

**PRAYERS & ENCOURAGEMENT**

Those who are sick or need our prayers — Joe, Turner, Kaylee Dolan, J Hughes, Linda Reagan

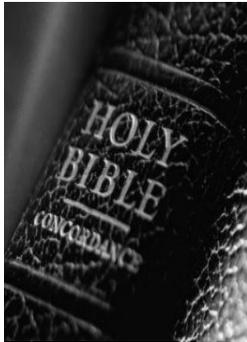
Continue to remember in your prayers those who are unable to attend worship services regularly: *Faye Roberts, Freda Dunn, Romona Stokes, and Marjorie Barringer, J. Hughes, Billie Sue Atkins.*

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 - Neh 10-13; Revelation 8*  
*Tuesday - Malachi; Psalm 2; Rev 9*  
*Wednesday - Job 1-3; Psalm 29; Rev 10*  
*Thursday - Job 4-7; Psalm 99; Rev 11*  
*Friday - Job 8-11; Rev 12*

*Week #50*  
*Dec. 11 – Dec. 15*



**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 Roberts ....479.452.0347 ~ Randy Sexton.....479.763.4524

**DEACONS**

Wayne Carson...479.648.1087 ~ Luke Dolan.....479.357.9547 ~ Joe Dugas .....479.629.4046 ~ David Meek.....479.459.0820 ~

**PREACHER**

Bryan Loughmiller.....479.434.3939

**December 10, 2017**

**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		

***Lessons From A Day Of Infamy***

It was 76 years ago that early on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, Japan attacked our naval and airbase at Pearl Harbor. It was a surprise and unprovoked attack that propelled the USA into World War II. President Franklin D. Roosevelt called it “a date that will live in infamy.” On this anniversary of Pearl Harbor, there are several thoughts with spiritual applications that come to mind.

(1) **Isn’t Satan a lot like that attack?** He strikes without warning. He attacks when we least expect it. Like the soldiers who were doing their routine duty on that fateful day, we are going about our business, feeling secure and safe, then suddenly Satan drops a bomb on us that leaves us wounded or running for cover.

I am amazed at how suddenly he can sneak up on me. One minute I am fine and the next I am fighting off some fleshly assault of word or deed. Peter’s warning is proper, “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (1 Pet. 5:8)

(2) **When you consider this attack in 1941, the United States was not involved in the war.** We were a bystander. Japan’s actions forced our participation. We had no choice but to defend our country.

Likewise, the actions of others sometimes require our attention, even force us to take a

stand. In Ephesians 6:10-18 Paul calls us to put on the Christian armor, wield the sword of the spirit and engage in the fight for the truth. While this should not be an excuse for brotherhood bickering or political posturing, there is a time and place for Christians to take a stand and engage the enemy in spiritual warfare.

- (3) **In 1941 we knew who the enemy was and directed our efforts toward his defeat.** Americans were united in this. Personal opinions were put aside. Sacrifice was the order of the day. And each American felt obligated to do what they could to help win the war.

We have lost that spirit today. Not only patriotically in our country, but spiritually as well. Brethren, we need to remember who the enemy is and fight him, not each other. The apostle Paul issued this warning, “But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!” (Gal. 5:15)

- (4) **Much has changed in the past 76 years. Japan is no longer our enemy.** In fact, we have a peaceful relationship with the people who once attacked us.

There is a good lesson in this. We need to develop the same spirit in our relationships. When someone attacks us without any right or reason to do so, it is natural to feel hurt, and experience a strain in our relationship. But just like people of our nations can forgive, forget and put the past behind them, we can too in our personal relations.

Jesus taught us to “forgive our debtors.” In fact, he said that when we do that, God forgives us, but if we fail to forgive those who sin against us, God will not forgive us. Let us learn from the lessons that history teaches. And watch out for those sneak attacks!

—Ken Weliever, The Preacherman

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## ***Understanding Yourself***

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A crowded Southwest flight was canceled because of a mechanical problem. A single gate agent was re-booking a long line of inconvenienced travelers.

Suddenly an angry passenger pushed his way to the desk. He slapped his ticket down on the counter and said, “I HAVE to be on this flight,”

The agent replied, “I’m sorry, sir. I’ll be happy to try to help you, but I’ve got to help these people first, and I’m sure we’ll be able to work something out.”  
The passenger was unimpressed. He asked loudly, so that the passengers behind him could hear, “DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I AM?”

Without hesitating, the attendant smiled and grabbed her public address microphone: “May I have your attention please; may I have your attention please” she began – her voice heard clearly throughout the terminal. “We have a passenger here at Gate 14 WHO DOES NOT

KNOW WHO HE IS. If anyone can help him find his identity, please come to Gate 14.”

Yesterday, we discussed the importance of understanding the Word of God. But it is also important to understand who we are. The Greek philosopher is reputed to have said, “To know thyself is the beginning of wisdom.” This sounds good, but is flawed. First of all the Bible says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Prov. 9:10).

Secondly, it is often difficult to understand and know our true motives. The prophet Jeremiah warned, “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?” (Jer 17:9).

The admonition “be not deceived” is a constant refrain throughout the New Testament. It is possible to deceive ourselves about our religion, our intentions, and our relationships. The Russian novelist Dostoyevsky once wrote, “Lying to ourselves is more deeply ingrained than lying to others.”

If we are truly to understand ourselves, we must honestly look inside ourselves. The Bible exhorts, “Examine yourself to see whether you are in the faith” (2 Cor. 13:5). The best way to do that is to heed the advice of James and look into God’s Word like a mirror. See yourself in the light of God’s commands.

Understanding yourself means to understand your motives. What is the basis of your behavior? What causes you to do what you do? What is your true passion? Are your reasons for doing what is right honorable and ethical?

Understanding yourself involves a realization of your responsibilities. Your role. Your obligations. Your place in society. In your home. In your church. Denying personal accountability and responsibility is almost an epidemic in our current culture.

Understanding yourself means a honest appraisal of our talents, gifts, and skills. It is neither “thinking more highly of yourself than we ought to think,” nor is it demeaning ourselves. With the right balance of self, we do the best we are able to do and do not venture in those areas beyond our ability.

All of this requires self examination. An honest understanding of who we are. A willingness to really scrutinize ourselves. And the humility to admit what God already knows about us.

Finally, coming to an understanding of our true self becomes an exercise in futility if we are not willing to correct our flaws and change. “Only I can change my life. No one can do it for me.”

—Ken Weliever, The Preacherman

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