

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

AUGUST 15, 2021

THE BIBLE IS LIKE...

- **A MIRROR**

James 1:23-25 - *"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."*

- **A SWORD**

Hebrews 4:12 - *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

- **LIGHT**

Psalms 119:105,130 - *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...The entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."*

- **WATER**

John 4:13-14 - *"Jesus answered and said to her, 'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.'*

- **FOOD**

John 6:27 - *"Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."*



I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD"

We welcome **Tim Agee** as our speaker today

OTHER NEWS

- The Stroudsville Church of Christ is hosting a gospel meeting with **Walt Leaver** today through Tuesday night
- The Bearwallow Church of Christ is having a one-day VBS Saturday, August 21
- Please check that anything from the classrooms you'd like to keep is noted as we begin to clean them out.

A Rod of Comfort?

A leading candidate for the most famous passage in scripture would have to be the 23rd Psalm. Many of us memorized it as young children, and when we are struggling we find great comfort in reciting those words. But sometimes memorized words lose their meaning; we can easily take for granted those phrases we know so well.

Take verse 4, for instance: *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil, For You are with me, Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”* Have you ever considered the source of that comfort the psalmist is referring to? God’s everlasting presence is certainly reassuring, the knowledge that we do not face our struggles alone greatly strengthens us. But the actual sources of comfort mentioned are the Good Shepherd’s rod and staff.

Those tools of the shepherd are typically associated with discipline. The rod and the staff are used to keep the sheep from going where they want to go, to keep them from wandering away from the herd. David found comfort in his darkest hour in God’s law - those same rules and regulations the world calls oppressive or restrictive.

A team of landscape architects once conducted a simple study to observe any effects of having a fence around a playground

on preschool children. By observing teachers and their students on a playground defined by a fence, and on a similar playground with no fence, the researchers found a striking difference in how the children interacted in the space.

On playgrounds without fences, the children tended to gather around the teacher, and were reluctant to stray far from her view. On playgrounds that were fenced in, however, they ran all around the entire playground, feeling more free to explore. The researchers concluded that with a boundary, children felt more at ease to explore the space.

Far from being oppressive and restrictive, we can take great comfort in the boundaries God places on us through His word. His law is given to us for our benefit, leading us toward those green pastures and still waters.

PRAYER LIST

- **George Terwilliger**, the Gregory’s son-in-law’s father, is in the hospital with pneumonia and MRSA
- **Barrett Knipfer** is still awaiting test results
- **Ann Reed** has completed her cancer treatments

SERVING TODAY (August 15, 2021)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read: F. Brown
Prayer: E. Walker

WORSHIP

Read: J. Baker
Wait On Table: D. Billingsley
Serve: C. Baker, J. Gupton, D. Demonbreun
Prayer: L. Gregory