



Striving to be the complete church using our complete gifts completely!

Shalom Baptist Church Newsletter

July 2020



THE SHALOM NEWSLINE



★ HAPPY ★

FOURTH OF JULY

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Mark's Minute

For those who may have missed my final "Truth @ 2", I felt it was important to also share it in the July newsletter...so here it is:

These days, we, as a country are fractured and disunified. And this fractured disunity has even spilled over into churches.

Democrat vs. Republican, Covid Medical vs. Covid Political, Black lives matter, blue lives matter, all lives matter. Prayer walks vs. more vocal protests, Masks vs No masks, Opening too soon vs. opening too late.

In many ways the fabric of our society (and even in many church congregations) is getting torn at a more violent rate...everyday.

So...in our current context, I believe that Psalm 133 has quite a lot to teach us (despite the fact that it's only 3 verses long).

Now, Psalm 133 begins like this: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"

Unity is good, which means that it reflects the character of God, How? Because God is good! (That's Matthew 19:17). Furthermore, Psalm 119:68 says, "You are good and what you do is good." Unity is a good thing. But, more importantly, it is a "God thing".

But unity is not JUST good (and thus, Godly). It is also "pleasant"--says verse 1. Unity is a pleasant experience. It is literally a pleasure to work alongside others with God's Kingdom purposes in mind.

There are several reasons why unity in the church is important: 1) It makes the church a positive example to the world; 2) It draws others to the Lord (for example, in John 17:21, Jesus prays: "My prayer for all of them (that is, believers) is that they will be one, just as You and I are one, Father--that just as You are in me and I am in You, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me."); 3) It helps us cooperate as a body of believers, as God meant us to; 4) it gives us a foretaste of what heaven will be like; and 5) it revitalizes ministry because there is less tension to sap our energy.

But...as one commentator reminds us, "Living in unity does not mean that we will agree on everything...but we must agree on our purpose in life--to work together for God."

As one of our church leaders said to me recently, "We may have some differing opinions, but we can ALL agree that Jesus is our Lord and Savior!" How good and pleasant it is to remember THAT!

-Continue on page 3-

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live in unity."

-Psalm 133:1-





-Mark's Minute Cont.-

Well, Psalm 133 continues this theme of unity on into verse 2: "It [unity] is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe." This verse is a reference to Moses' anointing Aaron as the first high priest of Israel in Exodus 29:7. But that event wasn't just about Aaron being anointed on that day. That event also was the springboard for all priests that would follow in the line of Aaron.

Now, in order to understand this more deeply, we need to understand the purpose of anointing oil. Anointing oil was used (for priests) to set them apart for God's service. It represented God's very power, purpose and presence upon that individual.

That's why, often, the Holy Spirit is associated with oil in Scripture. Because He reveals God's purposes and IS God's power and presence in the life of a believer.

But oil was also equated with healing. Think about the Samaritan, who poured oil on the wounds of the man who was injured by the side of the road.

So...how is unity like anointing oil? Well, it sets the church apart from the world, it reveals God's purpose, presence and power...and it is a healing agent in this messed up, sin-filled and fractured world.

But that's not all. This wasn't just a little bit of oil poured on Aaron's head. It was a lot of oil. Verse 2 implies that Aaron's beard was saturated with it...and his robes got soaked with it. That indicates "total consecration". It is like saying, "God, I am ALL IN" Believers who choose unity are evidencing their desire and their dedication to serving God wholeheartedly.

And that brings us to verse 3. Verse 3 says, "It [unity] is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion." To understand this, we need to understand the geography of ancient Israel. Mount Hermon was the tallest mountain in that area. With a 9000 feet high peak, Mount Hermon's perpetually snow-capped top can be seen for miles.

Now, catch this: That name, "Hermon" means "devoted" or "sanctified". Holy, Set apart. Just like Aaron the priest was, according to verse 2. And just as the oil ran downward from Aaron's head, the melted snow is viewed here in verse 3 as running down Mount Hermon into that much lower area in and around Jerusalem (Zion). Verse 3, then, is actually another reference to anointing.

In fact, in the New Testament, don't we often read about The Holy Spirit descending. (Descending on Jesus at His baptism and settling down upon the disciples at Pentecost in the Book of Acts.) That's a downward anointing.

Verse 3 also indicates renewal, refreshment and blessing.

You see, the low valleys in and around Jerusalem were dry, hot and arid...and so, if the entire snow-capped part of Mount Hermon were to be transported into those dry, hot, arid places below, it would be truly refreshing.

In the Old Testament, dew was also considered a blessing from God because it helped the land to be fruitful. Just listen to Genesis 27:28: "May God always give you plenty of dew for healthy crops and good harvests of grain and wine."

Listen, when God's people are living in the an abundance of unity...then God's people are obligated to share that unity to a dry, arid, thirsty world. And when God's people do that, it will not only bring Holy Spirit refreshing and renewal into fractured places and it will not only bring Godly blessing into disunified places...it will also bring fruitfulness into formerly fruitless places.

In Him,
Pastor Mark



Shut-in of the Month:

Lois DiPaola

Please remember Lois this month by sending her a card or calling. It means so much to our Shut-Ins, that they are remembered and that we still care.

6088 McClellan Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111



Please remember that visitation is not permitted at most nursing homes and assisted living locations due to the Covid-19 Coronavirus. Please check in with all of our shut-ins, to make them feel loved, and connected to our church family!

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Due to the recent security issues we were facing with our mail, we purchased a new mail box that keeps our mail locked and safe. Thanks to Bob Stoneman and the properties committee for getting it installed so quickly. We hope this gives everyone peace of mind when mailing their tithes and offering!





Stewardship Snippet

It appears we are beginning to see some signs of normalcy returning to life. The church has reopened on a limited scale, businesses have begun to reopen, and people are trying to reclaim the freedoms we once enjoyed. Being good stewards involves so much more than just money. We must take care of all God has allowed us to have and manage for Him while we are here. How well we handle ourselves in the here and now helps determine our life in eternity. The body Shalom is doing our part to be faithful stewards. Please continue to provide that we may be able to help others in this dark and hurting world. As we move forward, stewardship would like to provide you information, education and tools that may help you, family or friends learn more about stewardship and how to handle financial matters. Some of you have gone through Financial Peace with Dave Ramsey. It's always a healthy reminder to review the things you learned and look to other sources that you may experience financial security and be good stewards of what He's provided. With that in mind, our goal is to lead you through teachings from the Bible on all aspects of stewardship and how to handle your personal finances. We will use tools from Ron Blue and Tony Evans. We'll also get insightful thoughts from David Jeremiah and Billy Graham. We hope you will find this information helpful in your personal financial journey and help you have a better understanding of biblical stewardship and assist you in finding financial peace.



Kid's Craft Corner

Firework Salt Painting

MATERIALS NEEDED

Water

Table Salt

Paper (black really makes the colors pop)

watercolors

paint brushes

White Glue

Cookie Sheet

Optional: You could also use food coloring and an eye dropper instead of watercolors if you'd like.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start by laying your paper on a cookie sheet so the salt doesn't get all over the place.
2. Draw out your design with the glue. It works better if you do it thick. If you aren't comfortable free handing a design, draw it out with a white crayon or colored pencil first.
3. Next, sprinkle salt over the glue before it dries. Apply generously! You want to get everything covered. Shake off excess salt onto your tray.
4. Get your watercolors really wet, and lightly paint onto the salt. You can use food coloring and an eye dropper here if you'd prefer. You don't want to drag it too much or it will mess up the salt. I tried to get my brush extra drippy so I barely had to tap the design.
5. Have fun with colors! It looks great when they bleed together. Let the project dry completely and you are done! Your kids will love how the salt sparkles when its all dry.



Craft idea from
www.busymommymedia.com

*Over time this project will flake off and won't last forever, so make sure to take pictures of your kiddos creation! Spray your project with hairspray when you are done to make it last longer.



Celebrate!

July Anniversaries

1st Chip & Robin England
 2nd Doc & Deborah Wright
 3rd Wilson & Anna Duke
 18th Carl & Carolyn Boshier

July Birthday's

1st	Trish Eary	16th	Erika Seay
	Josh Lester		Robert Stokes
	Michele Nelson	18th	Alex Butler
	Sandi Palmer		Allison Butler
2nd	Abbi Nolan	19th	Kim Butler
	Bo Robins	20th	Bill Fowler
5th	Stuart Point	21st	Ethel Johnson
7th	Suzan Geissler		Ethel Metzger
8th	Elizabeth Dillard		Sandy Setliff
	Christine Norman	22nd	Suzie Johnston
10th	Ann McFaden	23rd	Arlene Damron
	Kathy Thompson		Dawn Stoneman
11th	Carol Gray	24th	Bobby Norman
12th	Toni Lane	25th	Bob Grubbs
	John Wilson		Janet Jarrell
	Kathy Wingfield	26th	JoAnn Hall
13th	David Hosfeld	27th	Maggie Alexander
	Ron Palmer	28th	Brian Friedel
	Peyton Wilson		
15th	Leanna Bartrug		
	Barbara Lecarpentier		
	John Poindexter		

Alma Hunt

Offering for Virginia Missions



The Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions will look different in the coming year, reflecting the changing world in which we live as we face the challenges of a global pandemic.

The state missions offering will be distributed as follows:

- 70% of funds to WMUV-directed projects
- 30% of funds to BGAV-directed projects
- All projects have a direct correlation to COVID-19 relief efforts
- Funds will be distributed monthly and will begin in Summer 2020 in order to respond more quickly to immediate needs.

Please visit AlmaHunt.org for donations, resources, and stories!



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