

9:00 am Worship Team Practice
 9:30 am Bible Study classes (all ages)
 10:45 am Destination Worship & Children's
 Worship (pre-K to 5th grade)

Wednesdays

5:15 pm Worship Team rehearsal
 6:30 pm Bible study (adult, middle school,
 and High school ages)

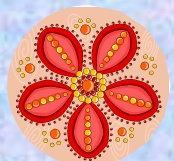


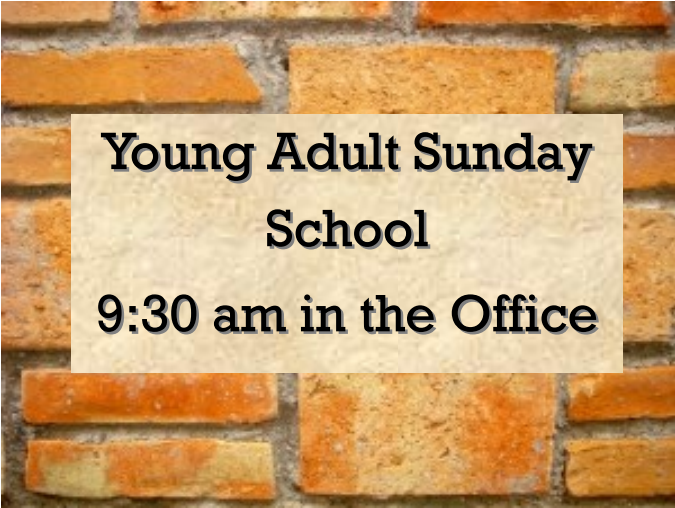
Ladies' ONO Dinner



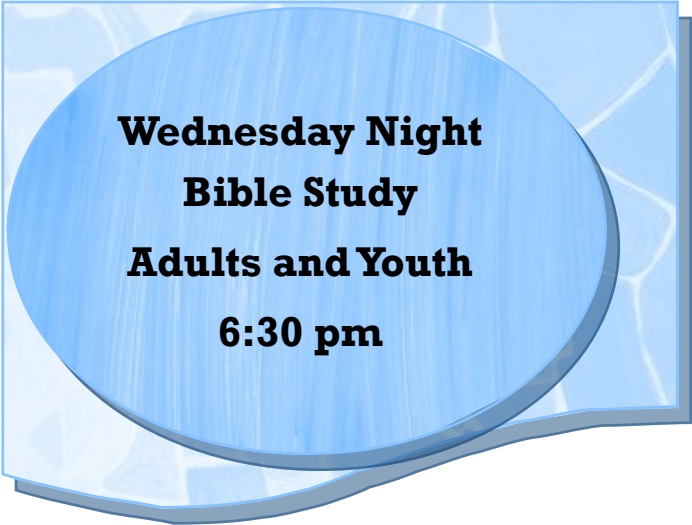
When: January 10th at 6:30 pm
Where: Yen Jing Chinese Restaurant,
 Greenville

Please let Shirley Rubarts know if you plan on attending





**Young Adult Sunday
School
9:30 am in the Office**



**Wednesday Night
Bible Study
Adults and Youth
6:30 pm**



Kid's Korner

SAY A PRAYER

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served.

When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away. "Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer." said his mother.

"I don't need to," the boy replied. "Of course, you do" his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house." "That's at our house." Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook.

(author unknown)

Announcements

(Continued from front page)

of facts without exhibiting any true repentance. We are only able to enter the kingdom of Heaven like a little child...trusting and submissive...not rebellious and unfaithful. As long as I am a pastor in the church, which is the bride of Christ, I will by the grace of God always continue to preach a message of repentance and true acceptance of the message and person of Jesus, not simply a dry assent to certain Biblical truths. This is because Scripture will not allow the message of Christ to be reduced to easy-believe-ism... for while "man is saved by grace through faith alone, faith that saves is NEVER alone" (cf. James 2:14-19, Ephesians 2:8-10).

I would also like to make a comment about something else I said; I commented that a person who claimed to have trusted in Christ decades ago, but whose life hasn't changed, was NOT saved. In retrospect, I am not God and cannot claim to know a person's heart, and God can still cause an unrepentant heart to change, as He did to King Manasseh in 2 Chronicles. Thus, I should have said that "there is no evidence that person was saved," rather than stating unequivocally that the person were not saved. Strictly speaking, however, any person who claims to belong to Christ that exhibits no repentance is on shaky ground. As Jesus said in Matthew 7, "You will know them by their fruit."

I love you all and I am so grateful that God

January Birthdays

- 5th Emma Richards Smith
- 6th Austin Oakley
- 6th Jim Spann
- 10th Brett Priebe
- 18th Chance Galloway
- 18th Lexi Gore
- 20th Anna Dyson
- 20th Jennifer McGary
- 24th Macie McGary
- 31st Zachary Merritt

Anniversaries

- 25th Don and Cheryl Flaharity

put me in a congregation that is forgiving and gracious to me (even when I come across a little harshly), and that also loves my family and me as we are and encourages us to be better! God bless you all in the New Year and I look forward to seeing you on the 15th!

Sincerely, Your Brother -m