

PRAYERS & ENCOURAGEMENT

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

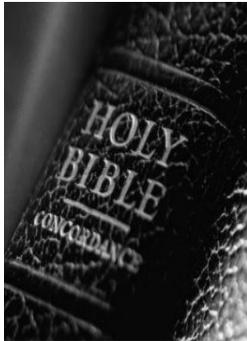
Continue to remember in your prayers those who are unable to attend worship services regularly: *Billie Sue Atkins, Freda Dunn, Romona Stokes, and Marjorie Barringer.*

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 - Ezekiel 16-18; John 6
Tuesday - Ezek 19-21; Psalm 84; John 7
Wednesday - Ezek 22-24; Psalm 134; John 8
Thursday - Ezek 25-27; Psalm 85; John 9
Friday - Ezek 28-30; John 10

Week #44
Oct. 29 – Nov. 2



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

October 28, 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		

FEAR OR FAITHFULNESS



From an earthly perspective, many of the prophets of the Old Testament got a raw deal. On this list, we certainly must include Jeremiah. He was forbidden to marry and have a family, he couldn't attend parties or funerals, and he prophesied in a time that was utterly hostile to his message. As a result, he was imprisoned, put in stocks, dumped in a cistern, and threatened with death. Even his own extended

family plotted to kill him.

This makes for grim reading, and it wasn't a whole lot of fun for Jeremiah to live through, either. Frequently, he complains to God about his lot in life, but God's replies are generally unsympathetic. In such circumstances, it would have been easy for Jeremiah to give up on God, but Jeremiah knew very well that he didn't dare. At the very beginning of his work, God tells him in Jeremiah 1:17, "But you, dress yourself for work, arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them."

In other words, there was exactly one way that Jeremiah could hope to survive the dying convulsions of the kingdom of Judah. He had to stay 100 percent faithful to God.

If he wasn't, if he allowed fear to deter him from proclaiming God's word, God would meet his silence with the very woes he hoped to avoid. Even though serving God looked like the riskiest choice, it was actually the safest.

Today, few of us have lives that can compare to Jeremiah's for sheer wretchedness. We enjoy many of the blessings he was not allowed to experience, and we don't have his surfeit of enemies. However, even in much less trying times, we still experience the temptation to disobey God because of fear.

We go get drunk with our friends because we're afraid that they won't be our friends any more if we don't. We return evil for evil in our marriages because we're afraid that if we don't, we'll get walked on. We're as touchy as a fresh burn because we're afraid that others won't respect us if we aren't.

And so on. The devil will attempt to use our fears against us in innumerable ways. However, as with Jeremiah, the only way forward is to defy our fears for God's sake. If we allow ourselves to be dismayed before our spiritual enemies, He will dismay us before them.

This is generally not obvious in the moment. In the moment, it seems that only by giving in to our fears can we protect ourselves. We must remember, though that protecting ourselves isn't our job. It's God's. If we are faithful to Him, He will be faithful to us.

Matthew Basford, via His Excellent Word

Trusting God or Ourselves?



Much of the time, we tend to understand the kings of Israel and Judah in a binary way. We read "X did what was evil in the sight of the Lord" and "Y did what was right in the sight of the Lord" not as summaries, but as blanket statements that accurately describe every aspect of a king's life.

This understanding is an oversimplification in both directions. Even a rotter like Ahab believed in God, feared God, and spoke with His prophets. On the other hand, even the most righteous kings of Judah weren't perfect.

Consider, for instance, the career of the righteous king Hezekiah. In 1 Kings 18:5, he receives the encomium, "He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were be-

fore him." As impressive as this sounds, we must recognize that it's where Hezekiah ended up, not where he started. Despite his opposition to idolatry, there were times in his life when he failed to trust.

This is most evident in the prophecies of Isaiah that concern the events of Hezekiah's reign. In Isaiah 22:8-11, Isaiah says of Hezekiah, "In that day you looked to the weapons of the House of the Forest, and you saw that the breaches of the city of David were many. You collected the waters of the lower pool, and you counted the houses of Jerusalem, and you broke down the houses to fortify the wall. You made a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool. But you did not look to Him who did it, or see Him who planned it long ago." For all of his righteousness, Hezekiah found himself in a place where he still relied on what he could do rather than on the salvation of the Lord.

However, everything that Hezekiah could accomplish was overwhelmed in the massive Assyrian invasion of 701 BC. The Assyrians came from the north like a tidal wave, destroying everything in sight. They conquered all of Judah, including the citadel of Lachish, except for Jerusalem itself.

of birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. It may be that the Lord your GJerusalem is clearly next on the hit list. Assyrian officials inform the inhabitants that they must surrender instead of being destroyed. Now, in Isaiah 37:3-4, Hezekiah says, "This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the point od will hear the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has send to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the Lord your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left."

There's no more talk about armories and reservoirs and walls. Now, Hezekiah has put his trust completely iGod, a trust not shared by any king before or after him. He hopes for his redemption not for his own glory, but for God's.

Today, it's easy for us to be early-Hezekiah-style Christians. We do the right things, but we continue to trust in ourselves. Sooner or later, that selfish trust will betray us. We will learn, like Hezekiah, that security can only be found in God. The only question is whether we will learn from his calamity or our own.

Matthew Basford, via His Excellent Word

REMEMBER: Two encouraging words each day "***STRAIGHT AHEAD***" - BL
"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:13-14
