

**PRAYERS & ENCOURAGEMENT**

Those who are sick or need our prayers — Joe, Turner, Kaylee Dolan, J Hughes, Linda Reagan, Kay Woodruff

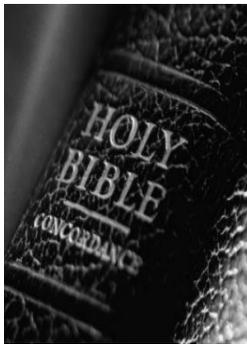
Continue to remember in your prayers those who are unable to attend worship services regularly: *Faye Roberts, Freda Dunn, Romona Stokes, and Marjorie Barringer.*

Please pray for those who have forsaken the Lord that they may be reconciled to God.

**READING THE OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS IN ONE YEAR**

*Monday - Genesis 41-42; Mark 16*  
*Tuesday - Gen 43-44; Psalm 24; Galatians 1*  
*Wednesday - Gen 45-46; Psalm 108; Gal 2*  
*Thursday - Gen 47-48; Psalm 25; Gal 3*  
*Friday - Gen 49-50; Gal 4*

**Week #4**  
**Jan. 22 – Jan. 26**



**VISITORS** - We would like to get to know you better, and ask that you stay a while after services. We encourage you to visit our website at <http://www.parkhillchurchofchrist.com> where you will find sermons, articles, and daily bible studies to encourage you in your daily walk with God.

**QUESTIONS?** *We Welcome the opportunity to study God’s word with you any time.*

*All sermons are recorded on CD & DVD -  
If you would like a copy, please ask one of the men.*

**ELDERS**

Carl Dolan.....479.414.1972 ~ Ron Roberts .....479.452.0347 ~ Randy Sexton.....479.763.4524

**DEACONS**

Wayne Carson...479.648.1087 ~ Luke Dolan.....479.357.9547 ~ Joe Dugas .....479.629.4046 ~ David Meek.....479.459.0820

**PREACHER**

Bryan Loughmiller.....479.434.3939

**January 21, 2018**

**THINK ON THESE THINGS**

*Welcome to the Park Hill Church of Christ*

3536 GRINNELL AVENUE FORT SMITH, AR 72908 479.782.2415

*It is our desire to worship God in spirit and in truth, and to glorify Him in all we do.*

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

SUNDAY MORNING  
Bible Study.....9:30 am  
Worship.....10:15 am

SUNDAY EVENING  
Worship..... 5:00pm

WEDNESDAY EVENING  
Bible Study.....7:00pm

***Wholeheartedness***



“Purity of heart is to will one thing” (Søren Kierkegaard).

THESE DAYS, WE’RE PULLED IN SO MANY DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, A TOTAL COMMITMENT TO ANYTHING SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE. Conflicting values and multiple priorities have become so common that our minds are in danger of going numb. Somehow we must rediscover the meaning and value of “wholeheartedness.”

The popular concept of wholeheartedness is that of energy and enthusiasm. When we say that someone did something wholeheartedly we usually mean that it was done exuberantly. But while wholeheartedness includes the idea of energy, there is more to it than that. In its highest sense, the word means *singleness of purpose*. The “whole” heart is the “single” heart — it’s the heart supremely fixed on one thing and not torn or divided among competing loyalties. The wholehearted person has considered the options, made a decisive commitment to one of them, and is now willing to sacrifice all else to *the passionate pursuit of one great objective*. Few and fortunate are those among us who have learned the power of this kind of commitment. Those who do what they do with *all* of their hearts live life at a level the rest of us can only imagine.

But life is complicated, isn't it? As G. K. Chesterton noted, "The perplexity of life arises from there being too many interesting things in it for us to be interested properly in any of them." Although each of us should have some "one thing" that is our ultimate passion, we don't have the luxury of thinking about that thing every waking moment. Meals have to be provided, clothes have to be washed, and the roof has to be repaired. Still, we can be more wholehearted in our living. We can give our full attention to each thing in its turn, doing as the Zen maxim advises, "When walking, walk. When eating, eat." Being fully "present" in each moment is a discipline that can save our sanity.

W. H. Auden said, "Choice of attention, to pay attention to this and ignore that, is to the inner life what choice of action is to the outer." Full, healthy human character is impossible unless we exercise the ability to choose our thoughts. And wholeheartedness means that having chosen, we give ourselves completely to the choice we've made.

"One man, two loves. No good ever comes of that" (Euripides).  
Gary Henry – WordPoints.com

---

## *Is It God We Desire, or a Particular Path to Him?*

---



Uphold my steps in Your paths,  
That my footsteps may not slip.  
(Psalm 17:5)

IF WE SEEK GOD SINCERELY, WE'LL BE WILLING TO GET TO HEAVEN BY ANY PATH THAT HE DEEMS BEST FOR US. But this willingness is not always easy. When the way home begins to look uncomfortably different from the path that we've pictured in our minds, the result may be resentment, if not outright rebellion. At times like these, we must learn to love God for His own sake and not insist on any particular set of conditions as we journey toward Him.

The Psalmist prayed, "Direct my steps by Your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me" (Psalm 119:133). Such a prayer must be our own. And in our higher moments, we know that this is indeed what we desire: we want God to uphold our steps in *His* paths. We want His wisdom to supersede our own plans and preferences so that the greatest possible good is accomplished, not only for ourselves but for the world in which we live.

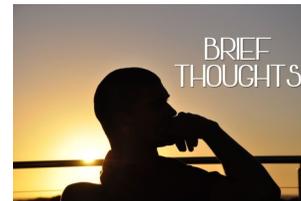
Certainly we must avoid any sort of demanding attitude toward God. If we have envi-

sioned ourselves living and serving God within a particular set of circumstances, that may be well and good. But if life unfolds according to a different pattern, we must still maintain our reverence. Before we start acting as if our rights have been infringed, we need to do a reality check.

Long-term service to God requires flexibility, and most of us need to be more flexible in defining what our *possibilities* are. The good that God put us here to accomplish can be accomplished in more ways than we might think. We need to accept that there are numerous scenarios through which God could be glorified in our lives, and we must not be so wedded to one or two of these that we can't see the value in others. Is it not obvious from the world of nature that God delights in variety? Let us not be so shortsighted or attached to "the way we always thought it would be" that we can't accept something else for the sake of His glory.

My goal is God himself, not joy nor peace,  
Nor even blessing, but himself, my God;  
'Tis his to lead me there, not mine, but his —  
At any cost, dear Lord, by any road!  
(F. Brook)

Gary Henry – WordPoints.com



---

## *Brief Thoughts*

---

***Jn 1:9 "That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world."***

Light illumines. Light directs. Light draws one near. Light reflects. Light shines through the darkness. How does the light of this world affect your life? Does He shine through you or have you hidden that light? Christians it is time for the Lord to truly light up our lives. Reflect Christ's light and let it draw others to Him. BL

\*\*\*\*\*

***Jn 1:29 "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"***

In the first chapter of John so many words describe the Lamb of God: The "Word," "the Light", "the glory of the Father" etc. We also learn that "grace and truth" come through Jesus. We do not deserve so great a gift but I am grateful that God's "Lamb" died for our sins. BL