

PRAYER LIST

CHERYL BARRON, Stan Raley's sister
BECKY BROWN, Sherri Clopton's mom
LINDA BULLOCK, medical issues/tests
WILLIAM CAREY's MOM
ALAN DES ORMEAUX, Vinson friend; cancer
CHARLES DOOLEY, upcoming surgery 5/12
TAMMIE DUNN, Linda Bullock's daughter
CHRIS EMOND, Madison family friend; cancer
ALANA FAIR
JAMES GORDON, Bridget Smith's dad
ANTORIAS GROVES, Ethel Clark's son-in-law,
EVELYN GUY, health issues
BUD HARPER, Cindy's bro-in-law, health issues
TERRY HARPER, Cindy's husband health issues
THERMAN HODGE
JACK HUNTLEY, Callens friend
BILLY JOHN health issues
JORDAN KEMBLE, Warren friend; brain tumor
LAMAR KING
WALTER KING, Lamar's dad
JACK MEARS
JAKE NESTER, Fair friend – cancer, chemo
CHARLENE RALEY, Stan's mom – health issues
STAN RALEY
GRADY RICHARDSON, Angela Duncan's dad
AL ST. CLAIR
MATTHEW STOKLEY, Duncan friend - cancer
THELMA TALBERT, Shirley Raley's mom
RUTH TAYLOR, Brookdale/Meridian
ANNIE THOMAS, Edna Toole's mother, health
TERRY TRIBBLE, Renée Cumberland's friend
PERRY TUBBY, Brandie Madison's dad
ANNIE WEBB, Cindy Harper's g-grand-daughter
MAX WEBB, Cindy's grandson, deployed
MEMBERS of our ARMED SERVICES
OUR GOVERNMENT – NATIONAL & S TATE
CHURCH MISSION WORK WORLDWIDE

ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY

May 9 - 15: None This Week

Let Christ and God Be Seen in Us

No perfect mirror now exists
To show the Savior's mind and heart
Or picture perfectly the God
Who, in him, from the very start
Showed us Himself in word and deed.
Then, by the Holy Spirit's art
A sacrifice was offered that
Grace and salvation did impart.

In Jesus Christ we can see God;
In him we see our Father's face.
In him we see the God of love,
Of mercy, joy, and peace and grace
Who knows and meets our ev'ry need.
Our ev'ry loss He will replace.
In him we see what we should be;
Our human lot he did embrace.

There is no doubt, no doubt at all
That God our Father wants to see
His Christ in us, His Son our Lord.
Redeemed and sanctified and free,
With all entanglements of sin
Removed from us, secure to be
And anchored by a perfect hope
That stretches to eternity.

There also is no doubt that those
Who know from Christ we take our name
Should never see or hear in us
What may bring Him reproach or shame.
Do not misrepresent the Lord,
Lest for our sins He get the blame.
Instead make sure all see in us
The good that will enhance His fame.

BulletinGold.com July 7, 2019 ♣ Gerald Cowan, longtime preacher and missionary, is retired from full-time pulpit preaching. Gerald publishes an e-mail newsletter entitled **GERALD COWAN'S PERSONAL PERIODICAL WRITINGS**. He is available for Gospel Meetings and he may be contacted at Geraldcowan1931@aol.com

What Do You Expect From God?

I was talking to a Christian a few years ago about his commitment to God. He said he didn't go to worship services much because God had "touched him." He stated that he takes his granddaughter to services, but he had not been in three weeks. He was raised in the church; however, church wasn't what he expected? I then asked him what did he expect?! What do you expect from God?

Some expect God to put a stamp of approval on their lifestyle and accept them without any change on their part. Perhaps this group would say everyone is going to heaven, just by different routes. Yet, God commands all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30, 31). Some get upset when someone tells them what they must do to be saved. Others object if they are asked to prove anything about the religion they profess. Yet the Bible tells us we should give an answer for what we believe (1 Pet. 3:15). So, again, the question is: What do they expect from God?

Perhaps some men think too little about God's perspective and too much about their own. Remember, God doesn't think like man does (Is. 55:8, 9). Man lives in a physical world. Often what he expects in the physical, he expects in the spiritual. When excitement, entertainment, and pleasure are the name of the game in the physical, some expect some of these in the spiritual realm as well. They may think that any church that doesn't provide one of those is not meeting their expectations.

Sometimes man thinks God's ways are unfair (Ezek. 18:25). Yet, who is it that sets the standard of fairness? Is it not God? Therefore, whatever God does is fair and just; it is man's way that is not fair (Ezek. 33:17).

Some may expect God to do what man is supposed to do. God cannot save a person who does not want to be saved. God cannot change His law of pardon to save someone who has not obeyed Him. We must obey from the heart the doctrine of God (Rom. 6:17).

When the rich man was in torment in Luke 16, he wanted someone to go to his brothers on earth. The answer given to him was "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them" (Luke 16:30). Those who would be saved had to do what God wanted. They had to follow the revealed Will of God written by Moses and the prophets. Anything else was not acceptable. Today, we must follow what Christ says (Jn. 12:48).

We cannot expect God to do for us what we must do. We have to work at obtaining the knowledge we need. It takes study on our part (Acts 17:11). We must receive it and make it part of us (James 1:12). We must obey the gospel that God has given us and heaven will be home one day (Rom. 10:16,17; 2 Thess. 1:8) The revealed Will of God for salvation has been given to us (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16,17). We can know what God expects of us. Let us strive to do what God expects and always have a good conscience toward Him (Acts 24:16).

BulletinGold.com July 7, 2019 ♣ Bill Brandstatter preaches for the Marion Church of Christ in Marion, IL. He may be contacted through the congregation's website: <http://marionchurchofchrist.com/>