A Definition Of Religion

By Mike Riley

The Online Etymology Dictionary gives us the following definition of religion:

“from L. religionem (nom. religio) “respect for what is sacred, reverence for the gods,” in L.L. “monastic life” (5c.); according to Cicero, derived from relegare “go through again, read again,” from re- “again” + legere “read” (see lecture). However, popular etymology among the later ancients (and many modern writers) connects it with religare “to bind fast, via the notion of “place an obligation on,” or “bond between humans and gods.”

The apostle Paul must have understood the above definition, “to bind fast,” for he stated on several occasions to “hold fast” (1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Titus 1:9). The Hebrew writer also motivates his readers to “hold fast” (Hebrews 3:6; Hebrews 4:14; Hebrews 10:23).

Regarding the above definition of religion being a “bond between humans and gods,” Paul considered himself a “bondservant” (Gr. a “doulos” – Strongs 1401 – a slave to Christ (Romans 1:1 ASV), Christ being a member of the Godhead whose nature is that of deity (see article).

The New Testament writer James gives us the following inspired definition:

“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world” (James 1:27 ESV; cf. Romans 12:2 ESV).

STERLINGTON

Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82
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Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

10/4/26

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Those to Serve

Today

Announcements- Lyle Russell
Communion- Jerry McDonald
Sermon- Don DeLukie
Opening Prayer- Wayne Fowler
Closing Prayer- David Reppond

Next Sunday

Announcements- Wayne Fowler
Communion- Rick Cook
Sermon- Don DeLukie
Opening Prayer- Paul Simpson
Closing Prayer- David Reppond

Announcements

—**Veteran's Home Program:** Our next Veteran's Home event will be held on **October 27th at 2:00 PM** and will be held on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 2:00 PM. If you would like to be part of this amazing program, please see Sandy VanLoon or Kari Johnstone.

—**Check the Bulletin Board:** Several Gospel Meetings and Ladies' Days are happening in our area. Please see the bulletin board in the foyer for more details.

—**Children's Home Collection:** Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.

Scan the QR code to visit our website.



Please Pray For:

Jerry Woods, Charlie Reeves, Katie Matheny, Lee Brantley, Debbie Jones, Steffan Washington, The Freeman Family, Joanie Franklin, George Johnson, Mary Jo Burns, Shayna Smith, Marilyn Thomas, Charley Buckley.

Needing Long-Term Prayers:

Joanie Franklin, David & Elaine Reppond, Joyce Frith, Terry Atwood, Billy Granger, Rhonda Rogers, Blayne Atkins, Chuck & Shannon Boyer, Jo Darris Collins, Christy McDaniel, Carey Day, Leo & Shirley Goodwin, Arthur & Sybil Binford, Dan Ross Jr, Dena White, Larry & Joanne Randolph, Bettye Flowers, Dave & Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross.

Bereaved: Families of Ann Pelligrin, Ruth Parks, Debbie Walker.





October Birthdays

2 - Rick VanLoon
5 - Steve Arender
7 - Joyce McDonald
12 - Barbara Wheeler
14 - Kathy Manning
15 - Chuck Boyer
18 - Randal Freeman
24 - Jean Delukie
26 - Kari Johnstone
27 - Charles Fricke

October Anniversaries- none

