



JACKSON CHURCH OF CHRIST

Family Matters

JULY 31, 2022

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Deacons

George Clark
Nate Crowden
Greg Dowdy
Charlie Kluesner
Doug Lester
Brian Mitchell
Todd Newman
Kenny Simmons
Scott Spraggs
Trey Walls

Lessons for Today

AM: Steve Simmons

"Peace Amid Turmoil"

1 Peter 5:6-10

PM:

Dale Gilliland

Faith and Optimism – A Timeless Challenge

When your cup runs over, is it a blessing, or a mess? Is your glass half full or half empty? Do you make difficulties out of your opportunities, or opportunities out of your difficulties? Are you the kind that complains about the noise when opportunity knocks? Do you claim to be an optimist who doubts that being one really helps?

While reading **Psalm 23** it occurred to me that King David was a true optimist. He wrote things like: "I am never in need ... green pastures ... peaceful waters ... paths of righteousness ... my cup overflows ... even though I walk through the dark valley of death, because you are with me, I fear no harm ... your rod and staff give me courage." His faith in God enabled him to overcome obstacles that would probably derail the faith of most of us. His trust in God allowed him to see winning possibilities in the most horrible circumstances. Remember how he faced a lion, a bear, a giant, and a mentally unstable king? Remember how he faced the death of a child, and rebellion from within his own family? His faith in God empowered him to live with optimism and assurance of victory.

When faced with setbacks and difficulties, our reactions reveal whether we are people of faith and optimism, or people of pessimism and defeat. There are three basic differences in the way optimists and pessimists react to adverse circumstances.

The first is that the optimist sees a setback as temporary, while the pessimist sees it as permanent. When David's infant child died, he saw it only as a temporary separation. Even after praying and fasting that the child would not die, his faith in God never wavered. He could not bring the child back, but he said, "I will go to him" (**2 Sam. 12:23**). Even death is not permanent for those with faith in God.

The second difference is that the optimist sees difficulties as specific, while the pessimist sees them as pervasive. David's sin with Bathsheba was not allowed to destroy his whole life and eternity. He messed up big time, but he dealt with it as the specific sin it was, repented, and went on to live as a man with the heart of God. His failure with Bathsheba broke his heart, but it did not cause his whole life to be a failure.

The third difference is that optimists view events as external, while pessimists interpret events as personal. King Saul's repeated attempts to kill David was seen by David as rebellion against God, not him personally. He would not raise his hand against Saul because he still saw him as the Lord's anointed. Difficulties are most often simply external circumstances, not personal attacks.

It's a timeless challenge to be more like David, to learn from him how to live by faith and optimism, to see the setbacks in life like a man who had the heart of God.

Joe Chesser
Fruitland church of Christ

Worship Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:00 am
AM Worship: 10:00 am
PM Worship: 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:00 pm

For the Record

Sunday Class: 75
Sunday AM: 120
Sunday PM: 77
Wednesday PM: 78
Contribution: \$4661
Budget: \$4464

Think on This...

If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

Psalm 139:8

Celebrating This Week...

Birthdays

Kelly Garland: 07.31
Lainey Kluesner: 07.31
Seth Spraggs: 07.31
Jodi Johnson: 08.03
Lili Watson: 08.04
Randy Seabaugh: 08.06

Anniversaries

Cody & Kayli
Naramore: 08.01
Jacob & Lindsey
Luebbers: 08.06
Steve & Kay Simmons:
08.06

Serving This Week

Announcements: Larry Dowdy

SUNDAY

Greeters: Nate & Christi Crowden

Ushers: Kenny Simmons/Troy Bryan

A/V: Zach Dowdy

Lead Singing: Phil Swiney

Head Lord's Table: Gary Miller

Scripture: Lance Kluesner

Prayers:

AM: Randy Seabaugh/Gary Ridenour

PM: Charlie Kluesner/Dale Gilliland

WEDNESDAY

Lead Singing: Greg Dowdy

Lesson: Adam Faughn

"Blessed are the Merciful"

Prayer: Nick Brown

Elder Chair: Allen Hedge

Communion to Shut-Ins: Scott Spraggs

Worship Organizer: Scott Spraggs

Remember in Prayer

- **Terri Bryan** tested positive for Covid and was unable to have her shoulder surgery. She has rescheduled for December 9.
- **Mike Turnbow** is continuing to struggle with his cancer. His condition is worsening...he is weaker and unbalanced, falling often... his doctors have no additional treatments available. Mike appreciates our prayers and asks that we continue to remember him. He would enjoy short daytime visits as well as calls, texts, cards, and notes to encourage him as he faces the coming days.
- **Scott Lanpher**, Barbara Lanpher's son, is struggling with several health issues.
- **Doug Simmons**, Steve & Kay's son, is also dealing with some fluid issues that resulted from a motorcycle accident a few months ago.
- **Gary & Maggie Colley**, family of Deanna Finch are both in hospice care at separate facilities and the family appreciates our prayers.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Destiny & Macayla Meyer (Ashlee Garland's daughters) as their paternal grandmother, **Bev Meyer** died tragically in a fire on Sunday.

Daily Bible Reading

July 31: Isaiah 16-18

August 1: Isaiah 19-21

August 2: Isaiah 22-24

August 3: Isaiah 25-27

August 4: Isaiah 28-30

August 5: Isaiah 31-33

August 6: Isaiah 34-36

News & Notes

- All ladies are invited to a **baby shower** honoring **Kayli Naramore** on **August 14** at 2pm in the fellowship room. Kayli & Cody are expecting a baby girl in September and are registered at Target and Amazon.
- **Thursday School** registration is open for 3- & 4-year-olds and we still have openings available. Please share this opportunity with any young families who may be interested. Flyers are available on the entryway table to share or post.
- **Paragould Children's Homes** item of the week: **Orange Juice (non-refrigerated!)**

Continuing Prayer Needs

****Contact the office with updates****

Marian Allmon	Wanda Raper
Ginger Avery	Lena Schweain
Tony Boyd	Susan Seabaugh
Mark Blaylock	Earl Silvers
Thelma Brown	Steve Simmons
Bill Dillman	Lee Simpson
Kelly & Trudy Garland	Sarah Singleton
Juanita Hedge	Fred Stoffregen
Tim Hosey	Kay Strobel
Diana Ivanovich	Don Tawney
Betty Jones	Mike Turnbow
Sid Naramore	Lucky Vander
Carolyn Neese	Chris Weaver

Paragould Children's Homes School Supplies

It is time, once again, to gather school supplies for the Paragould Children's Homes. Please bring requested items and place in the marked box outside the office **Sunday, September 11**. Lists for items needed are posted and available on the entryway table.

Youth Corner

- **August 6: Youth Devo** at 6pm at Mitchells'— pizza provided. Sign up on bulletin board to bring other items.
- **August 8: SYS** at Shady Acres

Area Needs...

- Jackson Senior Center is looking for volunteers to help in continuing the services they provide. They provide over 5000 meals each month to senior citizens in the community. There are several different volunteer opportunities available and more information is available on the posted flyer.
- Children's Homes is in need of Christian couples willing to serve as houseparents in Paragould. They are offering a Zoom meeting on **Tuesday, August 9** for anyone interested in this opportunity to serve.

Upcoming Area Events

- **August 7-10: Pacific Gospel Meeting** with **Phil Sanders**
- **August 21-24: Cape County Gospel Meeting**
- **September 10: Arnold Ladies Day**
- **September 24: Paragould Children's Homes Open House & Fish Fry** beginning at 10:30am

Daily Email Group

We are setting up an email group to send encouraging messages, Bible verses, quotes, and Christian jokes, etc. The email is intended for us to get to know each other better and become more interactive as a whole. Periodic questionnaires will be sent throughout the year to share additional information with the group. You may join at any time by emailing 310mustardseed@gmail.com or contacting Ashlee Garland at 573.944.9089. Daily emails begin August 1 (Mon-Fri).