



The Planter

“The seed is the word of God”, Luke 8:11



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Lessons Learned at the Stadium, and in the Gym

Odis Duncan

As a diehard Clements Colt, my family and I have sat through excruciatingly hot and cold football games. We have endured near floods and insect invasions. We drove for hours to a venue to pay someone for the privilege of sitting on hard bleachers with barely enough room to squeeze into our seats and loved every minute of it. We stayed until the final horn, without complaint, even when the outcome had been decided early in the evening.

We sat in gyms all over North Alabama and endured hostile environments to watch kids of all ages bounce a basketball up and down. We have paid scalpers prices to eat barely digestible food from concession stands because we had to stay for another game. We cheered until we were hoarse and loved every minute of it.

So, what have I learned over the years?

People get emotionally invested and passionate about what they love.

Diverse individuals can unite around a common cause.

People sacrifice (time, inconvenience, effort, money and voice) for what they truly care about.

Even the most timid can be bold enough (vocally and visually) to let everyone know where she/he stands.

We may be too quick to forget past successes, but we are also quick to forget past failures.

With sufficient interest, one can endure discomfort (backless seats, extreme heat or cold, torrential downpours, crowds, noise, etc.) without complaint.

Many do not let lack of knowledge or understanding of a subject (like the rules and strategy of football or basketball) keep them from speaking up.

Fans are proud of their history and heritage (coaches, players, broadcasters, past seasons), feeling a sense of connection or belonging through it.

Despite unpleasanties and sacrifices, most remain willing to do it again in the future.

Crowds can quickly build a bond with like-minded people, even strangers, out of a common love.

It is easy to see the comparisons and contrasts between our Friday night experiences and trying to be a Christian in our world today. Obviously, I am not disparaging going to ball games and having a good time. It's great fun! It always reminds me, however, of my need to exhibit greater commitment and zeal for the only thing that matters eternally. My prayer is that, in every way it can be measured, my heart, mind, soul and strength will be most invested in loving the Lord, His church and the lost. It also makes me aware of the vast potential in every person, properly directed, to seek first the Kingdom of God! How many, adequately exposed to God's will and His offer of salvation, will wholeheartedly embrace and share it? Seemingly, the numbers are staggering! May we be enthusiastically going about our Father's business.

February 1, 2026

Sunday Morning
Opening Prayer Dan Logan
Closing Prayer Dallas York

Scripture Reading Jeff Duncan

Sunday Evening
Opening Prayer Jerry Reaves
Closing Prayer Rhyan Dishroom

Remember in prayer:

Max Hollis is in Atrium Polk Medical Center for rehab; his address is:
Max Hollis 2360 Rockmart Hwy
Room #1022
Cedartown, GA 30125

Amanda Fletcher (radiation treatments).
Luke Keller, Jill Spears, Wally Booker, Joan Henry, Norene and Ronnie O'Kelly, Don Duncan, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Stefan Hogle, Sammy Wyers.

Oak View Nursing Home: Betty Floyd.

Home: Rachel Taylor.

All **Challenge Supplies** are due today. Thank you for your support.

Today we will have our monthly **Fellowship Meal** following our morning services; then our 1:00 pm Kids Sing/Singing and Devotional

Steve Fletcher will preach next Sunday night.

Worship Service Assignments for February

Announcements: Carter Logan

Lord's Supper:

Adam Cordell Wk. 1 & 2

Kevin Hayes Wk. 3 & 4

Payton Payne, Charles Logan, Bo Eubanks

Record for the week of January 25, 2026

10 am	11 am	5 pm	Wed	Contribution
75	67	57	93	\$3652.00

Lost

"It is an old ironic habit of human beings to run faster when we have lost our way" (Rollo May).

It doesn't really make sense, but it's so very true. When we are lost, we tend to run in an attempt find our way again. Instead, all we do is become more lost with every passing second.

The same is true spiritually. When we get lost in sin, for some reason we lose all sense of direction and run deeper and deeper into our own faults. Many before us have done this very same thing. Consider those who looked to escape from God when they were lost.

Adam and Eve hid themselves after sinning (Genesis 3:8). Cain tried to talk his way out after killing his brother (Genesis 4). Achan hid the treasures he had stolen that rightly belonged to God (Joshua 7). Saul blamed his sin on peer pressure, among other things (1 Samuel 15). David went to great lengths to cover up his sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11). Jonah literally ran from the Lord (Jonah 1). Certainly, many other examples could be mentioned.

We all can stray and become lost (Romans 3:23). Without a doubt, the worst thing we could do is to run faster. The solution isn't complicated. We need to stop, think about where we are, and find help getting us back on the right road (Matthew 7:13-14).

So many are running around lost. Are you to be found? Stop running. We're here to help show you to the right road.

It only makes sense to run faster, if we know where we are going.

-Borrowed-

Elders:

Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

Deacons: Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

Minister: Hugh Glaze

Song Leader: Adam Morgan