



The Pearland Harvester

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

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A PSALM OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The Psalms are among the best remedies for those times when we become anxious. That which discourages us or causes us to be afraid has already been experienced by others. So much of what depresses us is put into proper perspective when we read the psalms and are reminded of what troubled David. Psalm 143 is a great example of a psalm to read in troubled times. For the sake of brevity, I'll just provide the verse reference along with a brief commentary.

(v. 1) With humble heart, David asks of God that his prayer be heard, not because David is worthy to be heard, but because God is faithful and righteous. We don't deserve to be heard, but He has promised we will.

(v. 2) David appeals to the mercy that God can bestow and asks that Righteous God not look upon him as the Righteous Judge would, but as a Merciful God does. Today, we have access to His mercy.

(v. 3) David states his need for God's mercy: the enemy has persecuted his soul, crushed his life to the ground, and forced him to live in the darkness of the caves. In the very places where dead are entombed, David has been forced to reside by his enemy. Probably, this refers to the days when Saul persecuted him.

(v. 4) The effect of the enemy's persecution and pursuit is that David's spirit is overwhelmed and he is confused by the illogic of it all.

(v. 5) This is the good part! David not only prays to a merciful God for mercy, he also reflects on the power of God and the work of His hands. And it is when David meditates on the goodness and power of God that he...

(v. 6) reaches out for God. Metaphorically, he wants to put his hand in the hand of God. His soul thirsts for God.

(v. 7) David confesses that being cut off from his family and hiding in the caves is not the worst that could happen. If God turns His face away, then David confesses that he is as a dead man. With God, David can endure and overcome. Without God, David admits he is as hopeless as the dead. But David does not only want to have his complaints heard, he wants three things from God that will sustain him.

(v. 8) LET ME HEAR YOUR LOVINGKINDNESS.

Some say that this is asking for God to give David a demonstration of His loving care for David. That may be, but the latter part of the verse is a request that God would teach him the way in which he should walk. That speaks of instruction from God's word, and I think it explains the first part of the verse. To hear God's word and be instructed by God is to be the beneficiary of God's lovingkindness. When we feel oppressed on every hand, is it our thought to turn to the Scriptures and be reminded of God's love? Or, is it to turn to God in urgent and fervent prayer *sans* The Book?



(v. 9) DELIVER ME from my enemies. David says he takes refuge, not in the rocks and the caves of the wilderness—he takes his refuge in God. Why? Because he has reflected on God and the ways of God.

(v. 10) TEACH ME. David begs God to teach him to do God's will because, **"You are my God."** We often forget about David's third request. We claim Him as our God, and we even buy the T-shirt that says it; but in times of distress do we pray as David did to be taught of God?

(v. 11) David asks for renewal or revival based not on his own righteousness because, as he stated in v. 2, in the eyes of God no man is righteous. Instead David asks for renewal of his spirit because God is righteous and will keep His word.

And finally, David asked specifically for aid with his specific concern. This is the time to ask, after his thoughts and anxieties have been tempered by what he knows of a righteous, merciful, and loving God.

(v. 12) **And in Your lovingkindness cut off my enemies and destroy all those who afflict my soul ...** and here is the clincher ... **For I am Your servant.**

With humble heart, a servant cries out to his God, confident he will be heard. And when a child of God has that same humility of heart and appeals to our faithful Father, we know He hears and He cares and He answers. And then the sun shines again—even when we are in the cave! It's a great psalm!

TRIVIA

CHALLENGE

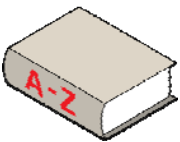
I got a letter from men who claimed to look after my interests, alleging certain things about the Jews. My predecessor received a similar letter. And it was alleged that an earlier predecessor had written a letter of his own. I did my homework and issued my own letter, which made some happy and others unhappy. Who am I?

Answer to last week's question: the angels, Gabriel and Michael, who spoke to Daniel (Dan. 8, 10). Debbie Brown gave the first correct answer.

Daily Bible chapter reading schedule, beginning Thursday, April 20, 2017:

- Thursday—1 Corinthians 5-6
- Friday—Genesis 40-43
- Saturday—1 Samuel 1-5
- Sunday—Psalms 30-32
- Monday—Job 21-22
- Tuesday—Isaiah 56-61
- Wednesday—Mark 1-2

For the Record—4-16-17	
Sunday AM	136
Sunday PM	37
Wednesday (4-12-17)	51
Contribution	\$4,651
Weekly Budget	\$5,800
YTD Contribution	\$71,539
YTD Budget	\$92,800



It's time for a new Pocket Directory! Please review the sheets on the bulletin board and make necessary changes by April 23, 2017. Thanks.

The ladies in the April food preparation group are: Leah Bateman, Lacey Gartrell, Susan Lenamon, and Jean Coe. Please contact Kristin Alatrash if there are questions.

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.

KEPT IN PRAYER

Dawn Bell had shunt surgery last Thursday. She is currently at TIRR, and her release date has not been determined. Please check first before going to visit.

Becky Nicholson has a consultation with her neurosurgeon tomorrow.

Loma Stone has bronchitis and a lot of breathing issues. She's taking antibiotics, but not sleeping well.

Continuing Need:

Our Members: Fran Barnhill, Dawn Bell, Haley Biegay, Debbie Brown, Annette Bumpers, David Clayton, Jeff Coe, Daisy Dees, June Evans, Bennie Sue Galindo, Ross Genaro, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Murrell Hill, Judy Indest, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Jo Knight, Wanda Knight, Clifford & Nina Layton, Jan Lemoine, Valerie McHargh, Harold & Alice Moore, Becky Nicholson, Adam Parker, Vi Price, Betty Pridgen, Chase Shelton, David Smith, Loma Stone, Sandy Stone, Doris Stuteville, Angela Terry. **Others:** Carol Addison, Jim Alford, Leona Anderson, Catherine Bailey, Octaline Beaupierre, Erica Matte Blair, Jeffrey Buesch, Raquel Castillo, Debbie Cook, Evelyn Cordell, Ray Craycraft, Judy Dame, Larry & Carla Doolen, Billie Dykes, Linda Evans, Roger Farmer, Gwen Fikes, Glenda Garner, Betty Goad, Sarah Goeman, Carol Hasten, Robert Hudman, Sharon Johns, Kaliya Kelly, Elaine King, Jay Langley, Jason & Jenny Langley, Kerry Lemoine, Martha Locke, Austin & Celia Matthews, Jim & Julie Maxcey, Shirley McWhorter, Mary Means, Pat Miller, Lewis Moss, Jean Nudelman, April Parker, Wilma Parker, Mark Pridgen, Cloey Pruitt, Alice Puckett, Ryan Rangel, Trena Russell, Sandra Brown Ryan, Butch Sapp, Shirley Scarsdale, Henry Schaefer, Don Scott, Sherly Scott, Tony Smajstrla, Andrew Smith, Michael Smith, Rick Stone, Erin & Elijah Timmons, Leon Vanderveer, Bennett Vincent, Mary White, Wanda Williams, Anthony Young, Lesli (friend of Heather Brown's friend), Dakota (baby boy of Lianne Biegay's friend).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

April 2017

26 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex

30 Friends & Family Day. We will also honor DC & Debbie Brown at the luncheon.

May 2017

1 Secret Sisters—6:30 PM—Juanito's. Brenda Riggs & Laurie Maxcey are the hostesses.

3 WNWTM—TBD

Friends



April 30, 2017

Invite someone to be your guest and to stay for a great meal!



Family Day



The Arms of Hope Grocery Run will be the week of **May 1-5, 2017**. We need to collect the following:

Coffee (please check the expiration date)

Please bring your items by Sunday, April 30. Arms of Hope did not specify quantity, but let's have a generous donation.

April Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Morgan Cuellar | 2 Derek Mauney |
| 3 Wendell Romain | 3 Dianne Westmoreland |
| 7 Jack Chisum | 7 Elaine Genaro |
| 7 Blake Williams | 13 Shawn Cravens |
| 13 Tracey Mauney | 14 Jean Coe |
| 16 Brenton Cook | 19 Michael Terry |
| 23 Charlie Story | 25 Lacey Gartrell |
| 28 Lucille Adams | 30 Angela Terry |

April Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7 John & Lacey Gartrell | 9 Orlando & Amy Cuellar |
| 18 Don & Connie Powell | 25 Josh & Ashley Hundley |

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 April 19	Wednesday Evening April 26
Building Lock Up—C Lindelof	Building Lock Up—K Scarsdale

Morning Worship April 23	Morning Worship April 30
Opening Prayer Bobby Parker	Opening Prayer Zack Williams
Song Leader TBD	Song Leader TBD
Communion	Communion
Presiding: Chris Lindelof	Presiding: Kevin Scarsdale
Tom Langford Phil Godwin	Charlie Story Bob Williams
Gheath Alatrash Grayson Townzen	Jacob Carriere Daniel Brown
James Maxcey Russell Genaro	Blake Williams Josh Hundley
Announcements Gary Adams	Announcements Gary Adams
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Laurie Maxcey	Tracey Mauney Appeal Byers
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*Paul Hamilton, Clifford Layton, Derek Mauney	*Lynn Adams, Jake Satterwhite, Wendell Romain
Greeters	Greeters
Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale	Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale
Audio—Projector for AM	Audio—Projector for AM
Riggs, Whitmire	Riggs, Whitmire
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—K Scarsdale	Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Bob Williams
Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Song Leader TBD	Song Leader FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY
Communion James Maxcey, D Mauney	Communion NO EVENING SERVICES
Closing Prayer Gary Adams	Closing Prayer

ELDERS

Gary Adams 281-797-2575
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

Worship Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday Bible Study.....7 pm