ELDERS

Nathan Adkins 937-798-3267 Greg Conley 923-8238 Greg Hall 571-1977 Mark Parks 831-3081 Chris Scott 356-4368

<u>MINISTER</u>

Mark Day 606-831-1975

DEACONS

J.C. Hughes Brad Morris Nathan Parks Jeremiah Smith Matthew Vonderheide

SERVICES

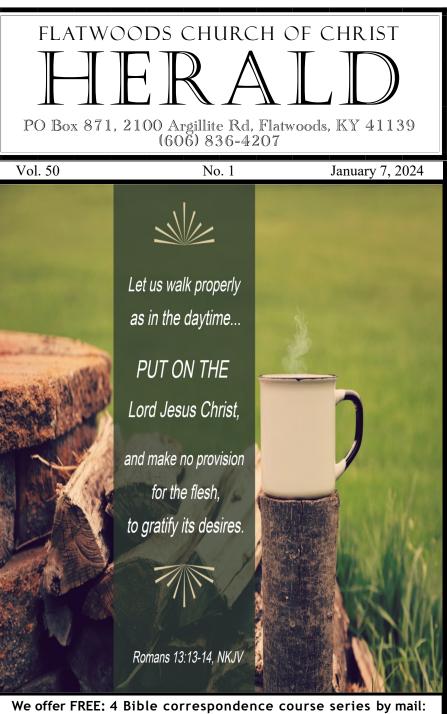
Sunday Bible Study 9:45am Morning Worship 10:45 am Evening Worship 6:00 pm Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm

> <u>WEB PAGE</u> www.flatwoodschurchofchrist.org

MISSIONS

-Jerry Sturgill Tri-state area -Daniel Goshorn Peru. SA -Dustin Bolks Sioux Center, Ia. -Dahn Ramkelawan Suriname, SA -Michael Mavo Thailand, SE Asia -Herman Joseph Guyana, SA - Mohamed Ally Guyana, SA -D.J. Hatfield **WVSOP** support -"In Search of the Lord's Way" TV broadcast

<u>SEARCH TV</u> Sundays 7:30 am (on Fox)



We offer FREE: 4 Bible correspondence course series by mail: an 8 lesson series by Hurt, a 6 lesson series "Acts Of The Apostles" by Pharr, the "Studies In The Bible" 30 lesson series, and the 20 lesson series "Getting To Know Jesus" by Pharr. Let everyone know!

Abandoning Authority

Jesus, as victor over death by resurrection, ascended to His throne in heaven at the right hand of God (Acts 2:30-36). Just prior to this ascension, Jesus appeared to His disciples and said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Mt. 28:18). Jesus is Lord! He is "the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords" (1 Tim. 6:15).

Entrance into the everlasting kingdom of heaven is supplied by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:11). If Jesus is to be our Savior, He must first be our Lord. Jesus asked, "why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" (Lk. 6:46). Indeed, many call Him Lord and say that they know Him while in reality they do not keep His commandments. "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments" (1 Jn. 2:3). Those who claim Jesus is their Lord without operating under His authority (by actually following His commands) are in for a rude awakening. Jesus warned:

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (Mt. 7:21-23.)

One of the major problems in our society is a lack of respect for authority. No doubt authority has been abused by wicked men in the past, but that does not warrant abandonment of all authority. Certainly, Jesus has not abused His authority. His authority ought to be respected. Today, many have the concept that they are the exception to the rule. As in the days of the judges, "In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes" (Jdgs. 21:25).

Sadly, this thinking has also permeated some circles in the church. Instead of regarding the will of King Jesus revealed in the New Testament as authoritative over our lives, some live how they please as if there is no law by which our King expects us to live. If we want to see Jesus in heaven, a place pure from the defilement of sin (Rev. 21:27), then we must continue the process of rooting sin out of our lives to become more and more holy and pure as Jesus is holy and pure (1 Jn. 3:3). God helps us in our sanctification if we will be sensitive to His word (Acts 20:32).

However, sin is a transgression of God's word; it is lawlessness—acting as if one is a law unto himself and disregarding the laws and commands of God (1 Jn. 3:4). Children of God do not continue the practice of sin (1 Jn. 3:5). They have been delivered from the bondage of sin (Jn. 8:34-36; Rom. 6:5-19). To go back to the defilements of sin would mean an abandonment of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Who set the Christian free in the first place, and would result in a worse end than the beginning (2 Pet. 2:20-22). Do not be duped by religious teaching that promises a false freedom in the form of disregarding the authority Jesus has over our lives; instead of true freedom, this thinking results in the bondage of corruption (2 Pet. 2:19).

-Mark Day



AM: The Blessed Life PM: Governing Authorities

PM Scripture Reading:

Romans 13:1-7

1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil.

5 Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing.

7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Attendance & Contribution Goals			
	<u>12/31/23</u>	Goal	1/1/23
Bible Study	67	90	57
AM Worship	103	130	94
PM Worship	74	90	67
<u>Mid Week</u>	68	90	54
Contribution:	\$6,044.01	\$6000.00	\$6,085.50

Dates to Remember

Jan. 21-Elders, deacons, and preacher meeting in the annex at 4:30p

<u>New Address</u>

Please note that Sister Phyre Sheared has moved to a new location. Her updated address is 711 17th. St. Ashland, KY 41101.

Have you contacted a shut-in lately? Why not today?

es Today's Servants or

WELCOME: AM/PM: Nathan Adkins

SONG LEADER:

AM: Brad Morris **PM:** Jeremiah Smith

FIRST PRAYER:

AM: John Gambill **PM:** JC Hughes

LORD'S TABLE*:

Presiding AM: Greg Conley Assisting: Chris Scott, Greg Hall, Mark Parks, Jackson Morris, Mark Gullett, Terry Fouts, Ernie Perry Presiding PM: Jordan Conley

Assisting: George Wallace *gluten-free bread

CLOSING PRAYER:

AM: Chris Legg **PM:** Mason Morris

SCRIPTURE READING:

PM: Noah Day

& Wednesday Servants

WELCOME: Greg Hall **SONG LEADER:** Jackson Morris **PRAYER:** JC Hughes **DEVOTION:** Greg Hall

🔊 <u>Weekly Servants</u> 🗷

LIVE STREAM: Luke Wallace **POWER POINT**: Jesse Legg **BLDG. ATT.:** Chris Scott **COORDINATOR:** JC Hughes **ATTENDANCE:** John Gambill



*** Sundays *** **Pew Packers** 5:45pm in front of the

auditoriumgeared to age 12 & under but everyone is welcome.



Welcome, Visitor!

We are so pleased to have you as our guest today.

If you are a first-time visitor with us, please, fill out a 'visitor card' that you will find on the back of the pew. You may put it in the collection plate or give it to one of the men at the auditorium doors as you exit.

We have tract racks on the wall in the foyer with free tracts and literature. We also have Bible correspondence courses you can sign up to receive by mail at no cost to you. Let our preacher know if you would like to set up an in-home Bible study. Thank you for attending.