



The Pearland Harvester

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

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GUARDS

What comes to mind when you think of a guard? Did you think of a guard inside a prison who makes sure prisoners do not escape? Were you thinking of someone in uniform at a bank who protects you from armed robbers? Or did you envision a soldier standing duty at a post?

I ask the question because the concept is found throughout the New Testament, regardless of how you think of the term. Words like: *watching, protected, ward, keeping, hold, kept, beware, and guard* are used repeatedly in the New Testament to describe two primary concepts.

To guard those who are incarcerated. The apostles were arrested under the orders of the Council; but when they were to be brought out of their imprisonment to stand trial, the Council was forced to endure the embarrassment of their escape. The doors were securely locked, and guards were at their posts; but an angel of the Lord had set them free during the night (Acts 5:17-26). Years later, when Peter is again imprisoned (this time by Herod), four squads of soldiers were used to guard him. While Peter slept between two guards, kept in chains and further barred in prison by two additional guards, he was once again set free by an angel (Acts 12:1-19).

To guard against those who intend harm. This is the concept most often conveyed in the New Testament. Sometimes the thought is passive. Satan tempted Jesus to throw Himself down from the temple and cited Scripture that said God had already charged angels to guard Him (Lk. 4:9-11). Jesus resisted the temptation by pointing out that it was sin to put God to the test. When a person confidently states that, once saved, there is nothing they could ever do that would cause them to lose their salvation, they completely missed the point that Jesus made to

Satan; and they've totally bought into the myth that Satan employed in his temptation of Christ.

Usually, it involves participation. Paul told the Thessalonians that God would "protect you from the evil one" (2 Thess. 3:3). But that protection still required their personal diligence to guard themselves by keeping (guard against) away from those brethren who live an unruly life and did not keep (guard) the traditions that Paul had taught (2 Thess. 3:7-8). Paul assured the Corinthians that God would always provide a way of escape from temptation, but they also must "take heed" (watch over carefully) and not become arrogant.

The Christians in Galatia were being urged in every way to accept a perverted view of the gospel—a view that dismissed the redemptive role of Jesus in favor of keeping the Law of Moses. They needed to be reminded that the Law could not impart spiritual life. Its benefit was, to the extent that it was kept, keeping the Jews protected from further sin. But just one sin resulted in spiritual death, and the Law could not reverse that outcome. It kept them from additional sins if kept, and it pointed them to the hope in Christ who does give spiritual life (Gal. 3:21-25).

There are so many passages in the New Testament that urge us to keep (or guard) ourselves from sin and to keep (or guard) the promises and the commands we've been given. These two are mutually dependent. One cannot let one's guard down when it comes to temptation and still be guarding the sacred words of promise and keeping faithful to the commands of God. Nor can one keep as a treasured gift the word of God and still live an unruly life.

You and I must stand guard and know assuredly that we are under the guard of a loving God.



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. **We have a puzzle this week:**

Can you find the 16 Bible books that are named in the following paragraph?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu. Kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. One little lady says she brews a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now for there are really 16 names of books of the Bible in this story.

The answer to last week's trivia question was: Job (29:6).
Connie Powell gave the first correct answer.

Daily Bible chapter reading schedule, beginning Thursday, December 22, 2016:

- Thursday—1 Peter 4-5
- Friday—Deuteronomy 13-15
- Saturday—Ezra 1-5
- Sunday—Psalms 131-133
- Monday—Ecclesiastes 7-8
- Tuesday—Zechariah 1-7
- Wednesday—Acts 15-16

For the Record—12-18-16	
Sunday AM	125
Sunday PM	47
Wednesday (12-14-16)	47
Contribution	\$3,965
Weekly Budget	\$5,800
YTD Contribution	\$251,873
YTD Budget	\$295,800

KEPT IN PRAYER

Shirley Scarsdale, Kevin Scarsdale's mother, continues to improve daily. She was moved out of the ICU yesterday and is off the ventilator and IV medication. She will be hospitalized for another two to three weeks, depending on her progress. She will require another surgery in about three months after she is fully recovered. The family thanks us for the prayers and asks that we continue to remember Shirley in prayer as she recovers.

Tom Langford reports that **Carol Jackman** is finished with chemo and is now cancer-free. Her last checkup was great.

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, Shirley Scarsdale, Henry Schaefer, Don Scott, Sherly 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**. **Greg Fabian** will be our contact elder for **January**.

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.

January 2017

- 9 Kickoff meeting for Secret Sisters—6:30 PM—Annex (potluck dinner).
- 11 Ladies’ Bible Class—10 AM—Annex
- 14 Ladies’ Prayer Breakfast—8 AM—Kelley’s
- 25 Ladies’ Bible Class—10 AM—Annex

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 Birthdays

- 21 Bryan Hudman
- 24 Bob Williams
- 27 Matthew Fabian
- 31 Maresha Scarsdale
- 24 Davy May
- 27 Haley Biegay
- 31 Jessica Bouillion
- 31 Loma Stone

December Anniversaries

- 27 Bob & Mitzi Williams

January Birthdays

- 2 Jared Johnson
- 4 Branden Shelton
- 14 Valerie Lee-McHargh
- 20 Bobby Parker
- 25 Ethan Brown
- 28 Terri Bumpers
- 30 Lindsay Parker
- 4 Wanda Kirby
- 8 Jeanette Hays
- 17 Tom Langford
- 22 Cameron Alatrash
- 27 Meredith Williams
- 29 Dawn Bell

January Anniversaries

- 17 David & Libby Clayton

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 21	Wednesday Evening December 28
Building Lock Up—Chris Lindelof	Building Lock Up—Greg Fabian

Morning Worship December 25	Morning Worship January 1
Opening Prayer Zack Williams	Opening Prayer Bobby Parker
Song Leader Gary Adams	Song Leader Greg Fabian
Communion	Communion
Presiding: Greg Fabian	Presiding: James Maxcey
James Maxcey Jake Satterwhite	Phil Godwin Charlie Story
Josh Hundley Tom Langford	Jacob Carriere Daniel Brown
Derek Mauney Matthew Fabian	Jimmy Terry Paul Hamilton
Announcements Gary Adams	Announcements Greg Fabian
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Appeal Byers Tracey Mauney	Lianne Biegay Angela Parker
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*Gheath Alatrash, Lynn Adams, Russell Genaro	*Clifford Layton, Zack Williams, Bob Williams
Greeters	Greeters
Clifford & Nina Layton	Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale
Audio—Projector for AM	Audio—Projector for AM
Riggs & Whitmire	Mauney
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Greg Fabian	Building Lock Up for AM & PM—K Scarsdale
Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Song Leader	Song Leader Gary Adams
NO EVENING SERVICES	Communion Jimmy Terry, Daniel Brown
Communion	Closing Prayer Greg Fabian
Closing Prayer	

Worship Times:

Sunday

Bible Study9 am
Morning Worship.....10 am
Evening Worship.....6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study.....7 pm

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*