

April 26, 2020

CHURCH of CHRIST

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Public services are temporarily cancelled during the *Corona Virus* restrictions.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jerry & Erma Endly, Cathy Jackson, Gary & Debbie Jones, Tina Keith, Rick Lambert, Kathy Mayo and Flavil Miller.

SHUT-INS: Audrey Burns, Jack Mitchell, and Shirley Patterson.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Nellie Bichard, Weston Boulet, (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), Dan Doudna (Wilma Roe's relative), Bob & Patty Eddy, Carmie Green (Flavil Miller's sister), Herb Hamilton (friend of the Starrett's), Bob & Donna Henthorn (Laura Jamiel's parents), Collene Keister, (Mo Smith's sister), Linda Potts (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), Erica Rich, Shirley Roe, Mona Stoffer (Flavil Miller's daughter), Mitch Vick, Bob & Marge Watson and remember to pray for **one another**.

Greetings, brethren, and friends,

Amidst the carnage of this virus we received some wonderful news this past week. We wish to extend **CONGRATULATIONS** to Chris and Morgan Poe as they welcomed baby girl, **Claira Ann** on Saturday, April 18th at 7:44 pm. Miss Claira (8 lb.-5oz.) was happily welcomed by maternal grand-parents, **Rick and Brenda Warne**; mom, dad and baby are doing well. Cards, etc., may be sent to Morgan and Chris Poe, 75 Determine Ln., Pataskala, OH. 43062.

Also, a big **CONGRATULATIONS** to our graduates: **Marlo Taylor** graduates from *Marietta College* with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education on May 3. **Megan Warne** graduates on May 9, with a 4.0 G.P.A. from the *University of Akron* with a bachelor's degree in athletic training. "Way to go. ladies"!!!

Paul Warehime has been dealing pneumonia for about a month but seems to be improving.

As you have no doubt been keeping up with the news regarding COVID-19, we are hearing talks of systematically re-opening some of the country. Since this whole thing is very foreign to us, the prospect seems a little scary, but I do think this is good news. I pray they are not rushing things, but I also see the need to do it as soon as safely possible. Pray that our leaders will petition the Almighty for wisdom as they make these crucial choices and that with the providential care of The Great Physician that we may recover as fully as we can—JK

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

The First Epistle of Peter (circa 64-65 A.D.) was written to Christians—"the elect" (1:2)—scattered throughout Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). These first century brethren were reeling under heavy persecution (cf. 4:12) and Peter writes to encourage them to keep the faith and not allow themselves to weaken under the strain of conflict from without.

We are facing a conflict from without today. We had nothing to do with the Corona Virus attacking our nation. But think about this: unlike our brethren to whom Peter is writing, we have no where to go to escape the dangers which beset us. We can run to Columbus, or Cleveland, or Wheeling, or wherever, and Corona is still there. These brethren could flee to another town or region, and be safe for a while, but soon enough, (Continued on next page)

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persecution would find them. But here is the thing: if they simply renounced Christ, most, if not all of their earthly persecution would end. Just stop being Christians and they could be safe. This is what Peter is trying to avoid with this letter written by him as dictated by the Holy Spirit.

To borrow from Thomas Paine, “These [too] are times that try men’s souls”, and I fear such experiences could be used by some as justification for distancing themselves from Christ and His church, if not wholly departing from the faith. With this fear confessed I wish to note a few things from inspired writ upon which you and I may reflect as we allow every chance for our faith and our resolve to strengthen as we reach Heavenward.

First, let us consider the *source of our salvation*. We were chosen by the Father; He called us by His Gospel, and we responded in faith and obedience (1 Pet. 1:2a). Upon our obedience, He sanctified us by His Spirit and washed away our sins in the blood of His only begotten Son (2b; Acts 22:16).

Second, we notice the *guarantee of our salvation*. We can know without any uncertainty that when we have experienced the new birth emanating from our obedience to the Gospel, that we are saved. The proof lies in the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-8). We are not left to be dependent on upon the blood of millions of dead animals (2 Chr. 7:5), we do not trust in graven images of our own making (Hos. 14:3), we do not rely on dumb idols that, if they were to fall down must be propped up by mere men (1 Sam. 5:3); no indeed! Our hope rests in the living Lord, Jesus Christ who declared, “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore” (Rev. 1:18).

So long as “we walk in the light as he is in the light” (1 John 1:7) we have the promise of “an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled which fadeth not away” (1 Pet. 1:4) being “kept by the power of God through [our] faith for salvation” (5).

Finally, consider the *joy of our salvation* even in the midst of trials. Yes, we will be grieved at times and think we just may not be able to go on but remember that nothing on earth lasts forever. And each trial that we overcome strengthens us if we let it. Peter writes in verse seven that their faith was more genuine and more precious because of the hardships they endured. Moreover, their love for God increased (8-9) as He helped them with the promise that the end of their faith would be salvation for eternity. Beloved, think on these things— *JK*.

ADAM	ELIPHAZ
EVE	EZEKIEL
NOAH	JOEL
MOSES	HOSEA
SARAI	
HAGAR	
ABRAM	
ISAAC	
JUDAH	
JOSEPH	
RUTH	
ESTHER	
PHARAOH	
DAVID	
ELIHU	
BILDAD	

J U D A H O B G B B F O A A B
O R H M A D A Q W U B B Y B R
R N Q H T H T U R Z J G C U Z
A Q L L W W E S A R A I O P V
E P H A R A O H G H P E S O J
U H I L E I P H A O N F F V A
M M F J D I T N H P S H A Q H
O W L O L E I K E Z E F F J S
S C M E V E M Q N J D I V A D
E L O L A O M P C A A S I V E
S T I K R N D C B I L D A D W
Z F P F F I R E H T S E F O Q
Y F I A E S O H E W X P X B I
K F U H Y V U L A B R A M A Q
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Answers to last week's scrambler: Faithful honest stewards kingdom holiness judgment grace giving repent