



# TRUE LIGHT

January 28, 2024

## CHAMELEONS - FASCINATION AND FRUSTRATION

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

Sunday School :  
9:30 a.m.  
Worship:  
10:15 a.m.  
5:00 p.m.

#### 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  
Rodney Williams

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

Psalm 118:24

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

I cannot remember a time when I was not fascinated by chameleons. Among all of the defense mechanisms that the Creator built into some of His creation, the ability to change the appearance in order to blend in with the surroundings is one of the most remarkable.

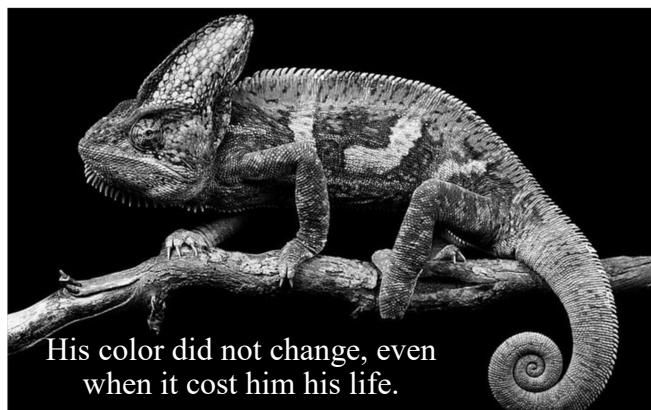
From a very early age, I've read about chameleons, seen pictures of them, watched videos, etc. At times, it takes some effort to distinguish this lizard-like creature from a leaf, the bark of a tree, and/or whatever else is in the background. It is my understanding that some species are more adept at this transformation than others, but merely the ability to do this is interesting to me.

While I am fascinated by these relatively small creatures, there is another kind of chameleon that frustrates me. The ones that frustrate me are not those who have the ability to adapt to their surroundings built in by God. They are the ones who have developed this ability on their own.

These chameleons are in all kinds of surroundings and environments. At times, they may be difficult to detect because they blend in so well. They don't change the color of their skin in order to look like a tree, a leaf, piece of fabric, a wall, etc. Instead, they change things like their wardrobe, their language, their habits, etc. in order to fit in with the people they are around.

One of these chameleons may "take a lead" in a worship service on a Sunday and follow the crowd in living an ungodly life the rest of the week. They may invoke the name of God in prayer when they believe themselves to be in some sort of religious setting and/or around religious people and then take His name in vain when they are not in that environment or around those people.

Some of these chameleons will at least make an attempt to dress modestly and respectfully when they believe that it is proper to do so and then show a lot more skin than cloth when they are in an environment where this is acceptable and maybe even expected. While they at least pay lip service to the idea that the church is a family and that Christians are to have much more in common with each other than they do with people of the world, the truth is that their closest friends are people who are not Christians and that they have much more in common with them.



I'm reminded of what the Lord said about John the immerser. In Matthew 11:7, He asked the crowd what might be considered a rhetorical question: *What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?* In effect, Jesus was saying that John was the same everywhere and in every situation. He was not swayed or intimidated by circumstances or people. As those who are familiar with the New Testament know, his "color" did not change even when it cost him his life.

I'm already thinking of one possible objection to what I've written so far. Some may view what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:16-27 as an argument for changing depending upon the circumstances. I would invite people who might think along these lines to read that passage carefully. I believe that, when that is done, it will be seen that Paul's emphasis was on the gospel, the salvation of those who heard him preach, and the eternal destiny of his own soul. While he was willing to adapt his methods, he was unwilling to do anything that would compromise the message. I believe that Paul knew something that all of us need to think very seriously about: There will be no chameleons (of either kind) in heaven.

Jim Faughn, via a Legacy of Faith blog post

## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

January 28 - Melissa Shelton  
 February 1 - Jerry & Pam Collier (A)  
 February 3 - John David Barnett  
 February 4 - Zachary Tanner



**CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS**  
 Hamburger Helper \* Paper Towels  
 \* 13-Gallon Trash Bags \* Cream of  
 Chicken Soup \* Shampoo or  
 Conditioner \* Vanilla Wafers  
 Pick up Date: February 19

Attendance for January 21: 83

Contribution for January 21: \$4000

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**Marty Howard** fell and broke a bone in his leg last week \* **Rodney and Cindy Williams** haven't been feeling well \* **Mike and Judy Duley** haven't been feeling well \* **Maura Thomason's** MRI showed three bulging discs \* **Joy Greer** released from the hospital and recovering from GI issues \* **Karter Douglas** (Mike and Judy Duley's great grandson) has some infection in his lungs \* **Roxanne Carson** \* **Becky Johnson** \* **Larry Summers** as he continues cancer treatments \* **Rodney Britt** as he continues treatments \* **Joe Vincent** (Amy Townsend Vincent's husband) undergoing treatments for sinus cancer \* **Sue Flowers** remains on hospice care and has not been feeling well \*

**Continue praying for these members of our church family:** David Burleson \* David Carson \* Scott and Judy Flannery \* Karen Forkum \* Patsy (Hardy) Gregg \* Darlene McGowan \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Donna McQuin \* Gloria Moore \* Ida Roberts \* Waynetta Rodgers \* David Terrill \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson \* Woody Wood

## Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers \* Chastity Beaird \* Cathy Bennett \* Roxanne Carson \* Sherry Chambers \* Randy Cravens \* Barbara Denson \* Bill Fitzpatrick \* Patricia Greninger \* Nolan Hollowell \* LeAnn Jacques \* Tommy Jacques \* Pam Jeralds \* Holly Johnson \* Kristin Meadows \* Connie Lemmons \* Ponna Mahan \* Mike Napier \* Betty Nicholson \* Keagan Owens \* Bill Peck \* Nikki Reif \* Bobby Thornton \* Mindy Tomah \* Alan Woodward

## Other health issues (non-congregational):

Dixie Billingsley \* DeeDee Burch \* Mary Burke \* Brynlee Douglas \* Shirley Grimes \* Katie Hicks \* Grant Howard \* Clyde Jacques \* Lola Johnson \* Beckie King \* Eva Latham \* Nikki Lawrence \* Tim Lecroy \* Shug Lee \* Brenda Robinson \* Kevin Steed \* Traci Suiter \* Heather Whitehead \*

## Our Shut Ins

Sue Flowers \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson

## Looking Ahead

Our Wednesday fellowship meal will be taco salad. Desserts will be needed.

February 4 - First Sunday potluck and early evening service. We will have a potluck meal after morning worship, followed by an early 1 p.m. evening worship. Everyone is encouraged to stay for the potluck meal and evening service.

February 9 - Ladies' social event in honor of Linda Jones at 6 p.m. in the fellowship room. Dinner will be served. Please see Cindy Burleson if you have any questions.

February 13 - Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at La Cascada in Bernie. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

March 8 & 9 - Inspiration 2024 at Dexter with guest speaker Lonnie Jones. More information coming soon.

**When I say I am a Christian, I'm not shouting I've been saved  
 I'm whispering I get lost at times. That's why I chose this way.**

**When I say I am a Christian, I don't speak with human pride  
 I'm confessing that I stumble, Needing God to be my guide.**

**When I say I am a Christian, I'm not trying to be strong  
 I'm professing that I'm weak, And pray for strength to carry on.**

**When I say I am a Christian, I'm not bragging of success  
 I'm admitting that I've failed, And cannot ever pay the debt.**

**When I say I am a Christian, I don't think I know it all  
 I submit to my confusion, Asking humbly to be taught.**

**When I say I am a Christian, I'm not claiming to be perfect  
 My flaws are all too visible, But God believes I'm worth it.**

**When I say I am a Christian, I still feel the sting of pain  
 I have my share of heartache, That's why I seek God's name**

**When I say I am a Christian, I do not wish to judge  
 I have no authority ... I only know I'm loved.** Carol S. Wimmer

*Dear Church Family,*

*We invite you to help celebrate the  
 marriage of Linda Jones and  
 Jess Lecroy Saturday, Febru-  
 ary 17, at 1 p.m.*

*at Bernie  
 church of Christ.  
 No gifts, please.*



## WILLING TO SERVE

### January 28, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
 Opening Prayer.....David Carson  
 Scripture.....Ron Garner  
 Prayer.....Zack Tanner  
 Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson  
 Prayer.....Rodney Williams  
 Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers  
 Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

### Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton  
 Prayer.....Sam Garner  
 Dismissal.....Mike Duley

### February 4, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Derek Mays  
 Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely  
 Scripture.....Jason Karnes  
 Prayer.....Sam Garner  
 Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Ron Garner  
 Prayer.....Rodney Williams  
 Scripture.....Derek Mays  
 Dismissal.....David Burleson

## SQUASHING THE BEEF

During a promotional event in 2011, two seventy-three-year-old former Canadian Football League players got into a fistfight on stage. They had a "beef" (a grudge or feud) dating back to a controversial championship football game in 1963. After one man knocked the other off the stage, the crowd called out to him to "let it go!" They were telling him to "squash the beef."

The Bible contains many examples of people "beefing." Cain held a grudge against his brother Abel because God accepted Abel's offering over his (Genesis 4:4-5). This grudge was so severe that it eventually led to murder as *Cain attacked his brother ... and killed him* (V 8). *Esau held a grudge against Jacob* because Jacob stole the birthright that was rightfully his (27:41). This grudge was so intense that it caused Jacob to run for his life in fear.

Not only does the Bible give us several examples of people who held grudges, but it also instructs us on how to "squash the beef" - how to seek forgiveness and reconciliation. God calls us to love others (Leviticus 19:18), pray for and forgive those who insult and injure us (Matthew 5:43-47), live peaceably with all people, leave revenge to God, and overcome evil with good (Romans 12:18-21). By His power, may we "squash the beef" today.

Marvin Williams