

EASTERN SHORE CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022



Minister: Bryant Evans

Associate Minister: Jeffery King

Youth Minister: Noah Evans

Minister, Awarawaunau Church of Christ in Guyana: Elvis Bernard



Thank you for joining us today at Eastern Shore Church of Christ!
Whether you are a long-time member here or a visitor, we are thrilled to have you. Please be sure to stick around following services so we can get to know you a little better, and let us know if we can do anything for you!

Elders

Sid Chupek
Scott Kelly
John Langham
Jonathan Ling

Deacons

Chad Chupek
Scott Lloyd
Peter Verrett
Jesse Olive

Sunday

Worship 10 AM
Bible Study 5 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 PM

(251) 626-7345
1209 Daphne Ave.
P. O. Box 38
Daphne, AL 36526

office.escoc@gmail.com
www.easternshorechurch.org

Today's Sermon

The Steadfast Love of the Lord Psalm 136:1-26

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
² Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

Psalm 136:1-3 ESV



We have a wide variety of events, such as game nights, trips to various local events, singings, and devotionals for all ages.

**See more
details inside the bulletin!**

Today's Events:

Area Wide Youth at Summerdale church of Christ. The van will leave the church building at 2:40 PM if you need a ride. Please see Noah Evans for details.

L2L Kick-off following our evening Bible Classes. Please bring finger foods and drinks.

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Events for this week:

Tuesday:

Men's Weekly Brown Bag Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Friday:

Primetimer's Bible Study, 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Open for all ages. Please bring finger foods and drinks.

Saturday:

Ladies Monthly Bible Study, 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a breakfast item to share.

Youth Devo: 4:30 PM at the Spanish Fort church. See Noah for details.

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Gospel Meeting

Meridian Street Church of Christ

Sept. 26th- 29th, 6 PM nightly
(Jeffery King is the guest speaker on Tuesday, Sept. 27th)
More info is on the bulletin board across from the library.

Wonderful Wednesday Meal

October 5th, 5:45 PM, Breakfast is on the Menu.
Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.
We need helpers to prepare and clean up.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

09/15 Jeff & Jackie King
09/21 Mike Sanford
09/22 Rick & Sharon Hovater
09/24 Barbara Stewart
09/25 Seth Ratliff
09/26 Joy Hill
09/27 Jerry Brown
09/28 William Hill
Colby Sanford
09/29 Gerald Seales
09/30 David & Rebekah Perry



Area Wide Singing

September 24, 2022
6:00PM-8:00PM
Eastern Shore church of Christ
1209 Daphne Ave
Daphne, AL 36526
251-626-7345

Join us for an evening of singing praise to our Lord!
Young men are encouraged to lead singing to work towards
Year-Round Song Leading for L2L.

If you would like to lead some songs, please contact Noah Evans
at 251-300-0106 or email him at nevens0598@gmail.com



Mark Your CALENDAR



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|----------|---|
| 09/20 | Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall |
| 09/24 | Ladies Day at Scenic Hills church of Christ, 9 AM—Noon. More info is on the bulletin board across from the library.
Area Wide Singing Service, 6 PM at ESCOC |
| 09/25 | Mark Your Calendar Meeting following our evening Bible Classes. |
| 09/26-29 | Gospel Meeting, Meridian Street church of Christ in Moss Point, MS. 6 PM nightly. |
| 09/27 | Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall |
| 10/04 | Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall |
| 10/05 | Wonderful Wednesday Meal, 5:45 PM. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. |

The Church that Drove Jesus Out

By: **Wayne Jackson** for *Christian Courier*

One of the most terrifying passages in the New Testament reads:

Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me (Rev. 3:20).

The Background

In order to appreciate the significance of the foregoing verse, one must know something of the background. Jesus sent letters to seven congregations of his people throughout Asia Minor. We may assume that these churches were typical of that day, and even of our own time. Generally (but with some exception), the letters contained a mixture of praise and rebuke.

The final epistle, to Laodicea, was pure censure (3:14-22). It is within this context that the Savior depicted himself as being outside the pale of fellowship with this group. What a strange and tragic situation! There are a number of very important truths to be gleaned from this passage.

The Ousted Savior

Christ is standing at the door, knocking to obtain entrance. The verb "stand" is a perfect tense form, suggesting that the Lord had been at the door for some time, and had remained there. He had not given up on these wayward saints.

Too, "knock" is a present tense verb; the Savior continued to rap on their door. Interestingly, "knock" is from *krouo*, to knock with the knuckles, as opposed to *koptein*, to hit with a heavy blow (Thayer, 362). The Lord wanted entrance, but he was not about to pound the door open.

It is a matter of amazement that the Son of God stands on the outside of his own congregation. In view of the great sacrifice which the Lord made to purchase the church (Acts 20:28), and the love he sustains for his spiritual body (Eph. 5:25ff), why is he estranged from these people? The reason is obvious — they drove him out!

Here is a point worthy of fearful contemplation. A congregation of the Lord's people can get so rotten that he will sever fellowship with them. Does the doctrine of once-saved, always-saved make any sense in view of this passage?

Deadly Ignorance

One of the more frightening features of this case is the fact that Christ had severed his communion with this church, and yet they were totally oblivious to this grim situation. Elsewhere in the letter, Jesus chided the group for their prideful boasting regarding wealth. And then he said:

[You] know not that you are the wretched one and miserable and poor and blind and naked (17).

One wonders how many churches today are priding themselves on their magnificent edifices and exciting "programs" — only to be wholly unaware that the Savior has departed from their midst.

The Peril of Mere Formality

Of paramount interest must be the question: What were the factors that forced the Son of God to walk out of this congregation?

The general criticism was that the church was neither hot (zealous), nor cold (completely dead); rather, it was "lukewarm." This was a condition that sickened the Savior and made him vow that eventually he would "vomit" them out (so reads the original text). The language symbolically signifies "to reject with extreme disgust" (Thayer, 207).

But the question is: What is lukewarmness? Perhaps that can best be determined by looking at the traits commended in the other churches (endurance, faith, service, for example), and then noting the specific indictments catalogued against the other congregations (e.g., the advocacy of rank heresy).

One may deduce that Laodicea occupied a sort of neutral status between these extremes. These folks were not stone-cold dead, like most of those in Sardis (3:1), but they had no measurable zeal. They appear not to have been proponents of flagrant false doctrine, but they certainly would not have opposed such. They were "keeping house."

The Laodicean church might well have been one of the most popular religious movements in the city. But they rocked no boats; created no ripples. They were a sorry mass of jellyfish do-nothings. Little wonder that they made the Lord nauseous.

Incomparable Love

It is an incredible commentary on the love of Christ that he was willing to come back into this congregation and reestablish communion with them. Is there anything more thrilling than the contemplation of divine love?

The Power of One

The Savior's invitation hints of the power inherent within a solitary individual. "If **any** man [person]" — a single soul — had been willing to open the door, the Master would have come in to him or her. Unlike the situation at Sardis, where at least "a few ... did not defile their garments" (3:4), at Laodicea there was not a person with conviction sufficient to entice the Master's return. Are there churches of this caliber today?

The Role of Christ's Word

The key to Christ's return was this: The church must once again "hear" (i.e., respond to) his "voice." Christianity is a religion of instruction. There is no other motivational impetus that will bring about reformation. "Programs" will not do it; fluff theology won't accomplish it; entertainment will not achieve it.

Personal Fidelity

The Lord promised that if anyone would open to him, he would come in and "sup" with that person. First, let us comment on the term "sup." It means "to take supper." Here, the word may simply be a figure for fellowship in general. On the other hand, it could allude to Christ's actual promise of "eating" the communion supper with us. Jesus had promised: "I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new [kainon] in my father's kingdom" (Mt. 26:29). The adjective *kainos* denotes a qualitative newness.

Observe then that Jesus promised: "I will sup with him, and he with me." The communion is personal. The Lord only "sups" with the one who hears his voice and opens to him. Christianity doesn't "rub off." Another's response does not count for you. Moreover, no one can "sup" with Christ until the Lord is ready to commune with him. There is a divine sequence there.

What an important passage this is — so brimming with meaning. Was it ever more needed than today?

Please keep in your prayers:

Julie Doughty is having ongoing health problems (daughter of Jerry Doughty).

Richard Davis has to have dialysis three times a week.

Adam Foster is at Thomas Hospital recovering from a stroke (friend of Julie Doughty).

Ed Hudson is battling a bone marrow problem which is requiring bi-weekly platelet infusions. He may have to start chemotherapy.

Donna Ellison will start daily radiation treatment for the next 6 weeks (mother of Amanda Olive).

Please remember our friends and loved ones who are fighting cancer:

Mike Sanford, Jamie Langham, Gus Stranch (great nephew of Patti Van Iderstine), **Jeff Stewart** (friend of Jerry Doughty), **Sarah Kennedy, Jim Bose and Betty Carter** (friends of Patti Van Iderstine), **Darnell Jackson** (mother of Jaqueline King), **James Doughty** (brother of Jerry Doughty), **Angela Flit** (cousin of Dwight Isenhower), **Will Scott and Paul Thorkelson** (friends of Dwight & Julia Isenhower), **Aaron Bell** (Youth Minister of Valley View church & a friend of the Sanford's), **Wanda Bobinger** (cousin of Patti Van Iderstine), **Joe Smith** (brother of Sherran Brown), **Margaret Tucker** (Sister-In-Law of Linda Farris), **Donna Ellison** (mother of Amanda Olive), **Shea Hovater** (Sister-In-Law of Rickie & Sharon Hovater), **Will Scott** (friend of Dwight Isenhower).

Please keep our shut-ins in your prayers:

MaeBelle Perry, Lum Morrison, James & Ann Christopher, Don & Phyllis Gill, and Jane Betts.

Privileged to Serve

Greeters:	Garlin, Linda and Jeff Farris
Usher:	Peter Verrett
Building Lockup:	James Day
Treasurer Assistants:	Sid Chupek and Hunter Harp

Sunday Morning

Lord's Table (presiding):	Robert Cagle
Leading Prayer:	Scott Lloyd
	Chad Chupek
Leading Singing:	Noah Evans
Scripture Reading:	Josh Ratliff

Wednesday Evening

Leading Prayer:	John Sibley
	Robert Cagle
Leading Singing:	Logan Ling

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