

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

January 17, 2016

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

PLEASANT PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST

JACKSON, TENNESSEE

Star Wars, Downton Abbey, And Your New Year's Resolutions

I saw the new Star Wars movie a few days ago. The five dollars (each—cheap!) it cost for Lee and me to see it helped put its worldwide gross over the \$1.7 billion mark. The good guys (underdogs) in the movie triumph against overwhelming odds. They saved the universe! Breathe a sigh of relief! Interesting that—unless you count The Force—they did this without any need for God. But hey, the movie is sci-fi fantasy, and we live in a free country. The producers can do as they please.

Another cultural phenomenon without much need for God is the PBS series Downton Abbey. It just opened its sixth season. Viewers have wondered why there is almost no reference to God in a series that is set in the early part of the twentieth century. The story begins at the time of the sinking of the Titanic—April 1912. In that time the English were a decidedly religious lot. And while the residents of Downton Abbey go to church on Sunday and give thanks for their meals, they pretty much live their lives without much involvement with God. God is just another formality of their privileged lives. But, like us, the British are somewhat free as a people. They can produce what they please.

What about Americans of the twenty-first century? Like those of that PBS story from a hundred years ago, modern Americans may go to church—but leave God out of the challenges and decisions of life. While Americans are still the most church-going people of any major country in the world, is our religion reflected in how we live? Are we living lives without the need for God? What are our lives really about as we are now almost two weeks into 2016? Did you make any resolutions for this New Year? Was God included in those resolutions? How are you doing so far?

A Money Magazine article lists the top six resolutions Americans made for 2016. (<http://time.com/money/4163867/top-new-years-resolution-2016/>.) To be fair, we note that about a third of those surveyed chose none of these six. (Maybe that offers some hope for America.) But here are the six in order as the most popular.

1. "Enjoy life to the fullest."
2. "Live a healthier lifestyle."
3. "Lose weight."
4. "Save more, spend less."
5. "Spend more time with family and friends."
6. "Pay down debt."

Looking at the stats on the survey, a lot of these are Baby Boomers and Seniors—folks who traditionally go to church. What is missing from the list? There is not much there about God!

What is important to your life as you are now in the New Year? Are you a "go to church, but leave God out of the rest of your life" person? I hope not.

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.

A FINAL WORD

Maybe it is not too late to make some good resolutions for 2016. You probably only need two. They will cover almost everything. You will find that the second one is a lot like the first.

1. Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.
2. Love your neighbor as yourself.

Resolutions are about getting our priorities straight. Jesus tells us how to do it in Matthew 22:37-39.

Blessings to you and yours in this New Year.

-Max Dawson, Dowlen Road Church of Christ



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday AM Notes 1-17-2016

Is the Church of Christ a part of denominational Christianity?

Characteristics of a

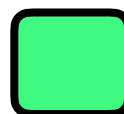
_____:

- ✓ Founded by _____
- ✓ Established after _____
- ✓ _____
Headquarters
- ✓ _____ Organized
- ✓ _____,
_____,
_____ are
Authoritative

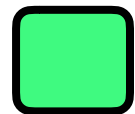
Characteristics of

_____:

- ✓ Founded by _____
- ✓ Established on _____
- ✓ _____
Headquarters
- ✓ _____ Organized
- ✓ _____
as Only Authority



YES



NO



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday PM Notes 1-17-2016

FLOOD
OF
LESSONS
FROM NOAH'S ARK
GENESIS 6 & 7

GOD REALLY _____ THE _____ OF _____.

GOD WILL _____ THOSE WHO _____ IN _____.

GOD _____ PEOPLE TO _____ FROM
_____.

THE _____ MUST _____ THOSE IN _____.

GOD _____ A WAY OF _____.

GOD _____ THINGS _____ HIS _____.

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.....105
Last Sunday PM Worship.....80
Last Wednesday Bible Study.....98

In Our Prayers

RECENT ADDITIONS/UPDATES:

-Keller Stephens (Kathy Raines' Uncle)
...was baptized into Christ this past Monday! We rejoice and are so thankful for God's provisions!.

-Melanie & Annabelle Siedenstrang...
Annabelle was born this past Wednesday afternoon. Momma and baby are both recovering very well and we are so thankful for this! Please continue your prayers for them!

-Maggie Phillips...recovering from surgery. Please remember Maggie and her family during her recovery.

-Roy Lovell...diagnosed with cancer and will be undergoing 6 weeks of radiation. Please keep Roy and Helen (also in poor health) in your prayers.

-Gateley Family...Jonathan's uncle is in the hospital with double blood clots in his lungs & Amy lost her sister to long term illness last week. Please pray for comfort for them!

CONTINUED PRAYERS:

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

-Christy Bennett's Nephew Logan...young man struggling with his health.

-Barbara Leonard...shut in and struggling with her health.

-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 and has been readmitted to the hospital with complications.

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

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

-Men & 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 - March 6th** at the Angel's home after evening service. **Song leaders: please be thinking of 4-5 songs that you would like to learn/practice during our time together.**

✓**Men's Bible Class - February 6th** at Panera Bread at 7:30am. Please be on the lookout for next year's book "Tender Warrior" to be handed out.

✓**Ladies Class - February 2nd** at 10:00am here at the church house. Lesson 3 will be covered.

✓**Young People's Gathering - January 24th** directly after evening service at the Angel's house. Lesson one of "The Big Picture" will be reviewed.

Area Gospel Meetings & Events

◎**Congregational Singing at Medina...**January 23rd at 2:00pm.

◎**"Reaching Muslims with the Gospel of Jesus Christ" Special Study at the Kingston Springs Church of Christ...** Saif Alsafeer will be leading this study January 29-31. Please check the bulletin board for more details.

◎**Singing at Northside in Trenton...**Begins at 2:00pm on January 31.

Daily Bible Reading For This Week: **Genesis 17-24**

Please make an effort to be in daily reading and meditation of God's Word! This year we will be reading through the first 14 books of the Old Testament in an effort to learn along side our kids classes and to be instructed by those things written in earlier times. **(Romans 15:4)**