



# IN TOUCH

5345 Big Tyler Road  
Cross Lanes, WV 25313  
304.776.1511  
[www.perrow.org](http://www.perrow.org)

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## SUNDAYS:

9:30 AM  
Sunday School, Study  
Groups

10:40 AM  
Worship Service

6:00 PM  
Sr. High Youth

## WEDNESDAYS:

6:30 PM  
Bible Study, Life Issues  
Support Group,  
Children & Middle School  
Youth Ministries

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**Week of August 29, 2010**

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# What's Happening at Perrow

- **SENIOR HI & COLLEGE AGE** — The College age and Senior High Youth will be having a fall kick off party this evening at 6:00 PM at the home of Lyle and Jeanne Helmick. If you need directions contact Jeanne at 304.206.6636.
- **FALL KICKOFF** — The fall kick off for all Wednesday evening activities will be September 8 at 6:30 PM. There will be a cook-out and Jupiter Jump for the kids. Armor Bearers and new adult classes will begin on Wednesday, September 15 at 6:30 PM with dinner being served at 5:30 PM.
- **MOPS** — Mothers of Preschoolers will be starting for the fall this Thursday, September 2 at 9:30 AM. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings of every month from 9:30 - 11:30 AM. We are in need of volunteers to babysit the children while the mothers meet. Contact Bobi Bryant for more details or if you would like to help at 304.776.1511.
- **TEACHER TRAINING** — On Sunday, September 12, immediately following the worship service there will a teacher training class. This is for ALL teachers and helpers for the fall, whether you teach Sunday School, Wednesday evening, or a small group. Lunch will be provided.
- **PRECEPTS** — The Precept class will begin on Tuesday, September 21 at 11:45 AM. We will be studying "Lamentations: Hope & Healing in the Aftermath of Rebellion Against God" and "Ezra & Haggai: Rebuilding the Temple." The books are available in the office. Babysitting will be available during the class. Everyone is welcome. Contact Cecelia Young for more information at 304.776.1511.
- **PERROW MILITARY** — We are updating the military list for the Prayer Guide. If you or a family member is in the military and wish to be included in our prayer list, please contact Elizabeth Maxwell at elizabethnjesus@yahoo.com or 304.776.5641.
- **PRAYER CHAIN** — Members of Perrow's Prayer Chain are available to pray for your prayer needs. If you would like to submit a request, please call Barbaralu Fischer at 304.776.9336.

- **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**
  - 01 – Mark Downs
  - 05 – Cassie Shamblin
  - 08 – Curt Dean
  - 08 – Marilyn Stonestreet
  - 11 – Grace Holstein
  - 12 – Jim Bryant
  - 12 – John Stewart
  - 13 – Cara Adkins
  - 14 – Rusty Bonasso
  - 14 – Tom Kidd
  - 16 – Michael Poole
  - 18 – Mike Bonasso
  - 20 – Jack Maxwell
  - 20 – Beverly Miller
  - 25 – Victoria Crabill
  - 25 – Lyle Helmick
  - 27 – Don Whitmire
  - 28 – Adam Knight
  - 29 – Marshall Adkins
  - 30 – Ed Haver

## ■ TODAY

- 8:55 AM Prayer (prayer room)  
9:30 AM Fellowship Brunch  
10:40 AM Worship Service  
Children's Church (children will be dismissed)  
6:00 PM Senior High Youth Kickoff  
6:30 PM Prayer in sanctuary

## ■ M/W/F

- 8:00 AM Seniors' Exercise Group

## ■ MONDAY-FRIDAY

- 8:30 AM Prayer (prayer room)

## ■ MONDAY, 8/30

- 7:00 PM Zumba

## ■ WEDNESDAY, 9/1

- 9:00 AM Intercessors Prayer  
6:30 PM Zumba, Support Group

## ■ THURSDAY, 9/2

- 9:30 AM MOPS

## ■ FRIDAY, 9/3

- 7:00 PM Family Game Night

## ■ SATURDAY, 9/4

- 7:00 AM Men's Prayer  
8:00 AM Men's Breakfast

## ■ SEPTEMBER

- 5 Communion  
8 Fall Kick Off - Wednesday Activities  
12 Teacher Training  
16 MOPS  
18-19 Hunter's Safety Course  
23-25 Presbytery (Bluefield)

## ■ AUGUST SCHEDULES

### **Elders On-Call**

Dave Witherell, Mark Addesa

### **Deacons**

*Deacon in Charge:* Duane West  
*Counters:* Duane West  
*Wednesdays:* Jeff Knight

### **Greeters/Ushers**

Doug Dean, Jim Tardy, Glen VanBibber,  
Dick Lanham, Anne & Henry Battle

*If unable to serve, please find a replacement and notify Bobi Bryant of the change.*

### **Nursery, 0-4 year-olds**

*Today*

Rusty & Bonita Bonasso, Annie  
Shamblin

*September 5*

Elizabeth Maxwell, Bev Miller, Mia  
Addesa

*If unable to serve, please find a replacement and notify Teresa of the change.*

## ■ PRAYER NEEDS

- Wayne Brumbach (Ginny Haver's father)
- Bret Chevalier & family
- Trina Crewdson
- Ann Ewen (Bobi Bryant's mother)
- Fred Marshall
- Opal Monin
- Rina Osten
- Isabell Schuman
- Denzil Stonestreet
- Marilyn Stonestreet
- Don Whitmire

### **Prior Week's Finances**

1) General Fund	\$3,639.00
2) General Missions	\$100.00
3) Capital Fund	\$0.00

*To give electronically, visit  
[www.perrow.org](http://www.perrow.org) and click on e-giving.*

## Pastor's Note

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You know how you start off studying a topic in the Bible, and you get amazed at how little you knew about it? It has been that way for me in this study about idolatry. For example, I had NO IDEA how many idols are NAMED in Scripture; you want to guess? At least 28; 28! You want to guess how many commands there are against idolatry in Scripture? Oodles and bunches – so many that if you were to take the subject out of Scripture, your Bible would shrink to the size of a *Readers' Digest!*

THAT is why we are in this study in the Prayer Guides. It is not that we ENJOY it; it's that it's in the Bible PROMINENTLY, and it's that we need it. The study itself is rooted and grounded in Scripture. "There are many gods and many lords (1 Cor 8:5)," we are to 'flee idolatry' (1 Cor 10:14); we are not to become idolaters (10:7). We are to keep ourselves from idolatry (1 John 5:21), and, beyond that, we are to not associate with any so-called Christian who is an idolater (1 Cor 5:11) – in particular, we are not to EAT with him or her! Why so 'strict' and 'narrow' – so 'separatist'? Because idolatry is linked to demons (1 Cor 10:14-21).

So why is it we do not discuss the matter that much? Is it because our culture is like that of the Samaritans Jesus spoke of: WE "don't know what (we're) worshiping" (John 4:22)? Is it that we don't see ourselves as idolatrous? Is it that we don't perceive ourselves as worshipers because we don't understand the relationship of worship and sacrifice? I suspect that is at least part of it. You see, everybody sacrifices some things for other things; there's only a thin line between sacrificing FOR something and sacrificing TO something, and more have crossed over that line than realize it. Besides, ***"OUR idols (in contrast to those of yesteryear) have mastered the art of camouflage, and we the art of denial."*** Since there are no little statues or stone altars in our community, and since there are few (though some) who invoke these gods' names, we imagine they are gone. They aren't. They have been around since Lucifer became Satan, and are as active now as ever. We, in large part, have simply lost our capacity to discern their presence, and their pull. We walk beside the ocean and tell our children the waves and tides are caused by the moon's gravitational pull, but we cannot converse with them about the powers that tug at their heart – from whence (or whom) they originate. We are like the Pharisees who could discern weather patterns but not the signs of their times (Matt 16:1-3).

Granted, it is not essential to know the names of these powers and principalities – just like it is not necessary to know technical weather terms; what we need to know in the latter is simply to get out of the path of the storm; in the former, we need to know enough about the kingdom of darkness to escape the pull and power. But we'll be the wiser if we know what (and who) we're up against.



# Prayer Guide • August 30 - September 5, 2010

## ■ MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2010

Ashtoreth was the most important goddess of early Bible history. She was formerly the consort of El, a god we mentioned last week as one of the most prominent of ancient culture. El faded, and Ba'al increased in prominence, and so was eventually El's sexual prowess transferred to Ba'al. We first read of their connection in Judges 2:13 and 3:7. Ba'al also had another goddess consort, Anath or Anat. She was called "the virgin." Anath was perhaps a virgin to others but not to Ba'al, for she "was both consort and sister to Ba'al and shared his several adventures." Therein is incest and polygamy among the gods, and, as it always is, the worshipers of these gods became like them. (Our Lord, through Isaiah, tells us that we become like what we worship.) The sexual practices associated with her cult were so repulsive to Jewish leaders that the translators of the Hebrew Bible into Greek (the Greek Septuagint) purposely mutilated her name by supplanting the original vowels with those of another derogatory word; in so doing, they intentionally associated her name with shame.

Now here's where things get really interesting... in the earliest Mesopotamian records, Ashtoreth is first called Ishtar – from whence we get our English word "Easter." The whole idea of Easter eggs is associated with Ishtar as the fertility goddess, the 'mother' god who gives new life. We've gone the opposite direction of the translators of the Hebrew Bible who attempted to discourage even the use of this idol's name, haven't we? Do you wonder why? Coziness with paganism is a first step toward connecting to it.

## ■ TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2010

Continuing from yesterday's reading, we note how this relationship of 'first, coziness, then, connection' works. In Judges 2:13 and 3:7 we read that, after the death of Joshua and the elders who survived him, a generation came along who did not understand "all the deeds the Lord had done for Israel" (Josh. 24:31), and so they "forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtoreth" (Judg. 2:13), and they "forgot the Lord their God and served the Ba'als and the Ashtoreth" (Judg. 3:7). Please do not go pass this too quickly. Think on it: they first got cozy with these idols by not driving the people who worshiped them from the land as they were supposed to have done. Then, they forsook God, and then they forgot Him. This is the very path to the ruin of many a life; first, we forget how good and gracious God has been; then, we begin to accept sin and tolerate it in our lives; then we turn away from God, and soon enough, we forget Him.

### **Scripture:** MONDAY

Job 34:1-36:33; 2 Cor 4:1-12;  
Ps 44:1-8; Prov 22:10-12

**Staff:** Alan Smith, Media Ministry  
Director

**Deacon:** Jeff Knight

**Member:** Stella Young

**Missionaries:** Danny & Margaret  
Lynch, USA

**Teacher:** Emil Witherell

### **Scripture:** TUESDAY

Job 37:1-39:30; 2 Cor 4:13-5:10;  
Ps 44:9-26; Prov 22:13

**Staff:** Bobi Bryant, Lasting  
Impressions Director

**Elder:** Keith Crewdson

**Member:** Jonathan Young

**Missionaries:** David & Sue Imbrock,  
France

**Teacher:** Dave Witherell

Throughout history the Jews were constantly tempted to worship this pagan goddess and attend her rituals, and it was this forbidden practice which finally led to Israel's captivity and the seventy years in Babylon. Why was it such a struggle? Because in THEIR HEARTS, they desired sexual gratification outside God's parameters, and their desire became the doorway for demonic influence. Listen to what Paul said to the Philippians: "For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, *whose god is their appetite*, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things" (3:18, 19).

## ■ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

The name Ba'al means "owner, master, lord, or husband." While El, the common Canaanite name for the creator of all, was the supreme Canaanite god, Ba'al and Ashtoreth were more important to the actual life of the land and the people. Ba'al began as the god of weather. In a dry land like Canaan, this soon gave him the place of prominence. Life could not function without him. It was natural to begin to see him as the god of fruitfulness and fertility. Soon enough, Baalim (the plural for Ba'al) – a family of gods and goddesses (including Ashtoreth) were seen to control fertility in agriculture, beasts and mankind. It was highly important to gain their favor. . . . This led to the adoption of extreme forms in the cults, including the practice of ritual prostitution (Judg. 2:17; Jer. 7:9; Amos 2:7) and child sacrifice (Jer. 19:5). . . . In the process of time Ba'al became the region's chief deity.

<b>Scripture:</b>	WEDNESDAY
	Job 40:1-42:17; 2 Cor 5:11-21; Ps 45:1-17; Prov 22:14
<b>Staff:</b>	Jeff Mitchell, Custodian
<b>Deacon:</b>	Duane West
<b>Member:</b>	Matt Young
<b>Missionaries:</b>	Kim & Carolyn Fowler, Peru
<b>Teacher:</b>	Mark Addesa

Why is this important to us? Namely this: our NEEDS and our DESIRES are the motivating and driving forces behind our PURSUITS. If we have a heart for God, our needs and desires push us to pursue HIM. If our hearts are divided, if we are not 100% committed to God, we can begin to turn to OTHER AREAS to meet our NEEDS and DESIRES, and that is the entry point for an idolatrous heart. Ezekiel 14: 3 and 4 speaks of this very process: "these men have taken their idols into their hearts."

Let us guard our hearts; idols are continually trying to get in.

## ■ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2010

If you've not read the WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH'S LARGER CATECHISM lately, let me suggest you find it, and read it. If it's challenging reading at the first, move on down to the area that speaks of the 10 Commandments (Questions 98- 153); you will find them succinct but thorough, a great study. For example, here are a FEW (of MANY) clarifications regarding the first commandment (cf. Q. 105). "The sins forbidden in the first commandment are:

- atheism, in denying or not having a God;
- *idolatry, in having or worshipping more gods than one, or any with or instead of the true God;*
- the omission or neglect of anything due to him, required in this commandment;
- self-love, self-seeking, and all other inordinate and immoderate setting of our mind,

will, or affections upon other things, and taking them off from him in whole or in part; vain credulity, unbelief, heresy, misbelief, distrust, despair, incorrigibility, and insensibility under judgments, hardness of heart, pride, presumption, carnal security, tempting of God;

- lukewarmness, and deadness in the things of God;
- estranging ourselves, and *apostatizing from God; praying, or giving any religious worship, to saints, angels, or any other creatures;*
- making men the lords of our faith and conscience; slighting and despising God and his commands;
- resisting and grieving of his Spirit, discontent and impatience at his dispensations, charging him foolishly for the evils he inflicts on us; and
- *ascribing the praise of any good we either are, have, or can do, to fortune, idols, ourselves, or any other creature.*

If we were to watch ourselves – particularly our heart – regarding these matters, we might not be as susceptible to the pull of idolatry.

## ■ FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2010

The demonic power behind Ishtar (eventually Ashtoreth) can be seen throughout time and across space – and is especially evident in our culture. It is a feminine spirit, but one that has a very unattractive presentation in the statues that depict her. Ashtoreth, and the mother goddess Cybele, are sometimes depicted as a woman with many breasts, fruit all around them (her breasts), with a bearded face, surrounded by small animals at her feet. Let me attempt to explain the symbolism in hopes that you will ‘see’ how this goddess is evident in our day.

One, the breasts are symbolic of two ideas, the first is of a sensual nature (thus, her connection to sexual allurement), and the second to motherhood (nursing). Thus, she is both attractive, and maternal. Indeed, her shortened name was ‘Ma.’ For those of you who are less worldly, and do not realize it, let me shock you: this dual theme of sensuality and motherhood is a strong fetish theme in our culture and is further evidence of the demonic power behind the loose sexual morals of adulterous mothers. Next, there is the fruit – the promise of satisfaction in her bosom. The fruit is an invitation to come to her, this sexual mother figure, and find rest in her embrace, but also the freedom to sample and enjoy her sensuality. The bearded face, not at all an alluring imagery, is intended to communicate that she is strong, a warrior-woman who can take on any man in combat as an equal. This very idea is promoted in such films as “GI Jane” and in the MANY depictions of ‘woman vs man’ in hand-to-hand combat in which (9 times out of 10), the woman wins decisively.

### **Scripture:** THURSDAY

Ecc 1:1-3:22; 2 Cor 6:1-13;  
Ps 46:1-11; Prov 22:15

**Staff:** Keith Cobb, Senior Pastor

**Elder:** Steve Davis

**Member:** Mary Liz Young Bonar

**Missionaries:** Steve & Becky  
Bresler, USA

**Teacher:** John Young

### **Scripture:** FRIDAY

Ecc 4:1-6:12; 2 Cor 6:14-7:7;  
Ps 47:1-9;  
Prov 22:16

**Staff:** Jack Maxwell, Associate  
Pastor Emeritus

**Deacon:** Jeff Knight

**Member:** Mark Addesa

**Missionaries:** David & Jamie  
Hanson, Alitachi

**Teacher:** Linda McKee

## ■ SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2010

Continuing with the explanation of the imagery of Ishtar-Ashtoreth-Diana-Cybele, we notice the small animals at her feet. Why this? Because this is to connect her with the ideas of “Mother Earth,” the ruler of the earth; animals and nature submit to her, because she is in control.

Can you see her now? She is the modern-day mythical sexually-charged supermom who can take on any man as an equal, and prevail. She is ‘green,’ i.e., the environmentalist who cares for the earth (vs men, who use it); she is Mother Earth, the goddess; she is the Mary of the Roman Catholic Church, the Queen of Heaven in Latin America with the stars around her head; she is the GI Jane of the United States, the combatant who can kick butt. She is the object of sexual desire, the ‘mother’ pursued by young men in pornography, the sensual woman who can still be the mom she needs to be.

Now, get this: the worship of this mother-queen goddess of fertility includes the following: (1) emasculation of the male priests, (2) sexual promiscuity, particularly bisexuality; (3) cutting of the flesh – particularly, the arms; (4) androgyny (blurring the roles of manhood, and womanhood; men dressing as women, and vice versa); (5) a headstrong spirit that submits to no one – especially men in authority. BUT, she is – get this, ‘maternal.’

## ■ SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2010

A variation in this mother-god imagery is in a religious form. In the first two centuries of the church Mariology (the worship of Mary) was sparse, and frowned upon. Soon, however, early church writers (who themselves were influenced by the Cybele-Ishtar spirits) began to compare Mary to Eve: “Just as Eve prepared the way for humanity’s fall, so Mary prepared the way for humanity’s redemption.”

Along the time the church was being formed, strong images of the Babylonian culture still existed.

The Babylonians, in their popular religion, supremely worshipped a Goddess Mother (Semiramus) and a Son (Nimrod), who was represented in pictures and in images as an infant or child in his mother’s arms. From Babylon, this worship of the Mother and the Child influenced early Christians. Soon, in a theological debate about the nature of Jesus (His divinity), the title of “Theotokos” was given to Mary: “the Mother of God” (at the Council of Ephesus in 431). Yet the purpose was not to glorify Mary but to affirm the deity of Jesus Christ. It was made clear, however, that Mary was not a goddess and that she was mother of our Lord only “according to the flesh.” At the same time, the acclamation of Mary as theotokos had far-reaching effects on the spirituality of the church, since it fostered the yearnings of the time for a goddess figure, which the church had hitherto suppressed. “The fact that Mary was officially declared to be theotokos in Ephesus, where ‘the temple of the great goddess Artemis’ stood, must not be set aside as insignificant.” (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia). – *to be continued*

### **Scripture:** SATURDAY

Ecc 7:1-9:18; 2 Cor 7:8-16;  
Ps 48:1-14; Prov 22:17-19

**Staff:** Harvey Wegert, Treasurer

**Elder:** Doug Dean

**Member:** Dawn Addesa

**Missionaries:** Jennifer Walker, S.  
Korea

**Teacher:** Dan Hill

### **Scripture:** SUNDAY

Ecc 10:1-12:14; 2 Cor 8:1-15;  
Ps 49:1-20; Prov 22:20-21

**Staff:** Teresa Dean, Children’s  
Ministry Director

**Deacon:** Duane West

**Member:** Anna Addesa

**Missionaries:** Bill & Wanda Perrow,  
OAF

**Teacher:** Melody Sizemore