

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

This past Sunday, we finished our study of the book of James. And as I spent some time this weekend looking back through all that we had studied over the past several months, one passage caught my eye.

James 4:13-15 says, *"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit'— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.'"*

It would be hard to find a passage that better fits this season we are in as a nation and around the globe than James 4:13-15. And as I considered what I wanted to share in the newsletter this month I decided that the best use of this space during this time of uncertainty would be to look again at how we should respond to the truths that we find in these verses.

In these verses James tells us we must reject the belief and the lifestyle of those who live as if God has nothing to do with our lives, and we must adopt an attitude of humble recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all of our days.

So, the question is how do we respond to these truths today? Here are three ways that we should respond to the truths that we find in this passage.

The first way that we should respond to these truths is by accepting the Lordship of Christ over our lives. We live in a culture that rejects any notion that there should be a higher authority than the individual, but as Christians we cannot live this way. The Bible makes it clear:

God is the Creator and ruler of this world, and to reject His rule is to rebel against Him. The Bible calls that sin.

As Christians we have rejected and repented of this rebellion against our God, and we have submitted our lives to the Lordship of Christ, and that means that we must intentionally develop a lifestyle of accepting the Lordship of Christ in all areas of our lives as we submit our days to God and His Word. We cannot continue to claim to follow Jesus Christ and live our days as practical atheists who live our lives with little reference to God.

So, the first way we should respond to these truths is by accepting the Lordship of Christ over our lives.

The second way that we should respond to these truths is by living with the Lordship of Christ in mind. What this means is that we re-shape our daily lives in such a way that they show our dependence on Christ. This looks like submitting to His will for us each day. It looks like receiving each day from His hands. It looks like seeking His will each day as we study His word, and as we go to Him in prayer in acknowledgement of His Lordship over every one of our days. The second way, that we should respond to these truths, is by living with the Lordship of Christ in mind.

The third way that we should respond to these truths is by resting in the Lordship of Christ. Right now, many of us are struggling with anxiety and fear as we wonder what the next few weeks, and even months, may mean for us and for our families and for our country. And it is not hard to understand why we feel this way.

In this passage, James has called us to develop hearts that recognize the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This means submitting our wills to His as we accept His Lordship over our days. And it means living each day mindful of His Lordship as we live each day in recognition of our dependence on Him. The Lordship of Christ also means that on our hardest days, on the days when the world feels like it has turned upside down and like nothing makes sense, we can rest in the knowledge that He is ruling and reigning over all things right now. We have not even for a moment been forgotten by Him.

I want to point us to one other passage. In Psalm 139, verses 1-18, David gives us an incredible example of what it looks like to rest in the Lordship of God:

"O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,' even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is

(Pastor's Message — continued to Page 3)

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

					1 <u>Face Book Devotional</u>	2 <u>B-day</u> : Ali Basinger
3 <u>Worship</u> : 11am (via Zoom)	4	5 <u>B-day</u> : Anna Caroline Coburn	6 <u>Wed. Prayer & Study</u> : 6:15pm (via Zoom)	7 <u>12-Hour Prayer Vigil</u> : 8am to 8pm	8 <u>Face Book Devotional</u>	9
10 <u>Mother's Day</u> <u>Diaconate Meeting</u> : 8am <u>Worship</u> : 11am (via Zoom) <u>Communion</u> (TBD) <u>B-day</u> : Bill Weltin <u>B-day</u> : Ruthie Mackin	11	12	13 <u>Wed. Prayer & Study</u> : 6:15pm (via Zoom)	14	15 <u>Face Book Devotional</u>	16
17 <u>Worship</u> : 11am (via Zoom) <u>Fellowship Luncheon</u> (TBD) <u>Session Meeting</u> : 4:30pm (via Zoom)	18	19 <u>B-day</u> : Angie Solliday	20 <u>Wed. Prayer & Study</u> : 6:15pm (via Zoom) <u>B-day</u> : Tim Tripp	21 <u>B-day</u> : Lily Mackin	22 <u>Face Book Devotional</u>	23 <u>B-day</u> : Andy Coburn <u>Anniv</u> : Keith & Audrey Yeager
24 <u>Worship</u> : 11am (via Zoom) <u>HOP</u> : 2pm (TBD) <u>B-day</u> : Eloise Harris	25 <u>Memorial Day</u> <u>B-day</u> : Ryan Basinger	26 <u>B-day</u> : Melissa Weltin <u>B-day</u> : Nathan Bryant	27 <u>Wed. Prayer & Study</u> : 6:15pm (via Zoom)	28	29 <u>Face Book Devotional</u>	30 <u>B-day</u> : Lillian Cannon
31 <u>Worship</u> : 11am (via Zoom) Deacons Fund Offering						

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MAY

Deacons of the Month: Glenn Basinger and David Coddington.

Food Ministry Leader of the Month: Ann Resto.

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS

- **Sunday Worship:** 11:00 am, via Zoom. (Fellowship Time, 10:20am)
- **Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study:** 6:15 pm, via Zoom.
- **Friday Afternoon Face Book Devotional:** Jeff will give a brief devotional each week on our church Facebook page. You can find us on Face Book at First Presbyterian Church - Demopolis, Al.

OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

- **12-Hour Prayer Vigil:** May 7 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. See page 4 for more information.
- **Showers of Blessings Offering:** This special offering will be collected during the entire month of May.
- **Deacons Fund Offering:** May 31st. Each 5th Sunday we collect our Deacon's Fund offering. This offering is used to help those from our church and the community who are in need.



SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS MONTH

Instead of holding our annual Showers of Blessing offering during one Sunday in May, it has been decided to make the entire month of May as **SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS MONTH**. This year Sacred Roots and Sav-A-Life in Tuscaloosa will be the recipients, which were selected by the Warrior Presbytery Women's Ministry.

SACRED ROOTS FARM is a sustainable farm in Gainesville, GA, that provides long-term recovery for trafficked and sexually exploited women and their children. Here they experience safety and healing of mind, body and spirit, they discover and develop trust, and they find the hope that God has created for them.

SAV-A-LIFE IN TUSCALOOSA is a haven of hope for women who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Here they can receive clinical services such as free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling options on adoption, information on abortion, parenting, sexual health, and post abortion healing through their Healing Hearts program. Many other programs and services are also offered.

<u>2020</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 8,556.05	\$ 24,471.55
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 10,588.38	\$ 26,834.83
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (2,032.33)	\$ (2,363.28)
<u>2019</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>2019 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 11,435.46	\$ 26,587.27
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 8,623.93	\$ 29,758.16
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 2,811.53	\$ (3,170.89)

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as light with you. For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you."

As we enter into a new month truly knowing that we do not know what tomorrow may bring, we can dwell on these verses that tell us our Lord has planned our steps. These verses also tell us that our Lord knows the number of our days, and He has hemmed us in. We can find rest in the truth. There is nowhere we can go where He will not be with us.

What James tells us in this passage and what David celebrated in this Psalm, is that we can rest our anxious hearts in the truth of the total Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Jeff



12-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL— MAY 7, 2020

12-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

In observance of the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, **May 7th**, we will hold our annual 12-hour Prayer Vigil. A schedule is available to sign up for a 30-minute time segment to set aside for prayer. Sign up either individually or as a family unit. Our goal is to have our congregation pray continuously for 12 hours.

Please pray for wisdom, strength, unity and protection for the following.

- Pray for the church: Pastor Jeff, our congregation and church family near and far, the Warrior Presbytery, those who serve in missions, and the Christian church throughout the world.
- Pray for our nation and government leaders: local, state and federal lawmakers, the President, and the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Pray for our teachers, first responders, military personnel, and medical care providers.
- Pray for the family: spiritual leaders, godly parents, children, elderly, the infirm and their caretakers.
- Pray for the imprisoned and persecuted.
- Pray for our personal renewal and moral awakening.
- Pray for the unbelievers that they might come to a saving knowledge in Christ.
- Pray for protection and unity and to help us endure hardships, find joy in the midst of trials, encourage one another, and find comfort in our faith.
- Pray for wisdom and knowledge and to help us reflect godly values in our daily work, be accurate and fair in all of our relationships, that we place a high value on truth and decency, and that we make responsible decisions.
- Pray with thankfulness for God's blessings and to help us serve one another in love, be dedicated to each other, and to help us restore broken relationships.
- Pray for humility and to help us to confess our sins, seek His direction, and to rely on Him instead of ourselves.



**Pray
for one
another.**

James 5:16



*Let the words of my mouth and
the meditation of my heart be
acceptable to you, O Lord,
my rock and my redeemer.*

Psalms 19:14

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAITH PROMISE MISSIONARIES

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Robert & Lisa Stewart | Mission to the World — Japan |
| Andy & Bev Warren | Mission to the World — Ethiopia |
| Doug McNutt | Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa Evangelist |
| Aaron & Leticia Zapata | Mission to North America — Mexico |
| Chaplain Ministry | Mission to North America |
| Jimmy & Nadia Dukes | Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru |
| Beth Acton | Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea |
| Joy Ayabe | Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea |
| Clete Hux | Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL |
| Jonah & Jennifer | Frontiers — Undisclosed Muslim Country |
| General Support | Sav-A-Life Pregnancy Resource Center — Demopolis, AL |
| General Support | Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS |

HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allinder, Ike | Gardner, David & Christy | McIntier, Jodie |
| Allinder, Kate | Harstad, Paula | Miller, Tommie |
| Bazuin, Caiden | Hart, Sarah Elizabeth | Mills, Angel |
| Beeler, Peggy | Haubert, Chloe Belle | Morgan, Laura |
| Belcher, Samuel | Hayes, Betsy | Mutisya, Cecilia |
| Brantley, Maggie | Hocker, Jeannie | Parr, Higley |
| Brooker, Chrissy | Hogg, Ian | Pickerill, Paula |
| Brooker, Jan | Hoggle, Judy | Plummer, Kaegan |
| Bryant, Jessica | Holman, Joann | Reynolds, Christy |
| Burkett, Holly | Hooks, Chesnee | Sakon, Ethan |
| Busby, Rhae | Husbands, Jennie | Sall, Terry |
| Bynum, Linda | Hux, Karen | Segura, Chris |
| Coker, Jean | Ivy, Kendall | Sharp, Chris |
| Collins, Brandon | Jennifer (Missionary) | Sims, Anna Katherine |
| Cook, Patricia | Jowers, Cap & Patty | Sims, Sarah |
| Craig, Noah | Jowers, Johnny | Spree, Thed |
| Curry, Walter | Jowers, Walter | Taylor, Marie |
| Dale, Kelly | Keasler, Jo Anne | TenHaaf, WM |
| Daughtery, Jody | Kelly, Dale | Thornton, Alaina |
| Davidson, Karen | King, Jessie | VanderMolen, Popko |
| DeWitt, Robert | Lane, Barbara | Witherspoon, Mary Stewart |
| Duncan, Conner | Leascher, Chad | Womble, Caleb |
| Dunning, Norbourne | Lessman, Linus | Wright, Hettie |
| Dyer, Doug | Lewis, Kathy | |
| Eshee, Judy | Ligon, Brandon | |
| Farst, Sharon | Lockett, Joanne | |
| Finley, Betty | McCraw, Beverly | |

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

Cancer:

- Jody Daugherty
- Luke (Jonah's son)
- Kaleigh Craig
- Scott Kirkpatrick
- Heather Wilson
- Maggie Brantley
- Kendall Ivy

Illness:

- Ian Hogg
- Laura Morgan
- Neal Bules
- David Headley
- Allen Hammond

Special Needs:

- Liz Bond
- Sarah Elizabeth Hart
- Frank Ramey
- Viola Cook
- William R. Horton
- Baby Oliver Sullivan
- Francis Mahaffey
- The Hutton Family

Military Personnel:

- Chaplain William Broderick
- Sam Brasfield
- Steven Mackin
- Victor Resto
- Joseph Wilson
- Josh Tyson
- Blake Ivy

Expectant Mothers:

- Amanda Bryant
- Katie Gill
- Janie Basinger

If you know anyone who needs to be added or taken off any of these lists, please provide Ann Resto with the information to keep the prayer lists current.

