

TODAY'S MESSAGES	
SUNDAY MORNING	SUNDAY EVENING
Does God Know You? Galatians 4:9	CANCELLED



WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS

Some years ago, the Journal of the American Medical Association published an article by Dr. Paul Ruskin on the "Stages of Aging." In the article, Dr. Ruskin described a case study he had presented to his students when teaching a class in medical school. He described the case study patient under his care like this:

"The patient neither speaks nor comprehends the spoken word. Sometimes she babbles incoherently for hours. She is disoriented about person, place, and time. She does respond to her name. I have worked with her for the past six months, but she still shows complete disregard for her appearance and makes no effort to assist her own care. She must be fed, bathed, and clothed by others.

"Because she has no teeth, her food must be pureed. Her shirt is usually soiled from almost incessant drooling. Her sleep pattern is erratic. Often she wakes in the middle of the night and her screaming awakens others. Most of the time she is friendly and happy, but several times a day she gets quite agitated without apparent cause. Then she wails until someone comes to comfort her."

After presenting the class with this challenging case, Dr. Ruskin then asked his students if any of them would like to volunteer to take care of this person. No one volunteered. Then Dr. Ruskin said, "I'm surprised that none of you offered to help, because actually she is my favorite patient. I get immense pleasure from taking care of her and I am learning so much from her. She has taught me a depth of gratitude I never knew before. She has taught me the spirit of unwavering trust. And she has taught me the power of unconditional love." Then Dr. Ruskin said, "Let me show you her picture." He pulled out the picture and passed it around. It was the photo of his six-month-old baby daughter.

I'm not sure exactly what the doctor's point was intended to be when he presented that lecture, but it reminds me that those of us who are parents do things for our children that we would never dream of doing for anyone else. Allow me to clarify that thought just a bit: We do things for those we love that we would not be willing to do for anyone else.

It's true, isn't it? We make sacrifices for those we love, but we are unwilling to make the same sacrifices for those we don't know well (or that we don't know at all). We gladly give of our time, money and energy to assist those we are close to. But when Jesus told us to do good to those who are our enemies, it goes against our natural instinct.

What seems so obvious to us is used by Paul to demonstrate the amazing love of Jesus Christ.

"Look at it this way: At the right time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for ungodly people. Finding someone who would die for a godly person is rare. Maybe someone would have the courage to die for a good person. Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God's love for us." (Romans 5:6-8, God's Word)

To have the love we are willing to express toward our children and those we hold dear, and be willing to show that same sacrificial love toward those who oppose us -- enough that we are willing to die -- is love beyond anything we have ever experienced (or can even imagine). But such is the love that God has for each and every one of us. May that love motivate you to respond to the one who has given up so much just for you.

—By Bro Alan Smith

For the Shepherds,  
Brother Ben



ELDERS

DeWayne Calloway  
Paul Noel  
Sam Roberts

MINISTER

DEACON

Bathias Matthews

YOUTH MINISTER

Charles Gaston

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**Sunday**  
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
11:45 a.m. Bible Class  
5:00 p.m. Evening Worship

**Wednesday**  
7:00 p.m. Bible Class

**Friday**  
10:00 a.m. Seasoned Saints' Bible Class (Suspended)

Visitors' Day & Fellowship  
Every Last Sunday of the Month

OFFICE

(512) 926-2988

FAX

(512) 926-3001

EMAIL

whelesscoc@whelesscoc.org

WEBSITE

www.whelesscoc.org

The Wheless Lane Messenger

Church of Christ at Wheless Lane  
2702 Wheless Lane  
Austin, TX 78723

MAY 3, 2020

Galatians 4:9

*"but now that ye have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how turn ye back again to the weak and beggarly rudiments, whereunto ye desire to be in bondage over again?"*

Before Paul preached the Gospel to them, the Galatian Christians did not know God, nor were they known by God in the sense of being a child of God. Earthly parents have a different kind of relationship with their children than they do with those who are not their children. We are aware of other children and we know of them, but we do not have the kind of relationship with them that we would if they were our own children. Paul has been previously telling them that they were joint heirs with Christ and as such were in the family of God as His sons. So his reference here is that of someone who is on a much more familiar basis than just an acquaintance. There are many many people today who know of God, but as a stranger from the new covenant, don't know Him like they should or could.

How do Christians know whether they just know of God, or if they know God in the sense of a family relationship? [1 John 2:3-5](#) tells us how we can put that to the test, *"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him."*

Paul also said, *"or rather to be known by God"*. This family relationship is a two way thing. Not only did the Galatian Christians come to know God as His children, God came to know them. Paul wrote concerning this in [2 Timothy 2:19](#), *"Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.'" God knows who His children are, just like we know who our earthly children are.*

It is just as important to be known by God in the family sense as it is to know God in a family sense. Jesus Christ spoke of those who called on Him but were never known by God in the family sense Paul has been speaking of here. [Matthew 7:21-23](#), *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"* Those who call on Jesus as Lord but do not obey Him are liars when they claim to know God. Jesus said in [Matthew 7:23](#) that those who did not do the will of God were never known by God. Both aspects of knowing God and being known by God are all centered around our obedience to God's will. For the Galatian Christians and Christians living today this means obedience to the new covenant, otherwise known as the gospel, and the law of Christ. Anyone who desires to be in that close family relationship with God where they know Him as their Father and He knows them as His children must be obedient to the will of God.

Selected



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship  
*Paul Noel*

Opening Song  
*Paul Noel*

Prayer  
*DeWayne Calloway*

Scripture Reading  
*Batthias Matthews*

Sermon  
*Charles Gaston*

Communion/Offering  
*Batthias Matthews*

Announcements  
*DeWayne Calloway*

Song  
*Paul Noel*

Closing Prayer  
*Sam Roberts*

# Welcome Visitors!

Welcome to the Church of Christ at Wheless Lane. We are honored you chose to worship with us. As members of the church of Christ our goal is to *teach* and practice New Testament doctrine. We invite you to observe our services and evaluate the doctrine. We would love to be your church-on-the-road or your new congregation if you are relocating to the Austin area.



## REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

*DeWayne Calloway*—Prayers for Troy Chisholm who is recovering from Covid-19. Prayers that will he have a speedy recovery and his family will remain safe.

*Tasha Clifton-Roland*—Prayers for the Hillary family. The husband was diagnosed with Covid-19 and requesting prayers for his full and speedy recovery.

## PLAN OF SALVATION

Faith – which results from hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Faith is essential to salvation (Mark 16:16; John 8:24; 20:30-31; Hebrews 11:6).

Repentance – a change of mind which causes one to turn away from sinful practices. It is commanded for everyone (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30).

Confession – confession is an outward confession of faith in Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9-10). All who deny Christ has no part of him.

Baptism – a "command" of Christ, "you must be born again." It is an act which is essential to salvation (Mat 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

## “Touching Lives ” —Matthew 28:18-20

➤ **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES** will be livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube until further Notice.

➤ **ATTENTION SISTERS**  
May 5, 2020 at 7:00 pm  
**LADIES BIBLE STUDY**  
via ZOOM (same as last study)  
Check your email for details

➤ **Men's Breakfast**  
May 9, 2020 at 9:30 am  
via ZOOM (same as breakfast)  
Check your email for details

➤ **Wednesday Night Bible Class via Zoom at 7:00pm**

➤ COMMUNION SUPPLIES will be available for pick-up on Saturday's from 10:00 am—12:00 pm. Pull into the drive through lane in front of the church and you will be given communion supplies and your OFFERING taken as well if necessary. You do not need to get out of your car!

➤ **FREE Weekly Bible Correspondence Course**  
—A lesson will be mailed each week including a stamped envelope to mail lesson back. It will be graded, and the next lesson will be mailed.  
—email **Sis Vergie Sharp** at **vergiasharp@att.net** for more details

## WHELESS EDUCATION TEACHER ROTATION for May 2020

### LEVEL 1 (Nursery—Age 2)

Sunday: Vicki Russell

Wednesday: Vicki Russell

### LEVEL 2 (Ages 3—5)

Sunday: Kaylin & Kayrin Monroe

Wednesday: Kaylin & Kayrin Monroe

### LEVEL 3 (1st—2nd Grade)

Sunday: Tasha Clifton

Wednesday: Tasha Clifton

### LEVEL 4 (3rd—5th Grade)

Sunday: Batthias Matthews

Wednesday: Batthias Matthews

### LEVEL 5 (6th—8th Grade)

Sunday: Charles Gaston

Wednesday: Charles Gaston

### LEVEL 6 (9th—12th Grade)

Sunday: DeWayne Calloway

Wednesday: DeWayne Calloway

### TRANSITIONS CLASS (Ages 18-23)

Sunday: Westley Shaw

Wednesday: Westley Shaw

### PRINCIPLES CLASS

Sunday: Paul Noel

### ADULTS BIBLE CLASS

Sunday: Sam Roberts

Wednesday: DeWayne Calloway

### SICK & SHUT IN

Gertie Ward  
Angie Barber

### FOR THE IMPRISONED

Bro. Bryant Johnson

### STATISTICS

#### ATTENDANCE

Morning

Evening

Wednesday

Visitors

#### RESPONSES

Baptisms (Cum)

0

Placed Membership

2

#### CONTRIBUTION

Weekly