

The Forecast
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Righteous folks know the kind of person they want to be and choose to surround themselves with people who help them achieve those goals. The righteous look for people who make them better versions of themselves. The righteous seek out people who love God with their whole hearts and live it out each day. Some people don't have our best interest in mind, or don't live based upon a desire to please God. Some people don't make us better, rather, some can make us bitter.

The differences between positive relationships and negative ones can be compared to the difference between graffiti and an art gallery. Graffiti is haphazard. It is messy. It is unpredictable. An art gallery is different. Graffiti is chaotic, but an art gallery is strategic. It is thought through. The art behind building relationships can be seen in the same way. If we leave our closest connections to accidental encounters, we may find ourselves being led to places we never wanted to go and becoming people we never intended to be. But there is a better way!

***Let's talk this Sunday about the key to better relationships.
See you at 10:00 am - Bring a friend!***



Better Relationships Than We've Ever Had!

Do you want to experience better relationships? Who doesn't! The best place to start, as with all things, is with Scripture. But be ready—what you find might be different than what you were initially seeking. Read Colossians 3:12–14:

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” Colossians 3:12-14

First, this passage defines our need. We were not designed to live the Christian life on our own. We must all come to understand and accept that our walks with God are community projects.

Second, this passage confronts our ownership. Our relationships don't belong to us; they belong to God. We cannot allow ourselves to have an owner's view of our relationships as if they exist for the sole purpose of our happiness.

Third, this passage defines our identity. Where does the Apostle Paul get his character list from? The answer is that these are the traits of Christ. Paul is figuratively telling us to “put on” Christ.

Finally, this passage defines our calling. God has a purpose for you in all of your relationships. It is that you would live as one of his representatives; that is, that you would live representatively. Representing Christ means you represent the message, the methods, and the character of the King. Representing the King's message means that you look at every situation through the lens of the truth of Scripture and determine to help others look at life that way too. Representing the King's methods means that you seek to be a tool of gospel change for the better in the life of another person. How would the King work to mature this person, and how can I be part of that methodology and process?

Lastly, representing the character of the King means asking yourself, “What aspect of the Lord Jesus Christ does this person need to see in the situation that he or she is now in, and how can I incarnate that love?”

Other people are never about our wants, feelings, and desires. God has not designed our relationships to be vehicles for human happiness but as instruments of ministry and redemption. The Bible presents a “bigger-purpose-than-my-happiness” way of living when interacting with others. When we give up our self-centered agenda, we'll find more joy, peace, and fulfillment in our relationships than we could have ever imagined!

On the grace journey together with you, Lynwood

The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

January 16, 2024

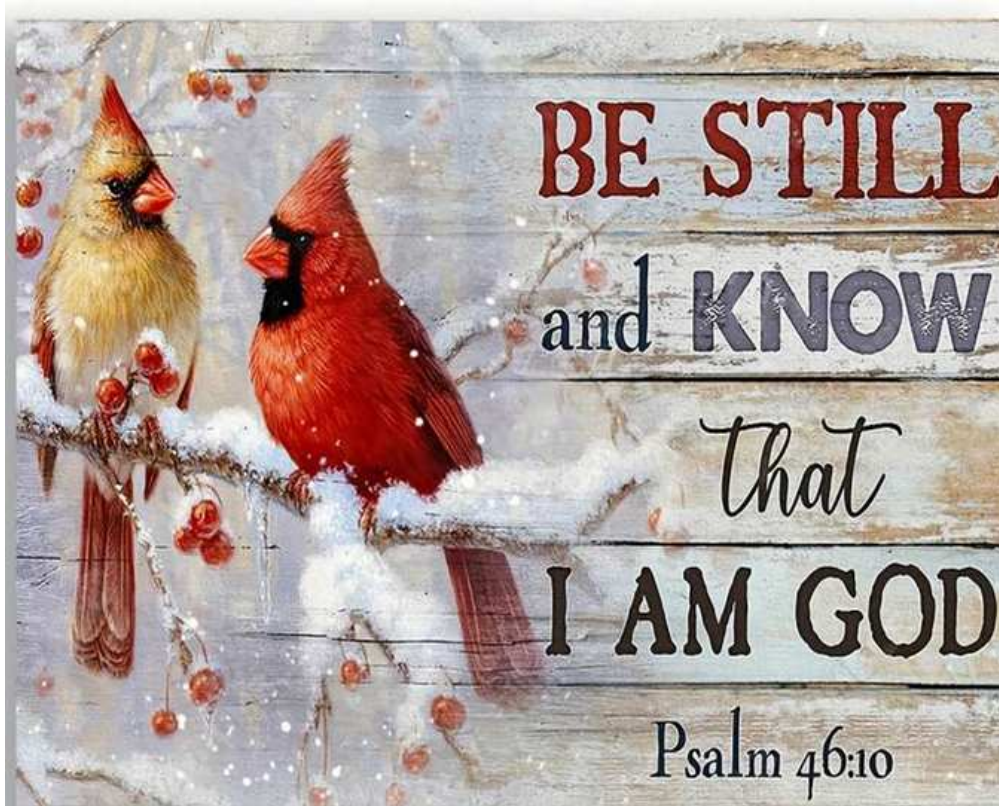
The count for this week will be included in next weeks Forecast.

We will be putting the church back in order from PORT on Sunday Morning after church. If you are Physically able and can help please plan to stay after church. We will need all the help possible. Thanks

Lock up/ Hall Monitor 1/21 Roger Cooke 1/28 Lisa and David Falls

Counter 1/22 Margaret Upole 1/29 Kathy Caskie

Kids Church 1/21 TBD 1/28 Nadine Stephenson



Happy Birthday in January

1/18 Al Dillon

1/23 Barbara Michie

1/30 Carolyn Schaubach

Please continue to remember Lynwood as he recovers. He needs plenty of rest for his healing. If you have a problem or need anything contact the office and we will be sure that you are taken care of.

Calendar

Tuesday, January 16th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution
PORT

Wednesday, January 17th

No Bible Study

Thursday, January 18th

1pm– 2pm Food Distribution

Sunday, January 21st

9:00am Discipleship Class
10:00am Live Worship at HBC
10:00am Sonshine Kids

Tuesday, January 23rd

1pm-2pm Food Distribution
6:30 pm Vision Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 24th

7:00pm Bible study

Thursday, January 25th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

Friday, January 26th

5:30pm-6:30pm Community Dinner

Sunday, January 28th

9:00am Discipleship Class
10:00am Live Worship at HBC
10:00am Sonshine Kids

Missions Outreach—Pam Cooke 660-4226

PORT - January 10th– 17th

Thanks to everyone who helped with PORT and a special thanks to Pam and Roger Cooke for all your hard work.

Aluminum Cans

Recycle your cans at HBC and help Support missions! Bring them to HBC and place them in the gym or the church office. All money collected goes to missions.

Pray for our Missionaries

Randall Jordan, SM (Asian Pacific Rim People) SA (Central Asian People) AK, YS (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) NW (Sub Saharan African People) Dustin Thrower (AZ) Eliecer Barrantes (CA) Matthew Wallin (OH)

Serve the City

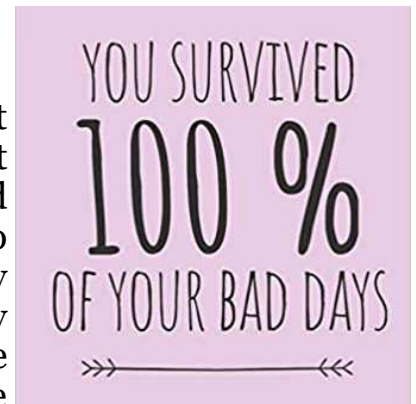
There are many opportunities to serve. See www.stcpeninsula.com
Or Pam Cooke and she will send you in the right direction.

WMU January Mission Project

The WMU Mission Project for January is PORT. All monies collected will go to help with the cost of expenses for PORT.

Jesus Never Said... "You Won't Have Bad Days!"

Let's face it... We all have bad days! One of the most difficult challenges of the Christian life is the fact that becoming Christ followers does not make us immune to life's trials and tribulations. Why would a good and loving God allow us to go through such things as the death of a child, disease and injury to ourselves and our loved ones, financial hardships, worry and fear? Surely, if He loved us, He would take all these things away from us. After all, doesn't loving us mean He wants our lives to be easy and comfortable?



Well, no, it doesn't. The Bible clearly teaches that God loves those who are His children, and He *"works all things together for good"* for us (Romans 8:28). So that must mean that the trials and tribulations He allows in our lives are part of the working together of all things for good. Therefore, for the believer, all trials and tribulations ultimately have a divine purpose.

As in all things, God's ultimate purpose for us is to grow more and more into the image of His Son (Romans 8:29). This is the goal of the Christian, and everything in life, including the trials and tribulations, is designed to enable us to reach that goal. This is explained in 1 Peter 1:6-7: *"In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which perishes, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

Trials develop godly character, and that enables us to *"rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us..."* (Romans 5:3-4).

However, we must be careful never to make excuses for our "trials and tribulations" if they are a result of our own wrongdoing. God forgives our sins because the eternal punishment for them has been paid by Christ's sacrifice on the cross. However, we still suffer the natural consequences in this life for our sins and bad choices. But God uses even those sufferings to mold and shape us for His purposes and our ultimate good.

Trials and tribulations come with both a purpose and a reward.

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. . . . Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him" (James 1:2-4,12).

Making Sacrifice With Joy

I heard a story once about two wealthy Christians, a lawyer and a merchant, who traveled with a group that was going around the world. As they were visiting in Korea, they saw by the side of the road, a field in which a boy was pulling a crude plow and an old man held the plow handles and guided it. The lawyer was amused and took a snapshot of the scene.



He turned to the missionary, who served as their interpreter and guide, and he said, "That's a curious picture. I suppose they are very poor."

The guide replied, "Yes, that is the family of Chi Noue. When the place of worship was being built, they were eager to give something to it, but they had no money, so they sold their only ox and gave the money to the church. This spring, they are pulling the plow themselves."

The men were silent for several moments. Then the businessman replied, "That must have been a real sacrifice." The guide said, "They do not call it that. They thought it was fortunate that they had an ox to sell."

I am reminded of a parable Jesus told: "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Matthew 13:44).

Notice carefully the words "for joy." This man doesn't just sell everything he has; he does so with joy. He doesn't regret it. He doesn't complain about the sacrifice he has to make. In fact, he probably doesn't even consider it to be a sacrifice. He gives a lot for the field, but he gets so much more in return.

The same thing holds true in our walk with Christ. Sacrifices will be necessary, and only a deep love for Christ will make them a joy. The real test of our commitment is not so much whether we are willing to make sacrifices for our Lord, but whether we are able to make those sacrifices with joy.



The Last Impression

The old man had died. A wonderful funeral was in progress and the country preacher talked at length of the good traits of the deceased, what an honest man he was, and what a loving husband and kind father he was.

Finally, the widow leaned over and whispered to one of her children, "Go up there and take a look in the coffin and see if that's your pa in there."

“It’s Time For Your Comeback!”

And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. —Genesis 15:13-15

Do you believe that God’s word can change the atmosphere of your life? It can. It will. I believe this passage speaks to us in a significant way. I want to talk about God planning your comeback. In scripture, God gave Abraham two promises:

Promise #1 – That he would die at a ripe old age. Question: Do you ever worry about dying? Do you believe your life is fully in the hands of God?

God came to Abraham and He basically said, “Abraham, I don’t want you to worry about dying. You will go to the grave at a good old age.” I believe this means we ought to just expect and claim that we’ll have good memories and we’ll have healthy, strong bodies. I know we get older and everything changes, for sure. But I’m claiming today the good old age. I’ll always have provision. I’ll always be taken care of, because man is not my source. Isn’t that good news? That’s good news. Be free from the fear of what’s coming. Good is what’s coming.

Promise #2 - That his wayward children would comeback. Questions: Do you have children you worry about or who are not walking with God today? Can you have faith for a “comeback” for your child?

God warned Abraham about this, but in the covenant that He made with him, He told him that his children would come back again to where He called them to be. There will be a comeback.

This truth is for your children, but it is also for you. No matter how pessimistic, no matter how negative it looks today, you’re going to come back. It’s a season of comeback. If you’ve been through something, maybe a financial setback or some kind of terrible thing has hit you in your health or something’s happened to your family, it’s time for a comeback!

It’s not time to quit. It’s no time to give up. It’s not time to moan and groan. We may be down, but we’re not out, because we serve a comeback God. Sometimes in life, stuff just happens. You may feel like you’ve been through hell, you messed up, and you did something you shouldn’t have done. It’s time for a comeback. The Bible said there is a river whose streams shall make glad again. That’s the river of the Holy Spirit, and if you can get a scent of that river, God can orchestrate your comeback!

