



The Pearland Harvester

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF SERVICE, BUILDING UP
THE BODY OF CHRIST

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GOOD AND EVIL

When Peter was brought to the home of Cornelius and was given the opportunity to speak, he began with a few basic facts that they already knew. As my sixth-grade

teacher used to always say, “Take them from the known to the unknown.” So Peter began with a basic and very understated review.

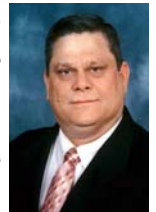
In the main, they knew about the ministry of Jesus, beginning with His baptism by John (Acts 10:37). And they knew, again in generalities, of all the wonderful things that Jesus did and how the Jews had put Him to death on a cross (10:38-39). From those well-established points, Peter then explains that God raised Him and granted that certain men and women who knew Jesus well would see Him for a period of time in His resurrected glory (10:40-41). Additionally, God appointed men who had been with Jesus to be eyewitnesses of His resurrection and to confirm what the prophets had previously stated—that in the name of Christ there is forgiveness of sins to those that believe (10:42-43).

As already indicated, when Peter described the character of Jesus, he did so in a very understated way. “You know of Jesus of Nazareth, ...and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil...” (10:38). Talk about high-altitude preaching! All the details and particulars of the ministry of Jesus are summed up with, “He went about doing good.” And that was followed up with the reminder that the Jews wanted to kill Him and succeeded. Which begs the question: Why? Why was a man who went about doing good despised so much?

This loathing of Jesus was a matter of prophecy. He would be “despised by the people” (Ps. 22:6). “He was despised, and we did not esteem Him” (Isaiah 53:3). To despise is to hold someone in contempt. To hate them, to loathe them, or to find them deplorable. But why did they despise the Man who went about doing good?

In the earliest days of His ministry, Jesus explained to Nicodemus that men do evil and love the darkness that

hides their evil (Jn. 3:19). Jesus referred to Himself as the Light and tells Nicodemus that man will hate Him because as the Light, He does what light does in the darkness. His deeds and His words will shine divine light on the evil of men who have cloaked their sin in the robes of righteousness so well that even a God-fearing Jew doesn’t see their evil motives (Jn. 3:19-20).



To paint the religious leadership of the Jewish nation as evil and as hypocrites (14 times in Matthew) is sure to engender the worst kind of hatred. What was so evil about these leaders? It isn’t as though they were committing genocide like Hitler or Stalin. It isn’t as though they bilked billions from their people and tucked it all away in some offshore numbered account. What was so evil?

They enforced traditions that made men disobey God’s will, and they were very good at it (Mk. 7:8-9). They so complicated the teachings of the Law of Moses that it was almost impossible for a common man to live by the Law of Moses. Not keeping their traditions would cause one to be put out of the synagogue and to be so ostracized that life was unbearable. To the pure in heart who only wanted to follow God, Jesus said, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me...” (Mt. 11:28-30). As appealing and comforting as that sounded to the people, it enraged the men whose deeds were evil.

Christianity is under attack today by those who have inserted so many traditions and denied so much of the Bible. And it is under attack by those whose traditions seem harmless but deny what the Bible says we must do to be saved. And all who are under the influence of this present evil need to hear the Lord’s invitation to come unto Him. But don’t give up, and don’t be frightened by evildoers. There are plenty of men and women just like Cornelius who simply need to hear the truth from you about the One who went about doing good.

This Sunday, December 18, 2016, is the deadline for giving your check or gift card to the elders or Gretchen.

The elders have approved our participation in the Arms of Hope gift card program. The ornaments will be in folders on the bulletin board. Our designated representatives for this program are Gretchen Whitmire and the elders. Please give your ornament and gift card to any of these people by Sunday, December 18, 2016. If you would rather make a contribution by check, please make the check payable to ARMS OF HOPE and give it to one of the representatives. Please note that you can also contribute online. All contributions will be acknowledged by Arms of Hope for tax purposes.



Arms of Hope™

Bless a child this Christmas!

- Pick up an ornament(s)
- Purchase a gift card
- Fill out the back of the ornament & adhere to the gift card
- Give to the designated representative

For online gifts:
Please enter your name, mailing address, phone, e-mail and location of where you picked up the ornament so Arms of Hope can send you an acknowledgement letter for tax purposes.

ArmsOfHope.org

Please note the following schedule of services:

Sunday, December 25, 2016: Classes and morning service as usual (9 AM and 10 AM). No evening service.

Sunday, January 1, 2017: Classes, morning service, and evening service at usual times.

Sunday, February 5, 2017: Classes, morning service, and evening service at usual times. No Super Bowl party is planned.

KEPT IN PRAYER

Our deepest condolences to the family of **Margaret Brown**, who passed away on December 11, 2016.

Our deepest condolences to the family of **Cecil Hollingshead**, who passed away on December 11, 2016. Cecil was the brother of Minnie Harris and the uncle of Jeanette Hays.

Please remember **Erin Timmons** (Mitzi Williams' friend and fellow teacher) and her newborn son, **Elijah**, in your prayers. Elijah was several weeks premature and is in critical condition. Erin is also experiencing serious medical problems.

Continuing Need:

Our Members: Fran Barnhill, Annette Bumpers, David & Libby Clayton, Jeff Coe, Daisy Dees, June Evans, Matthew Fabian, Bennie Sue Galindo, Ross Genaro, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Murrell Hill, Judy Indest, Kaliya Kelly, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Jo Knight, Wanda Knight, Clifford Layton, Jan Lemoine, Valerie McHargh, Becky Nicholson, Vi Price, Betty Pridgen, Wendell & Sarah Romain, David Smith, Loma Stone, Sandy Stone, Doris Stuteville, Angela Terry. **Others:** Carol Addison, Leona Anderson, Timothy Anderson, Catherine Bailey, Octaline Beaupierre, Raquel Castillo, Evelyn Cordell, Ray Craycraft, Larry & Carla Doolen, Billie Dykes, Linda Evans, Roger Farmer, Gwen Fikes, Glenda Garner, Betty Goad, Sarah Goeman, Robert Hudman, Carol Jackman, Sharon Johns, Nelderine Johnson, Kerry Lemoine, Pat Lewis, Martha Locke, Austin, Celia, & Doug Matthews, Jim & Julie Maxcey, Ron McCright, Mary Means, Pat Miller, Scott & Cindy Miller, Lewis Moss, James Navarro's son, April Parker, Mark Pridgen, Cloey Pruitt, Sandra Brown Ryan, Butch Sapp, Henry Schaefer, Don Scott, Sheryl Scott, Tony Smajstrla, Michael Smith, Rick Stone, Erin & Elijah Timmons, Leon Vanderveer, Bennett Vincent, Alexis Anderson Washington, Mary White, Wanda Williams, Anthony Young, Lesli (friend of Heather Brown's friend).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gary Adams is our contact elder for December. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please see Gary.

Weekly Bible trivia question. Please submit answers to the elders. The first correct answer reported to the office will be recognized and published in the next bulletin. **Here goes...Whose steps were buttered?**

The answer to last week's trivia question was: "Ephraim has become a cake not turned" (Hosea 7:8). No one submitted the correct answer.

Daily Bible chapter reading schedule, beginning Thursday, December 15, 2016:

- Thursday—1 Peter 1-3
- Friday—Deuteronomy 10-12
- Saturday—2 Chronicles 33-36
- Sunday—Psalms 128-130
- Monday—Ecclesiastes 5-6
- Tuesday—Haggai
- Wednesday—Acts 13-14

For the Record—12-11-16	
Sunday AM	146
Sunday PM	56
Wednesday (12-7-16)	41
Contribution	\$5,941
Weekly Budget	\$5,800
YTD Contribution	\$247,908
YTD Budget	\$290,000

2017 sign-up sheets for communion preparation and sound/projector are on the bulletin board.

We are also in need of more volunteers for nursery duty and leading the youngsters in song before the services.

December 2016

15 The year-end Secret Sisters party will be at 6:30 PM on Thursday, December 15, 2016, at Jean Coe's house, 2606 Gun Powder Ln, Pearland TX 77581. Jean Coe and Brenda Riggs are the hostesses. Meat and tea will be provided. Everyone else bring sides. Those of you in the gift exchange will find out who drew your name. Please RSVP to Jean or Brenda so there will be a head count.

December Birthdays

- 4 Zanna Osuorji
- 6 Gwendolyn Jones
- 7 Jacob Carriere
- 12 Harold Moore
- 12 Maria Sanchez
- 16 Chase Shelton
- 18 Kaliya Kelly
- 18 Victor Osuorji
- 21 Bryan Hudman
- 24 Davy May
- 24 Bob Williams
- 27 Haley Biegay
- 27 Matthew Fabian
- 31 Jessica Bouillion
- 31 Maresha Scarsdale
- 31 Loma Stone

December Anniversaries

- 1 Jeremy & Heather Brown
- 9 Ricky & Janice Pearson
- 27 Bob & Mitzi Williams

Those to Serve

Pearland Church of Christ

...equipping the saints for the work
of service, building up the body of Christ...

2217 N. Grand Blvd.

Pearland, TX 77581 • 281-485-2436

Wednesday Evening December 14	Wednesday Evening December 21
Building Lock Up—G Adams	Building Lock Up—Chris Lindelof

Morning Worship December 18	Morning Worship December 25
Opening Prayer Charlie Story	Opening Prayer Bobby Parker
Song Leader Bobby Parker	Song Leader Gary Adams
Communion	Communion
Presiding: Chris Lindelof	Presiding:
Nathan Scarsdale Daniel Brown	James Maxcey Jake Satterwhite
Phil Godwin Zack Williams	Josh Hundley Tom Langford
Jacob Carriere James Maxcey	Derek Mauney Matthew Fabian
Announcements Kevin Scarsdale	Announcements Gary Adams
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Laurie Maxcey Molly Godwin	Appeal Byers Tracey Mauney
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*Clifford Layton, Bob Williams, Grayson Townzen	*Gheath Alatrash, Lynn Adams, Russell Genaro
Greeters	Greeters
Clifford & Nina Layton	Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale
Audio—Projector for AM	Audio—Projector for AM
Riggs & Whitmire	Riggs & Whitmire
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Chris Lindelof	Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Greg Fabian

Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Opening Prayer James Maxcey	Opening Prayer
Song Leader Bob Williams	NO EVENING SERVICES
Communion Zack Williams, Daniel Brown	Communion
Closing Prayer Kevin Scarsdale	Closing Prayer

<p>Worship Times:</p> <p>Sunday</p> <p>Bible Study9 am</p> <p>Morning Worship.....10 am</p> <p>Evening Worship.....6 pm</p> <p>Wednesday Bible Study.....7 pm</p>
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ELDERS

Gary Adams 281-797-2575
Greg Fabian 713-305-1626
Chris Lindelof 281-224-2183
Kevin Scarsdale 713-447-1866

DEACONS

James Maxcey
Bobby Parker
Charlie Story
Bob Williams

MINISTERS

D.C. Brown Pulpit Minister
Zack Williams Youth Minister

MISSIONARIES

Benin, West Africa:
Paul Tohionon - Bohicon
Pascal Djedatin - Dassa
Blaise Atta - Bétérou
Clément Djebede - Okéwo
Gaston Nda - Natitingou
Valentine Ndimonte - Natitingou
André Assogba - Gobé
Dorotheé Tchekpo - Savé et Bessé
Paul Kouagou - N'Dali
Jonas Sambieni - Kaboua
Gabin Agbeci - Savalou
Portsmouth, Dominica, West Indies
Lewis Romain