

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 - Hosea 1-3; Matt 16

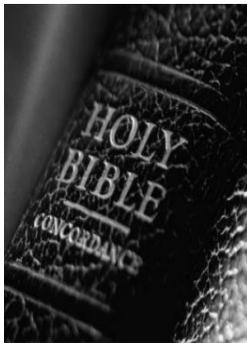
Tuesday - Hosea 4-6; Psalm 58; Matt 17

Wednesday - Hosea 7-10; Matt 18

Thursday - Hosea 11-13; Matt 19

Friday - Hosea 14; 2 Chr 26-27; Ps 61; Matt 20

*Week #32
Aug. 6 – Aug. 10*



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

August 5, 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

The Great Invitation



An American author and minister, Marshall Hayden, wrote an article several years ago with the intriguing title, "Would Every Non-Hurter Please Stand Up?"

Hayden observed that people come to church services and seem fine. They put on their best smile. Wear their best clothes. And look happy. Yet, he pointed out that we need to look beyond the facade and below the surface to realize that our pews are full of hurting people. He wrote, "Over here is a family with an income of \$550 a week & expenses of nearly \$800. Over there is a family with two children who, according to their dad,

are failures. 'You're stupid. You never do anything right,' he is constantly telling them that. The lady over there found a lump that tested positive.

"There's a couple who just had a nasty fight. Each is thinking of divorce. Last Monday one man learned that he was being laid off. And there is a wife who has tried her best to cover the bruises her drunken husband inflicted when he came home Friday night.

"Then there are those of us with lesser hurts, but they don't seem so small to us: a bor-

ing job, a poor grade, a friend or parent who is unresponsive ...on & on the stories go. The lonely, the dying, the discouraged, they're all here."

It reminds us that the problems of fear, fatigue, frustration, and failure are the common lot of all people. Christians are not exempt. Add to that the burden of guilt. Shame. Regret. And remorse. What a heavy burden to bear!

In my reading this morning from Matthew 11, I was reminded and reassured that there is help and hope. Jesus offers this encouraging and great invitation that should renew our weary souls.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt 11:28-30).

Note these three empowering and reassuring action words.

Come

Jesus calls us. The biographies of his life assure us that He is near. That he cares. That He is approachable. That he is available.

Jesus' invitation is to those who are wearied by the burden of sin and its attendant consequences. While our own failures are hard to bear, we also suffer a load of care as a result of other's sins. Our family. Our friends. Our brethren. And sometimes we are hit hard by the impact.

Jesus' invitation is to "come." We must make the effort and take the initiative. He is waiting with open arms, but we must lay aside the excuses, the misplaced priorities, and our carnal appetites and pursuits.

Take

This is another action word. We must come to Christ. And then we must take his yoke. This metaphor is lost on our generation. Yokes were custom-made for oxen to be paired together and work in the field or pull heavy loads. Jesus was a carpenter and likely made yokes in his shop in Nazareth.

Barclay says, "There is a legend that Jesus made the best ox-yokes in all Galilee, and that from all over the country men came to him to buy the best yokes that skill could make. In those days, as now, shops had their signs above the door; and it has been suggested that the sign above the door of the carpenter's shop in Nazareth may well have been: "My yokes fit well."

Interestingly, the word translated "easy" means "well fitting." Jesus' yoke is custom-made for our lives. It fits well. It is not a burden. But a blessing that will make life's load easier to bear.

Learn

There is no excuse not to know Jesus. The Bible is easily accessible. In various versions. In book form. On the internet. On your phone. On your computer program.

Learning requires focused attention to the Scriptures. We must read. Think. Study. Comprehend. And apply. Learning involves more than just knowing facts about Jesus. It demands that we come to know Jesus. To develop a relationship with Him. To really understand who He is. What he wants. And how He can help.

Jesus' invitation is for you. Regardless of where you are spiritually or emotionally. Hear and heed His compassionate call, "Come unto Me."

—Ken Weliever, The Preacherman

Brief Thoughts

Psalm 1:6 "For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish." You come to a fork in the road. The path of righteousness looks less traveled and somewhat difficult to traverse. The path of the ungodly is worn and looks well traveled by many who have come before you. Which path will you take? God knows which road you have chosen. Make sure it is the path of righteousness! BL

Ps 37:12-13 "The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming." How do we say this? "What goes around comes around." It is not our place to seek retribution for the negative things that come as a result of someone else's behavior toward us. They will reap as they have sown and God will deal with them in His time and in His way. Be long-suffering in this life and live a long joyful life in eternity. ***Ps 37:12-13*** BL

Gen 17:1 "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless." Whether we are 20 or 90 walking worthy of our calling continues to be a necessary element of our daily lives. Lives that glorify God are those that people can look at and say "That's truly God's servant." People could recognize that in Abraham. Do they see the same in us? BL