

PRAYERS & ENCOURAGEMENT

Those who are sick or need our prayers — Pat Espy, Linda Reagan, Bud Mixon, Richard Branum, Cindy Loughmiller, Margaret Blake, Phillip Stevens

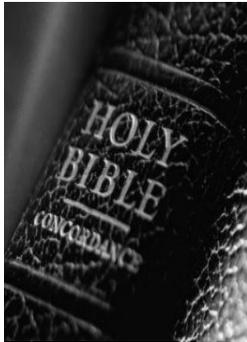
Continue to remember in your prayers those who are unable to attend worship services regularly: *Billie Sue Atkins, Freda Dunn, Romona Stokes, and Marjorie Barringer.*

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 - Proverbs 3-5; Romans 10
Tuesday - Proverbs 6-7; Psalm 7; Romans 11
Wednesday - Proverbs 8-10; Psalm 144; Romans 12
Thursday - Proverbs 11-13; Ps 8; Romans 13
Friday - Proverbs 14-15; Romans 14

Week #23
June 4 – June 8



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

June 3, 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 | SUNDAY EVENING | WEDNESDAY EVENING |
| Bible Study.....9:30 am | Worship..... 5:00pm | Bible Study.....7:00pm |
| Worship.....10:15 am | | |

When Hope Makes Us Strong



“For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us” (2 Corinthians 1:8-10).

IN TODAY’S TEXT, PAUL SPOKE OF A “HOPELESS” SITUATION IN WHICH HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED DURING HIS PREACHING IN THE ROMAN PROVINCE OF ASIA. Burdened “beyond measure,” he said that he and his companions “despaired even of life.” Whatever it was, Paul could see no way of getting out of it alive. From a human standpoint, not even the most optimistic assessment of the situation would have suggested any way of escape.

Far from being a bad thing, this kind of hopelessness is actually good. If hope means only that we’re optimistic about a humanly preferable outcome to a problem, then our hope is not grounded in God. What the world calls optimism is often no more than trust in human means and ends. But when all hope is stripped from us and we have nothing

but the “sentence of death” written upon us, that is when we learn to trust God. Looking back on a situation in which there had been no hope, Paul learned one more time that “we should not trust in ourselves but in God.”

Do you have a problem? In order to have any peace of mind, would you have to know how things are going to turn out? If so, you are still at a relatively immature stage of spiritual growth.

In the real world, most of our deeds have to be done in the absence of any foreknowledge of their outcome. Genuine hope does not mean confidence that things will work out according to our wishes; it means confidence that God’s purposes will be accomplished even though we have no idea what is going to happen.

If we only have hope when we can foresee the outcome, then we do no more than the weak and worldly minded. If we never hope except when things are hopeful, Jesus would probably say, “What do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?” (Matthew 5:47). But the God of real hope is the God in whom we trust . . . *whether He chooses to deliver us or not.*

“As long as matters are really hopeful, hope is a mere flattery or platitude; it is only when everything is hopeless that hope begins to be a strength. Like all the Christian virtues, it is as unreasonable as it is indispensable” (G. K. Chesterton).

Gary Henry – *WordPoints.com*

Together



*Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That wants it down.
(Robert Frost)*

THERE IS A “TOGETHER” INSTINCT IN NEARLY ALL OF US. Some people may be able to tolerate being alone more than others, but very few can say they have no need whatsoever for the experience of togetherness. We’re communal birds — and we tend to flock together.

Yet in these days of radical individualism, some folks shy away from togetherness, fearing it will smother their individual identities. But while some forms of togetherness might do that, authentic togetherness never obliterates the individual. Kahlil Gibran wrote, “Let there be spaces in your togetherness,” and that’s good advice. It’s

the rhythm of togetherness and separateness that makes life exciting.

It also needs to be said that the best kind of togetherness is outward-looking rather than inward-looking. “Love,” said Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, “does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction.” The more “together” we are, the more we’ll derive pleasure from things that are external to the relationship. There is no self-centeredness or self-infatuation when people are truly together. Their combined vision simply gives them a better view of all that can be experienced and enjoyed “out there.”

Togetherness takes character, maturity, and hard work. Although our instincts usually run in the direction of togetherness, its actual practice in daily living doesn’t come naturally. It requires conscious effort to build wholesome relationships and then to enjoy them healthily. Like all other valuable things, togetherness has a price tag.

The main thing togetherness requires, of course, is love. By love we don’t mean the silly, sentimental thing that masquerades as love nowadays, but a solid, enduring commitment to the highest good of those around us. This kind of love has affection as one of its ingredients, but it also includes some other things: a desire to give rather than get, a willingness to sacrifice, and a readiness to go the extra mile for the sake of those with whom we’re together. If togetherness is the dough that makes the bread, love is the yeast that makes it rise.

“Love puts the fun in together . . . the sad in apart . . . the hope in tomorrow . . . the joy in a heart” (Anonymous).

Gary Henry – *WordPoints.com*

Brief Thought

Faith is not inactive but is proactive.
Faith is not passive but is enthusiastic.
Faith is not motionless but is actively moving us toward God.
Faith is not revealed in words alone, it is revealed in our deeds.
Therefore, don’t just tell God you believe, prove it to Him!

BL