

Proud to Serve in Worship

	February 2, 2020	February 9, 2020
Opening Prayer	Barry Blackburn	Joe Burnsed
Song Leader	Joe Burnsed	Joe Burnsed
Communion	Charles Hall	Joe Holloway Sr
Assist	Mike Reinitz	Tim Rone
Assist	Kenneth Jenks	Mike Reinitz
Dismiss Services	Joe Holloway Sr.	Barry Blackburn

Announcements

Calendar for February—on the table in the back

Super Sunday – was last week. Thanks to all who made it a success

MEETINGS – Tonight after evening services

Save Food Pantry Items, Cans, peanut butter

Bookmark our Facebook page. And add

EllabellChurchofChrist@hotmail.com to your contact list. Brother Paul asks that you simply email him anything you want to appear on the Facebook page; pictures, announcements, etc.

Call List—There are forms on the back table if you want to be added to our call list. If you want a call made, call me or text me and I will make the call and schedule it. 912-667-0519

Prayer List—There is a form on the back table to add names to the prayer list.

Worship Services Online—Go to our website and there is a link at the bottom. Join us from anywhere in the world online.



Ellabell Church of Christ February 2, 2020

Speaking Where The
Bible Speaks; Silent
Where The Bible Is
Silent

<https://www.sandiegoreader.com/photos/2015/feb/05/76879/#>

Service Times:

Sunday AM

Bible Study 10am

Worship 11am

PM

Worship 5pm

Wed

Bible Study 7pm

I can do all
Things through
Him Who
strengthens me.
-Philippians 4:13

LOVE BEGINS WITH GOD

By this, all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another. (John 13: 34-35)



The preceding verses cause us to associate the subject of God's love with the New Testament. However, the theme of God's love is present throughout scripture. Both Testaments delineate the supremacy of God's love in bringing about a right relationship with mankind. The Old Testament describes God's love as compassionate, gracious, and abounding: *"maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin."* (Exodus 34:6-7)

Scripture is God-breathed and is itself a product of God's love. Genesis tells us, *"the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living being."* (Genesis 2:7). We can understand the nature of God's love in the same manner we understand God's breath. God's breath is the Spirit or

essence of God, originating from within God, giving life to all creation. Just as man could not exist without God's breath, we cannot exist without His love. In fact, creation itself would not exist, save God's willingly sharing Himself with Creation: *"All things were created in Him and are held together in Him."* (Colossians 1:16-17)

In the New Testament, John, the beloved disciple, conveys the image of believers reflecting the above concept of God's love in day-to-day living:

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us. (1 John 4: 7-12)

Today, God expresses His love for creation through the in-breaking kingdom (the Ecclesia). God established the Ecclesia to reconcile man to Himself, and also manifest the fulfillment of His love through Christian fellowship. John tells us Jesus is the foundation of creation, and creation intuitively reflects God's Spirit. For the most part, this is a passive action, similar to the moon reflecting the light of the sun.

However, passivity does not produce a right relationship with God; rather it is imperative that man actively responds to God's love by loving others. Jesus emphasized love as the very substance of God by giving His disciples a new commandment: *"...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."* (John 13: 34-35) This command

establishes God's essence (love) as the quintessential identification mark for the Ecclesia.

In service to our Lord,

— Rod Ellison

<http://www.randolphcofc.org/>

email from Nigeria (Rec'd January 28, 2020)

Dear brother Holloway,

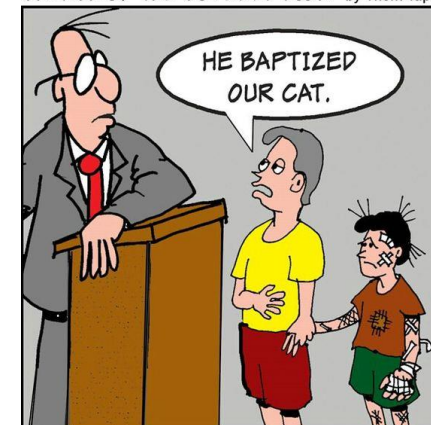
Hope you are doing well and my sister Donna. We are doing fine. However, we covet for your prayers constantly because the killing of Christians in the Northern is becoming a concern. Christian communities are attacked on daily basis. Sometimes, vehicles are stopped on highways, and Christians are killed while the Muslims are set free. Please, keep praying for us. God bless you. My love to sister Donna and Dad.

Grace and Peace,

Tom



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Answer to last week's bulletin's Search A Word Puzzle – Deuteronomy