

TRUTH FOR TODAY

VOL. XXVI, NO. 11

SEPTEMBER, 2018

LADIES DAY

The sisters of the Verona church of Christ invite all ladies to attend their upcoming Ladies Day on **Saturday, September 8th**. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m., and lunch will be provided after the program. The theme of this special occasion will be *“There’s Sunshine in My Soul.”* Special guest speaker will be **Cindy Rodgers** from Nesbit, Mississippi.

Cindy Rodgers grew up in South Georgia. She is the youngest of three in her family. She and her husband, Wayne, have two sons, Kris, who just got married in August and has a daughter (Katlyn), and Matthew who is a senior in high school. She and Wayne have been married nearly 25 years and together they work with the Nesbit church of Christ, striving to take the gospel of Christ into all the world. Cindy graduated from the Memphis School of Preaching Wives’ Program in 2009. She also graduated from Valdosta State University in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education. Cindy is currently an Independent Senior Director with Thirty-One Gifts and has homeschooled her children for the last 12 years. She enjoys teaching Bible classes for young children, teen girls, and women. She also likes all things coffee, planning events, decorating, and organizing her home.

Again, all ladies are invited and encouraged to attend this uplifting time of worship, edification, and fellowship together. The Verona church building is located at 246 West Rd. in the city of Verona - for Google Maps you may enter the address for Tupelo, MS - either will direct you to the correct location. For more information, phone the Verona church building at (662)566-7575; leave a message if no one is there, and we will return your call as soon as possible.

WOMEN’S WORK IN THE CHURCH

Speaking of women, Scripture says that in the worship assemblies they have restricted roles. Paul’s instruction to Timothy in the first century is just as binding today - nearly 2,000 years later: *“And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in*

silence” (1 Timothy 2:12). Many blatantly disregard this admonition of Scripture, appointing women as ministers, song leaders, worship leaders, etc. as if God said nothing on the matter.

Though there are things women cannot do in the church with God’s approval, there are other roles they can play in the work of the church. The early church benefitted greatly by the contributions of many women. As a “for instance” of such, consider some of Paul’s closing words in the letter of Romans. As he wraps up this treatise, he mentions several individuals, some of whom might be considered “well-knowns” and others “lesser-knowns” - but each was precious in Paul’s sight. Among those mentioned included several women; their examples remind us of the value of women’s work in the church.

First in the list is **Phoebe**, “*a sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea...indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also*” (Romans 16:1-2). The superscription tells us that Phoebe was the one who was entrusted by Paul to carry this letter to Rome. While some disdain serving and helping, opting instead for more “glamorous” positions, Phoebe and true Christians realize that greatness from heaven’s perspective consists of serving (Mark 10:43). **Priscilla**, next in Paul’s list, would concur. She along with her husband Aquila helped edify the church, and even risked their lives for Paul, having “*laid down their own necks*” for his life. Wherever they were, they not only opened their hearts to members of the church, they also opened their home (Romans 16:3-5). The early church met in homes and used their homes as a place of assembly to worship and minister to one another.

Paul mentions **Mary**, who was a hard worker, as she “*labored much for us*” (Romans 16:6). In the New Testament, there are at least a half-dozen Mary’s; all we know about this particular Mary is that she worked hard to assist the church in Rome. May her number increase

today! Sisters **Tryphena, Tryphosa**, and the **beloved Persis** are also listed and commended for their much “*labor in the Lord*” (*Romans 16:12*).

What’s our point? Being restricted from certain aspects of the public assembly does not mean women are restricted from any participation in the work of the church! In fact, public assemblies are actually but a small part of the overall work of a congregation. There is much to be done outside the assembly if a congregation is to grow, and women are often in a position to provide much of this needed work!

When it comes to benevolence, women are well-suited - maybe even better-suited - to help in this regard. Assisting the fatherless and widows is a part of “*pure religion*” (*James 1:27*), as is ministering to the sick, poor and imprisoned (*Matthew 25:40*). Ladies bring an element of grace and beauty in this area of which men are often lacking. When it comes to preparing a meal, setting a table, wrapping a gift, women can add that “special” touch. Mercy and compassion are almost second nature to women. When I was a child and scraped my knee, I never ran to Dad for sympathy, but to Mom. She knew how to make it better!

When it comes to edification, or building up the body of Christ, women play an important role. While women are not to teach men, they can teach children. Lois and Eunice did a splendid job in instructing young Timothy and are commended for it (*2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15*). Older women can and should teach younger women (*Titus 2:3-5*). Women often have a “way with words” and can nurture and encourage the body of Christ by kind speech and godly lives.

When it comes to evangelism, women can support preachers who preach the gospel, as did Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna (*Luke 8:1-3*). They can provide much needed hospitality, as did Lydia (*Acts 16:15*). They can tell others about Christ. The Samaritan woman

who met Jesus and conversed with Him at Jacob's well (*John 4*) was instrumental in converting many to Christ. Again, the husband/wife team of Aquila and Priscilla both did so much in the realm of evangelism. They provided Paul a place to stay during his ministry at Corinth (*Acts 18:1-4*). They gently corrected Apollos at Ephesus (*Acts 18:24-26*). They hosted a congregation of the church at Ephesus and at Rome in their home (*1 Corinthians 16:19; Romans 16:3-5*). Even without saying a word, godly women can lead others to Christ, including unbelieving husbands (*1 Peter 3:1-2*).

So we see that while men and women have their own respective roles in the church and in the home, when all work together souls can be saved, strengthened in the Lord, and cared for in times of need. Thank God for godly women!

AREA-WIDE YOUTH MEETING

The Verona congregation will host the area-wide youth meeting Sunday night, **September 9th**, starting at 6:30. This monthly gathering of young people throughout the area is rotated around various churches of Christ in Lee and surrounding counties, and is a great time for youth and their chaperones to worship together, and then fellowship together afterwards.

Jameson Steward, recent graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching and current evangelist for the Smithville, MS, church of Christ, will be our special guest speaker. Jameson is married to **Ashley**, who grew up in the Verona congregation; they are blessed two sons, **Nate**, who is three, and **Casen**, who is now three months. Jameson is doing a splendid work at Smithville in preaching the Word and building up God's kingdom; we will be blessed immensely from his lesson on "*The Lord is My Shepherd.*"

We look forward to singing songs of praise to God, engaging in fervent prayer, and studying together from Scripture. We will be providing a meal after the youth meeting and

invite everyone to participate in that as well.

We welcome you to join us for an edifying evening together, September 9th at 6:30 all to the glory of God!

LADIES DAY

September 8, 2018

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

Cindy Rodgers, speaker (Nesbit, MS)

Theme: *“There’s Sunshine in My Soul”*

Lunch will be provided

VERONA CHURCH OF CHRIST

AREA-WIDE YOUTH MEETING

September 9, 2018

Jameson Steward, Speaker

Subject: “The Lord is My Shepherd”

6:30 p.m.

VERONA CHURCH OF CHRIST

GOSPEL MEETING

June 28 - 30, 2019

Mel Futrell, speaker

VERONA CHURCH OF CHRIST
