

Proud to Serve in Worship

	February 9, 2020	February 16, 2020
Opening Prayer	Joe Burnsed	Charles Hall
Song Leader	Joe Burnsed	Joe Burnsed
Communion	Joe Holloway Sr	Joe Burnsed
Assist	Tim Rone	Kenneth Jenks
Assist	Mike Reinitz	Tim Rone
Dismiss Services	Barry Blackburn	Joe Holloway Sr.

Announcements

Calendar for February—on the table in the back

SUPER SUNDAY – in two weeks

Work Day-February 29, 2020

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 9, 2020

Service Times:
Sunday AM
Bible Study 10am
Worship 11am
PM
Worship 5pm
Wed
Bible Study 7pm

Speaking Where The Bible Speaks; Silent Where The Bible Is Silent
<https://gosouthsavannah.com/visitor-info/savannah-weather-february.html>

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

RESPONDING TO THE WILL OF GOD

It may not always be clear what God is trying to tell us. For one reason or another, we may not know what he wants us to do in a given situation. This wasn't true in the case of the Old Testament prophet named Jonah. His story begins by noting God's command: *"The word of the Lord came to Jonah, son of Amittai: Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."*

If familiar with the story, you know the next line: *"But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish."* It may be unbelievable to us that Jonah thought he could literally get away from God. Maybe he thought if he ran far enough, God would forget about it, and let him off the hook. He didn't, and eventually Jonah was convinced to go to Nineveh. There, he preached God's love to the pagan Assyrians, resulting, to his dismay, in their salvation.



'In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.' (1 John 4:9)

Jonah doesn't stand alone in his criticism of God's will. In fact, every accountable person stands guilty of rejecting God at some point. Paul declares that "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." (Romans 3:23) Jonah tried to run away from his responsibility. Adam and Eve literally tried to hide from God (Genesis 3:8). The reasons and excuses for this foolishness are numberless. They may sound justifiable at the time. Jonah tried to explain to God why he hadn't wanted to go to Nineveh:

"O Lord, is this [God's forgiveness] not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity."

What arrogance! God demonstrated his patience with Jonah when he didn't take him up on his plea to *"take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."* However, we shouldn't be too quick to judge ourselves better than Jonah. How easy it is for us to justify ourselves in rebellion against God, to complain that his will is too hard, or not fair, or too difficult to comprehend. Like Jonah, we may find God too compassionate toward the sinner (except in our own case, of course), or too harsh against those sins we see as understandable, if not justifiable.

Like Jonah and the other Old Testament prophets, Christians are called to declare the Good News of God's salvation through Jesus Christ to dying sinners. Like them, we need the message as much as those to whom we preach - sometimes more so. Just as Jonah was accountable for his mission to Nineveh, and responsible for preaching God's will rather than his own, we too shall answer to the Lord for faithfulness in preaching and teaching. If angels and apostles stand accountable (*Galatians 1:8,9*), so do we!

Jonah doesn't stand alone in his criticism of God's will.

Likewise, those who hear the message bear responsibility to God for the way they receive the word delivered to them. Paul quoted the prophet Isaiah as saying, *"Lord, who has believed our message?" (Romans 10:16; Isaiah 53:1)* Along with the people of Nineveh, from the lowest to the highest, we must listen to what God says, and seek to follow him. The conclusions to Jesus' sermons often contained the words, *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."* James, the Lord's brother, gives us an indication of what this idiom means when he says, *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." (1:22)*

God's will isn't always comfortable or easy, especially when we're influenced by fleshly judgments and desires motivated by pride. But if we allow the Spirit to control our minds, we will be able to overcome the world's attempts to mold us, and find ourselves running toward God, instead of away from him.

Larry Sheehy
Statesboro Church of Christ

PAUL'S TRAVELS		
FANRYMSCRAINOLOPA	AMHIPOLIS	MILETUS
ANODISACINOLASSEHT	APOLLONIA	MYRA
EXFLUAPECEENCHREAE M	APPII FORUM	NEAPOLIS
RSAORTPSOHPAPAZOUT	ATHENS	PAPHOS
AAIPTOICNIDUSFN MJA	ATTALIA	PERGA
SSRHURISIMALASAIER	BEREA	PERGAMUM
ESHIHTEUTYREGULRS	CAESAREA	PHILIPPI
AOALEMORMYRARFQEUU	CENCHREAE	PIERIA
CSVISNREVA TEERHTSS	CNIDUS	RHEGIUM
LIEPIFUHLBPERGAUAS	CORINTH	ROME
ALNPAPMJEIEZTAESLU	DAMASCUS	SALAMIS
OOSIMIGSHGORSTSMEC	DERBE	SIDON
DPPHEEB CQOIUETUEMS	EPHESUS	SMYRNA
IIOLOROGTUSUXACLGA	FAIR HAVENS	SYRACUSE
CHRLONODEATMLAIHM	ICONIUM	TARSUS
EPINTAATHENS OIRTOA	JERUSALEM	THESSALONICA
AMAMPHI POLISHAYASD	LAODICEA	THREE TAVERNS
IADERBERAEFARTSYLT	LYSTRA	TROAS
OCORINTHND S ILOPAEN	MELITA	TYRE
MUNGPUTEOLISCOITNA		