PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

February 25, 2024

Welcome!	Prayer List		We invite everyone to join us Wednesday night at 7pm as we study the Life of Abraham
Blessed is the one whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. Psalm 1:1-2	Johnny Walker's back is better		
	Rebecca Brown is dealing with an ankle injury		
	Burt Wilkerson, Martha Gregory's brother-in-law, is in the nursing home with dementia		Serving Today
	Mamie Hamilton will be going to physical therapy		Song Leader: Steve Buchanan
	Belinda Mayo is recovering from a second back surgery		SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:30 am)
"For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is also to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and gladness are in His place."	Darinda Paul has gotten good reports from her cancer		Scripture Reading: Lowell Gregory
	treatment Elizabeth Demonbreun is		Prayer: Mike Reed
	doing well at home Continue to pray for: the Nathan Horton family, Donnie Garrett, the Stroud family, the Wilkerson family, Keith Walker and family, Kim Walker, Rebecca Brown, Forshia Pennington, Carol Saling, Camille Brosky, those in Ukraine; John Hayes, Nick Phifer, and Bill Gillock		WORSHIP (10:30 am)
			Scripture Reading: Jeff Baker Deuteronomy 30:1-5
Please welcome Andy Connelly who will bring our sermon this morning!			Wait On Table: Charlie Baker Serve:
Join us at 6:00pm for a lesson from Ken Palmer			Doug Demonbreun Jared Roaden
Minister: Timothy Agee timothy@teamagee.com 615-330-8652			Prayer: Eddie Walker
Service Times		Follow Us	
Sunday Bible Study Sunday AM Worship Sunday PM Worship	9:30 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm	pleasantviewcoc	
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 pm	pleasantviewchurchofchrist.net	

What Should We Do?

There is no doubt that the biblical worldview is increasingly under attack in our country. This is reinforced by events that seem to happen every week, if not every day. While these things cause Christians to experience a wide range of emotions from anger to fear to sadness, they should not be surprising. We must remember that our message is "foolishness" to the world:

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (I Corinthians 1:18)

And that the world does not understand our worldview, because it does not understand Christ:

"The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him." (1 John 3:1b)

Even if we are not surprised by the shifting culture, it can cause many of us to ask the simple question, "What should we do?" The first century church faced many awful things and even more direct persecution than we are facing today. How did they react to a culture set against their worldview? Consider this response in prayer to threats against Peter and John from the Jewish Sanhedrin:

"And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness..." (Acts 4:29)

They didn't ask God to stop the threats or defeat their attackers, but instead prayed for their own boldness to spread the Word of Christ. With this in mind, consider how we should respond to attacks when they come:

- (1) <u>Fall On Our Knees</u> No matter the opposition we are facing, we must first remember to always be humble (Luke 18:13-14) and constantly pray to God regarding many things. This even includes our own failures such as not staying true to our mission and for not standing out as unique against the backdrop of the world (1 Corinthians 5:1-2).
- (2) Fortify Our Faith The consistent example of the early church is that regardless of what was going on in the world, they continued to practice their faith. In Jude's letter (17-23), he reminds his readers of the predictions of the Apostles that there would be many who opposed the followers of Christ. In the face of this opposition, he exhorted them to build themselves up in their faith, keep praying in the Holy Spirit, keep themselves in the love of God, wait for the mercy of Jesus Christ, and to have mercy on others.
- (3) Focus On Our Mission Even if the world is not receptive to the message of Christ, our mission still remains the same. Paul told Timothy to "preach the word" and to "be ready in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:1-5). Human nature is to fight back against our detractors, but remember that in the face of opposition, Peter simply prayed that God would give them the boldness to continue to speak the Word of God (Acts 4:23-31). Our prayer should be the same.