



# Follow Me

“And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”

- Luke 9.23-24

## VISION 2017



## A MESSAGE FROM THE ELDERS

**S**eptember 11, 2001 started like every other day for Stanley Praitnath. As he stood at his desk on the 81<sup>st</sup> floor of the World Trade Center Tower Two he saw balls of fire falling from Tower One. Immediately he hung up the phone and told the temporary employee working with him that day to get out of the building. As they started down to the concourse level they met others from their company that joined them as they made their way out.

According to Stanley upon arriving at the concourse level a security guard stopped the group and asked them where they were going. He told him about the fire coming from Tower One. The security guard said “Oh, that was just an accident. Two World Trade Center is secured. Go back to your office.” That turned out to be fatal advice. From his department, only Stanley and the temporary employee he sent home would survive.

When Stanley got back to his office his phone was ringing. As he was talking on the phone he saw American Airlines Flight 11 coming directly toward him. He dived under his desk and the room exploded around him. Miraculously he survived. He looked out from underneath the rubble and saw the plane wing in the doorway of his department. With all his strength he pushed his way out from under the debris and tried to climb through what was left of his office. He soon realized he could not get out.

Suddenly he heard a voice. It was the voice of Brian Clark calling out looking for survivors as he was coming down from the 84<sup>th</sup> floor. Stanley followed the sound of Brian’s voice until they came to a wall separating the two of them. Stanley peered through a small hole in the drywall and there he saw the light from Brian’s flashlight. There was an opening at the top of the wall. Brian told Stanley that would be his only way out. Stanley jumped as high as he could and Brian grabbed him under his arms and drug him to the other side.

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They landed in a heap on the floor.

Together the two men made their way down 81 flights of stairs and out of the building. As they exited firefighters told them to run. They held hands and ran as best they could. 3 minutes later as they reached Trinity Church about 2 blocks away the World Trade Center Tower Two collapsed.

Stanley heard two voices that day. One telling him to go back to where he had come from and another saying follow the sound of my voice and I will help you.

Our theme for 2017 is "Follow Me". Voices call to us every day instructing us in ways that can destroy our spiritual life. Jesus said in Luke 9:23: *Take up your cross daily & follow me....*

In John 10:14-16 Jesus said *I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.*

In our daily walk it matters who we listen to and who we follow. This year we will focus on what Jesus' statement "Follow Me" looks like on a practical basis. Are you focused on yourself or on Jesus? Are the voices of the world overpowering the voice of the Savior? Who are you listening to? Who are you following?

### ***Where He Leads Me I Will Follow***

***I can hear my Savior calling, I can hear my Savior calling, I can hear my Savior calling. Take thy cross and follow, follow Me.***

***Where He leads me I will follow, Where He leads me I will follow, I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.***

**- John S Norris**

## MOVING FORWARD

**I**n 2016, we looked at our society to see how “messed up” things are. Our country is in a moral decline and each day people are moving farther away from their relationship with God. Our world is filled with drugs, pornography, broken homes, needless deaths, and decay at every turn. We are seeing a new generation that does not have a Godly compass and many who do not even know God. But, we concluded our year with the renewed promise and hope of an eternal home knowing there is a God who wants us all to be in Heaven and in an eternal relationship with Him.

As we begin 2017, our central theme is seeing Jesus for how He impacts our daily life. Paul said, *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things*, Philippians 4.8. It is this idea of “excellence” that triggers our motivation, dedication and pursuit of those Godly traits in our lives. And Paul says we are to dwell on these things – what is true, honorable, right, pure and of good repute. The life of Jesus is our example of how we act and what we think.

Mark Twain wrote, “What a wee little part of a person’s life are his acts and his words! His real life is led in his head, and is known to none but himself. All day long, the mill of his brain is grinding, and his thoughts, not those other things, are his history.” (*Reader’s Digest* [1/93], p. 155). What Twain is saying is, our thoughts form the basis for and is largely revealed in our actions and words. It is this pursuit of excellent thoughts that govern our lives in Christ and our relationship with each other. Jesus said, *“That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil*

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*things proceed from within and defile the man*, Mark 7.20-23. No one commits these outward sins without first having committed them in their mind. If we want to grow in godliness and in the pursuit of excellence, we must win the battle over sin on the thought level. Seeing Jesus in our everyday life will elevate our thinking and those things worthy to be praised.

**This year, focus on what is worthy of praise.** In scripture, *praise* is used both of what is praiseworthy in God (Ephesians 1.6,12) and in people (Romans 13.3). Every attribute and deed of God is good. Therefore, we should think daily about how great God is and how perfectly Jesus rules in our lives. Towards others, we should be gracious and focus on their strong points and good qualities, always thinking the best of others. For by doing so, we bring glory unto God. Our hearts are thinking on the positive vs. the negative and the results of our actions reflect the light of Jesus in us.

**Finally, think on these things.** Paul wants us to reflect on the qualities that stem from God as seen in the character of Jesus. We should be followers in those footprints and in our daily actions. We should give these Godly qualities the full weight of our decisions, allowing them to shape our conduct.

In our studies during 2017, ***let us resolve to pursue those things that are excellent.*** Those things we can see in the life of Christ. Our goal is to see every member of this congregation in Heaven. As long as we are all going in the same direction with God on the journey to Heaven, we have help and hope from Him and each other. Some are not in the same place on this journey. Some are ahead of us. Some are behind us. It's easy to wrongly judge others because they are not beside us. For some, it is easy to feel worthless because we think we are so far behind others. But that's not how God feels.

Remember Luke 9, Jesus said, "Follow Me." No matter where you are in your journey, follow Him. In the end you'll have a better life here and certainly in the one to come.

## OUR EVANGELISTIC PLAN

**T**his year's theme, *Follow Me*, is based off Jesus' words in Luke 9.23-24: *If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.* Following Jesus is to be our daily pursuit. As we do, God goes to work transforming our life into His image, Romans 8.29. A natural outgrowth of this transformation is our desire to share the good news of salvation with everyone we can. This is the fulfilling of Jesus' *great commission* at the end of Matthew's gospel: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you*, Matthew 28.19-20a.

The Kettering Church is committed to following Jesus' great commission. A church that follows Jesus will gladly share the good news with everyone. For decades, we have dedicated our efforts both locally and internationally in carrying out our Lord's wishes. As we begin 2017, our plan is to continue the mission locally and in Colombia.

Last year, we invigorated our focus on local evangelism by inviting a second evangelist to work with us, creating a culture of evangelism that we hope will spurn us to great efforts to share Jesus in the greater Dayton area. As we move forward with our local efforts this year, our shepherds and evangelists are strongly committed to local evangelism. Our mission is to ***guide people into a growing relationship with Jesus.*** How do we do that?

- **Improved guest followup.** Kettering is blessed each week to have a number of guests from the community. Many of them find us on their own after searching the internet and visiting our website. Others come to us through personal invitation by one of our members. This

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year, we will be increasing our efforts to effectively follow up with guests.

We want them to feel welcome and cared for, as well as meet them where they are in sharing the gospel.

- **Evangelistically focused Bible classes, special weekends, singings, and prayer meetings.** As you scroll through this book, be sure to look at our sermon themes, Bible class titles, and other events. Some of the topics may be of special interest to a friend, relative, or co-worker. For some classes or sermons, special invitations may be printed. For others, you may be encouraged to think of those you can invite to come hear special presentations. If you know someone who is struggling and needs prayer, invite them to a prayer meeting.
- **Utilize our mens and ladies classes along with teen devotionals as evangelistic opportunities.** Some people do very well in a small group setting. If you think this might be a good entry point for someone to get familiar with the Kettering family, there will be plenty of opportunities for that to happen.
- **Improve our guest section on the website.** As we move into the next year, be looking for video presentations that describe the Kettering Church, introduce our ministers, and present the gospel message to a worldwide audience. Some of the videos will be tied to articles and blog posts that will be available online.
- **Continue regular training by our second evangelist** on how to study the Bible, visitation techniques, and on *The Big Picture of the Bible*.
- **Look for additional ways and effective means to share the gospel.** This may include alternative forms of media, social media, and video capabilities.

## THE INVITATION TO FOLLOW

*Hearing & Heeding the Voice of Jesus*

What did people see in Jesus? What must they have observed that made them want to follow, often with very little hesitation? The stories are all over the gospels. In the gospel of John, upon seeing Jesus, John the Baptist called out saying, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”, John 1.29. On the next day, John and two of his disciples watched Jesus walk by. John once again identified Jesus as “the Lamb of God.” The text says, “The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus,” John 1.37. Next comes Peter, then Phillip, and then Nathanael.

Why did they follow? What were they looking for? How did they know this was the Messiah? His voice was the one they heard from *Moses in the Law, and also the Prophets*, John 1.45. He was understandable, speaking words they could comprehend. He told them things they didn’t know about themselves, John 1.42, 46, 48-50. He brought hope and anticipation for the future. He promised them a better tomorrow based on the unchanging words from the past.

There is something that happens when a person hears Jesus. It’s life-changing. In Him, we find a man of compassion. A man of love. A man of patience. He offers healing, a better life, peace, and forgiveness. With Christ, there is always great anticipation that something better is coming. When we learn from Him all the contrasting voices of this world, which are always fueled by Satan, fade away. Coming to know Jesus was truly a life-changing event for not only His twelve disciples, but for each one of us.

Today, His invitation remains. Not only do we see it in Luke 9.23-26, we see Jesus’ words in Matthew 11.28: “Come unto Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”



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Are you tired? Are you burdened? Do you need rest? Will you accept the invitation to follow?

During this quarter, we will concentrate on three main teaching objectives:

1. Accepting the invitation
2. Disregarding voices of opposition
3. Why follow Jesus

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**FIRST QUARTER: DECEMBER 4, 2016 • MARCH 1, 2017**

DATE	THEME	NOTES
DECEMBER	Jesus Calls Us	12/4 - Shepherds Outreach & Deacons Meeting
JANUARY	Satan Calls Us	
		1/8 - Shepherds Outreach & Deacons Meeting
		1/22 - Singing
		1/29 - Group Meetings
FEBRUARY	What Will You Do With Jesus?	2/5 - Shepherds Outreach & Deacons Meeting
		2/26 - Prayer Service

# CLASS SCHEDULES

**FIRST QUARTER: DECEMBER 4, 2016 • MARCH 1, 2017**

## Sunday Morning

The Beatitudes

Teacher: Matthew Allen

WEEK	DATE	LESSON TITLE
1	12/4/16	Quarter Intro & Background on Beatitudes
2	12/11/16	Blessed are the Poor in Spirit (5.3)
3	12/18/16	Blessed are They That Mourn (5.4)
4	12/25/16	Blessed are the Meek (5.5)
5	1/1/17	Hungering/Thirsting After Righteousness (5.6)
6	1/8/17	Blessed are the Merciful (5.7)
7	1/15/17	Blessed are the Pure in Heart (5.8)
8	1/22/17	Blessed are the Peacemakers (5.9-11)
9	1/29/17	The Christian and Persecution (5.12)
10	2/5/17	Prayer That Pleases God (6.5-15)
11	2/12/17	Embracing Things that Last (6.19-21)
12	2/19/17	Overcoming Worry (6.25-34)
13	2/26/17	The Golden Rule (7.12-14)

*So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

(Matthew 7:12, ESV)

# CLASS SCHEDULES

**FIRST QUARTER: DECEMBER 4, 2016 • MARCH 1, 2017**

## Wednesday (1 pm and 7.30 pm)

The Sermon on the Mount

Teacher: Jon Burnett/Paul Braden/Wes Grushon

WEEK	DATE	LESSON TITLE
1	12/7/16	Salt and Light (5.13-16)
2	12/14/16	Christ and the Old Testament (5.17-19)
3	12/21/16	A Superior Righteousness (5.20-21)
4	12/28/16	Avoiding Anger and Lust (5.21-30)
5	1/4/17	Jesus and Divorce (5.31-32)
6	1/11/17	Taking Oaths (5.33-37)
7	1/18/17	Turn the Other Cheek (5.38-42)
8	1/25/17	Loving Our Enemies (5.43-48)
9	2/1/17	Don't Do Alms to be Seen By Men (6.1-4)
10	2/8/17	The Christian and Fasting (6.16-18)
11	2/15/17	God or Mammon? (6.22-24)
12	2/22/17	Spiritual Judgment (7.1-5)
13	3/1/17	Battling Self Deception (7.15-29)

## TEEN BIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE

**DECEMBER 2016 - FEBRUARY 2017**

<b>SUNDAY</b> JR/HIGH SCHOOL	<b>The Purpose Driven Life</b> JIM GRUSHON
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> JR/HIGH SCHOOL	<b>The Beatitudes</b> MATTHEW ALLEN

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DISCIPLE

*Becoming Like Jesus...*

It's easy to see why it's so wonderful to follow Jesus. In a short span of three years, the world was changed forever. Those that saw Jesus were immediately attracted to what they heard. The ones who had open hearts heeded His voice and wanted to become His disciple, John 1.35-51. In Bible times, "disciple" was used in a general sense to describe a person who directs his mind to something. In the New Testament it most often refers to the one who has decided to follow Jesus as their Lord and Redeemer. As we examine the Scriptures, we see another quality: *a personal relationship*. It can be seen in how Jesus **related** to His disciples: *No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you*, John 15.15. It is readily observed in how the disciples interacted with Jesus: *Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life*, John 6.68.

In defining "disciple," perhaps the best definition in Scripture can be found in Luke 6.40: *A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher*. Did you catch it? A disciple is someone who is training to *be like his teacher*. That's us! Every day, we are being transformed into the image of Christ: *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit*," 2 Corinthians 3:18.

So, how do we follow Jesus? It begins with personal surrender. Jesus said, *Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it*," Matthew 10.39. Paul would echo this teaching in Romans 12.1-2: *...be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God...*

Finally, how can we help others see Jesus so they will want to follow Him? To his disciples, Jesus said: *For I have given you an*

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*example, that you also should do just as I have done to you, John 13.14–15.* To reach out to others, our lives must be characterized by Jesus' life. We should love, have a heart of compassion, be patient, be kind, give hope and peace like Jesus.

This quarter, we will emphasize:

1. What it means to be a disciple
2. How to follow Jesus
3. How to help others see Jesus in us so they will want to follow Him

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**SECOND QUARTER: MARCH 5, 2017 • MAY 31, 2017**

DATE	THEME	NOTES
MARCH	Discipleship: A Way of Life	3/5 - Shepherds Outreach & Deacons Meeting
		3/26 - Singing
APRIL	Take Up Your Cross Daily	4/2 - Shepherds Outreach & Deacons Meeting
		4/23 - Young Men's Service
		4/30 - Group Meetings
MAY	Come and See	5/7 - Shepherds Outreach & Deacons Meeting
		5/21 - Andy Cantrell Meeting

# CLASS SCHEDULES

**SECOND QUARTER: MARCH 5, 2017 • MAY 31, 2017**

Sunday Morning		
Come and See...		
Teacher: Alan Piner		
WEEK	DATE	LESSON TITLE
1	3/5/17	The Glorious Lord, the Lamb of God... (John 1-3)
2	3/12/17	Him, Who told me all I ever did... (John 4)
3	3/19/17	How He has made me whole... (John 5)
4	3/26/17	Who knows when I'm in the storms of life... (John 6)
5	4/2/17	That never has a man spoken like this man... (John 7)
6	4/9/17	How the truth will make you free... (John 8)
7	4/16/17	I was blind, but now I see... (John 9)
8	4/23/17	The Shepherd who provides... (John 10)
9	4/30/17	How Jesus Weeps... (John 11)
10	5/7/17	Who says we'll be judged in the last day... (John 12)
11	5/14/17	How He washed the disciples feet... (John 13)
12	5/21/17	Andy Cantrell Meeting
13	5/28/17	Him in all His passion & victory over sin... (John 17-20)

## CLASS SCHEDULES

**SECOND QUARTER: MARCH 5, 2017 • MAY 31, 2017**

### Wednesday (1 pm & 7.30 pm )

Discipleship: A Way of Life

Teacher: Daniel Barnes/Jason Schofield/Jeremy Price

WEEK	DATE	LESSON TITLE
1	3/8/17	The Gospel and Our Response
2	3/15/17	What is a Disciple Today?
3	3/22/17	The "How" Matters, (Pt. 1)
4	3/29/17	The "How" Matters, (Pt. 2)
5	4/5/17	A New Command
6	4/12/17	Kingdom Relationships, (Pt. 1)
7	4/19/17	Kingdom Relationships, (Pt. 2)
8	4/26/17	Kingdom Relationships, (Pt. 3)
9	5/3/17	Embracing True Spirituality
10	5/10/17	Extending Grace to Others
11	5/17/17	A Commitment to Spiritual Growth
12	5/24/17	Andy Cantrell Meeting
13	5/31/17	Living Your Life with Other Disciples

## TEEN BIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE

**MARCH - MAY 2017**

<b>SUNDAY</b> JR/HIGH SCHOOL	<b>What's Next?</b> Russ Robins, Rich Walker, George Wacks
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> JR/HIGH SCHOOL	<b>Come and See</b> Alan Piner

## DISCIPLES TOGETHER

*Having all things in common...*

In November 2011, our shepherds announced a commitment to focus greater attention to our reverence to God during our Sunday worship service and to build a stronger, more dedicated and interpersonal spiritual family. With these objectives in mind, they outlined some changes for 2012. They said:

*Our worship is an expression of honor, adoration and praise unto God. Several visitors have positively commented on our devotion and attitude. They have told us how encouraged and uplifted they were by our reverence during the worship. We will start our day with study time with our children. Our goal is for them to know they too have a soul that God loves and we are servants to them. We want to take this time to encourage them. After our morning Bible Study time, we will assemble to “stand in the presence of the Lord.”*

*Every aspect of our worship is to focus the congregation in our praising of God’s name as holy. Our goal is for every member and guest who experiences our worship to be encouraged and to leave uplifted. At the conclusion of the morning worship service, we will dismiss for the remainder of the day. Our hope is that many of you will invite other families into your home to strengthen our relationships one with another. We want to emulate the pattern we see in Acts 2.46. We want to develop our relationship as a spiritual family away from the four walls of the building. Our experience is, some of the greatest growth has taken place in the homes of others while sitting around a table sharing each other’s faith and experiences in the Lord’s service.*

“And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ...And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved,” Acts 2.43-44, 47. You see, it’s not a decision about what church to attend, **it’s about a decision to follow Jesus and let God add you to His church.**

At Kettering, our weekly worship is about family time in the presence of



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the Creator of the universe. Outside of worship the concept of *having all things in common* is descriptive of being a part of each other's lives.

With the first century disciples, it resulted in:

- a sense of awe and heartfelt unity.
- selling their belongings and taking care of the needs of others.
- assembling together daily.
- breaking bread together at home, with glad and generous hearts.
- praising God.
- having favor with all the people.

During this quarter we will focus on these teaching objectives:

1. what it means to worship in spirit and truth.
2. a yearning to be together.
3. the development of a servant's heart.

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**THIRD QUARTER: JUNE 4, 2017 • AUGUST 30, 2017**

DATE	THEME	NOTES
JUNE	Worship	6/4 - Shepherds Outreach & Deacons Meeting
		6/25 - Singing
JULY	A Common Love	
		7/9 - Shepherds Outreach & Deacons Meeting
		7/23 - Potential Colombian Preachers Visit
AUGUST	A Servant's Heart	7/30 - Group Meetings
		8/6 - Shepherds Outreach & Deacons Meeting
		8/27 - Singing

# CLASS SCHEDULES

THIRD QUARTER: JUNE 4, 2017 • AUGUST 30, 2017

## Sunday AM Auditorium

Disciples Devoted to Fellowship

Teacher: Matthew Allen

WEEK	DATE	LESSON TITLE
1	6/4/17	Lifting One Another Up
2	6/11/17	Exhorting One Another
3	6/18/17	Confessing Our Faults to One Another
4	6/25/17	Praying for One Another
5	7/2/17	Rejoicing For Each Other
6	7/9/17	Weeping with Each Other
7	7/16/17	Growing with Each Other
8	7/23/17	Sharing with Each Other
9	7/30/17	Trusting Each Other
10	8/6/17	Bearing with Each Other
11	8/13/17	Forgiving Each Other
12	8/20/17	Submitting to Each Other
13	8/27/17	Loving Each Other

*“And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”*

(Acts 2:46–47, ESV)

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## **2017 SUMMER SERIES**

<b>My Response to Jesus</b> <b>I Will Follow Because...</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>LESSON TITLE</b>
<b>6/7/17</b>	God Became Flesh: John 1
<b>6/14/17</b>	Jesus is the Great I AM: John 8.58
<b>6/21/17</b>	In Him is Light, John 1.4
<b>6/28/17</b>	He Has the Words of Eternal Life, John 6.68
<b>7/5/17</b>	I want to be in the family of God: Ephesians 2.18-19
<b>7/12/17</b>	I want to be Happy: Philippians 4.4-8
<b>7/19/17</b>	Of Love, the New Commandment: John 13.34-35
<b>7/26/17</b>	I can lead an abundant life, John 10.10
<b>8/2/17</b>	He Gave His All for Me, John 15.13
<b>8/9/17</b>	It's Not About Me, Luke 12.13-21
<b>8/16/17</b>	He Overcame Death, 1 Corinthians 15
<b>8/23/17</b>	Jesus is Coming, Revelation 22
<b>8/30/17</b>	Heaven is Worth it All, Revelation 22

## **TEEN BIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE**

<b>JUNE - AUGUST 2017</b>	
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>JR/HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>What's So Important About the Church?</b> Jason Schofield, Alan Piner, & Jason Pratt
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>JR/HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>SUMMER SERIES</b>

## BLESSINGS OF FOLLOWING JESUS

*In this life and the life to come...*

Jesus said, *“Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life, Mark 10.29-30.* Do you feel blessed “a hundredfold” in this life? Have you ever thought how great it *really* is to be a follower of Jesus Christ? Every day, God blesses us in ways we cannot conceive of or believe. We have:

- Been surrounded by a spiritual family who loves us.
- Many special people we know we can lean on during times of trouble.
- Established relationships of trust, knowing there are brothers and sisters in which we can confide.
- People to lift us up in prayer when we need it, or offer help, care, and advice.
- Those who love us, even when we fail.
- Hope for the future of our children and grandchildren because there will be people in the church that will care for them, as long as the world shall stand.
- Hope for families because of committed lives to Christ, blended with others who share those same commitments.
- People who share of their resources and talents to help others along the way.
- Lifelong friendships that add to the joy of this life.
- Sharing a common hope of what one day heaven will be like together.

We need to see the church for what it is. It is a shield of protection inside a hostile, aggressive world that is doing its best

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to tear us down. It is, a place *where the gates of hell shall never prevail*, Matthew 16.18. It is a place of refuge.

During this quarter, we want to accomplish the following teaching objectives:

1. Improve our understanding that Christianity is much more than an obligation: it is a privilege and a blessing to be a part of God's family.
2. Developing our ability to see the vast superiority of the eternal over anything we see in this life.
3. Even when we experience the lowest of life, we know heaven is worth it all.

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

FOURTH QUARTER: SEPTEMBER 3, 2017 • NOVEMBER 27, 2017		
DATE	THEME	NOTES
SEPTEMBER	The Blessings of Being in God's Family	
		9/10 - Shepherds Outreach & Deacons Meeting
		9/24 - Singing
OCTOBER	Finding Security for Our Families	10/1 - Roger Shouse Speaks at Kettering
		10/22 - Prayer Service
		10/29 - Group Meetings
NOVEMBER	Heaven is Worth it All	11/5 - Shepherds Outreach & Deacons Meeting
		11/19 - Congregational Meeting

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# CLASS SCHEDULES

**FOURTH QUARTER: SEPTEMBER 3, 2017 • NOVEMBER 29, 2017**

## Sunday Morning

**Count Your Many Blessings: Our Blessings of:**

**Teacher: Matthew Allen**

WEEK	DATE	LESSON TITLE
1	9/3/17	A Spiritual Perspective: Colossians 3
2	9/10/17	Salvation: Acts 8
3	9/17/17	A Healthy Family: Ephesians 5
4	9/24/17	Contentment: Philippians 4.4-20
	10/1/17	Roger Shouse Weekend Speaker
5	10/8/17	Trials: James 1.2-12
6	10/15/17	God's Word: 2 Timothy 3
7	10/22/17	Encouragement: 2 Timothy 4.2
8	10/29/17	Spiritual Leaders: 1 Peter 5.1-5
9	11/5/17	Second Chances: John 21
10	11/12/17	God's Work For Our Completion: Philippians 1.3-12
11	11/19/17	Prayer: Philippians 4.6-7
12	11/26/17	Our Heavenly Hope: 1 Peter 1.3-6

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him."*

(Ephesians 1:3-4, ESV)

# CLASS SCHEDULES

**FOURTH QUARTER: SEPTEMBER 3, 2017 • NOVEMBER 29, 2017**

## Wednesday Bible Study (1 pm and 7.30 pm)

**1 Thessalonians**

**Teacher: Jim Rutter/Dick Kelso/Paul Braden**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LESSON TITLE</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>9/6/17</b>	Intro/Background to 1 Thessalonians
<b>2</b>	<b>9/13/17</b>	1 Thess. 1: Faith That Shows
<b>3</b>	<b>9/20/17</b>	1 Thess. 2:1-12: Gentle Evangelism
<b>4</b>	<b>9/27/17</b>	1 Thess. 2.13-16: The Power of God's Word
<b>5</b>	<b>10/4/17</b>	1 Thess. 2.17-3.5: Unmistakeable Love
<b>6</b>	<b>10/11/17</b>	1 Thess. 3.6-13: Timothy's Report
<b>7</b>	<b>10/18/17</b>	1 Thess. 4.1-8: A Life Pleasing to God
<b>8</b>	<b>10/25/17</b>	1 Thess. 4.9-12: Day to Day Life
<b>9</b>	<b>11/1/17</b>	1 Thess. 4.13-18: Our Lord's Coming
<b>10</b>	<b>11/8/17</b>	1 Thess. 5.1-8: Children of the Day
<b>11</b>	<b>11/15/17</b>	1 Thess. 5.9-11: Be an Encouragement
<b>12</b>	<b>11/22/17</b>	1 Thess. 5.12-18: Basic Instructions (1)
<b>13</b>	<b>11/29/17</b>	1 Thess. 5.19-28: Basic Instructions (2)

## TEEN BIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE

**SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2017**

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>JR/HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>Do You Feel Blessed?</b> Jeremy Price & George Long
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>JR/HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>Guard Against Apostasy</b> Rich Jacobs & Dru McLaughlin

# CHANGES FOR 2017

## Enhance the leadership at the Kettering Church.

- Evaluate and encourage men to step into leadership positions.
- Provide greater leadership roles for our deacons in their respective areas of responsibility.
- Have a greater emphasis on servant leadership by all members of the congregation.
- Elders will embrace a model of shepherding as compared to a traditional corporate management style of leadership.
- Shepherds are committed to doing all things possible to not let any member “fall through the cracks.”
- Shepherds/deacons meetings will be separate, with deacons focusing on physical needs.
- Shepherds will meet each month to review each family, and its family members, in order to pray for, and to act to help with their spiritual well being.
- Periodically, our shepherds will be meeting for prayer and will be inviting members to come join with them.
- We want to foster greater openness and encourage members to reach out to the shepherds at any time.
- Work to create an environment where people can come together and ask for help with their struggles. This will help them realize they are not alone as they journey to heaven.
- We want to strive for excellence in every worship service, Bible class, evangelistic work, in *every event we ask you to participate in*, Colossians 3.23.

## Security

- Develop a comprehensive security plan for when the congregation assembles for worship.
- Evaluate building upgrades to provide greater security.
- Develop a security team that will be assigned each time we meet.



# OUR WORK IN COLOMBIA

**Since 2012, our congregation has played a major role in foreign evangelism:**

- Supporting six preachers from southwestern Colombia to the Caribbean coast and places in between.
- Sending one of our ministers, a deacon, and other members there to encourage and uplift our Colombian brothers and sisters.
- Bringing our Colombian evangelists to Kettering to personally learn about their work.
- Many individuals in our church family have contributed tens of thousands of dollars to meet one time benevolent needs as well as to purchase supplies needed in preaching the gospel.

**During 2017, it is our intention to:**

- Look for ways to improve our encouragement and support of the brethren and ministers in Colombia.
- Work to develop individuals to bridge the language barrier through interpretation.
- Encourage young men to step into roles of the aging ministers who may need to slow down in the next few years.
- Send Matthew and possibly one of our shepherds to Colombia to meet with the ministers we support.
- Consider bringing one or two men from Colombia to Kettering to meet with our church family.
- Develop someone who can translate the reports we receive from those we support.

## THOSE WE SUPPORT IN COLOMBIA



**Jaime Restrepo** lives in Manizales, Caldas. He travels extensively throughout Colombia preaching God's word. He also goes to neighboring countries in South America and has been instrumental in establishing many new congregations in the Lord. He has translated many English Bible study materials into Spanish. The Kettering congregation has been supporting Bro. Restrepo since 1985.



**Carlos Julio Rameriz** lives in Cali, Valle del Cauca. Besides his work with one of the churches in Cali, Brother Rameriz travels throughout western and southern Colombia working with various churches of Christ. He has helped establish congregations in Pasto, Buenaventura, Palmira, and Popayan. He began preaching full time in January 2013. The Kettering congregation has been supporting Bro. Rameriz since 2013.



**Rafael Amaya** lives in Ibagúe, Tolima. He has been preaching the gospel for 17 years. In 2005, he helped begin a new work in the neighborhood of Las Gaviotas in Ibagúe. Beginning with two families (6 individuals), the church currently numbers about 30 people. He also teaches twice a month in a village called God Wáter (Agua de Dios). There are about 12 people there. He also works with another congregation in Ibagúe. The Kettering congregation has been supporting Bro. Amaya since 2013.

## THOSE WE SUPPORT IN COLOMBIA



**Carlos Correa** lives in Lorica, Cordoba. He has been preaching the gospel since 2005. Brother Correa works with five congregations in northern Colombia. Besides working with churches in Lorica, San Antero and Manantial, he has recently helped begin new congregations in San Jose de Palmito and Pueblo Nueva. The Kettering congregation has been supporting Bro. Correa since 2013.



**Pedro Castro** lives in Baranquilla, Alantico. He has been preaching the gospel since 2005. Besides his work in Baranquilla, he travels extensively throughout northern Colombia preaching the gospel. Some of the churches in that area are La Jagua de Ibirico, Cesar, Sahagún in Córdoba, El Banco, Magdalena, El Varal, Bolivar and Playitas, Bolivar. The Kettering congregation has been supporting Bro. Castro since 2013.



**Wilson Valbuena** lives in Villavicencio, Meta. He has been preaching the gospel since 2008. Besides his work in Villavicencio, Brother Valbuena also works with congregations in Acacias, Castilla La Nueva, and Fuente de Oro. Around 35 Christians make up the church in Villavicencio. The Kettering congregation has been supporting Bro. Valbuena since 2015.



## Follow Me

### Service Times:

#### Sunday:

9.30 am: Bible Classes (Age 18 mo-up)

10.45 am: Praise, Prayer, and Preaching

#### Wednesday:

1 pm: Bible Class (Sept-May)

7.30 pm: Bible Class

#### Thursday:

10 am: Bible Class

# VISION 2017

FOLLOW JESUS



Loving like, Sharing,  
Growing in,  
& Honoring Jesus

4600 Bigger Road  
Kettering, OH 45440  
**937.434.8481**



### Shepherds:

Russ Robins

George Wacks

Rich Walker

Learn more about us at:

**[www.KETTERINGCHURCH.com](http://www.KETTERINGCHURCH.com)**

### Ministers:

Matthew Allen

Alan Piner

### Deacons:

Paul Braden

Jim Rutter

Jason Schofield

Dan Spargo

Roy Pyle

Wes Grushon

Rich Jacobs

Jason Pratt