

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

January 10, 2021

Protect Your Faith

What strange times these are that we are living through. It is almost like some kind of movie we are living in, and no one really knows what will happen next. There is certainly a lot of speculation on the part of government officials, but it seems that even they are struggling to predict how extensive this Covid-19 pandemic will affect us moving forward. While these are extraordinary events we are facing, we know that God is in complete control. It is important that we protect our faith in our stay at home, social distancing world.

So how can we protect our faith?

We need to make a commitment to community. I know that may sound strange given our circumstance, but community is vital to the Christian's life. We need the support of others, but others need our support as well. It is difficult to thrive alone.

We need to make a commitment to service. If our faith is what it ought to be we will have a hard time refraining from serving others. It is important to remember the more we pour our lives into others, the less intimidating our struggles seem to be.

We need to make a commitment to grow. It is easy to lose our focus on Bible study, especially when we are not meeting together physically. Remember to read your Bible. Make sure

you take advantage of whatever resources are available to you, like joining in on online lessons so you will continue growing in faith and your knowledge of God's Word.

Remember to pray. May God bless you.

— Keith Harris

Editor's note :

In my youth I enjoyed fishing on Lake Erie. However, no matter how sunny the day, one always had to be prepared to endure the sudden squalls for which the lake is infamous. The wind will suddenly pick up and the swells will become enormous. It could be a frightening experience for the uninitiated. One's first impulse was to drop the anchor and batten down the hatches in preparation for waiting it out. However that was exactly the wrong approach. One needed to turn his boat into the wind and waves and keep it under power.

The same principle applies when we are hit by the storms of life. The best thing is not to batten down our spiritual hatches and wait it out, but to face life's storms and rev up our spiritual power. The steps which Keith advised in his article are a great way to get started at doing this. As we face this pandemic, we all need to keep in contact with God, be creative in the ways we keep in touch with each other from a distance and let love for the brethren motivate us to find ways to serve their needs while obeying the government's mandate to maintain social distancing. And of course, our soul has a greater need for spiritual nourishment as it is expending increased spiritual energy.

No matter how dark the clouds become, remember the promise of our Lord, "I will never leave you or forsake you." Heb. 13.5

— wayne

Guard Against Drift

"You have not returned to me," declares the Lord.

—Amos 4:6

The phrase *"you have not returned to me"* surfaces often in the book of Amos—five times in chapter 4. The Lord repeatedly reminded his wayward people of his attempts to turn them around—and after each reminder said, *"yet you have not returned to me."*

Swimming in prosperity they became soft, careless, immoral. They neither repented nor returned—and within 50 years their nation was trashed and they were in captivity.

But enough about them. What about you? Will you intentionally walk away from God? Probably not. The biggest danger you face is that of *unintentionally* drifting away. Guard against drift.

*If you are not as close to God as you
once were, He isn't the one that moved.*

— Joe Barnett

Facing Uncertain Times

Tie a string around your finger, if you must, but there are three things we all need to remember as we face these times of uncertainty.

First, seek God without delay. Our times are in His hands. It is God who keeps us among the living so that our feet don't slip (Psa 66:9). Remember the man who was called a fool by the Lord. He presumed that he would have another day, but his soul was required of him that very night. God, not man, is in control! Even sparrows will not fall to the ground “without your Father's will.” So what are we to do? Seek God without delay! “The LORD is with you, while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you” (2 Chr 15:2).

Second, serve God without fear. That may sound wrong in light of the admonition to “Fear God, and keep his commandments” (Eccl 12:13). But in saying “serve God without fear,” I am thinking of David and his solid conviction that God preserves the faithful. “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me” (Psa 23:4). Let's give a hearty amen to the Hebrew writer who said, “The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid, what can man do to me?”

Third, trust God without worry. “We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose” (Rom 8:28). Or again, “Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And

the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:6-7).

God holds the future in His hands so: seek God without delay; serve God without fear; trust God without worry.

— John Gipson

Birthdays : Butch Reynolds January 13
Betty Lowe January 16

READING : **Hebrews 1: 1 – 2: 4**

NEXT WEEK : (January 17, 2020)

Song Leader : **Stan**

Scripture Reader : **Butch**

Table & Announcements : **Tim**

Prayer List :

Roseann Reynolds : Roseann continues to need prayers as she faces some ongoing issues related to her surgery.

Megan Nichols : Megan is already out of quarantine, but is still feeling some side effects, e.g., she can't taste or smell.

Susan Bowyer : Though Susan continues to struggle with some of her health issues, she is now showing significant improvement in that she can now walk with her cane.

Doris Bartanen : Doris remains in Shelbyville Rehabilitation & Health. She continues to improve.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Marge, Mary, Doris, Delores, Betty, Pete & Hazel, Fay Julius

Others with ongoing issues :

Madonna Nichols : Madonna continues to receive chemo every other week to treat her liver cancer.

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Jerry has multiple serious ongoing issues.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing painful back issues.

Debbie Adams : Lengthy recovery from severe car accident

Susan Bales : Rosanne's mother is growing progressively weaker. Even a few steps are difficult and her mind is slipping

Tim Gaddis : Remains the Prairie Rose Rehabilitation Center

*** 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.*

Ya'll Come !

Schedule of Services :

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

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

