



The Planter

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



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Falsehood and Balance

Cory Waddell

Have you ever heard of living a "balanced life?" Sure, you have! Our world has become so fast paced that it's nearly impossible to be in the workforce and not have heard of the concept. Proverbs 30:7-9 is arguably the most relevant passage in scripture concerning the idea of a balanced life. The wise man Agur writes:

"Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God." (ESV)

The vision of balance emerges with the request to have neither poverty nor riches. However, don't miss the importance of his plea for God to remove falsehood and lying first. Perhaps the biggest barriers to living a balanced life are the thought distortions we allow to take over our minds. We deceive ourselves into thinking that we need immensely more of one thing or extremely less of another in order to find satisfaction. Such extremes almost always lead to the exact opposite of satisfaction, producing instead, heartache and emptiness.

The lie that we need immense wealth often leads to a lack of true friendship, the hollowness of never having enough, or the loss of our familial treasures. The rich ruler (Luke 18:18-29) found that his riches blocked his path to eternal life and ability to follow Jesus. Paul's warning in 1 Timothy 6:17-18 demonstrates how riches can deceive us into a false sense of importance compared to others.

Extreme self-denial is just as dangerous. On the one hand, it creates a false sense of self-righteousness. "I'm better than you because I've overcome such carnal cravings!" On the other extreme self-denial can actually strengthen the craving for the very thing we are seeking to deny. Paul observes in Colossians 2:23, *"These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh."*

If you're struggling with finding balance in life, maybe you need to ask God to purge you of lying and falsehood first. We will never find contentment as long as we keep deceiving ourselves into thinking extremes are necessary to find it. The only extreme that counts is going "all-in" on Jesus. If our cup is filled with HIM, then we won't need to seek out the extremes of life to be satisfied.

July 27, 2025

Sunday Morning

Opening Prayer Tim York
Closing Prayer Jeff Duncan

Scripture Reading Carter Logan

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer Dan Logan
Closing Prayer Jim Warnock

Remember in prayer:

Mary Louise Bohanon will have foot surgery this Wednesday. Please remember her in your prayers.

Amanda Fletcher, Jackson Brewster, Joan Henry (Sally's sister), Danny Carlton, Larry Jones, Norene O'Kelly, Heidi Street, Don Duncan, Randall Glaze, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Stefan Hoglund, Tammy Henderson.

Oak View Nursing Home: Betty Floyd.

Our Summer Series speaker this Wednesday night will be **Denny Howell** from the Ooltewah Church of Christ speaking about the song "How Deep the Father's Love".

Brothers Keepers Group Three will meet after service tonight.

The "**Rubies**" class will meet today after morning services.

Our **Fellowship Meal** will be after services next Sunday morning; followed by our 1:00 pm Kid's Sing/ Singing and Devotion.

Record for the week of July 13, 2025

10 am	11 am	5 pm	Wed	Contribution
95	81	70	75	\$3254.00

**Worship Service Assignments
August 2025**

Announcements: Carter Logan

Lord's Supper

Adam Cordell (weeks 1-3) Kevin Hayes (Weeks 4 & 5)

Serving Table

John Delome Payton Payne Jon Dyke

Weekly Assemblies

Sunday:

Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study: 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship: 5:00 p.m.
First Sunday 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

WHAT IS A SOUL WORTH?

Thom Vaught

For generations man has questioned what a soul is worth. We can now say definitively that a new base model Soul costs just a little over \$13,000. However, a fully decked Sport model will set you back around \$18,000 at full sticker price. Certainly, the Kia Motor company introducing the Soul meant no disrespect for the human soul. Its name was meant to show the passion they have for automobiles as well as a homophone for the capital city of their home country of Korea.

Moving from the material to the spiritual it may seem illogical to question the price of a human soul. However, during Christ's ministry that very question was posed by our Lord to His disciples (Matthew 16:26). He asked what would be gained if they were given the whole world in exchange for their souls? Given the perspective of eternity, nothing is gained by forfeiting one's soul even in return for the whole world. This makes the soul valuable beyond measure to the person in question.

If the soul is priceless to the individual, what is it worth to another? In other words, what is the fair value or price someone is willing to pay for your soul? In order to make an honest assessment, you must consider the price paid in order to redeem your soul. In that endeavor, God has spared no expense giving His best (Romans 8:32). God allowed His only Son to come to earth and face a cruel death because of the value He placed upon your soul.

The fact that the Creator of the universe places so much value on your soul, should affect how you value souls as well. When we take the heavenly perspective in evaluating the worth of the souls around us, it changes the way we think about souls. Both your soul and the souls of those around you are priceless and Jesus paid the ultimate price to prove it.

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