Living in harmony with the Word of God sets souls apart from the world. Christians, in obedience of the Gospel, are changed from a worldly life to a life of purity, and there they must live or abide (I Jn. 2:15-17). Paul wrote and warned, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed (have been baptized, GC), but ye are sanctified (are set apart from the world to serve the Lord, GC), but ye are justified (pardoned and forgiven, GC) in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (I Cor. 6:9-11). It is a cause of rejoicing in Heaven and on earth when one sinner repenteth (Lk. 15:7, 10).

Knowledge of the Truth changes our lives by governing and controlling our actions in life (Col. 3:5-10). One of our good ladies read recently the following statement to the ladies Bible class: "I want to thank each and everyone here for encouraging me toward my journey to everlasting life. I love you all for your concern of my well being, and I am so happy to be among strong, faithful sisters. I have learned so much from each and everyone of you. Continue praying for me in my progress in serving God in Jesus Christ’s name.” (s/Sallie Moore) Ladies class will be dismissed until after Labor Day.
God recognized man as an intelligent being and shows this in writing the Bible. Knowing that man has intelligence, His command to us is “study and understand” (II Tim. 2:15; Eph. 5:17). He wants us to know that the New Testament will furnish lost man’s needs completely (II Tim. 3:16-17). It is sad indeed when men do not study and rightly divide the Word of God (II Tim. 2:15). For this reason, some do not understand the different Bible periods or dispensations of time and are, therefore, confused about what law men are under today. The result of such misunderstanding means eternal loss for ourselves and others (II Cor. 2:17; 4:2; II Pet. 3:16). There were elite people under the Old Covenant or Law of Moses, or 10 commandments. This Law, however, was never intended for any Gentile but was specifically given to the Jews (Deut. 5:1-5). Just as we are not commanded to build an ark, as was Noah under the Patriarchal Dispensation, neither are we commanded under the New Law to keep the 10 commandments of Moses Law (Gal. 5:4).

**Faithfulness in the Jewish Age**

Moses, Joshua, Caleb, Gideon, David, and Samuel, along with others, stand out in the second period of Bible History called the Jewish age. These who obeyed God under that law were the elite group of faithful servants! What examples these heroes of faith were! They were men of strength who stood against all the trials and dangers that Satan could place before them. And yet, like the popular watch advertisement of our day says, “they kept on ticking!” These stood in the minority, as stalwart servants, and an elite group who would not sell their convictions for “a mess of pottage” as did Esau in his profane ways (Gen. 25:27-34). There was not enough prestige and money in the Egyptian dynasty to keep Moses from “choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season” (Heb. 11:24-27). They went through their “cruel mockings and scourgings, yea moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute. afflicted, tormented” (Heb. 11:36-37), and yet these elite ones would not forsake God!
Our summer is off to a great start here at Getwell. We started the summer with an outstanding gospel meeting conducted by David Looney. The anchor verse of the week was Romans 8:28. He used the verse as a jumping off point about the providence of God. They were very encouraging lessons. We have recordings of these lessons available.

Looking past the summer to the fall our 2018 Spiritual Sword Lectureship, we have added a new feature to our schedule. Each day at 2:00 we will have a class for the ladies only. The speakers this year will be Cathy Powell, Cindy Colley, and Christine Allen. We hope the ladies will take advantage of this class.

Our summer series begins June 20 and runs through August 8 with a break June 27 for the visit by the Foundations class from Memphis School of Preaching.

Summer Series Schedule
“The Ups & Downs of the Seven Churches of Asia”
Lessons We Can Learn from Them
Individually and Congregationally.

June 20 – Smyrna – Mike Hixson
June 27 – Foundations Class Visit
July 4 – Pergamos – Tim Alsup
July 11 – Thyatira – Robert Jefferies
July 18 – Sardis – Cameron Freeman
July 25 – Philadelphia – Stan Mitchell
August 1 – Laodicea – Noah Icenhour
August 8 – Ephesus – Ryan Manning

The Germantown Church of Christ again this year hosted the tenth “Ultimate Youth Rally.” As usual, it was a well planned and executed event. Personally, I have been to every one of these events. The theme this year was “A Good Soldier.” The text was II Timothy 2:3-4

3 “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

The speaker was William “Wade” Bower who is the minister at the Ocean Springs Church of Christ in Ocean Springs, MS. Before entering the ministry he enlisted in the United States Army. He was in the 82nd Airborne and is an Afghanistan War Veteran. I heard two of the sessions conducted by him. He told amazing and challenging stories, what it’s like to be a soldier for the Army and a soldier for the Lord.

One point he made in his talk that really stuck with me was he alluded to a speech in the movie “Braveheart” given by the hero William Wallace to inspire his troop. But Wade pointed out there was a much more inspirational speech given by Moses to Israel in Deuteronomy 31:3-8. I believe the kids came away more determined to be good soldiers of cross.

3 The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said.

4 And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed.

5 And the LORD shall give them up before your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you.

6 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee.

7 And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

8 And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.