

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

June 5th, 2016

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

PLEASANT PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST

JACKSON, TENNESSEE

Retreat Is NOT An Option

My late friend and college room-mate David Lewis used to tell a story about the military conqueror Napoleon as his armies crossed the Alps. When they came into battle with the enemy many of his men got wounded and died. The great leader's heart went out to them, so he turned to his bugler boy and said, "Son, sound the retreat." The boy did nothing. Again Napoleon said, "Son, blow the retreat or our men will die." The bugler looked at the general and said, "I'm sorry, sir, but I have forgotten the sound of retreat." Napoleon snapped back, "Then blow whatever you know how to blow!" The boy placed the bugle to his lips and blew—charge, charge, charge! Napoleon's troops thought, "Help is coming," and they fought with all their might. The enemy thought, "We must flee because reinforcements must be on their way." Thus the battle was won and eventually the war—all because one little bugler boy had forgotten the sound of retreat. This story may be apocryphal, but it makes a great point. When life becomes difficult, demanding, and distressful, don't quit. Don't turn back. Don't retreat.

Endurance is an essential ingredient to success in any endeavor. Warfare. Business. Sports. Education. And most importantly living the Christian life. The Bible uses the metaphor of Christians as soldiers who are waging a spiritual warfare. We are to equip ourselves with spiritual armor (Eph. 6:10-17). We are opposed by a spiritual enemy (2 Cor 10:3-5). We are commanded to "wage the good warfare (1Tim 1:18). But to accomplish this tough task we must develop endurance and perseverance. The Bible exhorts, "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3).

The thread of spiritual endurance runs throughout the teaching of the Bible. Jesus said, "The one who endures to the end shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13). Luke says The Jerusalem Christians, "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine..." (Ax 2:42). Peter teaches that as we mature in Christian graces we should add to our faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control and endurance. (2 Pet. 1:6-7) Endurance is necessary for spiritual growth and development. Paul exhorted Timothy to persevere in preaching the gospel. "But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Tim. 4:5)

Endurance is a must if we are to overcome temptations and trials, The Bible says "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, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (Jas 1:3-5).

The Bible in various places calls for Christians to persevere in prayer. In brotherly love. In faith. In fellowship. In God's grace. Using the metaphor of running, the Hebrew writer urged, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Heb 12:1). The great cloud of witnesses in Hebrews shouts for us to keep on running the spiritual race. In spite of problems. Obstacles. Or weariness.

Brethren, the war is raging. The enemy is vicious. The stakes are high. Our eternal destiny weighs in the balance. This is no time for withdrawal. Quitting. Or surrender. Forget the bugle sound of retreat. The battle cry of the Christian is "Charge!"

-Ken Weliever, thepreachersword.com

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.



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday AM Notes 6-5-2016

Serving
My
Spouse

Philippians 2:1-8

By _____

My _____

Of _____

Serving
the
KINGDOM



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday PM Notes 6-5-2016

NOT made for
THIS WORLD

II Corinthians 4:7-18

Pass Away

Pass Away

Pass Away

Our Shepherds

David Barker (731) 695-7949
dbarke41@yahoo.com
Chuck Newton (731)225-3207
cnewton2@gmail.com
Duane Steiny (731) 437-9331
dsteiny3245@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.....102
Last Sunday PM Worship.....51
Last Wednesday Bible Study.....94

In Our Prayers

RECENT ADDITIONS/UPDATES:

-Family of P.E. Griggs...Brother P.E. moved on from this life recently. We mourn over the loss of a friend, but we rejoice that his race has been run. Let's continue to pray for his physical family and our church family during these days of mourning.

-Family of Christian Shadburne...young Christian man from Bowling Green who passed from this earth after a fight with cancer. His faith through the trying times has inspired many. Let's pray for his family and those nearest him who are hurting.

-Jonathan Gateley...awaiting results from some recent tests.

-Louise Stitt (Amy Gailey's Mother)...has begun her treatments for her cancer. Has had two now and will continue as long as she reacts well to them. Keep up the prayers on her behalf!

-Wayne Wilkinson (father of Jim Wilkinson)...undergoing cancer treatments.

CONTINUED PRAYERS:

Our expecting mothers: Katie Angel & Melody Brown.

-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.

-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.

-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

✓**Men's Bible Class - June 4th** at Panera Bread at 7:30am. Chapter 6 will be covered.

✓**Ladies Class - June 7th** at 10:00am here at the church house. Lesson 8 will be covered.

✓**Young People's Gathering - THIS EVENING** directly after evening service at the Angel's house. Lessons 5 & 6 of "The Big Picture" will be reviewed.

Area Gospel Meetings

- **Vacation Bible School and Adult Classes at the Oak Avenue Church of Christ in Dickson, TN...**June 6-10 beginning at 10am. Topic- Daniel: Standing Strong In Babylon.
- **Special Series of Studies with the Expressway Church of Christ...**Thomas Thornhill Jr. will be speaking on the topic of being Purer in Heart. June 12th-19th. Sunday- 9:30am, 10:30am, 2pm for singing and service to follow. Monday-Friday at 7pm nightly.
- **Middle Tennessee Song Leader Workshop....**June 21-23. See back board for more details.

Daily Bible Reading For This Week: Deuteronomy 15-21

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)**