

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

March 6, 2016

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

PLEASANT PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST

JACKSON, TENNESSEE

The Radical Teachings Of Jesus

This quarter at Hickman Mills we are studying Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Though I have read, studied and taught it many times, it is always fresh, rich and challenging with modern-day application. The study reminded me of a story related years ago by Phillip Yancey, in his book "The Jesus I Never Knew," about a Texas A&M professor, Virginia Stern Owens, who assigned her students to write a short essay on the sermon on the mount. Here's a sample of some of the student's reactions:

"The stuff the churches preach is extremely strict and allows for almost no fun without thinking it is a sin or not."

"I did not like the essay 'Sermon on the Mount.' It was hard to read and made me feel like I had to be perfect and no one is."

"The things asked in this sermon are absurd, To look at a woman is adultery. That is the most extreme, stupid, unhuman statement that I have ever heard."

I never thought about calling something Jesus said "stupid." But these reactions are an indication that many people find the sermon offensive, astringent, and impractical. One writer refers to Jesus' message as "Radical Teachings." I guess they are in today's culture that clearly rejects Christian values, moral guidelines and Divine absolutes. But the issue is not confined to university class rooms. Or among younger people. Or from a particular political party. Or even a specific Presidential candidate. It is a pervasive problem in our nation. An hour listening to the evening news reminds us that our country is deeply divided, filled with glaring problems: Crime. Poverty. Debt. Divorce. Teen pregnancy. Broken homes. Pornography. Murder. Rape. Incest. Same-sex marriage. Educational inadequacies. Corporate greed. Health-care issues. And political posturing, name calling and rude rejoinders by our leaders that solves very little!

What is a Christian to do? Where do we turn? How do we respond? Jesus provides the answers. Profound, yet simple. Challenging, yet doable. Age-old, yet relevant. The Sermon on the Mount, called by some the Magna Charta of the Kingdom, points the way to a better life. A fresh perspective. A new you. Even a more civil society. However, Jesus' purpose in coming to earth was not to invoke societal change. It was to save us from sin. To call sinners to repentance. To prepare us spiritually for eternity. That was His mission. His ministry. His message.

Yet, if you sit down and quietly read the Mountain Message in Matthew chapters 5-7, you will soon realize a serious application of these principles would change the world. Think about it! What if people were more concerned about righteousness than wealth? About purity instead of sensual passion? About others' needs instead of their own selfish interests? What if there was more emphasis on the inward person instead of the outward? What if attitudes were taken as seriously as actions? And fear was replaced with faith? What if we were honest? Sincere? Real? And we lived our lives without hypocrisy? What if we prayed instead of pouted? Practiced self-control instead of self-indulgence? And forgave instead of held grudges. What if we were more compassionate and less judgmental? Really loved our enemies? And actually went the second mile? What if we held ourselves to the same standard as others? Sought God instead of ignoring Him? And really obeyed Jesus instead of giving lip service to Him? What if our righteousness was real? Genuine?

Authentic? Instead of pretentious? Flaunting? Or dubious? Well, it sure would be a different world, wouldn't it?!

We may be inclined to say, "That's impossible! The world will never change!" That may well be. But what about you? And me? Jesus called Christians to be "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world." To be influencers for good. Glorifiers of God. So, in the midst of a corrupt culture, instead of cursing the darkness, let us light a candle. Who knows? The difference it makes may lead one more person to the Lord.

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 3-6-2016

Finding
My Place
TO SERVE

I Corinthians 12:14-31

There are some areas in which _____ must serve
as _____.

There are some areas in which we must serve because of
_____ we have _____.

There are some areas in which we serve _____ upon our
_____ & _____.

Regardless of the areas in which we serve, we all _____ a
_____ in the _____ of God's Kingdom.

Serving
the
KINGDOM



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday PM Notes 3-6-2016

Hindered To Serve

Exodus 3 & 4

Hindered by _____ on _____ (3:1 1, 1 2)

Hindered by _____ of _____ of _____ (3:1 3-2 2)

Hindered by _____ of _____ (4:1-9)

Hindered by _____ (4:1 0-1 2)

Hindered by _____ (4:1 3-1 7)

Daily Bible
2016
READING

Our Shepherds

David Barker (731) 695-7949
dbarke41@yahoo.com
Chuck Newton (731)225-3207
cnewton2@gmail.com
Duane Steinly (731) 437-9331
dsteinly3245@charter.net
Richard Waddell (731) 217-1227
rbwaddell@eplus.net

Our Deacons

Jeff Cisco (731) 217-2186
jdcisco@charter.net
Shane Cisco (901) 232-3807
scisco2@eplus.net
Brent Holt (731) 616-7811
bd21holt@eplus.net
Danny Sheffield (731) 394-8825
Bobssalvage@yahoo.com
Bruce Weidner (901) 647-6859
bweidner@eplus.net

Our Preacher

Nick Angel (423) 310-8272
nickangelvfl@gmail.com

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.....118
Last Sunday PM Worship.....94
Last Wednesday Bible Study.....93

In Our Prayers

RECENT ADDITIONS/UPDATES:

-Melessa Sain & Baby Hagan...born this past Thursday afternoon weighing 8 pounds and measuring 21 inches. Momma and baby are both doing well! Please continue to keep them in your prayers!

-Family of Alan Brown....His uncle died yesterday and Alan will be traveling for the funeral this afternoon. Please pray for the families comfort and their safe travels.

-Family of Bobby Giles...Bobby past away yesterday after suffering many health issues. He was baptized just a few months ago. Please pray for his family and be on the lookout for arrangements information.

-Adam Womble...work associate of Tim Phillips who was involved in a serious car accident and suffering severe head trauma. Please pray for his recovery and 2 young daughters.

-Roy Lovell...diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing radiation. Please keep Roy and Helen (also in poor health) in your prayers.

CONTINUED PRAYERS:

*****Our expecting mothers:** Spring McDonald & Katie Angel.***

-Keller Stephens (Kathy Raines' Uncle)...still struggling with his health.

-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.

-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 - *Tonight*** at the Angel's home after evening service. **First few minutes will focus on learning new songs, and then we will spend the rest of our time singing some of our favorite songs. Everyone is welcome!**

✓**Men's Bible Class - April 2nd** at Panera Bread at 7:30am. Chapter 4 will be covered.

✓**Ladies Class - April 5th** at 10:00am here at the church house. Lesson 5 will be covered.

✓**Young People's Gathering - March 27th** directly after evening service at the Angel's house. Lesson 3 of "The Big Picture" will be reviewed.

Area Gospel Meetings & Events

●**Women's Saturday Study at Jackson Heights Church in Columbia, TN...**March 12 at 9am with Janet Hicks leading the study.

●**Gospel Meeting at the Elliot Street Church of Christ with John Gibson...**March 13-18 at 7pm during the week.

●**Ladies Retreat...**March 25,26 at Natchez Trace in Wildersville, TN. See back board for more details.

Daily Bible Reading For This Week: Exodus 23-30

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)**