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#### SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

#### **SUNDAY**

Bible Study9:	30	a.m.
Worship10:		
Worship5:	00	p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study......7:00 p.m.

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## ON THE HOME FRONT

As we mentioned this past Sunday, remember to move your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night for Daylight Savings Time. We hope to see each one here on Sunday morning at 9:30 for Bible class. In our auditorium class, we have been studying Psalm 119. There are many great statements and descriptions that are given about the Word of God. As I mentioned a few weeks ago, it may be beneficial to underline each of the words that rename the Word of God, such as statutes, commandments, judgments, etc., to see the focus of each verse.

While we are on the topic of underlining and such, a great tool to have for your personal Bible study is a set of underlining pens. Some people do not like to mark in their Bibles, and that is okay, but if you are not opposed, try to find a set of good pens online or in a bookstore. Underlining can help you commit things to memory and help you emphasize key words and phrases. I found a set of about 15 pens for \$10 at Target, but stores like Walmart may also have good pens available. Again, this is not something that you have to do, but it can be very beneficial in your study. Also, if you are interested, you can find a relatively cheap study Bible that has wider margins for your notes and other things.

**Bradley Smith** 

## From The Desk Of Bradley Smith

## Does the Bible Condone Drinking Alcohol?

Why do so many members of the Lord's church want to drink alcohol so badly? So many arguments have come up over the years in which people will try to justify any reason to partake of alcoholic beverages. What does the Bible say about it? There are five Greek words that are translated "sober" in our English Bibles. They are:

Sophroneo - to be of a sound mind (2 Cor. 5:13, Titus 2:6, 1 Pet. 4:7)

Nepho- to abstain from wine (1 The. 5:6, 1 The. 5:8, 1 Pet. 1:13, 1 Pet. 5:8)

Sophron- in control of self (1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:8)

Nephaleos- circumspect (1 Tim. 3:11, Titus 2:2)

Sophronizo- to be of sound mind (Titus 2:4)

Partaking of alcoholic beverages would violate each of these words! Alcohol impairs the mind, makes one lose self-control, and makes one fail to be circumspect. There is no good reason to drink alcohol. Many would misuse a number of Old Testament passages to try to support drinking, social or otherwise, yet fail to realize that we are not under the Old Testament law, but the New Testament (Heb. 9:15-17). No, we are not permitted to drink alcohol today, and any effort to say that the Bible supports such cannot stand.

# RON'S REMINDERS



## When you have lost YOUR WAY

In the Bailey household it seems like losing something is a daily dilemma, from car keys, to shoes, wallets to purses and not to mention the mate to a pair of socks. (The fashion trend in our family is just wearing mixed matched socks. That has become our new normal.) But the greatest and most precious thing we have lost as a family was our way. We lost our way to the Lord.

Some years ago, we were offered a job, a great business deal, and we took it. With this job came a lot of money, prestige, and power. We felt as if we had gone from rags to riches. This was an opportunity of a lifetime. We were young parents with small children and felt excited and thrilled at what we thought would be a tremendous gain to our lives. We even got a large sign on bonus. What a temptation for a young couple with three young children! Everything was glittering. We were able to purchase our dream home, complete with a swimming pool. We got the brand-new car we were craving and the frequent trips to the mall buying and buying all the latest and greatest items. As the saying goes, "we shopped until we dropped." But in all that time we thought we were gaining, we were actually losing. We were losing our way to the Lord. We continued to go to church every Sunday and Wednesday and gave more in the offering basket than ever. We even started Bible studies in our home and all the while we were trying to save souls, we were in jeopardy of losing our own.

Our attitudes and behaviors started changing in our marriage and these same attitudes were manifesting in our children. There were even changes in our extended family, who at the time benefitted from this so-called gain. We found ourselves discombobulated at all ends. We had started dancing with the devil and we learned that the devil will dance with you until the music stops.

Thank God for His grace, mercy, deliverance, and for the Holy Spirit for putting us in remembrance of what we had been taught. The music stopped, Satan fled, and just like the prodigal son, one day we came to ourselves.

We had lost our way and our focus on the Lord. Our minds had become set on the things of this world and the false feelings that it offered. We found out that all that glitters isn't gold. How did we find our way back? We had to lose most of the material things, recognize Satan for what he was doing in our lives, then humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord, and let Him do the lifting (James 4:6). We had to lose in order to gain.

When we chose to surrender to the Lord, everything else came back into place. Our spiritual life, our marital life, the attitudes of our children, and the attitudes of our families all fell back into place when we humbled ourselves and looked to the Lord. We now know that the Lord can and will provide for us, but always in His way and in His time. It is not about us; it is all about Him.

The beauty of this journey back to the Lord is that we found out that the Lord never left us. He was right where we left Him, just waiting for our return. We thank the Lord for allowing us the time and space to find our way back to Him. There is nothing like the Lord's grace, mercy, and forgiveness. This happened many years ago and we definitely don't dwell on our past. We do, however, most definitely look back and learn from it.

We are now wiser, happier and more thankful than ever to our **good God.** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

Fitz and Fontella Bailey, Think Magazine December 2020