

## Want to Know More?

Are you interested in understanding more about the Bible and God's plan of salvation for humanity? Please visit our website for the following resources

- Audio Sermons
- Bible-based Articles

[www.jonesroadchurch.org](http://www.jonesroadchurch.org)

## Please Join us for Worship

Sundays

9:30am - Bible Study

10:20am & 5pm - Worship

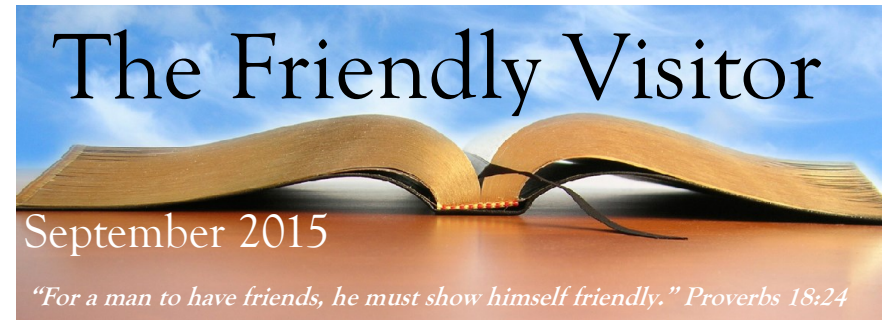
Wednesdays

7pm - Bible Study

## Jones Road Church of Christ

17312 Jones Road Athens, AL 35613 (256) 233-3160

**"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son." 2 John 1:9**



## You May Not Want to Visit

*John R. Gibson*

Each month the back page of this publication invites readers to join us for worship, but after giving it some thought we've realized some of you may not want to visit.

You may not want to visit if you are searching for a church with perfect people. If that is the case, you will be disappointed to discover the Jones Road church of Christ is a collection of flawed individuals. We've made our share of mistakes over the years and you would find some of us still don't always say or do the right things every time. From the youngest to the oldest, careful examination will reveal imperfections in every member here. So if you are looking for the perfect group of people, you won't find it in us.

If you are hoping for a worship experience similar to what you would enjoy when listening to a professional musician, you will find our worship assemblies don't even come close to that standard. We don't have a praise band (or any instruments for that matter) and our singing is not done by a trained choir, but congregationally by the same group of imperfect people previously mentioned. We hate to admit it, but sometimes our singing is a little too slow or too fast, or maybe it's a little too low or perhaps too high. If you are in search of an entertaining worship experience, we are not the place you should visit.

Are you looking for a church with spellbinding preaching able to keep you on the edge of your seat? Are you searching for a charismatic eloquence that stirs you to the bottom of your heart? If you come expecting to hear a dramatic or entertaining message, you will likely

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leave disappointed.

A lot of people will visit a church with the expectations of being able to enjoy some good food, but because we don't read of New Testament churches doing this, meals aren't served here. Now most of us do like to eat and will occasionally get together somewhere for a social meal, but it's an individual activity and not something done as a church. We might add that we don't have any type of church organized or church sponsored recreation options either. So if you are looking for food and fun, we are probably not the place for you.

As the title of this article says, you may not want to visit here if you are looking for these things. However, we are not going to rescind our invitation to all because you may still want to visit if...

If you are interested in finding a group whose members may not be perfect, but have a commitment to the search for and practice of truth, we believe you would find us to be what you are searching for. Our classes, sermons, worship, and congregational practices are all built around the belief it is the truth which will make us free (John 8:31-32). While you shouldn't come expecting to hear spellbinding eloquence in the sermons, you can expect the Bible to be opened and the message to come from it. While open to the possibility of being wrong, we are guided by the belief doctrine matters. *"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son"* (2 John 1:9).

If the idea of imperfect people striving to grow appeals to you, then we believe you will find this in us. We realize we have our flaws, but our commitment to knowing the truth is not intended to be an academic exercise; instead, it is part of our desire to grow to be more like Jesus (1 Peter 2:1-3; Colossians 3:9-10). We know we are not there yet, but we are continually seeking to challenge and exhort one another in this direction.

As we said, you won't find an entertaining worship experience and you will find our singing to be musically imperfect, but if you are looking for a group committed to the simple New Testament pattern of worship, we invite you to come join us in praising God as we are taught to do in the following verses. *"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"* (Ephesians 5:18-19). *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing*

*one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord"* (Colossians 3:16). Our worship may not be musically perfect, but if you are interested in songs of praise sung from the heart, you will be glad you visited.

If you visit, will you be glad you came or disappointed in what you find? The answer to that question will likely be determined by what you are looking for. John 6 tells of some who came to Jesus and left disappointed because they had come for the "food which perishes," while Peter and the other apostles remained with the Lord because they were focused on "the words of eternal life. (See John 6 and especially 6:26-27, 66-69.) If you have an interest in the words of eternal life, we want to help and we believe all who visit with an interest in spiritual things will leave glad they came. We hope to see you soon!

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## Pearls from Proverbs

- ◆ "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." 16:18
- ◆ "A merry heart does good like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones." 17:22
- ◆ "He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is a folly and shame to him." 18:13
- ◆ "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise." 20:1
- ◆ "It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel." 20:3

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**" Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you." John 6:27**