

The Messenger

The Atlanta Church of Christ

in **Guinn**



By Alvin Modest

Elders

Steve Galbreath
Alan Rouse

Evangelist

Richard Alawaye

Teacher

Gary Roberson

Women's Ministry & Welfare

Sarah Alawaye
Roxanne Galbreath
Sherry Rouse

Teens

John and Marisabel
Becker

Deacons

Peter Berry
Steve Collier
Danny Doble
Danny Emmett
Audie Flowers
Bill Francis
Patrick Freeman
Glenn Hayes
Kendall Knight
Karl Lynn
Russ McGarr
Alvin Modest
Jeff Mueller
Todd Reynolds
Dan Stehr
Ken Watson

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.
Romans 8:18-19

Did you know that God has expectations of his people? Some people have the idea that the Christian life is one that makes no demands on its followers. Nothing could be further from the truth! God saved you and me with the expectation that we would be different in our lives, thankful for his grace, active in his work and obedient to his voice. His desire is for everyone to have eternal life, never again having to face the evil, the heartaches, the temptations and the struggles that one has to endure in this world. God sent his one and only Son as a sacrifice in order for us to have the opportunity to live like never before.

How well are you meeting the expectations of God in your life? Do you truly understand the importance of meeting them? Below are seven expectations that God has of us all:

Be holy (set apart from sin and impurity; set apart to God). Read Exodus 19:3-6.

In order for us to be holy as God calls us to be, we must make every effort to know, understand and obey his commands. In doing so, we will always be considered his holy people and should expect blessings and prosperity to follow. Since we belong to God we must be very careful not to disgrace his name in any way. We also have to be conscious of how we treat and talk to one another and how we interact with non-Christians. We were called to live differently from those in the world. (Deuteronomy 28:1-14; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)

Love unconditionally (love without conditions or limitations; absolute). Read John 13:34-35.

To love one another is not a new command (Leviticus 19:18), but to love one another as Christ loved us is a radical teaching.

(Continued on next page.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun. 12/13: Christmas Program
Thu. 12/17: Appreciation Dessert Night
Thu. 12/24: Christmas Eve; No Midweek
Thu. 12/31: New Year's Eve; No Midweek
Feb. 12-14, 2010: Festival of Faith (Athens, GA)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Singles Ministry Update..... 3
Marriage Retreat 2009 4
Deacon's Directory & Family Groups ... 4

God's Expectations of His People

(Continued)

God commands us to do something that is very difficult, very challenging, very extreme, and seemingly impossible to accomplish. He set the standard for true love. It is an unconditional, self-sacrificial, genuine love. Although Jesus knew that Peter would deny him and that Judas would betray him, he still loved them unconditionally. He never abandoned his love for them, but gave them every opportunity to do what was right. ([1 Peter 1:22](#); [1 John 3:16-18](#); [1 John 4:7-12, 16-21](#))

Bear good fruit (carry oneself in a specified way; a visible characteristic – very important). Read [Matthew 28:18-20](#).

The only way for us to accomplish this important expectation is to remain close to Jesus. Apart from him we can only expect fearful judgment. When we bear good fruit it is one way that God is glorified. Not only that, but it is an acknowledgement that we are indeed true followers of his Son. Our lives should demonstrate that we understand and accept this charge that he has given us. ([Galatians 5:22-23](#); [John 15:16](#); [Romans 7:4-6](#); [Philippians 1:21-22](#); [Colossians 1:10](#))

Grow in the knowledge of Jesus and his word (being familiar with, having an awareness or understanding gained through experience or study). Read [Colossians 1:9-14](#).

It is very important each day that we somehow grow in the knowledge of God's word. When we apply it to our lives it helps us to live a godly life. It also results in a life that is worthy in God's sight, giving us wisdom, understanding and discernment. It helps us to understand the mind of Christ and what God truly expects from us. Paul's number one desire was to personally know Jesus and the power of his resurrection while somehow sharing in his suffering. In the same way it is to our benefit to know all we can about the only one who can give true life. ([2 Peter 1:3-11](#); [Philippians 3:7-11](#); [2 Peter 3:17-18](#))

Remain faithful to the end (worthy of trust or belief; reliable; being full of faith). Read [Revelation 2:8-11](#).

God expects for us to be faithful even to the point of death. He says that he who overcomes will never see eternal fire but will be with him forever. We must learn how to persevere because we all will be tested in one way or another. Prayer is the key. Without it we will not be able to remain faithful to God. ([1 Corinthians 4:1-2](#); [1 Samuel 12:24](#); [Romans 12:11-12](#))

Be prosperous (blessed and highly favored by God; successful). Read [Deuteronomy 30:15-20](#) and [Genesis 39:2-5](#).

Yes, God expects for his people to obey. He has set before us life and death, prosperity and destruction. He commands us to choose life so that we may live a full life and acquire the many blessings that he has promised to give us. In order for us to receive God's prosperity, we must first love him, walk in his ways, and keep his commands. God truly desires for his people to have the best, but we must be careful to obey his every command. ([Job 2:3, 42:10-17](#); [Psalm 1:1-3](#))

Be united as one (produced by or resulting from mutual action). Read [John 17:20-23](#).

Jesus prayed to God for his disciples to have complete unity so that the world could see true love and know that God loves us equally as he loves his own Son. The goal of unity is to glorify God. When people see closeness and togetherness, they cling to it and want to be a part of it. But we must always look at it as an opportunity to bring others to Christ. ([Psalm 133:1-3](#); [Romans 15:5-7](#); [Ephesians 4:3-6](#))

God has expectations of us – expectations that we can meet if we always remember that he is with us every step of the way.

Singles Ministry Update

By Jim Dew

I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord. [1 Corinthians 7:32-35](#)

2009 is flying to a close and we will soon be bringing in the New Year. The Singles ministry of the Atlanta Church of Christ in Gwinnett has had a very busy year. The focus of the past ten months has been on discipleship and reaching out to the lost. We have spent much time studying the Bible to understand what it means to make Jesus Lord of our lives.

Everyone participating in the singles ministry has been encouraged to find a discipling partner, and the positive response has led to a year of spiritual maturing for the singles in our ministry. We discussed the importance of having other disciples in our lives that we are close enough to that they can help us through our moments of weakness and crisis. One of the great stories in the Bible that illustrate this point is the friendship of David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1-4). The single men in particular have taken this story to heart and have accepted the challenge of building similar friendships within the Kingdom of God. The women have used the story of Ruth and Naomi to gain a better understanding of the power of discipling relationships. Ruth's life is an excellent example of a young disciple seeking advice from an older disciple.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
[Matthew 28:18-20](#)

While The Great Commission calls all of us to seek out the lost and to make disciples, the singles have studied out how this stage of their life is a time for vigorously pursuing this purpose and the will of God. Paul talks about how he wishes everyone would desire to remain single so that they could be single-minded in their devotion to God. As a ministry we have studied out that God has given single people the blessing of fewer distractions from the work of our God. We ask the church to pray that the singles ministry will continue to strive to meet people who are open to God and studying the Bible to come to an understanding of salvation.

In light of the singles' desire to reach out to the lost, we have spent the last two months planning a singles devotional. The focus of the devotional was two-fold: 1) reach out to the non-Christians that are in our lives, and 2) promote unity within the singles in the Atlanta area. (*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. [Hebrews 10:25](#)*). God glorified Himself, and the singles devotional was a huge success. We would like to thank the elders and Richard Alawaye for their support in making this event possible.

In other news we recently lost two of our singles to marriage; Dave Bruce and the former Gina Allison were joined together in Holy matrimony on Saturday, October 17, 2009. We all wish them well as they move into this new stage of their life.

Chandra and I ask that you continue to pray for the Singles ministry and for the Lord of the Harvest to send more workers into the field and make 2010 a fruitful year for our God.



Marriage Retreat 2009

By Christy Roberson



The 2009 Marriage Retreat was an incredible experience. It started off with the shock some of the men received when they learned there would be no Saturday football watching because there were no TVs to be found on the campus. The WinShape Retreat facilities were beautiful and the people working there were such servants – we were challenged by their attitudes and serving hearts to be better ourselves when we returned home. The beauty of the place with the mountains, meadows, deer and turkeys roaming free showed God’s handiwork and helped us focus spiritually.

The lessons were encouraging and challenging. One of the most impactful points for me was from Jim Lefler’s lessons. Jim spoke about Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He discussed how Eve was deceived because Satan was able to convince her that she needed more. Eve had a wonderful life with a perfect relationship with God, yet she listened to Satan and decided there should be more to life. Selfish ambition and discontentment led to her fall along with the fall of her husband. Because Eve gave into these temptations, she destroyed the perfect life she had. ([Genesis 3](#))

How often do we as women decide we should have more in life? We become discontent and to discontentment we add bitterness, anger, selfishness, and the list goes on. Like Eve, we hurt our relationships with God, husband, children, and friends because we think they are not enough. We deserve more. I know for me this has always been a huge challenge – and unfortunately I have often fallen into the why me, wanting more attitude. When I do, I hurt myself and

those around me. As Jim pointed out, it is interesting to see how Adam and Eve started blaming others for their sin. Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed Satan. ([Genesis 3:12-13](#))

Virginia Lefler started off with a very challenging attitude for us to obtain – “I have everything I need”. Godliness with contentment is the key. We are rich if we have God, peace from God and forgiveness. Imagine what your life would be like if this was your attitude – and it can be with God’s help.

Who do I compare my life and needs to? Is it movies and TV shows where life is not real? Virginia pointed out to us that all we have to do is read the news to see the romantic husband on the screen has a messed up life in reality and is far from the perfect mate depicted on the screen. Again, we are rich if we have God, peace from God and forgiveness.

[Luke 6:45](#) talks about our hearts and what is stored in them. If we want to guard what we think and what we say, we need to look into our hearts and figure out what is really holding on to us. Is our heart content and grateful for all God has done for us or are we blaming God, husbands, etc. for what we wish we had but don’t? This is challenging. However, if we learn to be grateful and contented women, the rewards will be simply amazing!

God is full of grace and wants us to have a wonderful life. He will listen to you – talk to Him about your disappointments and your bitterness. Then turn loose and let God show you what is truly valuable in life.

Deacon’s Directory

Karl Lynn	New Members	770-979-4292
Ken Watson	Benevolence	678-376-2677
Peter Berry	Benevolence	678-376-1878
Danny Doble	Spanish Translation	770-931-0601
Audie Flowers	Visitation	770-277-5749
Patrick Freeman	Kingdom Kids	770-921-1811
Glenn Hayes	Kingdom Kids	770-985-6921
Dan Stehr	Visitation	770-925-2943
Bill Francis	Visitation	770-806-8645
Todd Reynolds	High School	770-682-0027
Russ McGarr	Middle School	770-381-5045
Alvin Modest	Worship	678-344-0061
Steve Collier	Teens-Parents	770-717-5784
Danny Emmett	Hope, Events	770-985-4542
Jeff Mueller	Benevolence	770-492-0544
Kendall Knight	Music Service	770-972-6887

Contribution

10/04 - \$11,654.50

10/11 - \$6,168.50

10/18 - \$8,553.50

10/25 - \$7,742.50

Family Group Leaders

Peter & Nancy Berry	Suwanee	678-376-1878
Steve & Barbara Collier	Lilburn	770-717-5784
Jim & Chandra Dew	Lilburn	770-330-3479
Danny & Cynthia Doble	Lilburn	770-931-0601
Audie & Jackie Flowers	Snellville	770-277-5749
James & Quiana Martinez	L’ville	678-985-5511
Alvin & Beatrice Modest	Snellville	678-344-0061
Jeff & Jessica Mueller	Tucker	770-492-0544
Ricky & Bridgett Roberson	Snellville	770-879-0868
Joseph & Lisa Washington	L’ville	678-407-0306
Ken & Kat Watson	Suwanee	678-376-2677