

## Tidings From Timothy

**W**hy not use special events at church to invite neighbors to come? We are presently in a series of videos on the Holy Land. This is an excellent opportunity for you to invite someone to come out and see us by telling them to make sure to check out our Sunday School video. This morning I will be preaching on “The blood of Christ.” I believe it will help us to understand a great number of Bible passages.

**Tuesday is Election Day:** What does this mean? No school ☺. Seriously, it means that if you choose to participate, then the Lord knows what you wish to promote. He sees the thoughts and intents of our hearts and follows us wherever we go (Psalm 139). Whatever happens, we need prayer that justice will reign in society, that Christians are not persecuted, and that our nation respects it’s foundational belief in life including life for our unborn. Why not pray and perhaps fast to make for a more effective prayer. God wants a righteous nation.

**In Need of Prayer:** Keep in your prayers those having medical tests and those in and out of our community who have lost loved ones. Lucille Abney is back at Cardinal Hill in Lexington. An address is posted over the desk out front. Jaxen Bowles had a successful surgery but will need a lot of prayer as he recovers from procedures on both feet.

**Meeting:** There will be a meeting starting today and going through the 5<sup>th</sup> at Tompkinsville church of Christ. Westley Hazel will be preaching.

### “THE LAST PUBLIC HANGING” IN RETROSPECT

In the November 1993 edition of the magazine **Kentucky Living**, there is an article with the title, “The Last Public Hanging” by Mel Tharp. In the article, Mr. Tharp gives an eyewitness account of the last official public hanging in the United States. Mr. Tharp’s article was laced with negative images concerning the hanging of Rainey Bethea. Bethea was convicted of raping an elderly lady who he also supposedly robbed and murdered.

Mr. Tharp begins in his first paragraph by speaking of the hanging as the cause of conjuring “up the thought of **violent** death” (Emphasis mine, TM). In his last paragraph, Mr. Tharp says “all I could see was a youngster” in reference to Mr. Bethea. The author concluded by saying, “I hope I never have to watch anything like it again.”

Now it was not for me to determine Rainey Bethea’s guilt or innocence. Also, I do not really know what Mr. Tharp’s position on hanging or capital punishment is. However, I would like to take the opportunity to say a few words about the subject, especially since America has changed so much since 1936 when this hanging occurred. Punishment should not be looked upon with sadistic glee, but, quite frankly folks, we need more hangings. Not just hangings, but simply punishment in general given to those who deserve it by those authorized to dish it out. Let me explain my reasoning behind that.

Compared to 1936, do we feel more or less secure on the street and in our homes? Compared to 1936, I wonder if there are more or less mothers and other loved ones weeping over the grave of someone whose innocent blood has been shed by evildoers. How many times does a drunk driver have to kill someone before we “get tough” with him these days.

It is the lack of respect for authority and even life itself that demands that we punish those who do evil. God has clearly shown us that this is His way. ***"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." Genesis 9:6 "And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree..." Deuteronomy 21:22*** When Paul was speaking he indicated that he willingly lived under a capital punishment system by saying, ***"For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar." Acts 25:11*** In fact, Paul taught by inspiration that the Government has the authority to punish them that do wrong even to the point of death. ***"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: for he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to [execute] wrath upon him that doeth evil." Romans 13:1-5.***

What we need in America today is a few more hangings, a few more electrocutions, a few more lethal injections, and I’m not being bloodthirsty by saying that. I would that not even one single person should wrong another, but we cannot be blind to the fact that it happens. I simply yearn for a nation that recognizes that there is such a thing as evil, and it is a just thing for the government to punish those that practice evil and praise them that do well. Somewhere along the line we got it backwards.

--Tim McHenry

# Mt. Gilead church of Christ

PO Box 266, 1189 Mt. Gilead Rd., Tompkinsville, KY 42167 • 270-487-5342

- Hear the Gospel - Acts 15:7
- Believe the Gospel - Mark 16:15,16
- Repent of Sins - Acts 17:30
- Confess Christ - Rom. 10:9,10
- Be Baptized for the Forgiveness of Sins - Acts 2:38

Then, as a Christian we must:

- **LIVE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH - REV. 2:10**

## Study the Bible?

God speaks to us today through the Holy Word of God - The Bible (Hebrews 1:1-2). The Scriptures instruct us in the way God requires His people to live (2 Timothy 3:16,17). The Bible is powerful and able to save us (Romans 1:16; James 1:21-25), if we will hear, learn and obey it.

⇒ **Yes!** I want to learn more about the Holy Bible. Please enroll me in the eight lesson FREE Bible Correspondence Course (we even pay for the postage).

Call 487-5342, or mail this form to us:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: PO Box 266, Tompkinsville, KY 42167

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**John 6:33 - 35** <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup>Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” <sup>35</sup>And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. **John 6:51** <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

Elders:

- Keith Dyer.....427-4105
- Veachel Harlan.....487-5727

Deacons:

Steve Carter, Larry Copas, Ray C. Lyon, Cass Thomas Froedge, Bobby D. Gerald, Bobby Harlan, Kevin Deckard, Jimmy High, Gary Rowland

Evangelist:

Tim McHenry, 931-258-3494  
12955 Clay Co. HWY Moss, TN 38575

## Schedule of Services:

**Sunday:**

Bible Study...	9:30am
Morning Worship...	10:05am
Evening Worship...	6pm

**Wednesday:** Bible Study... 7pm

Listen to our Sunday Morning Radio Sermon on WTKY 1370 AM & 92.1, 102.7, 101.5 FM at 8:30am each week, and to our weekday 10min program after the Noonday news and reports.