



Truth for Today

February 28, 2021

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

Published for the members and guests of the Woodlands church of Christ

Whom do we Fear?

By Doy Moyer

Peter wrote to Christians who faced persecution. Along with persecution and threats come the fears and anxieties of what may happen. We face intimidation and are worried about the outcome. Peter knew what that felt like. He denied Christ three times when faced with intimidating circumstances. When he wrote this epistle then, it is likely that he felt the pangs of that situation and did not want others to follow that path. He knew what betraying the Lord in the face of potential dangers felt like. Christians know that they need to trust God, no matter what else may happen. To that end, Peter wrote the following in 1 Peter 2:13-17:

“Who then will harm you if you are devoted to what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear them or be intimidated, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. Yet do this with gentleness and reverence, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.” (CSB)

Notice the phrase, “Do not fear them or be intimidated, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy.” This is a likely allusion to Isaiah 8:11-15, where Isaiah tells the people, “Do not call everything a conspiracy that these people say is a conspiracy. Do not fear what they fear; do not be terrified. You are to regard only the LORD of Armies as holy. Only he should be feared; only he should be held in awe.” In both passages, God’s messengers talk about what the people fear. In both, God’s people are called upon to honor the Lord as holy. The implication is that if we are fearing “what they fear,” then we are not truly honoring God as holy; we are not sanctifying Christ in our hearts as holy. Instead, we have let the world’s concerns invade our hearts. Fearing what the world fears is a sign that we are more focused on the world than we are on the Lord.

What is it and who is it that we fear? We can choose to fear “what they fear” or we can choose to fear God and honor Him as holy. When we fear God, we can have a good conscience and know that “it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.” We need not fear suffering when Christ is honored

as holy. Remember that the apostles rejoiced that they were “counted worthy to be treated shamefully on behalf of the Name” (Acts 5:42).

Peter is no stranger to Isaiah’s message. In the Isaiah 8 context, the Lord “will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling” over which many will stumble. In 1 Peter 2, Peter combines this passage from Isaiah 8 with Psalm 118:22 to make the point that many do indeed stumble over Christ. Notice the contrast Peter makes between vv. 8-10 here:

“They stumble because they disobey the word; they were destined for this. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

“They stumble... but you are chosen.” We are not the world. The world will act in fear. The world will stumble over the truth and falter. God’s people, on the other hand, are chosen and have distinct purpose. We need to act as God’s chosen possession proclaiming His excellencies (2:9). Next, Peter urges his readers “as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.” If we act as we ought, we become lights to the world. When the world seeks to destroy, God’s people seek to do good and God will be glorified.

Now let’s think back to 1 Peter 3:13-17. If we are God’s chosen people who are given a special purpose, then on what grounds should we ever be afraid of what the world will throw at us? The world will try to intimidate us as God’s people. Don’t buy into those kinds of tactics. There are the theories of the world that can grip us with fear, and there are plenty who seek to bully and intimidate. We can be gripped by a fear that will cause us to stumble, or we can choose to fear God, honor Him as holy, and proclaim His glory.

Building Update:

As of this writing, a plumber was scheduled to restore water services on 2/26 along with another company to restore Emergency Sprinkler services. Insurance Adjuster was scheduled for Sat., 2/27.

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- Paula Dobbs' is home and working with doctors for a medication change to improve her breathing.
- Mark Birdwell's mother is now home with an adjustment to medications after her stroke.
- Stacie Bohanan's brother, Patrick, remains in ICU and his condition is unchanged. They are seeking a second opinion.
- Lou Ann Chapman's brother had surgery last week and is recovering.
- Linda Faughn's sister, Joyce Holder, is up and moving some and will soon transfer to rehab in the Woodlands. Unfortunately, also, her residence she shares with her brother, Ed Webb, in Trinity, flooded while she was in the hospital in Huntsville.
- Dehbrenda Preuss' mother is recuperating with Craig's parents and improving.
- Willie Ray's brother, Lonnie, passed away. Arrangements are scheduled: Viewing on 2/25, 4-5:30 p.m. and Funeral 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Allan Dave Funeral Center, 2103 Cypress Landing Road, Houston, 77090
- Christy Show's mother, Christina Robson, passed away last week. Arrangements are scheduled for limited capacity seating on 3/19, 10:00 a.m. at the Fellowship of the Woodlands chapel.
- Marissa Suarez's dad's condition after having his third stroke, he is unable to swallow or open his eyes, and had to have a PEG tube placed yesterday.
- MOMS-to-be: Reagen Reed (due April 12) and Alix Randow (due April 23).

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **2:52 Kids Class** [2-12] | Bible Class on First Sundays | TBA
- **TEEN BIBLE CLASS** [12-18] | TBA
- **TEEN HOME DEVO** [12-18] | TBA
- **YOUNG ADULTS HOME STUDY** | TBA
- **ADULTS HOME STUDY** [30/40] | TBA
- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES** Bible Class on First Sundays | 3/5, 4:00 p.m. (auditorium)
- **GOSPEL MEETING** with Ed Brand | AND HE PREACHED JESUS TO HIM | 3/28-31
- **VBS** | 6/22-25* (*Tue-Fri)
- **YOUTH LECTURES** with Caleb Churchill & Andy Harrison | 8/7-8
- **GOSPEL MEETING** with Mike Wilson | 9/26-29
- **WOMEN'S DAY BIBLE STUDY** | 10/9
- **MEN'S DAY BIBLE STUDY** | 11/6

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS** See the Monthly Assignments and let Barrett Blankenship know if you cannot fulfill an assignment.
- **Willing to TEACH?** We now need teachers for Spring quarter. **Please contact Brian Clark if you are willing to teach.**
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt about the Barnabus group.
- **HOSPITALITY?** Maureen Chegin and Cecelia Neel will coordinate food for members who need assistance during an extended recovery period after surgery or for the family at a funeral.
- **WORKDAY/WORKWEEK** | February TBA |

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- Contact Brian with updates or if you need a PDF of the directory.
- We are excited to announce that Garrett Gage will be joining us this summer for the preacher internship we have renewed for 2021. You can find him on Facebook.

THROUGH THE NT IN 2021

MARCH

- 1 Acts 25
- 2 Acts 26
- 3 Acts 27
- 4 Acts 28
- 5 Hebrews 1
- 6 Pray and reflect
- 7 Pray and reflect

Attendance	In Person Average Last Month	Virtual Average Last Month	In Person Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
Sunday Classes	70	24	n/a	n/a
Sunday Worship	98	51	69	76
Tuesday Adult Class	6	12	n/a	n/a
Wednesday Classes	58	25	48	14

SUNDAYS		10:00 AM—2/28	10:00 AM - 3/7	CONTACT INFORMATION	
Foyer 1-Welcome	Al Suarez	Leo Betancourt		Elders	
Foyer 2-Ushering	Hayden Clark	Nathan Shows		Keith Arrants 936.499.2812	
Song Leading	Jonathan Chandler	Jonathan Chandler		George Chapman 832.764.2151	
1 st Prayer	Gary LeBlanc	Mitch Harvey		Norman Davis 832.326.2966	
Scripture	Josh Suarez	Josh Suarez		Don Hooton 936.443.6230	
Scripture Reading	1 Peter 3:8-17	1 Timothy 6:6-19		Deacons	
Communion Lead	Dwight Haas	Hayden Clark		Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093	
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton		Brian Clark 281.513.0706	
2 nd Prayer	Barrett Blankenship	Gary LeBlanc		Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262	
Announcements	Mickey Chandler	Keith Arrants		Craig Preuss 832.477.0578	
Building Open/Lockup	Davis	Hooton		Evangelist	
Sound 1	Chris Latson	Chris Latson		Don Hooton 936.443.6230	
Communion Prep	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman		Office Phone	
Counting Contribution	Norman Davis	Keith Arrants		281.367.2099	
WEDNESDAYS		7:00 PM—3/3	7:00 PM—3/10	Church Email	
Song Leading	Leo Betancourt	Adam Bohanan		woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com	
Invitation/Talk	Jeremy Crump	Paden Reed		Website	
Prayer	Clint Ford	Al Suarez		www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org	
Announcements	Adam Bohanan	Keith Arrants			