

Religion



Middle Creek Baptist Church

Wendell E. Wood, Pastor

3595 Carter Brothers Rd. • Hodgenville • 270-358-4462

Sunday School 10 a.m. | Sunday Worship 11 a.m. | Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

Join us in 2026

After This Life

The most sobering thought that can enter the human mind, is that every person who has ever lived, and every person now living, and every person who shall ever live, will continue to live throughout all eternity either in heaven or hell."

Paul Powell, former pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church, in Tyler, Texas, made that statement in a sermon. The thought keeps playing in my mind. We



GEORGE W. SMITH

will continue to exist for eternity somewhere.

In light of what has been happening lately, one minute we are alive and functioning, and the next minute life has suddenly ended, and we have gone into eternity.

I suppose most of us have our questions about what happens when life on earth ends. Jesus told a story in Luke 16:19-31 that helps with some of our questions. It is the story of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man is car-

rying on a conversation with Abraham.

The word "fixed" is used in the story showing things are settled and cannot change in the after life.

Any changes need to be made here on earth. The decisions are so important and must not be put off.

There is one thing I'm sure of as I read God's Word, and that is God does not want any person to go to hell. His very purpose in sending His Son was so we would not have to go to hell. Any person that goes to hell goes against

God's will (2 Peter 3:9).

We know from reading the story that there is no second chance beyond the grave. Abraham said, "Between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who would pass from hence to you cannot" Everything in hell is final. The separation is permanent.

The impassable gulf implies that death ends our opportunity for salvation. As long as there is life, there is hope, but when death comes, all hope is gone. Everything is settled.

From the story we learn

that repentance is urgent. The rich man wants someone to witness to his family. Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change in behavior. Repentance is urgent because death is the enemy of man. Statisticians tell us that nearly 60 million people die every year. That's 164,383 people who enter eternity every day ... 6,849 every hour ... 114 every minute.

Remember ... we will all continue to live throughout eternity either in heaven or hell. The decision is made here ...and now.

Five Biblical Truths for Leaning on the Lord

In Proverbs 3:5-6, Solomon encourages us to trust wholeheartedly in the Lord, warning against relying solely on our own understanding. Instead, he urges us to know God in all our ways, promising that He will guide our paths. To "lean" on the Lord isn't passive; it's an active, daily act of trusting and depending on Him. This means shifting the entire weight of our lives onto Him and trusting completely that He will support us. Here are five biblical truths about leaning on the Lord.

BIBLICAL TRUTH 1 - LEANING ON THE LORD REQUIRES SUR-RENDERING YOUR UNDERSTANDING (PROVERBS 3:5)

Leaning on the Lord is about trusting Him completely. True trust begins where human understanding ends. Trusting God means acknowledging that He is not limited by our insights and can see the entire picture-past, present, and future. Recognizing both God's omniscience and our limitations sets the stage for us to replace the need for full understanding with a life guided by the attitude, "Lord, I may not understand, but I choose to trust You." Living out this biblical trust means we no longer



PAUL RICHEY

demand explanations or evidence before obeying, but willingly obey regardless of circumstances.

BIBLICAL TRUTH 2 - LEANING ON THE LORD INVOLVES ACKNOWLEDGING HIM IN EVERYTHING (PROVERBS 3:6)

Solomon urges us to "acknowledge" the Lord in all aspects of life. This acknowledgment involves recognizing His work, will, and ways, aiming to submit everything to Him, and seeking His guidance in every situation. Such a lifestyle doesn't mean occasional prayer, but rather living with a constant awareness of God's presence, work, and guidance. When we fully acknowledge the Lord, we invite Him into every decision, relationship, and activity of our day. Our habit should become taking time to pause and seek the Lord before responding or acting.

BIBLICAL TRUTH 3 - LEANING ON THE LORD LEADS TO DIVINE DIRECTION (PROVERBS 3:6)

We should find encouragement in the Lord's promise to straighten our paths when we rely on Him. While leaning on the Lord is not always easy and often comes with

challenges, it is a deliberate and meaningful effort. Typically, we wish for a clear, detailed map of our journey when God calls us to trust Him, but He reveals our path gradually, step by step. Trusting God's divine guidance involves resting on His promises and understanding that clarity may not come immediately; instead, it unfolds in God's perfect timing and purpose. Following God's direction requires us to depend on Him, living in obedience whether we know what lies ahead or not.

BIBLICAL TRUTH 4 - LEANING ON THE LORD REQUIRES HUMILITY, NOT SELF-RELIANCE (PROVERBS 3:7)

Humility is often undervalued by society, yet God desires it to shape His children's character. While pride pushes us to think, "I've got this," humility reminds us that "we need the Lord." These two attitudes constantly vie for our attention, revealing where our true reliance lies. Do we trust our own abilities or the Lord's? Living in a culture that encourages independence makes this struggle harder. We need to intentionally repent of our desire for independence and choose obedience by depending on the Lord. Reliance on ourselves implies that we believe God is

unnecessary, whereas humility involves recognizing our limitations.

BIBLICAL TRUTH 5 - LEANING ON THE LORD RESULTS IN RENEWAL AND STRENGTH (PROVERBS 3:8)

Solomon reminds us of God's promise to provide renewal and strength when we trust in Him. Living a life leaning on God leads to renewal, bringing peace and taking control while pushing out anxiety. Isaiah (Isaiah 40:31) teaches that renewal comes from waiting on the Lord. This waiting is most effective when we rest in Him and depend entirely on His guidance. Our capacity to experience God's strength and renewal grows as we release the need to control and instead rely on His sustaining grace and perfect guidance. Remember, God not only guides us but also strengthens us.

We constantly navigate between relying on ourselves and trusting in the Lord, a tension present in every part of our lives. Choosing to lean on the Lord demonstrates that this is an ongoing daily decision rather than a single moment. The initial step to lean on Him is an intentional act of trust and reliance. How well do you practice leaning on the Lord in every aspect and moment of your life?

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pray for the sick at home, the hospitals, nursing homes, rehab, and institution. Pray for the immigration crisis, our democracy, for the violence throughout the universe, our men and women fighting for our country, and the war in Iran and throughout the nation and universe, Lord, we are thankful for watching over and protecting us from hurt, harm and danger. We know Lord, that it was your grace and mercy that brought us through. Lord, we pray our teachers, doctors, nurses and medical associates, our nation, to those who lost loved ones, our present administration, and most importantly, pray for one another, in Jesus name, Amen.

Please do not forget your cemetery dues. You can send them or give them to Tony Stewart. If paying by check, make checks payable to The Hubbard Cemetery.

Wednesday evening at 5 p.m. will be choir rehearsal followed by Bible Study at 6 p.m.

The fourth Sunday will be Old Fashion Day at

First Baptist. Anyone can come to church, dressed according to the "olden days." An old fashion dinner will follow morning service.

Tommy and Charlene Thompson will have "hayride" at their farm on October 3, starting at 5 p.m.

John Thurman and Kerry Smith are resident at Sunrise Manor Nursing Home for rehab; Charlene Embree Millard had surgery on Sunday at Baptist Health Hardin.

Everyone, have a wonderful day and wonderful week. Everyone, please be stay safe and careful driving on the highways.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Who created a living, breathing universe, Earth in balance, and the miracle of life.

Today as we go to work, we choose to gaze upon the beauty of your creation, to see the glory of your creation, to see the glory of your kingdom, and to take in the wonders of your love.

Lord, we give this day to you, that we may faithfully serve you and others.

In Jesus' name, Amen



JOHN SMITH

HODGENVILLE NEWS

Thought for the week: In life you will lose many things. Just don't lose hope!

I spent Sunday, Grandparents Day with Joe, Tempest and Damian, we had lunch at Long John Silvers. I am blessed that I am finally able to eat and drink now. I started my radiation treatments on Tuesday, for a total of 16. Thinking of you wishes

go out to Betty Powell, Marty Skaggs, Grace Lowther, Candy D Vincent, Charlotte Bingham, Robert Brown, Daniel Dunn, Kelly Fulcher, and Susan Bush.

Sympathy wishes go out to family and friends of Tickle Ragland, Geneva Bolin, Ronald Reynolds, and Caleb Eastridge.



CANDY VINCENT

SENIOR CENTER MENU

The LaRue County Senior Citizens Center is located at 112 N. Walters Ave., Hodgenville and caters to those 60 and older. Dine-in lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday to Fri-

day and can be contacted at 270-358-4235.

All meals are served with a calcium product.

Sept. 16: Meatballs in gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, mixed fruit and a roll.

Sept. 17: Fried fish on

bun, tater tots, cole slaw and a banana.

Sept. 18: Chicken drumstick, mashed potatoes, lima beans, fresh orange and a roll.

Sept. 21: Hamburger on bun, baked beans, lettuce,

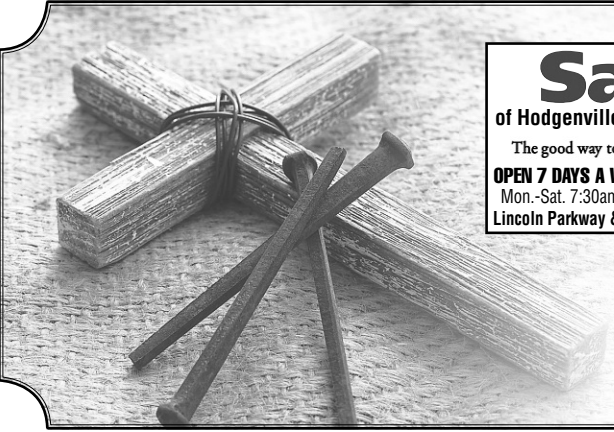
tomato, onion and peaches.

Sept. 22: Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, pineapples and a roll.

Sept. 23: Smoked sausage, oven fried potatoes, broccoli, fresh orange and a roll.

YOUR CUSTOMER JUST READ THIS AD.

ADVERTISE WITH US.



Save a lot

of Hodgenville

The good way to save. A lot.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 270-358-3108

Mon.-Sat. 7:30am-9pm • Sun. 8am-9pm

Lincoln Parkway & 31E • Hodgenville, KY

HERB JONES

You're Finally Home! Elizabethtown, KY

www.herbjoneschevrolet.com

800.609.2277 • 270.765.2123

1601 N. Dixie Hwy., Elizabethtown

Manatee

FUNERAL HOME

With 3 Locations To Serve You:

Elizabethtown • 270-769-6341

Sonora • 270-369-7444

Upton • 270-369-7444

LINCOLN PARKWAY PHARMACY

MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED

(270) 358-2117 FREE DELIVERY

117 Lincoln Drive, Hodgenville, KY

Mon.-Fri. 9am-7pm • Sat. 9am-1:30pm

To have your ad listed in this directory,
Call Allison 270-358-3119.