



# TRUE LIGHT

*Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ~ Psalm 119:105*

**June 28, 2020**

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY

Bible Study..... n/a  
Worship.....10:15AM  
Worship..... n/a

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

### MINISTER

Stan Dauck  
573-293-5620

### ELDERS

David Burleson  
573-820-0329  
David Carson  
573-276-5567  
Stan Dauck  
573-293-5594

### DEACONS

Wayne Reams  
Joe Watson  
Rodney Williams  
Tim Woods

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*"This is the day the Lord  
has made. Let us rejoice  
and be glad in it."*

Psalms 118:24

**We Welcome You  
To All Of Our  
Services**

## Desert of Trial

Most likely, you have been there. You find yourself trapped in a mess, a trial, a temptation, a tortuous time that felt unbearable. You somehow knew some unforeseen unfairness, some malevolent force, some crushingly inescapable evil, had chosen to target you. No matter what you call these suffocating confrontations - temptations, trials, testings - is not relevant. What is essential, however, is surviving and escaping this time.

This desert of trials and temptations which we face as mortals is so much a part of our humanity that the Bible said that Jesus HAD (divinely necessary) to go through something similar or he couldn't be our Savior (Hebrews 2:14-18). Temptations and trials are so pervasive, so universal, that Jesus faced them, too. More accurately stated: Jesus had to face these times of testing so that we could know that he understands our struggles, and he is ready to help us in our times of weakness.

Satan sends trials and temptations our way to wear us down and entice us away from God. He comes to us as a liar wanting to destroy us as he pulls us away from God and our trust in God's goodness. As Jesus said, Satan is a liar and the father of lies, a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44). The evil one often presents his counterfeit reality to us in ways that lure us into his death trap. His enticements look real, and we can fall for them because he is a forger, an artist of counterfeit truth. He makes sure that our times of hardship seem unending to suggest that God isn't real, doesn't care, or is withholding something from us that we deserve. So how can we recognize Satan's lies, his deceitful counterfeit truth?

There are several ways we can be alert to the evil one's lies, his forgery, and intentional distortion of God's word, goodness and love.

Spiritual disciplines - spiritual practices - are one of the ways we can overcome trials and temptations, these forgeries of God's good intentions. These spiritual practices are prayer, Bible reading, fasting, and time alone with God in contemplation.

After Jesus' baptism and before Satan arrived on the scene, we know that Jesus had engaged in those spiritual practices. Because he knew the Scriptures, Jesus quickly corrected Satan's distortion of the truth. Because he had spent time alone in the desert being with God, Jesus knew God and was committed to God's purposes and will for his life. His spiritual practices had well prepared him to face Satan's forgeries of God's truth.

The evil one's words may have sounded biblical, and he may have seemed concerned for Jesus' well being, but Christ knew that the evil one was lying. The Lord knew that Satan's words were not valid because he knew the Scriptures and could identify Satan's forgeries. Each time Satan distorted the truth (Matthew 4:3,5,8), Jesus answered with Scripture to refute him (Matthew 4:4,7,10). In the end, Jesus ordered the evil one to leave, and he emerged victoriously from that time of confrontation with the evil one. He had exposed Satan for the fraud he is.

However, Jesus didn't just know the Scriptures; he also had a close relationship with his Father. Because he knew the true and living God, the heart behind the Scriptures, he could recognize the forger, the fraud. Jesus knew God as his loving Father, who could be trusted. At Jesus' baptism, the Father had declared, *"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased"* (Matthew 3:17).



Knowing Scripture is vitally necessary for us as God's children. However, if we don't understand the heart of God, if we don't know our sacrificial Father behind the Scriptures, the words of the Bible can be used against us. We must have a genuine relationship with God through Jesus, our Immanuel - God with us (Matthew 1:23) - if we are going to survive both temptation and trial.

If knowing the Scriptures is a vital tool in our toolbox of faith, then having a relationship with

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## CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

### BIRTHDAYS

June 28 - David Burleson  
Landon Woods  
June 29 - Gayle Rodgers  
July 2 - Xavier Shipman  
July 3 - Jeff Martin  
July 5 - Sam Garner  
Vickie McClard

## CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Cold Cereal \* Rubber Gloves \* All  
Fabric Bleach \* Aluminum Foil \*  
Non-aerosol Bathroom Cleaner \*  
Bottled Apple Juice

**PICK UP DATE JULY 6**

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

June 28 - Jack and Helen McGowan  
July 1 - Rodney and Cindy Williams

**Attendance for June 21: 102**  
**Contribution for June 21: \$3058**

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*"...I was sick and you visited me..." Matthew 25:36*

**Remember: Baby Jett** (Alyson Mickey's son) had some oxygen issues last week \* **Kathy Caudle** is waiting for results from an MRI Thursday and will see her doctor Wednesday \* **Joy Greer** has been having some health issues and is waiting on test results \* **Janet Wood** will be having knee replacement surgery next month \* **David Burleson's** PSA test showed a small increase \* **Sue Jester** (Amy Thomason's mother) scheduled for extensive knee surgery July 7 \* **Sharlette Watson** \* **Helen McGowan** as she continues with dialysis treatment

**Continue praying for these members of our church family:** Louella Akers \* John David Barnett \* David Burleson \* Pam Claeys \* Billie Cooper \* Scott and Judy Flannery \* Sue Flowers \* Grant Howard \* Jackson Howard \* Morris Karnes \* Sonja Mays \* Darlene McGowan \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Kevin Mickey \* Reba Owens \* Ida Roberts \* Gayle Rodgers \* Waynetta Rodgers \* Elwood Rush \* Jane Smith \* Kevin Steed \* David Terrill \* Bettie Thurston \* Joy Watson \* Marty Watson \*

### Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Kristi Altman \* Roxanne Carson \* Sherry Chambers \* Bill Fitzpatrick \* Kim Goins \* LeAnn Jacques \* Tommy Jacques \* Pam Jeralds \* Andy Kelley \* Connie Lemmons \* Annette Lumsden \* Phil McKuin \* Ponna Mahan \* Paula Mason \* Betty Nicholson \* Donnie Rawlings \* Deanna Rogers \* Tammy Telker \* Bobby Thornton \* Paula Walls

### Other health issues (non-congregational):

Megan Brenna \* DeeDee Burch \* Mary Burke \* Clyde Jacques \* Lola Johnson \* Beckie King \* Nikki Lawrence \* Alvin Miller \* Tom Provance \* Gene Rowland \* Traci Suiter \* Paige Tanner \*

### Our Shut Ins

Lois McKuin \* Marty Watson \* Joy Watson \* Elwood Rush \* Sue Flowers \* Travis Cooper \* Shirley Johnson \* Fern

*Our Summer Series speaker this week will be Kevin Lawrence. There is a schedule of speakers on the table in the foyer.*

### A BREATH OF PRAYER

*A breath of prayer in the morning  
Means a day of blessing sure.  
A breath of prayer in the evening  
Means a night of rest secure.  
A breath of prayer in our weakness  
Means the clasp of a mighty hand.  
A breath of prayer when we're lonely  
Means Someone to understand.  
A breath of prayer in our doubting  
Assures us the Lord knows best.  
A breath of prayer in our sorrows  
Means comfort and peace and rest.  
A breath of prayer in rejoicing  
Gives joy and added delight.  
For they that remember God's goodness  
Go singing deep into the night.  
There's never a year or a season  
That prayer may not bless every hour.  
And never a soul need be helpless  
When linked with God's infinite power.*

*Francis McKennon Morton*

### Continued from front:

God as our loving Father becomes the power to use the Scriptures properly. These two reasons - spiritual practices and a genuine relationship with God - help us resist temptation and survive times of trial. They are indispensable. Jesus used them, and so must we to defeat our enemy, our adversary.

In addition to those two resources, we can add to our toolbox of faith: trust that Jesus is our Lord, Savior and intercessor.

Knowing Jesus (Matthew 1:23), living in genuine fellowship with other believers (Matthew 18:20), sharing with those in need compassionately (Matthew 25:40), and reaching out to others to make disciples of all people (Matthew 28:18-20) enable us to experience Jesus' presence. He was not only "here" on earth as one of us during his earthly ministry, but he is also "here" for us as our helper in time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Jesus is both our example and pioneer (Hebrews 2:10; 10:22) showing us how to navigate the temptations and trials of life, today. He loves us and is "here" for us in our times of trial and temptation. Jesus cares for us as one who knows what it is like to be human like us. He even endured the cross to show his love for us (Romans 8:32-39). The temptations and trials we face now are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in us at the Lord's return (Romans 8:18). Until that return, however, Jesus lives to intercede for us and help us in our times of temptation and trial to bring us his full salvation (Hebrews 7:25).

But, what happens when we falter, fall, and fail during our times of trials and temptations?

We each have a fourth tool in our toolbox when dealing with trials and temptations: confession, forgiveness, and purification. Sin cannot have us if we continue to share our hearts with our Lord, who went to the cross for us! Listen to what the beloved apostle John told early believers: *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:8).

Because of Jesus, God not only forgives our sin - our faltering, fallings and failures - he also purifies us. We stand before the Lord, forgiven, and cleansed. God has forgotten and removed our sin and erased every vestige of our failure. There is one thing God cannot do because it is something God will not do: God does not remember or hold against us the sins he has forgiven and purified! They are gone!

In sum, we have four tools in our toolbox of faith to help us survive our trials and overcome our temptations:

1. Spiritual Practices - prayer, fasting, Bible reading and time alone with God.
2. Loving Relationship - God is our father who has given everything to love and adopt us so that we can know the heart behind the Scriptures.
3. Constant Intercession - Jesus lives to be there for us and intercede for us before the Father.
4. Forgiveness and Cleansing - We can have our sins forgiven and cleansed because of the loving sacrifice of older brother and Savior, the Lord Jesus!