

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

June 26, 2016

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

PLEASANT PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST

JACKSON, TENNESSEE

The Cavaliers Secret Puzzle—A Metaphor For Spiritual Victory

Sunday night, following the Cleveland Cavaliers improbable come back to win the NBA championship after being down 3-1, they revealed their secret motivation. For the past 8 weeks this secret weapon had been concealed in a container they carried from game to game and kept in their locker room. It was a four-foot puzzle that formed the image of the Larry O'Brien championship Trophy. Credit veteran James Jones, a reserve forward with a playoff experience, with the idea. Looking for a way to symbol to inspire their collective spirit during the playoff run, Jones formed the idea of a puzzle with 16 pieces, one for each victory required to win the title.

"We needed something to bring us together," Jones said. "Every guy was a piece. We assembled this team. So we had to assemble the puzzle." Following each win, when the media had left the locker room, a different player would come forward to add his piece to the puzzle. Sometimes the player selected was honored because he was the hero of that victory. Other times it was given to a player who just need some encouragement. Like Kevin Love after he had to miss game 3 with a concussion. Following the on court celebration, with the real trophy in hand, the 16th piece was revealed. It was the middle piece with a shape of the state of Ohio. That honor was given to Coach Tyronn Lue who put the final piece of the puzzle in place. The puzzle was complete. The trophy secured. And the journey completed. "Together, that's how you win a championship," Jones said. "Individually we are all just a piece. Everyone had to have their role, everyone has to have their piece."

When I read the story of the Cavs' puzzle, I immediately thought, "Isn't that the way God's people, the church, are to function. Many metaphors and analogies are used to identify and explain the church. Body. Temple. Family. Kingdom. Bride. Members. Sheep. Disciples. And citizens. All of these speak to relationships. Community. Commonality. And closeness. We, too, are a team. A spiritual team. God's team. And for our team to win we must be together. Pull together. And share together.

The book of Acts, a history of the early church, often speaks of the Christians' togetherness. Luke says they assembled together. Prayed together. And ate together from house to house. The New Testament epistles further emphasize the need for unity, fellowship and being together with the many "one another" passages. We are to encourage one another. Edify one another. Care for one another. Forgive one another. Accept one another. Comfort one another. And love one another.

Indeed we are all a piece of the puzzle in God's Family. Men. Women. Young. Old. Seasoned disciples. New Christians. One talent people. Two talent people. Five talent people. Elders. Deacons. Teachers. Preachers. All are needed. All are valuable. All add to the success of our spiritual endeavors.

Jones' metaphor carries greater implications than just winning a basketball championship. God purposed that we be together on His team. Individually? We're all just a piece of the puzzle. Everyone has their own role. Collectively? We can do great things for God.

If you're not a part of God's team, you need to become a member. There's a piece of the puzzle just for you.

-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 6-26-2016

**GET OUT
OF THE
BOAT**

Matthew 14:22-33

Some people _____ of the _____.

Some people get out of the boat, but _____
_____ when they _____ the _____.

Some people get out of the boat, start to sink, but
_____ out to _____ for _____
_____.

Jesus will _____ out to _____ those
who are _____ to get out of the boat because they
_____ in the _____ of the _____ who
_____ things.



Speaker:

MARTY GAILEY

Sunday PM Notes 6-26-2016

FIREWORKS

Hebrews 10:24

1. Some Fireworks _____ while they _____.
Christians Should _____.
2. Some Fireworks have a _____.
Christians need to _____.
3. Some Fireworks cause _____ to _____.
Christians need to _____ our _____.
4. Some Fireworks _____ . Christians need
to _____.
5. Some Fireworks have a _____ when they
_____. Christians need to
_____.
6. Some Fireworks are _____ . Christians
need to be _____ then just _____.
7. Some Fireworks _____ and _____. Christians
are to be _____.

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.....111
Last Sunday PM Worship.....64
Last Wednesday Bible Study.....67

In Our Prayers

RECENT ADDITIONS/UPDATES:

-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!

CONTINUED PRAYERS:

Our expecting mothers: **Katie Angel & Melody Brown.**

-Norma Griggs... shut in and struggling with her health.

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

-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 - July 9th** at Panera Bread at 7:30am. Chapter 8 will be covered.

✓**Ladies Class - July 5th** at 10:00am here at the church house. Lesson 9 will be covered.

✓**Young People's Gathering - TONIGHT!** directly after evening service at the Angel's house. Highlights of lessons 5-8 of "The Big Picture" will be reviewed.

Area Gospel Meetings

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Daily Bible Reading For This Week: **Joshua 3-10**

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)**