

## UPCOMING

- Fellowship meal October 4, everyone please attend!
- Collection on Sunday October 4 will go to Spencer and Hannah Dickerson to help with Medical bills

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## Prayer List

Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments.

- Renee Cumberland, Sadie Hodge, Spencer Dickerson (cancer)
- Ora Barrett
- Connie Montgomery
- Emily Linton
- Andy Duncan (Liver transplant)
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## Communion Preparation

2026 preparation list is in foyer  
September - Carlberg  
October - Cooper  
November - Rowell

## Birthday / Anniversary

Camden Cooper - 1st  
Betty Lewis - 4th  
Rain Murphy - 5th  
Dwight Callens - 9th  
Bostyn Rowell - 10th  
Beverly Isaacs - 14th  
Aubri Cooper - 15th  
John Isaacs - 18th  
John & Crystalyn Tidwell - 25th

## Men to Serve

Announcements - Larry Montgomery  
Scripture Reading - Matthew 6:6 - 13  
Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell  
Head of Lord's Table - Rick Carlberg  
Assist on Lord's Table - Mark Potts  
Scripture Reading - Matthew 26:20 - 29  
Closing Prayer - James Johnson



09 / 27 / 2026

# WELCOME

We are a body of believers whose soul intention is to glorify and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the head of His church. Our desire is to reflect that of our God--that all be saved. Anyone who is willing to humble himself before the mighty hand of God can be saved.

## WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

### SUNDAY

Bible Study //  
9:30 am  
Worship Service //  
10:30 am

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study //  
7:00 pm

### NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

4217 Highway 39 N // Meridian, MS 39301  
**PHONE:** (601)483-2726 **WEB:** [www.nscocmeridian.com](http://www.nscocmeridian.com)  
Join us via live stream for our worship service!  
Like our Facebook page!

# SERMON NOTES

## The Light of Your Presence

By Roger Blackwelder

Several centuries ago in a mountain village in Europe, an aged nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to the people of his town. After some pondering, he decided to build a new church building for the town.

No one saw the completed plans for the building until construction had been completed. When the people saw the building, they marveled at its beauty, but someone asked, “But where are the lamps? How will it be lighted?”

The nobleman pointed to a series of alcoves along the walls. Then he gave to each family a candle to bring with them each time they came to worship.

“Each time you are here, the area where you are seated will be lighted,” the nobleman said, “but each time you are not here, that area will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to worship, some part of God’s house will be dark.”

The nobleman's gesture shows some insight into the importance of attendance.

The church building itself is not the house of God — the Christians themselves who make up the church serve that role. Paul said to Timothy, “but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). Paul wasn't instructing Timothy about his behavior in a building; he was instructing Timothy about his behavior among his brethren. Collectively, we are the temple of God, as Paul told the Corinthians, “Do you not know that you are the temple of

God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Peter wrote, “you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5). Continuing Peter’s metaphor, we can conclude that when members of the church are missing, the walls of God’s house have holes in them.

Too often as Christians, we focus only on ourselves. We believe that our presence is unimportant, and our absence is something that has no effect on others. The writer of Hebrews corrects this errant notion. “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25). We tend to think of our worship as only a two-party relationship — us and God. It is actually much more than that. Even calling it a three-party relationship falls short of describing the experience of worshipping God among brethren. Our worship is between us, God, and everyone else in attendance. We worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24); we edify and encourage our brethren (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

If you fail to come to services, you leave a dark corner in God’s house. You leave your brethren surrounded by darkness. When God's house is filled with light, God is glorified, and His children are edified. When God's house is shrouded in darkness, God knows it, and His children who do attend feel it. Are you serving God and your brethren by shining your light or are you leaving God’s house in darkness?