

PRAYERS & ENCOURAGEMENT

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

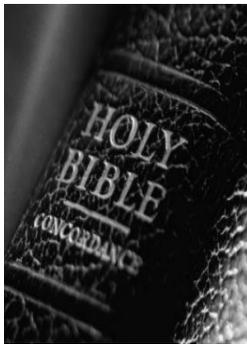
Continue to remember in your prayers those who are unable to attend worship services regularly: *Billie Sue Atkins, Freda Dunn, Romona Stokes ,and Marjorie Barringer.*

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 Kings 19-21; 2 Chr 17; Ps 129; Matt 1
Tuesday - 1 Kings 22; 2 Chr 18; Mt 2
Wednesday - 2 Chr 19-20; 2 Kgs 1; Psalm 20; Mt 3
Thursday - 2 Kings 2-3; Psalm 48; Mt 4
Friday - 2 Kings 4-6; Mt 5

Week #29
July 16 – July 20



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

July 15, 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		

Great Bible Verses—1 Tim. 3:15



There are many metaphors in the Bible to describe Christians and the church. We are called the temple of God. A vineyard. Sheep. The Bride of Christ. The Body of Christ. And the Kingdom of God.

But my favorite and one of the most understandable and relatable is the church as a family. God created us for community. Relationships. And family. One writer expressed it this way, “A Christian without a church family is an orphan.” This week in Sudbury, Ontario, I’ve been thinking about the family aspect of the church. Monday night I preached a lesson on “My Family–The Church.” Then as I engaged in my daily Bible reading this morning, this passage jumped out at me.

“I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth” (1 Tim. 3:14-15)

In the past 50 years, people have become increasingly “anti-church.” The church is often spoken of in pejorative terms. Sometimes even by those who belong to a church. People contemptuously speak of “organized religion” as something to avoid.

Yet, the Bible speaks of the church for which Christ died, as that which expresses the manifold wisdom of God. It is people who work, worship, minister, learn, grow, and fellowship. Together. Like a family.

The term “household” literally refers to a dwelling. But is used by metonymy, Dr. Thayer says, to “all the persons forming one family.” And so some English translations render the word “family.”

This verse reminds us of some important Biblical lessons.

(1) God never intended for His people to live in isolation from one another. We are called not just to believe, but to belong. We belong to God. To the church family. To each other. We need each other for strength, support, and to serve God and our fellow man.

(2) God’s Family is one. While there are individual family units, or as we call them local churches or congregations, all over the world, there is one family of God, as Paul indicated in Ephesians 3:15—“the whole family in heaven and on earth.” This summer in working with churches in Ontario, Canada, I am reminded of the beauty of God’s family beyond the United States where I have primarily ministered. These wonderful brethren, are small in number by human standards, but strong in spirit. Spiritually focused. Joyfully serving. Enthusiastically worshiping. Unashamedly sharing their faith. And enjoying a family fellowship. Eating together. Working together. Caring for one another. And functioning like a real family should.

The other thing I have noticed is the support the brethren extend to each other. I wonder if we have so emphasized congregational autonomy to the point where local churches isolate themselves from one another and even look at each other as competitors. These brethren from different congregations know one another. Attend each other’s meetings. Participate in area-wide functions in each others’ homes. I sense a care, concern and compassion that extends to all of God’s family within the region.

(3) Family Members ought to behave themselves. We often remind our children that their behavior is a reflection, for good or bad, upon the family name. Those who wear the name “Christian” ought to conduct themselves in a certain way. Our behavior in the family of God ought to reflect positively upon our Heavenly Father. We are to be “obedient children.” To “be holy.” To “walk in the light.” Not in the darkness of the world and its lustful carousing.

(4) God’s Family upholds the Truth. God’s Word is Truth. We know it. Believe it. And uphold it. The church is to be the foundation of Truth. The bulwark of Truth. The buttress of Truth. We’re not ashamed of God’s Word or His way. He is our Father, and we will boldly defend His name, His family and His Word. God’s Family is special. Unique. And a beauty to behold when it functions as He intended.

I thank God for His family. All over the world.

—Ken Weliever, The Preacherman

Waiting On The Lord



But those who wait on the Lord
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.
(Isaiah 40:31)

VERY FEW CONCEPTS ARE MORE IMPORTANT IN OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH THAN THAT OF “WAITING ON THE LORD.” But what does it mean to wait on the Lord? If it involves any real waiting, most of us would find that a difficult thing to do, given our insistence on immediate gratification in all our endeavors. Whatever it may involve, waiting doesn’t sound good to us.

In truth, waiting on the Lord does mean more than merely waiting (“remaining in a state of expectation”). We can speak of a servant waiting on his master, and that aspect of waiting is certainly included in our relationship to God. We are at His beck and call, at His service. Our job is to wait until He needs us, and then spring into action at His command. Young Samuel had the right idea: “Speak, Lord, for your servant hears” (1 Samuel 3:9,10).

But although waiting on the Lord involves more than mere waiting, it does not involve less. Reverence often requires us to wait patiently until He deems that the time is right for certain things to happen. Since He sees matters from a more complete perspective than we, and since He must take many more things into account than we, it is often the case that His timetable is different than ours. He may not act as quickly as we wish, and at such times we must be content to wait on the Lord, knowing that He will make all things beautiful . . . *in His time*. We would do well to take Gueric of Igny’s advice: “Have courage and give God time.”

But if it is difficult for us to wait, there is also a sense in which it can be joyous. You may not see anything good about yearning for what you desperately need and do not presently have, but I suggest that the idea of *joyful yearning* is one that can pay great dividends in life. Indeed, anticipation is a big part of the wholesome enjoyment of anything. So whenever it is necessary to wait on the Lord, can we not do so with joy and love and thanksgiving?

“Let me discover the pleasure of anticipation. Give me what it takes to wait without complaining. Show me that there is more faith in waiting for what is unseen than in believing what is in front of my eyes” (Bernard Bangley).

Gary Henry – WordPoints.com