

## Ichabod

By Dan Jenkins

The spiritual picture of Israel during the time of Samson was so bleak. True enough, the mighty judge did so much to defeat the Philistines, but the immorality of his life brought shame on the nation God had treasured above all nations. There was, perhaps, hope that Eli, the new judge appointed by God, would bring greater spirituality to Israel, but such was far from what actually happened. In many ways it became worse.

The sons of the new judge, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests in charge of offering sacrifices at the tabernacle. God's first description of them was, "Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord" (1 Sam. 2:12). Ten verses later, we read that they were committing fornication with women at the entrance to this holy place.

It got even worse. When the Philistine army came against Israel and killed 4,000 Jews, the Ark of the Covenant was brought to the battle site as a "good luck charm" to see if it would help in the battle. It was Eli's evil sons who brought this ark! The ark was captured; the sons of Eli were killed along with 30,000 in the army of Israel.

When the pregnant wife of Phinehas, one of Eli's sons, heard of the death of her husband, the death of Eli (that's another amazing story), the slaughter of 30,000 Israelites and the capture of the ark, she was so grieved that she delivered the child. The name she gave to that child, Ichabod, showed what grieved her most for Ichabod means "the glory has departed." The enemies of God had taken those precious tablets and had taken the ark—the very place where atonement was made for God's people. The glory of Israel was not found in her father-in-law or in her husband. It was in the ark!

So, what lesson is there for us in this story? Think about how the glory of God is found in the church. Paul said, "For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, I will be their God and they shall be my people'" (2 Cor. 6:16). We glorify Him when we let our lights shine (Matt. 5:16). He has sanctified the church, cleansed us and presented us as a glorious church (Eph. 5:26-27).

What will remove His presence from us? When sin enters the church and is ignored, we walk in darkness, and He no longer is there for He withdraws His fellowship (1 John 1:3, 6). His glory is in the church, but He cannot remain where ungodliness abounds!

Please call John or email him at [jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com](mailto:jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you may have for the congregation.

## Things you should know about!

Communion is available as you come in the building, please take only what is needed for today. Hold on to the emblems until the proper time.

~~~~~  
**2022**

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

## Happy Birthday!!!

~~~~~  
Heather Kirchner 1/2      Jennifer Kirchner 1/2  
Lucian Martin 1/9      Rhonda Gaynor 1/15  
Macy Bang 1/17      Gage Thompson 1/17

~~~~~  
Next Sunday, January 9th. will be our next potluck lunch.

~~~~~  
Sunday's at 2:00pm John will be conducting a worship service at the Oakley Place Retirement Center at 1275 Northview Dr. in Greenville.

~~~~~  
January's men's meeting will be on 1/15/22 @ 9am.

### Serving today and next Sunday:

| Sunday AM Rotation     | January 2, 2022 | January 9, 2022  |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Announcements          | Ed Kirchner     | John McGiffin    |
| Song Leading           | Jason Bang      | Jason Bang       |
| Opening Prayer         | Jerry Thompson  | Tom Muter        |
| Lord's Supper Comments | Tim Bang        | Ed Kirchner      |
| Scripture Reading      | Chris McGiffin  | Owen Whittington |
| Sermon                 | John McGiffin   | John McGiffin    |
| Closing Prayer         | Duane Kemp      | Curt Thompson    |

**Bible Verse of the Week**

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Lord’s Supper Reflection – Why Did Jesus Die?**

*Jesus Died to Show God’s Love*

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

**Offering Meditation**

*Your Gift to God helps Support Fellow Christians*

“And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.” Acts 11:27-30

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Remember in Prayer:**

- \*Our Country & leaders
- \*Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- \*Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement
- \*Rhonda Gaynor - recovering from an ear/sinus infection and Bell’s Palsy
- \*Henry Morgan (Rena Morgan’s son) - has COVID, in the hospital on a ventilator
- \*Amy Hick (Tammy Seiber’s neighbor) has cancer
- \*Nicole (Tammy Seiber’s niece) - having some complications with her pregnancy
- \*Curtis Enos is recovering from hip surgery
- \*Ray Miller (Sam Martin’s grandfather) - has dementia
- \*Jeff Miller (Sam Martin’s uncle) - has lymphoma cancer
- \*Family and friends of Dan Long (Tom & Patsy Muter’s son) grieving his passing
- \*Tina Mellieon (co-worker of Laura McGiffin) - is having a biopsy done on a mass found on her face.
- \*Ron Menke (Faith Wogorman’s family member) in Hospice care for cancer.
- \*Justin King (Tammy Seiber’s nephew) - fell and has blood clots in his lungs.

**How can we be praying for YOU?**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Attendance and Contribution Record**

| Sunday, December 26   | Wednesday, December 29        |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bible Classes      21 | Attendance            30      |
| AM Attendance      25 |                               |
| PM Attendance      17 | Contribution          \$1,034 |

# Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



## January 2, 2022

Worship Times:

Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children’s Home Bradford Rd

Greenville, OH 45331

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

We are happy that you have chosen to worship with us today. If you are visiting, you are our honored guests and we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor’s card and let us get to know you.