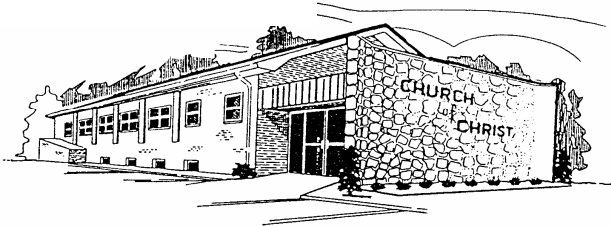


Teaching them to observe  
all things...Matt. 28:20



# The St. Joseph Observer

*April 11, 2010*

## **The St. Joseph Church of Christ**

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## **Schedule of Services**

Sunday School  
9:45

Sunday Worship  
10:45

Sunday PM  
5:00

Tuesday Ladies' Class  
9:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study  
6:00

## **Elders**

Leo Conkin	925-7688
Clyde Daniel	428-2322
Charlie McGee	861-5811
Steve Parsons	465-7901

## **Deacons**

Dave Hipskind	468-4735
Eric Ramso	465-5965

## **Ladies' Prayer Chain**

Kim Batson	428-7281
Barb Conkin	925-7688
Gayle Daniel	428-2322
Jan Mundy	473-1505

## **Spiritual Warfare**

When was the last time you thought about or even heard about the concept of "spiritual warfare?" That term conjures up images of Satan and God doing battle. Or even a person fighting a spirit. I think about Jacob wrestling with God or the archangel Michael fighting with Satan over the body of Moses.

But that is about as real as it gets. We certainly understand war. Since 1948, our country has been directly involved in conflicts with other countries 24 times. The more "memorable" wars would be the Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, War in Afghanistan, and the war in Iraq. Less famous conflicts would include the invasion of Granada and the Panama invasion. The point is, we understand terms like conflict, battle, war, fight, and struggle; especially in the physical sense.

The problem we have is accepting those terms in the **SPIRITUAL** realm. We speak of fighting Satan. But do we really understand what that means? Do we feel any sense of urgency about that struggle? Paul said:



*<sup>10-12</sup>... God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish*

*against the Devil and all his angels.*

*<sup>13-18</sup>Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.*

*---The Message*

*-----Continued on back*

**Please remember in prayer...**

- Members with Health Issues Leo Conkin, Warren James, Virginia Kowalski, Vanessa Matthews, Jim Smith, Lee Wallis, Juanita Weatherford
- The Military Nick Hastings, Ian Matthews
- Our Church The Buildings & Grounds Committee, our Elders & Deacons, our members

*Continued from front*-----

Paul knew this battle is for all the marbles. I have no idea what pleasure Satan derives from tempting us and trying to take us from God. I have no idea what measure of hate, cruelty and pure evil he must have that drives him and makes him so relentless. And, quite frankly... I don't care. What concerns me is his strong desire to see me condemned. What else concerns me is our collective apathy about this struggle. I'm not sure we take this "battle" as seriously as we should.

For many, Christianity is just one more thing in our already cluttered lives; another "event" that has to be worked into our schedules. It's not so much a focal point in our lives as it is an add-on. At worst, we don't see it as relevant; at best, it is an inconvenience.

We don't "see" the battle raging so we ignore it. Part of the way we ignore it is by **NOT** arming ourselves; **NOT** preparing ourselves for what is in front of us. We don't spend too much time in the Word. We don't spend much time teaching. We have convinced ourselves that perhaps it is enough to be a "good example." It's enough to lead a good life that other people will admire.

It is true that we teach by example. Husbands, wives, children, parents, friends... they all learn much more from what we do than what we say. So here's the question. What, exactly, are you teaching them?

Are you teaching them that church is somewhat important but worshipping God is not necessary if family happens to be in town, or there's an important sporting event, or if you are simply on vacation? For some, worship is something you do when there's nothing else to do. And, of course, attending other things like Bible classes is almost completely out of the question.





Now... don't get me wrong. I am **NOT** saying you are committing some kind of sin if you are not here each and every time the doors are open. I am saying that we don't arm ourselves. We don't surround ourselves with other Christian soldiers. We don't enjoy being with other Christians nearly so much as we enjoy being with those outside the church; those who aren't marching in the same trenches we are.

Can you look at yourself and say, "Yes, Paul, I have put on the full armor of God. I take advantage of **EVERY** weapon God has given me. I am prepared."

We spend much more of our collective time on things that are much less important. The way we choose to spend our time (or not spend our time) tells our family and our friends exactly what is important to us. So... what, **EXACTLY**, are you telling your family and friends?

Charlie

**Congregational Calendar April**

11	12	13	14  Caleb Gilmer	15	16  Scott Batson	17  Wesley Matthews
		<i>Ladies' Class</i>				
18	19	20	21	22  Elaine Hicks	23	24
		<i>Ladies' Class</i>				