



The Planter

"The seed is the word of God", Luke 8:11



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How's Your Back?

A story is told about a preacher who was in the middle of his sermon when he turned the focus to Simon of Cyrene, the man who carried the cross of Jesus (Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26). He challenged the congregation to put themselves at the scene and think about how they would have reacted. Before long a nine-year-old boy came walking up the aisle. The preacher stopped and the auditorium fell silent. This boy came from a troubled and unfaithful family. His father was a miner and his mother was an outcast. There was no telling what this boy might say.

The boy spoke up and said, "You asked what I would have done if I had been in the crowd when Jesus fell under the weight of His cross." He looked earnestly up at the preacher. "Sir, I would have helped Him carry it." The preacher reasoned, "Yes, but if you had helped Him carry His cross, the cruel Roman soldiers would have ruthlessly beaten you across your back." Unshaken, the boy replied, "I don't care. I would have helped Him carry it just the same."

A few weeks later the preacher was standing near the door at the end of services. As the boy was passing by the preacher affectionately patted him on the back. The boy painfully winced away and said, "Please don't do that." Having barely touched the boy, the preacher took him over to the side to figure out what was wrong. As the boy lifted his shirt, he revealed several

large crisscrossed welts. The preacher cringed in anger, "Who did this?" The boy responded, "My mother did. She whipped me because I came to church" (Illustration by Travis Brown).

Even at such a young age, this boy showed incredible dedication. Despite taking a beating from his mother, the brave nine-year-old chose to put the Lord first, even above his parents. Had he been there the day Jesus carried his cross, certainly this young boy would have kept his word and run out to help Christ carry His cross.

Matthew 10:37-38 says, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

The heart of this Scripture is bold and clear: the Lord must come first in our lives, even above family. This boy was willing to take punishment just to be able to come worship. He was willing to put up with a sore back to come to church.

So, how's your back? Sure, you're probably not facing physical abuse because you came to worship. But are you putting anything on the line? What excuses have we been telling ourselves to miss out on worship? Yes, we've been in the middle of a strange and difficult time, but the church is meeting back together and worshiping God. Are you?

Our Lord gave up every comfort to go to the cross for us. Are we willing to give up some comforts for Him in return?

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April 27, 2025

Sunday Morning

Opening Prayer Dan Logan

Closing Prayer Jon Dyke

Scripture Reading Jeff Duncan

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer Adam Morgan

Closing Prayer Jerry Reaves

Remember in prayer:

Marlene and Ray Williams

Hallee Pettyjohn, Freda and Ken Anderson's great-granddaughter, will have her adenoids removed Tuesday.

Heidi Street, Don Duncan, Randall Glaze, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Carrie Price, Stefan Høglund, Tammy Henderson.

Oak View Nursing Home: Betty Floyd, Jane York.

There will be an **Elders and Deacons** meeting this afternoon at 3:30

Brothers Keepers Group Three will meet after services tonight.

Our **Youth Day** will be this Saturday, May 3rd at 4:00 pm with **Jayse Pruitt** speaking.

Fellowship Meal after morning services next Sunday.

There will be a **Men's Day** at Subligna Road Church of Christ, next Saturday, May 3 beginning at 8:30 am. Guest Speaker is **Kevin Sutton**.

Worship Assignments for May

Announcements: Tim York

Lord's Table: Kevin Hayes

Blake Tucker Charles Logan Bo Eubanks

Record for the week of April 20, 2024

10 am	11 am	5 pm	Wed	Contribution
110	91	69	74	\$3671.00

Weekly Assemblies

Sunday:

Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study: 11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship: 5:00 p.m.

First Sunday 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

If The Bible Is God's Word...

Neal Pollard

If The Bible Is God's Word...

It answers the biggest mysteries of this life that so baffle humanity.

It reveals the plan of the Creator of everything.

We are accountable to it.

It tells us where we are going.

It will give us a guide we can have confidence in as we head to the future.

We cannot refuse to follow it.

We should share it with as many people as we possibly can.

It is not on a par with other books; it is superior to all of them.

He disapproves of religious division.

There is a right way to worship Him.

We can know the truth.

We discover some great, precious and exciting truths and promises.

The New Testament church is eternally important.

We should read and study it faithfully.

Investigate the Bible and explore its origin and the book as it is today. God's Word is not afraid of investigation. It has undergone more scrutiny than any other book ever written, and it still stands. It is a foundation we can confidently build our lives upon. It is a guide that can safely lead us now and forever. Have you been in the book of books today?

Elders:

Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

Deacons: Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

Minister: Hugh Glaze

Song Leader: Adam Morgan