

Glenpool Church of Christ

Has a Nation Changed Its Gods?

Like ancient Israel, our nation is not subjecting itself to God, but neither is it godless (Jeremiah 2:11). May I take a moment to name the gods we serve?

Molech. The idols to the ancient god Molech were made of metal and had outstretched arms. To acquire his blessing, families would kindle a fire beneath the arms and place their babies to burn in his embrace. How have we served Molech? America has participated in 38 million abortions since Roe v. Wade in 1973. Some believed the life gifted by God would be a detriment to their life or career plans. Others found themselves abandoned by a male who was no man, no father, no husband. As churches, we reviled the practice, but we did not offer to take in these children and mothers. Our nation found an alternative to the difficult road of embracing God's gift. We exchanged the God of life for a false god of death.

Baal. Baal and his affiliates (the plural, Baal-im) are the most prominent of the gods mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures. His name simply means "lord." Baal represented power. Israel's true God did not lack power, but his power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). How have we served Baal? Our great national fear is the decline of national superpower status. We rarely hear anyone make a case for a kind of citizenship that entails self-sacrifice. Would we even vote for a candidate who made moral demands of us instead of issuing promises? We exchanged the God of mighty weakness for a false god of puny strength.

Asherah. Asherah (and the myriad variations of her name and person, such as Ash-tar, Ishtar, and others) is the female companion of Baal. She is the counterpart to Baal's promise of obvious power. She is the goddess of selfish sexuality, the gratifying end of having unbridled power. How have we served Asherah? First, our culture is over-sexualized. Furthermore, pornography has become common and shameless. And we haven't even said a word yet about homosexuality and the drifting institution of marriage. We have traded the God of chaste holiness and mutual respect for a false god of unbridled wantonness and degradation.

Mammon. I save Mammon for last because strictly speaking he is not an ancient god. The word "mammon" simply means wealth or riches. However, in the teachings of Jesus, the term was personified into a rival of God (Matthew 6:24). Mammon is a god of desire for prosperity and possession. How have we served Mammon? As USA today recently reported, the American dream costs \$130,000 per year. Some few will achieve that and find even that income is not enough. Others will submit to crushing

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August 28, 2016

ELDERS

Bobby Hill

Bill Path

Keith Riggs

David Tenison

PULPIT MINISTER

Benjamin Williams

YOUTH INTERN

Haden Brill

PRISON MINISTER

Bill Hamrick

DEACONS

James Hamilton,

WORSHIP

Thomas Hallsted,

FINANCE

Todd Khoury

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Johnny Riggs,

MEMBER SERVICES

Bruce Rothell,

MISSIONS

Zac Tenison,

YOUNG FAMILIES

Edwin Whittlesey,

ADMINISTRATION

SECRETARY

Karen Brown

Belong. Learn. Serve.

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debt in order to catch a glimpse of that dream. We have exchanged the God of providential contentment for a false god of economic hunger.

Jeremiah explains the failure of all our false gods. “Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water” (Jeremiah 2:12-13). Before we can repent as a nation and a culture, we must realize that we have not merely forsaken God. “My people have committed two evils.” We have also replaced him. And no one can serve two masters.

by Benjamin J. Williams

This is an abridged version of the full article available at www.benpreachin.com

What If?

What if God could not take the time to bless us today because we would not take the time to thank Him yesterday?

What if we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when God sent the rain?

What if God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?

What if God would not hear us today because we would not listen to Him?

What if God answered our prayers the way we answer His call to work?

What if God met our needs the way we give Him our lives?

borrowed

Do you remember some of these messages on a billboard campaign a few years ago? It did get a message across.

- ◇ “What part of ‘Thou Shalt Not..Didn’t you Understand?’” —God
- ◇ “Let’s meet at My House Sunday before the game” —God
- ◇ “Big Bang Theory, you’ve got to be Kidding.” —God
- ◇ “Loved the wedding, invite Me to the marriage.” —God
- ◇ “Have you read my #1 best seller? There will be a Test.” —God
- ◇ “That ‘Love thy Neighbor’ thing, I meant it.” — God
- ◇ “Tell the kids I love them.” — God



Sunday, Aug 28

Fellowship meal, the theme is Italian food, group Tenison

Wednesday, Aug 31

5th Wednesday night singing—no classes

Monday, Sept 5

Labor Day—the office will be closed

Sunday, Sept 11

Leadership meeting at 3:00

Young Families dinner after evening services

Sunday, Sept 25

Friends and Family Day

IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS

- There have been no ill reported to the office.
- We might want to remember those that are suffering from flooding, wild fires, and earthquakes in our nation and elsewhere.
- **Service men and women:** Jenna Sullivan; Jacob Littlebear;

Long Term Prayer List: Eric Vaughan (heart surgery); Henry Lack (dizziness); Stephanie White (pain); Dolores Scherman; Steven Cornejo; Alan Trimble (ALS); Wayne Morgan; Rosalie O'Neal (kidneys); Ruth Henry;

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Wednesday, Aug 31st, is the 5th Wednesday Night and we will have a "Member's Choice Night". That means members should come with a favorite song picked out that we will write on the board, song leaders are strongly encouraged to select a song off of this list.

MONDAY NIGHT FOR THE MASTER

Monday Night for the Master will resume meeting on Monday, Sept 12th. If you have a project in mind that might be done on these evenings, email or contact the office and we will see if it could be added to the list of projects.

MOVING ON UP

Sunday, Sept 4th, will be the Sunday for our young people to promote to their new classes. Some of the ages/grades may be moving to a different area—Just double check the signs on the doors on the 1st Sunday in Sept or ask one of the teachers.

YOUTH ACOMPLISHMENTS

- ◇ **Lily Hallsted** knows the names of Adam & Eve's family.
- ◇ **Carson Hallsted** knows the names of Adam & Eve's family.
Good work !

LEADERSHIP MEETING

Your monthly meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Sept 11th at 3:00 (this is for the elders, deacons, Ben and Haden).

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

We will have a Fellowship Meal after services this evening. The theme is 'Italian food'. Group Tenison is responsible for setting/cleaning up.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK

Don't forget to sign up on the sheet in the foyer if you wish to order a book for Ben's class on Wednesday nights. **Please do so by Wed. Aug 31st.** The \$15.00 cost of the book can be given to Ben.

CHANGE CANS FOR HOPE HARBOR

Please start returning your change cans for Hope Harbor. They need to be returned by Sunday, Sept 4th. There are extra cans in the foyer if you wish to take one and begin filling it up for next year.

Hope Harbor is looking for items for their silent auction and more valuable items for the live bidding auction at their Open House, Sept 24. Their phone number is 918-343-0003 if you would like to contact them.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Andrea Hallsted, Aug 30
Ralph Causby, Aug 30
Darrel Kent, Sept 3
Carson Talley, Sept 4
Syble Stone, Sept 4 (95 yrs)

Bob & Virginia Burrus, Sept 4 (62 years)
Jennifer Wetzal, Sept 7
Meagan Russell, Sept 9
Spencer & Steph Yeager, Sept 10

Sloan Bain, Sept 10
Meghan Causby, Sept 11

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Song Leader | Matt Caldwell |
| Opening Prayer | Carl Burrus |
| Table | 1. Zac Caldwell 2. Wes Wadkins 3. Thomas Hallsted 4. Johnny Riggs 5. Dennis Robinson 6. Bob Hecht |
| Scripture Reading | Joseph Whittlesey |
| Closing Prayer | Zac Tenison |

SUNDAY PM DEVOTIONAL

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Song Leader | Jerry Buller |
| Opening Prayer | Todd Khoury |
| Table | 1. Thomas Hallsted 2. Wes Wadkins |
| Closing Prayer | Robert Hallsted |

WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONAL

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|----------------|-----------------------|
| Song Leader | Edwin Whittlesey |
| Opening Prayer | Randy Brown |
| Devotional | 5th Wednesday Singing |
| Closing Prayer | Bob Howard |

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Sunday Contribution | \$4,670 |
| Budget | \$4,625 |
| Over Budget | \$336 |

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Sunday Bible Classes | 163 |
| Sunday AM Worship | 203 |
| Sunday PM Worship | 101 |
| Wednesday Bible Classes | 78 |

COMMUNION PREPARATION

| | |
|------|----------------|
| 8/28 | Causby Ladies |
| 9/4 | Marcia Riggs |
| 9/11 | Dana Kent |
| 9/18 | Earline Lierly |
| 9/25 | Cathy Burcham |

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

| | |
|------|----------------------|
| 8/28 | Lilia & Rita |
| 9/4 | Saundra & Nancy |
| 9/11 | Stephanie & Mackayla |
| 9/18 | Tonya & Toni |
| 9/25 | Debbie & Autumn |

SUNDAY MORNING

Bible Classes / 9:30 am
 Worship / 10:30 am

SUNDAY EVENING

Devotional & Classes / 5:00 pm
WEDNESDAY
 Devotional & Classes / 7:00 pm

Sunday Sermon Series: Written In Red
 "To the Self-Centered"
 Luke 14:1, 7-14
 Benjamin J. Williams

Sunday Evening Devo: Psalm 103
 Sunday Evening Class: Apologetics Class