#### UPCOMING

### **Prayer List**

Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments.

- Renee Cumberland (cancer)
- Ora Barrett
- David Cradic
- Eddie Carlberg (Rick's brother) (cancer)
- Kyle Murray (Friend of John Tidwell)

## Communion Preparation

2025 preparation list is in foyer

## **Birthday / Anniversary**

Sandra Callens - 17th James Johnson - 19th

Larry and Connie Montgomery - 20th Tristan and Auburn Rowell - 23rd

# Men to Serve

Announcements - Larry Montgomery

Scripture Reading - Matthew 13:10 -16

Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell

Head of Lord's Table - Corey Murphy

Assist on Lord's Table - James Johnson

Scripture Reading - Mark 14:17 - 25

**Closing Prayer - Dwight Callens** 



# <sup>05/11/2025</sup> WELCOME

We are a body of believers whose soul intention is to glorify and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the head of His church. Our desire is to reflect that of our God--that all be saved. Anyone who is willing to humble himself before the mighty hand of God can be saved.

# WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

# SUNDAY

Psalms Bible Class // 9:30 am Worship Service // 10:30 am

# WEDNESDAY

1 Timothy Bible Class // 7:00 pm

#### NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

4217 Highway 39 N // Meridian, MS 39301 **PHONE:** (601)483-2726 **WEB:** www.nscocmeridian.com Join us via live stream for our worship service! Like our Facebook page!

# SERMON NOTES

## **Reach for Holiness Before Happiness**

#### By Gary Henry

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).

HOLINESS IS A HIGHER PRIORITY THAN HAPPINESS. It should rank higher in our scale of values than happiness, and maintaining its presence in our lives should be a matter of more pressing concern. The pursuit of holiness should be what we're known for.

To say that anything is more important than happiness sounds absurd to our modern ears, of course. The very idea flies in the face of popular philosophy. Even when it comes to religious philosophy, most people nowadays take it as their basic premise that God "wants us to be happy." We even use that benchmark to decide what God's will is in the first place. Faced with various interpretations of scriptural teaching, we choose the one that we think would make us the happiest. And if someone challenges the correctness of our decision, our reply is often predictable: "Well, I just can't believe that God wouldn't will rather than the one who merely want me to be happy."

But while the "pursuit of happiness" may be A man deserves no praise for engaging in a social and political priority, it does not rank at the top of any scriptural list of criteria by which our conduct is to be decided. Although long-term joy, properly defined, was His objective (Hebrews 12:1-2), Jesus often chose the difficult over the easy, and the painful over the pleasant: "Not My will, but Yours, be done" (Luke 22:42).

None of this is meant to imply that happiness is unimportant. It certainly is important, to some extent. But to whatever extent happiness matters, the way to achieve it is not to make it the main objective in life, as many people do. Happiness comes mostly to those who are willing to be unhappy, if need be, while they work on goals of greater significance. God, our Creator, is a better manager of our happiness than we are, and in the long run, we'll be happier if we seek Him first and let Him decide how much happiness we can second mile?

handle without forgetting Him. If we had to, we could survive the loss of any amount of happiness, but no one can survive the absence of holiness. So that's the thing most worth pursuing . . . and if we don't do that, then death will be our doom.

"No man should desire to be happy who is not at the same time holy. He should spend his efforts in seeking to know and do the will of God, leaving to Christ the matter of how happy he shall be" (A. W. Tozer).

#### **Second Mile Religion**

#### By Rick Duggin

There are two classes of men: those who act only when circumstances force them to do something, and those who gladly volunteer to act regardless of circumstances. One savs: "What do I have to do?" The other says: "What may I do?" One is always looking for a way out of his duties. The other is always looking for opportunities to do good.

We are not left to wonder which attitude pleases God. We are taught to look for opportunities to do good (Galatians 6:10). Jesus favored the son who did his father's "talked" obedience (Matthew 21:28-32).

only the barest minimum of service to God. What would you think of a father who measures the time he is to spend with his children down to the last second, and then, when their time is up, forbids them to "bother" him? Or what about a husband who refuses to give his wife one penny more than is absolutely necessary for living? Does such a man deserve commendation? Yet this attitude correctly describes many in their relationship to the Lord - they are satisfied with doing onlywhat they have to do, AND NOT ONE THING MORE!

Jesus taught, "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain" (Matthew 5:41). If Jesus commanded 'go the second mile' as the proper response to an unjust Roman law, how much more does He expect it from us who have His perfect law? When was the last time you went the