

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

January 6, 2019

Are You Serious?!

"Are you serious?!" is an expression often used today following a statement that seems a bit of a stretch or even unbelievable. For example, to the statement *"My investments are increasing at a 30% rate,"* someone might respond with, *"Are you serious?!"* Probably not.

As I reflect on the promises of God, I sometimes wonder if that's the way we might react? *"God, are you serious?!"* When God promised the then childless Abram that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars (*Gen. 15.5*), I wonder if Abram thought, *"Are you serious?!"* That is a bit of a stretch for the imagination, isn't it? But to Abram's credit, he believed God's promise, and because he did, his faith was counted as righteousness (*Gen. 15.6; Heb. 11.11-12*). Faith enabled Abram to skip the *"Are you serious?!"* thoughts and totally trust God's promise.

When the Israelites saw the Red Sea part leaving them a dry path, I wonder if they thought, *"Are you serious?!"*? Or when they were told to walk around the city of Jericho 13 times in a week? Or when the disciples were told to give the 5000 hungry people something to eat. Or when Jesus told the unsuccessful fishermen to throw their net on the other side? Or when Jesus said to take away the stone covering the tomb of Lazarus?

God's promises often seem outlandish, farfetched, or even impossible. Yet, there never has been nor ever will be a time when God made such a promise. We may hear God's promises and think, "*Are you serious?!*", but from what we can read in the Bible, God never teases us with foolish promises. No matter how difficult it may be to believe, God's promises are always serious - "*for he who promised is faithful*" (Heb. 10.23).

So, like with Abram, when we dare to believe God's promises, awesome things will result. Faith enables us to look beyond the wisdom of the world to see the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1.20-25). Faith allows us to see in the cross of Christ the power of victory over sin (1 Cor. 15.55-57). Faith in God's promises gives us the power to turn our lives around through repentance (Acts 3.19), to have our sins washed away and be born again by baptism (Acts 22.16; John 3.5), to worship in spirit and truth (John 4.23-24), to have peace beyond our understanding (Phil. 4.6-7), to give beyond our ability (2 Cor. 8.3), to know a love that surpasses knowledge (Eph. 3.19), to hope for an eternity with God (John 3.16), and much, much more.

"Are you serious?!" Absolutely.

— Joe Chesser

Your Bible Is Your Best Friend

The unfolding of your words gives light.

— Psalm 119:130

It's been said that if you live with a lame man, before long you will walk with a limp. Clubs, clans, and cliques prove that people become like those they hang out with.

The same is true with what you listen to and watch. If you're a news junkie, there's a good chance you are perpetually anxious and angry. If you're feeding at the trough of trash, you'll begin to smell like it.

On the other hand, make your Bible your best friend, and it will be transformative.

The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119. It tells you that if you spend time in the Word: you will begin to walk in his ways (v. 3), turn your eyes away from worthless things (v. 37), gain knowledge and good judgment (v. 66), rejoice in his promises (v. 162), and experience peace (v. 165).

***Work at the perfume counter, and you'll smell like perfume.
Work in the fish market, and you'll smell like fish.***

— Joe Barnett

How Are You Progressing ?

For those of you who have long been daily bible readers, not a lot has changed. You may be on a different reading schedule, but your daily routine goes on uninterrupted. However to those who are just beginning the practice of being a daily bible reader, it is often a challenging thing. New good habits can be as difficult to establish as old bad habits are to break, but I urge you to hang in there. You CAN make it and you'll be glad you did. wp

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we'll be bringing: Pringles, Small containers of chips (no bags), *Flavoring packets for water, Rice Krispy Treats, Little containers of ravioli, Easy Mac & Cheese. Soups in pull tab cans

Birthday : Jerry Rankin January 9

Reading : **II Corinthians 6: 11-7:1 ; Psalm #1**

NEXT WEEK : (January 13, 2019)

Song Leader : Delmar

Scripture Reader : Butch

Table & Announcements : Jonathan

Prayer list :

Andy Nichols : Mike's brother has had two heart attacks in rapid succession and is in the hospital. As of this writing he had just finished surgery. After one bypass and is doing well.

Mike Nichols : He is continues with physical therapy at home, but is increasingly discouraged that he cannot yet walk much.

Nancy McConley: Sherry's aunt is now off oxygen and is able to take pills so she's been transferred to CU Rehab in Savoy

Larry Bales (Rosanne's step-father) will be on blood thinners and a heart monitor for 3 months preparatory to put in stints

Debra Robinson : (Betty's step-daughter) can not longer receive chemotherapy so she's now having radiation treatments

David Ferguson & Bill Livesay : David (preacher at Lakeland) is donating one of his kidneys to Bill (a member at Lakeside). The transplant was scheduled for the 18th.

Marsha Silotto : She has a cancerous tumor and is scheduled for surgery to remove it. She is requesting our prayers.

Delaney West : Delaney had her final radiation treatment on Friday. They will evaluate it for success in March.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Ruby, Mary, Doris, Delores, Marge, Betty, Pete & Hazel,

Others with ongoing issues :

Nancy Miller : Parkinson's Disease

Robin Shumard : Due to neurological issues which are secondary to diabetes, Robin is confined to a wheelchair.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Wayne : Ongoing issues related to stroke recovery

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law ..awaiting test result

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend has severe kidney failure due to diabetes. His condition is slowly deteriorating.

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !