

PRAYERS & ENCOURAGEMENT

Those who are sick or need our prayers — Kaylee Dolan, Linda Reagan, Kay Woodruff, Jay Davis, Pat Espy, Bud Mixon

Continue to remember in your prayers those who are unable to attend worship services regularly: *Billie Sue Atkins, 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 - 1 Samuel 9-10; Acts 8

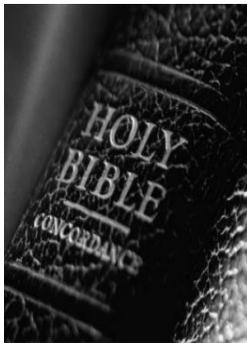
Tuesday - 1 Sam 11-13; Psalm 38; Acts 9

Wednesday - 1 Sam 14; Psalm 124; Acts 10

Thursday - 1 Sam 15-16; 1 Chr 1; Ps 39; Acts 11

Friday - 1 Sam 17; 1 Chr 2; Acts 12

*Week #17
Apr. 23 – Apr. 27*



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 Roberts479.452.0347 ~ Joe Turner....479.459.6023.

DEACONS

Wayne Carson...479.648.1087 ~ Luke Dolan.....479.357.9547 ~ Joe Dugas479.629.4046 ~ David Meek.....479.459.0820

PREACHER

Bryan Loughmiller.....479.434.3939

April 22, 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

Focus



William Hinson explains why animal trainers carry a stool when they go into a cage of lions. They have their whips, of course, and their pistols are at their sides. But invariably they also carry a stool.

Hinson says it's the most important tool of the trainer. He holds the stool by the back and thrusts the legs toward the face of the wild animal. He maintains that the animal tries to focus on all four legs at once. In the attempt to focus on all four, a kind of paralysis overwhelms the animal, and it becomes tame, weak, and disabled because its attention is fragmented.

When I heard that story I thought it describes our society today that has lost focus on what is really important in life. Things like virtue. Honor. Integrity. Spiritual values. And because we are all influenced by our culture, it impacts the Christian community. Instead of seeking to transform culture through Christ, it is often easy to become conformed.

Our word of the week is "focus." By definition, it refers to "the clear and sharply defined condition of an image...a central point, as of attraction, attention, or activity."

The word is used in specific ways in geology, physics, and geometry. Obviously, in optics we speak of a clearly defined image. But the word also speaks to the issue of concentration. Attention. Activity. You've heard the word used a lot in sports. We're just focused on the next game. On business at hand. On getting better. I once heard LaBron James say after his team had lost two consecutive games that the team had lost focus and needed to be focused again.

Spiritually there is a focus that is important. Some things we should see clearly. There's a need for our undivided attention.

The wise man counseled, "Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you" (Prov. 3:25).

Jesus said, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..." (Matt 6:33)

Paul admonished, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col 3:2).

Peter exhorted to be "sober-minded and watchful" (1 Pet. 5:8). Then he warned that our adversary, the devil, is like a roaring lion seeking to devour us. He will use every weapon in his arsenal to divert our focus from spiritual matters.

To stay focused we must follow the advice of the Psalmist and incline our heart to the testimonies of the Lord and turn our eyes away "from looking at worthless things" (Ps. 119:136-137). Sin can blind us. Our vision may be clouded by the cares of this world. Emotional distractions may have us focused on the wrong things.

Spiritual focus can be achieved when we follow the exhortation of the Hebrew writer, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus" (Heb. 12:2). When we focus on Him as our example, our attention and concentration is firmly fixed.

In his book *Worship is a Verb*, Robert Webber writes, "The focus of worship is not human experience, not a lecture, not entertainment, but Jesus Christ—his life, death, and resurrection."

Actually, that is true not only about worship but also regarding our ministry, fellowship, discipleship and evangelistic outreach. Isn't it all about Jesus? Serving Him? Obeying Him? And honoring Him?

In his book, *Fuel An Extraordinary Life*, Richard Rogola shares 8 attributes that contribute to a successful life. Among them are faith, courage, and perseverance. But he

writes that it is the attribute of focus that must be combined with the other 7 to achieve success. This is true in sports, business and in living the Christian life.

Regardless of how crazy your week is, keep your focus on Christ. His Word. His way. And His purpose for your life.

—Ken Weliever, *The Preacherman*

Brief Thoughts

Ps 139:17-18 "How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You."

Everyday Facebook asks "What's on your mind, Bryan?" Well, a great majority of the time it is God's word. It was meant to be written on our hearts. It was meant to be stored up and treasured in our hearts. If the thoughts of God are as precious to me as they are the psalmist then they will be on my mind often.

The more His thoughts are on my mind the closer I am drawn to Him. The more I am drawn to Him the more I love Him because He first loved me. The more I love Him the more I want to stay His child.

Verse 18 says, ***"If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You."*** This tells me that I should have a lot on my mind all the time. From morning to evening and from evening till the morning I can know that as long as I cherish God's thoughts and God's ways I will be His and He will be mine.

BL

If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns. It's called Repentance. (***Lk. 13:3, Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19, Acts 17:30***)

BL

"We have committed the Golden Rule to memory; let us now commit it to life." [Edwin Markham]

Mt 7:12 "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them..."