

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

November 1, 2015

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

PLEASANT PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST

JACKSON, TENNESSEE

Great Verses of the Bible: James 1:2

My favorite author, anonymous, tells the story about his grandfather who worked in a blacksmith shop when he was a boy. He would relate stories of how he had toughened himself up so he could stand the rigors of black smithing.

One story was how he had developed his arm and shoulder muscles. He said he would stand outside behind the house and, with a 5-pound potato sack in each hand, extend his arms straight out to his sides and hold them there as long as he could. After a while he tried 10-pound potato sacks, then 50-pound potato sacks and finally he got to where he could lift a 100-pound potato sack in each hand and hold his arms straight out for more than a full minute! Next, he started putting potatoes in the sacks!

In one of the great Bible texts, we are admonished, *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds"* (Jas 1:2, NIV)

As we enjoy ease and prosperity in our technological age in America, these words sound strange to our ears. Most of us probably don't consider trials, tests and tribulations as something that produces "pure joy." But consider how they may have sounded to James' readers? He is writing to Jewish Christians who are suffering. They have been forced from their homes, lost their possessions, exploited by the wealthy and slandered for their faith in Jesus. They are enduring hardship, persecution and severe daily trials. But they should accept it with "pure joy." Really? How? And why?

The next verse helps to explain James' divine reasoning. *"Because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance"* (Jas 1:4). This text teaches us several important lessons relevant for our time.

(1) Trials will come.

Notice James didn't say, "If trials come," but "when trials come." They will. No one lives a life without problems, pressure, or pain.

(2) Trials come in different ways.

The word "trial" means trouble, adversity or affliction. It can be used to refer to temptation to sin. But inherent in the word is the meaning of a test, or an attempt to prove. Trials test our character. Our commitment. Our consecration. Our loyalty to the Lord.

We all face trials. But they come in a variety of ways. Trials may be financial. Emotional. Or physical. Trials may occur in our relationships. Sickness and death in our families bring a unique kind of trial.

(3) Trials produce perseverance.

The word translated "perseverance" is also rendered "patience," "endurance" and "steadfastness" in other English versions. Dr Thayer says it describes "the characteristic of a man who is unswerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings." Trials make us stronger. Build us up spiritually.

Increase our spiritual stamina. Fortify our faith. Heighten our hope. Purify our love of God. Deepen our resolve. And refocus our attention heavenward.

(4) Trials don't have to steal our joy.

For Christians joy is centered in Christ. It is the result of spiritual commitment. It is internal instead of external. And joy is not diminished by trials. In fact, it is enhanced because we know the struggles we face produce patience and steadfast endurance.

Just like empty potato sacks will never build muscles, neither will a trouble-free life develop our spiritual strength.

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.

-Ken Weliever, thepreachersword.com



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday AM Notes 11-1-2015

the Taming
GREAT POWER
of the tiny tongue

JAMES 3:1-13

Though _____, the tongue holds _____.

It is _____ to bring the tongue _____.

The tongue is _____ of great _____ & _____.

We ought to _____ our _____ so we can

_____ God with our tongues.



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday PM Notes 11-1-2015

II Peter 2

Beware of False Teachers

1) They _____.

2) They are _____.

3) They can be _____ by _____.

4) They are _____ of _____.

5) They can come from _____.

6) They will be _____.

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.....120
Last Sunday PM Worship.....76
Last Wednesday Bible Study.....103

In Our Prayers

RECENT ADDITIONS/UPDATES:

-Sister Christine Adkerson (Tigrett) ...diagnosed with terminal cancer that will send her into hospice care. Please prayer from this sister and her family in a very difficult time.

-Barbara Leonard...really struggling with her health. Please be praying for her and let's see what we can do to assist her with food or other needs.

-Keller Stephens (Kathy Raines' Uncle)...please continue your prayers for Keller that he is able to recover to the extent that he can be baptized into the Body of Christ.

CONTINUED PRAYERS:

*****Our expecting mothers: Melanie Siedenstrang, Melessa Sain, & Spring McDonald.*****

-Christian Shadburn...20 yr. old Christian battling cancer.

-Stephanie Still (Becky Waddell's cousin)... dealing with numerous health issues.

-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..

-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 Pleasant Plains' Bible Studies & Events

Song Practice - This evening after our PM service at the Angel's home. ***SONG LEADERS***

Please select at least 5 songs that you would like to learn/practice during our gathering.

Men's Bible Class - November 7th at 7:30AM at Panera Bread. Our subject of study is "Do Things Well." Please read chapter 10.

Ladies Class -November 3rd at 10AM here at the church house.

Young People's Study - November 22nd at the Angel's Home directly following our evening service.

Area Gospel Meetings & Events

ⓄGospel Meeting at the Expressway Church of Christ in Wildersville, TN...Tommy Thornhill Sr. will be presenting lessons from God's Word. They will have a singing at 2PM on Sunday afternoon with a lesson to follow at 3PM. Monday through Wednesday will be at 7Pm.

Daily Bible Reading For This Week: Ezekiel 16-30; Psalm 84, 85, 134; John 6-10

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!