

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

## Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

### Schedule Of Services:

<b>Lord's Day:</b>	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
<b>Wednesday:</b>	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

#### *Our Elders:*

Johnie Dodds  
Harry Elliott  
Austin Willis

#### *Our Deacons:*

Danny Carpenter  
Wayne Hulme  
Tommy Sawyers

*Our Preacher:* T. Sean Sullivan

## The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD  
Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37

BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS  
Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

# Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

## A Couple Short Articles

### Rejoice Always

Every word of inspired scripture is full of purpose and meaning. The words of "The Old" were written for our "comfort" and "learning" (Romans 15:4). The words of the "The New" are the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9); our words to abide in always (John 8:31-32); and words from which all of our actions are to be framed (Colossians 3:17).

Among those many words we have a number of statements that exhort us: statements that encourage faith, zeal, and purity of truth. Statements that, even though are short, are power-packed. They direct us on the pathway of duty. There are many examples of these statements such as Matthew 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate"; John 14:15 "I you love Me, keep My commandments"; James 1:22 "be doers of the word and not hearers only".

Paul typically includes many exhortations in his epistles. These practical points direct us to great success if we listen and apply.

Consider for a few moments a wonderful exhortation from 1 Thessalonians 5:16, "Rejoice always". What a declaration! Not only proclaimed by Paul, but endorsed by the Spirit and delivered from God. There is a certainly a Divine expectation that Christians will have reason to rejoice. Not just once in a while, but "always". This is not the only place where we are instructed to find this level of expressed joy.

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Paul earlier in Philippians 4:4-7 says *“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice”*.

What do we have to rejoice over? There is rejoicing in the freedom from sin and its oppression (Romans 6:16-18). Sin separates us from God in spiritual death (Romans 6:23) but Jesus has provided for our reconciliation (Romans 5:10-11) and hope (Romans 5:1-5). As Paul says we *“rejoice in the hope of the glory of God”* in other words, our true rejoicing is found in the hope of seeing the “glory of God”—Heaven.

We also rejoice over God’s continuous care: (1 Peter 5:7). God has not only provided for our reconciliation and our everlasting spiritual home but everyday we can rejoice in the knowledge of His care. There is much to rejoice in as we always keep in mind our many blessings in Christ. Today, rejoice. ~tss

## **Something for Me to Do**

God in His infinite wisdom has seen fit that we would have help in this life. He has provided a plan for a group of people on whom we can rely, for help in time of need—our brethren (Romans 12:9-15). No Christian should be an “island to themselves”. We should thrive among our brethren seeking them as our spiritual family and having them seek the same in us.

A successful Christian is one who understands the safety and security of their family in Christ. They become involved in the in the local congregation, knowing the only way a local congregation will ever realize its fullest abilities is if each member achieves the success of their fullest ability.

Paul writes by inspiration in the epistle to the Ephesians saying, *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head; Christ; from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effec-*

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*tive working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love”* (Ephesians 4:11-16).

The significance of Paul’s admonition is our goal as a congregation and how to accomplish that goal. Our goal is for each member to develop toward unity of faith and the knowledge of the Son of God. We are to grow toward perfection and become comparable to Christ. The way to achieve this goal is as Paul describes, *“the effective working by which every part does its share”*. When we implement God’s plan, we will be everything we need to be for God—with help from our brethren. As a member of your local congregation seek to be a worker; a helper; a supplier of encouragement; knowing that God’s plans are perfect and that you have a place in the plan. Find your role and do it well, today and everyday. ~tss

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