

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

April 12, 2015

"BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT"

PLEASANT PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST, JACKSON, TENNESSEE

Three Levels of Living

"When things are at their blackest," wrote Robert Lynn Asprin, "I say to myself, 'Cheer up, things could be worse.' And sure enough, they get worse." Joyce Carol Oates, looked at life this way: "Keep a light, hopeful heart. But expect the worst." The writer, O'Henry penned, "Life is made up of sobs, sniffles and smiles, with sniffles predominating." "We are born crying, live complaining and die disappointed," wrote Thomas Fuller in 1732. Janis Joplin, a rock and blues singer of my teen years, once said, "Life is something you do while waiting to die."

All of these are pretty pessimistic views of life. They contrast sharply with Jesus promise, "I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly."": (Jn. 10:10). Your view of life, however, depends upon the level in which you choose to live.

Consider these three levels of living.

1. Survival. This is the lowest level. But it is the level that most people live at. At this level people just eek out an existence. They are just trying to survive. Survive to the next pay check. Survive for the week-end. Survive for the next vacation. There's not a lot of hope in living at this level.

2. Success. This is a higher level. It is where many people live today. It is living a comfortable life style. It is having possessions, some degree of prestige and enjoying pleasure. By the world's standards, this person has made it. While there are varying degrees of success, we live in a country and enjoy an economy that affords success to many Americans. But the question comes, "If I am so successful, why don't I feel more fulfilled?" This leads us to the next level.

3. Significance. Success alone doesn't satisfy. Bob Buford in his excellent book *Halftime* points out that many people reach middle age with a lot of material success but little inner satisfaction. As one CEO put it, "I was always finding out that beyond the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, there's a sort of emptiness." Significance has to do with our purpose. Why am I here? What am I to be doing? How can I make a difference in life?

One of the great epithets of the Bible says of Israel's King David, "For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers..." (Ac 13:36, NIV). What a wonderful thing to live life in serving our generation and doing it according to God's will.

We are so grateful that you have made the decision to join our family, today, as we worship our Almighty God! If you have any questions or inquiries, please feel free to ask any of our members and we would be more happy to answer as best we can! Please accept our invitation to join us, again, when you have the opportunity.

God has shaped you for a purpose. God told the prophet Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you...for I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jer 1:5,29:11). God knows what's best for your life. He knows what will fulfill your life better than you do. And he promises to reward your commitment to Him.

The wise man said "the whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments" (Eccl. 12:13). Living at this level will raise you above survival mode or even success. It will provide your life with significance, satisfaction and ultimately salvation.

- Ken Weliever, thepreachersword.com



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday AM Notes 4-12-2015

If everyone was
like me...

It is _____ that I _____ on my _____ as a _____ I
begin to _____ on _____.

I need to _____ of
my _____ as a _____.

I must give _____ to _____ on
being the _____ I _____ be for _____.

1. my _____ (II Timothy _____)
2. my _____ (I Thess. _____)
3. my _____ (Galatians _____)
4. my _____ (Romans _____)
5. my _____ (II Cor. _____)
6. my _____ (Philippians _____)
7. my _____ (Hebrews _____)
8. my _____ (Colossians _____)
9. my _____ (II Cor. _____)
10. my _____ (I Timothy _____)
11. my _____ (Eph. _____)
12. my _____ (Joshua _____)



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday PM Notes 4-12-2015

the **Expecting**
Unexpected!

When we don't expect...

.....

Our fear of failure or lack of success can _____ us into doing _____.

.....

We need to expect because...

.....

Our confidence to expect the unexpected must be founded in _____.

.....

Our Shepherds

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Our Preacher

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Times of Worship & Bible Study

Sunday:

9:30 AM Bible Study

10:30 AM Worship Service: You can expect heart felt singing, reverent prayer, preaching from the Word of God, a focused and reverent observance of the Lord's Supper, and an opportunity for the saints of Pleasant Plains to give back to the Lord.

5:00 PM Worship Service

Wednesday:

7:00 PM Bible Study and Worship

Weekly Attendance

Last Sunday AM Worship.....130

Last Sunday PM Worship.....71

Last Wednesday Bible Study.....85

In Our Prayers

RECENT ADDITIONS/UPDATES:

-Lisa Paul (Amy Gateley's sister) suffering from numerous health issues and was recently diagnosed with cancer. She will be having a mastectomy on April 21. Let's be praying for her and her family.

-Anita Wagster....recovering from surgery to remove a cyst from one of her vocal chords.

-Jan Ferguson..... recovering from surgery to remove a tumor on her kidney.

CONTINUED PRAYERS:

-Janice Williams (Becky Waddell's sister)...Hospice has been called in. Let's be praying for Becky and family during this difficult time.

-Logan Cummings (Nephew of Christy Bennett)...continued prayers for the young boy's health struggles.

-Barbara Clark...battling stage four bone cancer.

-Robin Hill..... battling cancer.

-Jamie Neal and family (Nancy Phillips' friend)..Battling Melanoma.

-Ashley Pickens (Brent Holt's cousin)... Battling Cancer.

-Louise Stitt (Amy Gailey's mother) ... Battling leukemia.

-Barbara Leonard...Battling cancer, COPD, and Shingles.

-Pray for the work of this church. The fields are white and we need to be hard at work to spread the Gospel to as many lost souls as possible.

-Men and women making the sacrifice to protect the freedoms of this country.

If you have any updates or additions to the prayer list, please see Nick (in person, phone call, text, or email) so we can keep the bulletin up to date.

Pleasant Plains News

Upcoming Bible Studies & Events

Men's Bible Class - May 2nd at 7:30AM at Panera Bread. Our subject of study is "Do Things Well." Please read chapter 5.

Teen Devo - April 26th directly after evening service at Austin and Allison Lewis's home.

Couples Class - Next class date is yet to be determined.

Ladies Class - May 5th here at the building at 10:00AM. Lesson 9 will be covered.

Vacation Bible School- June 15-19. Please be making your plans to have your children here for this great event!

Area Gospel Meetings & Events

●**Gospel Meeting: Northside Church of Christ in Jonesboro, AR.** David Thomley will be presenting lessons on "The Rationality of Christianity." Dates will be April 19-21. Sunday at 9am, 10am, & 5pm. Monday & Tuesday will be at 7pm.

●**Gospel Meeting: Pilot Oak Church of Christ in Pilot Oak, KY.** Jim Hardy will be presenting faith building lessons on "Spiritual Wellness." April 26-29. Sunday at 10am & 2pm for singing. Monday-Wednesday at 7pm nightly.

●**Middle Tennessee Song Leader Workshop.** July 23-25 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Registration can be done at www.songleaderworkshop.com.

Daily Bible Reading For This Week: Judges 7-21; Psalms 17, 21, 146; Luke 22-24; Acts 1,2
Please make an effort to be in daily reading and meditation of God's Word! It's never too late to join your brothers and sisters of Pleasant Plains as we dive into God's Word. Read the Old Testament, Psalms, New Testament or any combination of the three and glorify God in your study and growth in 2015!