



Pastor and First Lady Hackett

What does the Bible say about pandemic diseases/sicknesses?"

From Pastor Hackett

Various outbreaks of pandemic diseases, such as the coronavirus, have prompted many to ask why God allows—or even causes—pandemic diseases and whether such illnesses are a sign of the end times. The Bible, particularly the Old Testament, describes numerous occasions when God brought plagues and diseases on His people and on His enemies “to make you see my power” (**Exodus 9:14, 16**). He used **plagues on Egypt** to force Pharaoh to free the Israelites from bondage, while sparing His people from being affected by them (**Exodus 12:13 and Exodus 15:26**), thus indicating His sovereign control over diseases and other afflictions.

God also warned His people of the consequences of disobedience, including plagues (**Leviticus 26:21, 25**). On two occasions, God destroyed 14,700 people and 24,000 people for various acts of disobedience (**Numbers 16:49 and Numbers 25:9**). After giving the Mosaic Law, God commanded the people to obey it or suffer many evils, including something that sounds like disease: “The Lord will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation . . . which will plague you until you perish” (**Deuteronomy 28:22**). These are just a few examples of many plagues and diseases God caused.

It’s sometimes hard to imagine our loving and merciful God displaying such wrath and anger toward His people. But God’s punishments always have the goal of repentance and restoration. In **2 Chronicles 7:13-14**, God said to Solomon, “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” Here we see God using disaster to draw His people to Himself, to bring about repentance and the desire to come to Him as children to their heavenly Father.

In the New Testament, Jesus healed “every disease and every sickness,” as well as plagues in the areas He visited (**Matthew 9:35 and Matthew 10:1 and Mark 3:10**). Just as God chose to use plagues and disease to show His power to the Israelites, Jesus healed as an exhibition of the same power to verify that He was truly the Son of God. He gave the same healing power to the disciples to verify their ministry (**Luke 9:1**). God still allows sickness for His own purposes, but sometimes disease, even worldwide pandemics, are simply the result of living in a fallen world. There is no way to determine whether or not a pandemic has a specific spiritual cause, but we do know that God has sovereign control over all things (**Romans 11:36**) and will work all things together for the good of those who know and love Him (**Romans 8:28**).

The spread of sicknesses such as the coronavirus is a foretaste of pandemics that will be part of the end times. Jesus referred to future plagues associated with the last days (**Luke 21:11**). The two witnesses of **Revelation 11** will have power “to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want” (**Revelation 11:6**). Seven angels will wield seven plagues in a series of final, severe judgments described in **Revelation 16**.

The appearance of pandemic diseases may or may not be tied to God’s specific judgment of sin. It could also simply be the result of living in a fallen world. Since no one knows the time of Jesus’ return, we must be careful about saying global pandemics are proof that we are living in the end times. For those who do not know Jesus Christ as Savior, disease should be a reminder that life on this earth is tenuous and can be lost at any moment. As bad as pandemics are, hell will be worse. The Christian, however, has the assurance of salvation and the hope of eternity because of the blood of Christ shed on the cross for us (**and 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Hebrews 9:28**).

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE: [PAGE 2](#) MAY BIRTHDAYS PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY/SPECIAL DATES [PAGE 3](#) MAY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS AT A GLANCE/WOMEN’S MINISTRY NOTES [PAGE 4](#) HEALTH NOTES ON CORONA [PAGE 5](#) HEALTH NOTES CONT’D/[PAGE 6](#) HEALTH NOTES AND PUZZLE [PAGE 7](#) GOT FAITH BY DENISE [PAGE 8](#) WORSHIP, STUDY, PRAY [PAGE 9](#) PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH [PAGE 10](#) ACTIVITY PAGE [PAGE 11](#) EVANGELISM: THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION [PAGE 12](#) -CHURCH INFORMATION/STUDY AND PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES/JUNE 2020 GNL DEADLINE

This Edition of your GoodNewsLetter features Green in recognition of those lost to the COVID-19 Virus



MAY Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Hilda Appiah	2 JaLeah Beason
3 Lucille Snordon Xavier Thomas Marchelle Weaver	4	5 DeMon Brown Jaelyn Maxey Robert Stone	6 Shontae Chambers Richard Garrison, Jr. Linda Wright	7 <i>National Day Of Prayer!!!</i>	8	9
10 <i>Mother's Day!!!</i> Ronnie Henderson	11 Rasika Johnson Terry Julian	12 Sarah Richie	13	14	15 Tyrone Thomas	16 Tenina Porter
17 Naykia Williams	18 Walter Ellis, Jr. George Johnson	19 Thady Cox	20	21 Regina Burns	22 Gary Austin	23 Kawana Dunkley Lorenzo Moore Ventra Mapp Timothy Scales
24 Carmorita Britt Justice Lee 31	25 <i>Memorial Day!!!</i> Tanisha Hackett	26 Arion Austin	27 LaDonna Cumberlander	28 Timothy Burns Constance King	29 Erica Smith	30 Justice Lee



A prayer for Memorial Day

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SPECIAL DATES THIS MONTH

- ◆ National Day of Prayer, May 7, 2020
- ◆ Mother's Day, May 10, 2020
- ◆ Armed Forces Day, May 16, 2020
- ◆ Victoria Day (Canada), May 18, 2020
- ◆ Ascension Day, May 21, 2020
- ◆ Memorial Day, May 25, 2020
- ◆ Pentecost, May 31, 2020





Women's Ministry - "Devoted Women of God" – Pressing, Praising, Praying and Trusting

Greetings to my Greater Salem Baptist Church Family!!!

I begin this article first and foremost, giving glory and honor to our MIGHTY God! What an awesome, merciful and gracious God we serve. He loves us unconditionally and I am forever grateful for how He has kept us. My prayer is that everyone reading this article, you and your families, are safe and healthy!

I am aware that some of you have loved ones (family, friends, and neighbors) who may have been stricken by this coronavirus, but rest assured, our God is still gracious and faithful, and He never changes! We must remain encouraged that "everything works out for the good of those who love the Lord and have been called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28).

During this time, this scripture may be difficult to embrace, but God's Word is true, and we must seek Him to understand any situation. Remain encouraged that God is an all-around perfect God! He cannot lie, as He keeps His promises (Numbers 23:19)!

We can also take heart that He is ABLE to do all things, but fail, and we should rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything to give thanks; for this is the will of God for us in Christ Jesus", (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). His will is good and perfect – despite our situations and circumstances.

During this unprecedented situation relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Women's Ministry is taking advantage of this time we have. Although, we have been restricted by our government to vacate our church building amid the pandemic; God has made a way for us to continue in our bible study class each week and has allowed us to fellowship one with another and to study His word by way of video and/or phone (audio) conferencing.

We have been meeting since Saturday, March 25th and have continued every Saturday at 10:15 AM. Our time together has been such a blessing to say the least. We are able to see one another and/or hear each other's voices and it has been delightful. We are a great group of women who love the Lord, we are faithful and hungry for the Word of God.

I am so grateful to God to be a part of this Ministry. I thank God for all the ladies who have joined us. In addition to, GSBC first timers, there have been those from out of state and from other churches. It is such a blessing to have everyone come together with GSBC Women's Ministry! We hope to maintain this fellowship.

We are currently studying and expounding on discipleship:
Book: The Gentle Art of Discipling Women – Nurturing



Sunday School Lessons At-a-Glance

Justice

Unit 3: Called to God's Work of Justice

This unit has five lessons that explore ways that people are called to participate in God's work of justice. Zephaniah presents both a judgment against the wickedness and injustice of Jerusalem and a vision of restoration. Zechariah calls for a return to God's way of justice. In Jeremiah, God's rigorous standards for justice are defined and God's people are given a choice either to repent injustices by executing justice or to face destruction. Hosea uses early history to call the people to love and justice.

Unit 2: God Promises A Just Kingdom

Lesson 10, May 3 - A vision of Restoration—Zephaniah 3:14-20

Lesson 11, May 10 - Peace and Justice Reign - Zechariah 8:1-8,11-17

Lesson 12, May 17 - Practice Justice -Jeremiah 21:8-14

Lesson 13, May 24 - Repent of Injustice - Jeremiah 22:1-10

Lesson 14, May 31 - Return to Love and Justice - Hosea 11:1,2,7-10; 12:1,2, 6-14

We believe that the Sunday School Ministry helps the church in reaching the lost, edifying the saved, and raising up spiritually healthy disciples for Jesus Christ . Pastor Hackett

Authentic Faith in Ourselves and Others

Author: Dana Yeakley

The study is teaching us the elements of being a disciple and how to make disciples for Jesus Christ as we have been called to do so as believers. I have also challenged my sisters to pray at the same time every day, for 30 minutes, for 30 days, and to pay close attention to the effect in our lives and those we are praying for. I also invite and encourage everyone to call and join in our Prayer Service every Wednesday at 12 noon.

If you would like to join us (women 18 and up) in our virtual bible study, please send me an email at: info@greatersalembaptist.org. In the subject line write WBS join. I will send you the information you need for Women's Bible Study and for Prayer Service.

In conclusion, I once again, give God all glory and honor! What a mighty God we serve! I give Him all the credit He deserves, because without Him nothing is possible, and anything righteous that edifies His kingdom and His people is only because of Him and His grace!



**For His Glory,
Sis. Tanisha Hackett**

Women's Ministry Leader & Facilitator
Proverbs 31:30

HEALTH NOTES FOR MAY 2020

Coronavirus, Part 2: Cabin Fever . . . It's Real

(Controlling nerves, anxiety and stress during the pandemic)

Cabin fever is a series of negative emotions and distressing sensations people may face if they're isolated or feeling cut off from the world. When the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic first resulted in the need to limit contacts with others and stay home, it seemed doable. However, as time has grown into weeks and weeks, the novelty has worn off and cabin fever is starting to emerge. It's natural to feel stress, anxiety, grief, and worry during a time such as this. However, everyone reacts differently, and your own feelings will change over time. Notice and accept how you feel.

Know symptoms of coronavirus and when to get medical assistance

Many are anxious about the threat of getting coronavirus. At this point, the list of possible symptoms has grown to include:

Fever	Shortness of breath	Muscle aches & pains	Diarrhea
Headache	Cough	Nausea	Loss of smell and taste
Runny nose	Weakness	Stomach upset	Red eyes
Sore throat	Fatigue	Vomiting	

If you have several of these symptoms and suspect it could be coronavirus, first call your healthcare provider to explain how you are feeling. You will be instructed on what to do and where to go.

Taking steps to prevent COVID-19 illness helps bring peace of mind

Stay calm and be informed. - Practice healthy hygiene and wash your hands often. - Practice social distancing (6 feet away). - Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly. Use regular household cleaning spray or wipes as recommended by CDC.

People at Higher Risk for COVID-19 serious illness include adults over 60 and people who have severe chronic medical conditions like heart, lung or kidney disease. It is especially important for people at high risk to take actions to reduce their risk of exposure - Stay at home as much as possible - Make sure you have access to several weeks of medications and supplies in case you need to stay home for prolonged periods of time - Avoid crowds.

It is now recommended that we wear masks when out in public. Due to the shortage of medical masks, it's possible to make a cloth mask. Cloth masks do not have the proper design or necessary materials to filter out virus particles and therefore do not ensure you will not become infected by COVID-19. Wearing a cloth face mask may, however, reduce the risk of someone infected with COVID-19 unknowingly spreading the infection during the period of time after they have become infected, but before they have developed symptoms (possibly 2 or more days). When wearing a cloth face mask, you must not touch your face. When wearing a cloth face mask, you must still maintain social distancing. Wash your face mask frequently.

. Take steps to reduce stress

Dealing with the pandemic can be extremely stressful for those who have lost their jobs and income, paying the rent or mortgage may be an issue, even getting adequate food can be a problem. Along with this, children must now attend school from home. Older people may feel cut off from the community and very alone to cope with this crisis. Being cooped up for an extended time can bring out the best or the worst in us.

Isolation wears on you psychologically- knowing that you can't move around outside of the home as you are used to doing. Even if you stay home most of the time, just knowing you are restricted can mess with your psyche. Some people can cope, but for many it can be a time of stress, anxiety and fear. So what are you doing to get through this? A few Greater Salem members were

asked this question and some of their responses are shared below:

- ⇒ I pray each day that God will see us through this pandemic
- ⇒ I walk outside or sit on the porch. The fresh air helps me feel better.
- ⇒ I look at a good movie or read.
- ⇒ I listen to the latest news on television
- ⇒ I stay in contact with church members by phone
- ⇒ I'm studying and meditating on God's word
- ⇒ I'm getting things done around the house
- ⇒ God is in control and I remind myself of that
- ⇒ I listen to gospel music
- ⇒ I exercise and walk the dog.

Manage Your Anxiety

Research shows that prolonged periods of stress/worry can contribute to numerous emotional and physical disorders including depression, anxiety, heart attacks, stroke, hypertension and other immune system disturbances that increase susceptibility to infections. So take steps to find meaningful ways to engage your brain and occupy your time. Put a check mark next to what you will do:

- ⇒ Pray
- ⇒ Open curtains or blinds during the day so that the sunlight can improve your mood.
- ⇒ If possible, go outside in the morning sun for 10-15 minutes. Vitamin D provided by the sun helps to build your immune system.
- ⇒ Make a list of projects you can do at home and tackle one at a time. It's your list, so be flexible. Don't pressure yourself to complete them all.
- ⇒ Having a daily schedule helps to keep you occupied.
- ⇒ Read the Bible's old and new testaments
- ⇒ Eat healthy, nutritious meals to strengthen your immune system. Include more vegetables and fruits and fewer sweets and processed foods.
- ⇒ Trust God and know that he is in control
- ⇒ Get regular exercise and plenty of sleep.
- ⇒ Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories and social media.
- ⇒ Connect with others. Talk with friends and loved ones over the phone or via video chat about your concerns and how you are feeling.
- ⇒ Take care of yourself. Take deep breaths, stretch, meditate.

⇒ Add your stress reliever(s) here _____

When I'm Feeling Blue

We all have occasional pity parties but it's important to take time to count your blessings- keeping your mind on good and faithful things. ***In the middle of every difficulty there is opportunity:***

- Families have the opportunity to spend time together
- We have the opportunity to practice patience
- An opportunity to listen to others with understanding
- Giving this "me" generation the opportunity to focus on others
- Helping us to be more mindful of reaching out to others
- Opportunity to eat a healthy diet, including plenty of vegetables and fruits
- Opportunity to spend more time in prayer and bible study
- Opportunity to reflect and know what's really important
- Your opportunity _____

Get your information from reliable sources.

Below are a few updates:

- If you need to be tested for COVID-19 there are testing sites opening up in several locations. They fill very quickly, so don't hesitate. There will be testing the week of May 4, 2020. Go online to <https://www.thelittleclinic.com/drivethru-testing> to register or call 1-888-852-2567. Watch for other sites to be announced on tv and radio.
- Unemployment eligibility has been expanded. To file a claim visit www.kcc.ky.gov.
- No one can be evicted in the State of Kentucky for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.
- Unfortunately there are scammers who are out to get your private information and take your money. The Social Security office and Medicare will never call you on the phone or computer to get your social security number. Beware!
- There is no fee for testing or treatment of coronavirus.
- There are videos and resources to help you to talk to your children about what they are experiencing on www.kycovid19.ky.gov.
- The latest updates on the disease, treatment, research, etc. can be found at www.CDC.gov.

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Medicaid is available so that many who could not previously get health care can now apply. Enroll online using HealthCare.gov or Benefind.ky.gov. **Apply** by telephone (HealthCare.gov) by calling 1-800-318-2596 or TTY 1-855-889-4325, or Benefind at 1-855-306-8959.

Individuals may apply for the *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*, formerly known as food stamps, by visiting the [Benefind website](#) or by calling the DCBS Call Center toll free at (855) 306-8959.

To find out more about what's being done in Louisville and Kentucky, Mayor Fisher and Governor Beshear have daily updates on television and radio.

COVID-19 HEALTH TIPS

Mental Health & Relieving Anxiety

Stay informed with reliable sources such as kycovid19.ky.gov, cdc.gov, @GovAndyBeshear & [Facebook.com/GovAndyBeshear](https://www.facebook.com/GovAndyBeshear)


Maintain a healthy diet, engage in regular **exercise** and get enough **sleep**

Preserve daily routines as much as possible

Take advantage of **outdoor activities** while still maintaining **social distancing**

Take a break from social media and news and don't overexpose yourself to too much information

Do not isolate, connect with others through appropriate **social distancing** or **virtual opportunities**



TEAM KENTUCKY

Taking care of your emotional health during this emergency will help you think clearly and react to the urgent needs to protect yourself and your family.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” [Philippians 4:6-7](#)

Resources: www.CDC.com . www.kycovid19.ky.gov . www.faithandhealthconnection.org www.WebMD.com.

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How should Christians respond to pandemic diseases?

- First, do not panic. God is in control. The Bible says the equivalent of "do not fear" over 300 times.
- Second, be wise. Take reasonable steps to avoid exposure to the disease and to protect and provide for your family.
- Third, look for opportunities for ministry. Often when people are fearful for their lives, they are more willing to have conversations about eternity.

Be bold and compassionate in your sharing of the Gospel, always speaking the truth in love (**Ephesians 4:15**).

Submitted by Pastor Hackett





GOT FAITH??

By: Denise L. B. Zellars

The disciples went and woke Him up, shouting, "Lord save us! We're going to drown!" Jesus responded, "Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!" Then He got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm (Matthew 8:25-26).

When I picture this scenario, I find a very profound lesson in faith and quite funny at the same time. It's also proof that God has a sense of humor. Jesus is taking a nap in the middle of a storm. *I am my Heavenly Father's child as I am known to sleep right through a storm, too, without a worry in the world!*

The disciples are panicked to the point where they go yelling in hysteria to wake Jesus for help. They have walked with Him and have seen all the miracles and mighty works He has done, yet they still have doubt as to whether or not He's going to intervene and help, or let them drown as the boat was filling with water.

Think of a time when you cried out to our Heavenly Father for help, in total desperation. "Lord, Help!

I need You right now!", and right at the brink of what may feel like your last breath or losing whatever the case may be; God intervenes.

Ask any believer in Christ Jesus and he/she will tell you they have faith. A believer without faith just is not possible, *Right? Absolutely Right!* That said, God tells us hundreds of times in the bible not to fear, but we all experience fear from time to time. Does this imply we have no faith in Him? *No!* However, it can be an indication of our level of faith. Additionally, the fact that we are reacting in the flesh and not in the Spirit.

Christ Jesus experienced fear as He realized the suffering He would soon endure on the cross, but He quickly overcame that fear by praying to our Heavenly Father "**O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I Will, but as Thy wilt**" (Matthew

26:39).

So, you see, even at Jesus' weakest moment in the flesh, He gives us perfect example to pray to God for everything and to keep our faith in Him.

As believers in Christ Jesus, it will require much more than us simply saying "I have faith in Him." Just like the disciples above, our faith will be tested, too! Not because God wants to find out if we have faith, remember He is Omniscient (all knowing), therefore, He knows whether or not we have faith, or just a little faith.

The test is to show us (His children) our level of faith, show us that **He truly is who He says He is**, reveal His power and ultimately grow our relationship in Him by increasing our trust and faith in Him. The disciples above reacted with little faith as many of us do today.

As soon as our faith is tested with trials and tribulations (storms of life); many of us panic when we are afraid and lose faith in God (**John 16:33, 1 Peter 4:12-13 & Luke 21:11**).

Some of us go back to the old ways of living before we were saved. This loss of faith is usually directly related to fear, and/or experiencing loss in our lives, something or someone (*family, friend, job, dog, etc.*). Oftentimes one will fall away from the Church (**Hebrews 10:25**) during this loss. *Bad decision!!*

Everyone responds to fear and loss differently as it can bring unfathomable pain and devastation in ones life. Having a personal relationship with Christ Jesus will be essential to healthy and godly healing, though. Keep faith in Him!

While Jesus assures us that we will face storms in life of many kinds; *natural disasters, death, bad health, job loss, deception, rejection, corona viruses, etc.*, He also promises us that these storms will pass and we can make it through (**Psalms 57:1**). Again, keeping the faith is imperative in our walk with Him and it is pleasing to Him.

We can actually assess our level of faith, but the real test will come from God. Try making this assessment by answering

the following questions:

Are you afraid? Are you stressed and worried that this Corona virus pandemic will get worse? Are you losing sleep? (It very well could get worse before better). What if technology fails in addition to the pandemic? How many of us will literally lose our minds? In this case, there is no cell phone, no face time, no tweeting, no texts, emails, Instagram, nor Facebook. How you re-act will say a lot about your faith. *Would you panic?*

If our faith rests in something or someone other than Christ Jesus, we may not make it through the storm. God promises to provide our every need (**Philippians 4:19**). **He is our only constant!** Therefore, constant communication is conducive to staying connected to Him. We can do this by studying, praying, and obeying His Word.

No one knows how long this virus will last, but we do know that because of God's Word, this virus will pass. When will it pass, though? God's time is not our time. However long it lasts, may God's Will be done, not ours! It could last 4 months, but are we prepared to keep the faith if it lasts 40 years?

The children of Israel were in the wilderness for 40 years due to their lack of faith and disobedience. God Is the same God, and we are not much different from the children of Israel when it comes to our lack of faith and disobedience today. Here's an interesting exercise: *(add 40 years to whatever age you are today, then ask yourself again, am' I prepared to keep the faith?).*

Do not fear! (**Isaiah 41:10**) **Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand'.**

God gives us everything we need to make it through life's storms and just as He rebuked the wind and the waves of the storm in the boat with His disciples, He will calm our storms, too.

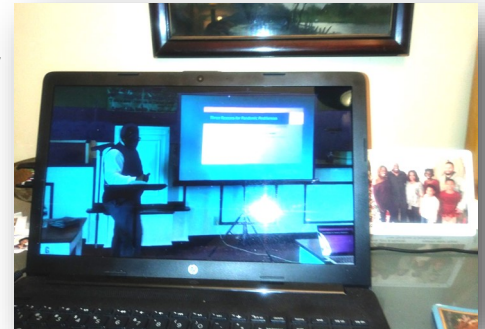
He Is still in Control! Keep the Faith!!

Blessings,
-Denise

Opportunities to Be in the Presence of God through the Study of His Word, Prayer, and with Regular Worship while maintaining Social Distance!!!

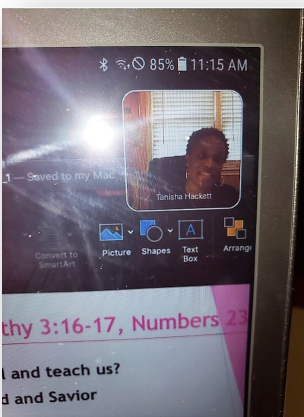
Pastor and First Lady Hackett and a small cadre of Ministers, Deacons, lay members, and Musicians have helped provide a continuation of regular worship services, Weekly Bible studies, Sunday School, and Prayer Services. How have they accomplished this???

- * **Sunday Worship services are now streamed online on Facebook live at 11:15 and then made available for viewing later on the Greater Salem Website: greatersalembaptist.org or the Greater Salem Facebook page.**



- * **The weekly Bible study continues on Facebook Live each Wednesday at 5:30 PM and can be viewed later on the Greater Salem website or Facebook Page.**

- * **Bro. LeRoy Winston & Sis. Rosa Battle will be leading the weekly Wednesday Prayer Service at 12 noon via conference call. The conference call information is as follows: Dial (978) 990-5000 and when prompted enter Access Code: 703263#**



- * **You can join in with Min. Kern Richardson and all classes for the weekly Sunday School lesson via conference call at 9:30 AM on Sundays. Just call 978-990-5000 and when prompted enter the access code 721799#**

- * **The Women's Ministry's Bible Study is being held via Conference Call. They are meeting weekly on Saturdays for one hour at 10:15 AM. For Audio only please call 978-990-5000, access code 703263# to be a part of the class. If you'd prefer audio and video go online at <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/tanishahackett> All women, ages 18 and over, are welcome. If you have questions please contact Tanisha Hackett at tanishahackett@gmail.com**

- * **Men's Bible Study will begin by Phone Conference starting this month on Saturday, May 9th and May 23rd at 10:15 AM!!! The study will continue each 2nd and 4th Saturday. The dial-in number is (978) 990-5432—The access code is 3331448#**



- * **Tithes and offering can be delivered to the church on weekdays between 10 AM and 2:00 PM. They can be given to the Deacons on duty (587-8869) or placed in the mail slot (after hours). You can also send them to Greater Salem Baptist Church at 1009 W Chestnut, Louisville 40203. Call 587-8869 if you need someone to pick-up your tithes and offerings.**

- * **If you'd like to take the Lord's Supper, You can do so on this Sunday, May 3rd. It will be served by the Deacons on the parking lot. Please drive through to be served. (As always, Remember to maintain a proper Social Distance)**

- * **You can get a paper copy of the GoodNewsLetter via mail by contacting the church at 587-8869 and leaving your name and address**

Question: "What is the purpose of the church?"

Answer: Acts 2:42 could be considered a purpose statement for the church: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." According to this verse, the purposes/activities of the church should be 1) teaching biblical doctrine, 2) providing a place of fellowship for believers, 3) observing the Lord's supper, and 4) praying.

The church is to teach biblical doctrine so we can be grounded in our faith. Ephesians 4:14 tells us, "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming." The church is to be a place of fellowship, where Christians can be devoted to one another and honor one another (Romans 12:10), instruct one another (Romans 15:14), be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32), encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11), and most importantly, love one another (1 John 3:11).

The church is to be a place where believers can observe the Lord's Supper, remembering Christ's death and shed blood on our behalf (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). The concept of "breaking bread" (Acts 2:42) also carries the idea of having meals together. This is another example of the church promoting fellowship. The final purpose of the church according to Acts 2:42 is prayer. The church is to be a place that promotes prayer, teaches prayer, and practices prayer. Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Another commission given to the church is proclaiming the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). The church is called to be faithful in sharing the gospel through word and deed. The church is to be a "lighthouse" in the community, pointing people toward our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The church is to both promote the gospel and prepare its members to proclaim the gospel (1 Peter 3:15).

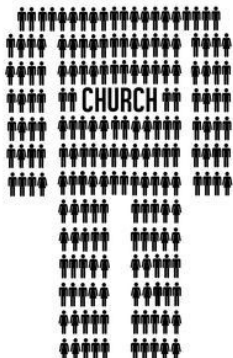
Some final purposes of the church are given in James 1:27: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." The church is to be about the business of ministering to those in need. This includes not only sharing the gospel, but also providing for physical needs (food, clothing, shelter) as necessary and appropriate. The church is also to equip believers in Christ with the tools they need to overcome sin and remain free from the pollution of the world. This is done by biblical teaching and Christian fellowship.

So, what is the purpose of the church? Paul gave an excellent illustration to the believers in Corinth. The church is God's hands, mouth, and feet in this world "the body of Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). We are to be doing the things that Jesus Christ would do if He were here physically on the earth. The church is to be "Christian," "Christ-like," and Christ-following.

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ONE HEAD. ONE BODY.



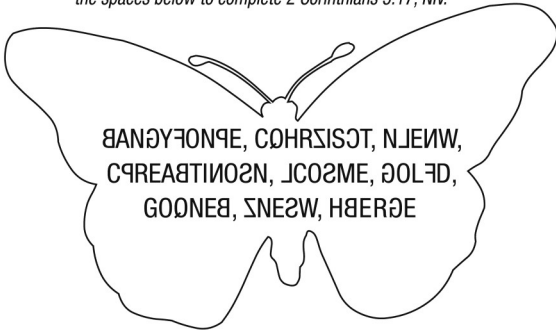
May 2020!!!



TransformationPOWER

Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly, God transforms us from old to new.

Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



Therefore, if _____ is in _____
 the _____ has _____
 The _____ has _____,
 the _____ is _____!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV



"That's the parents' section."

Bible Quiz

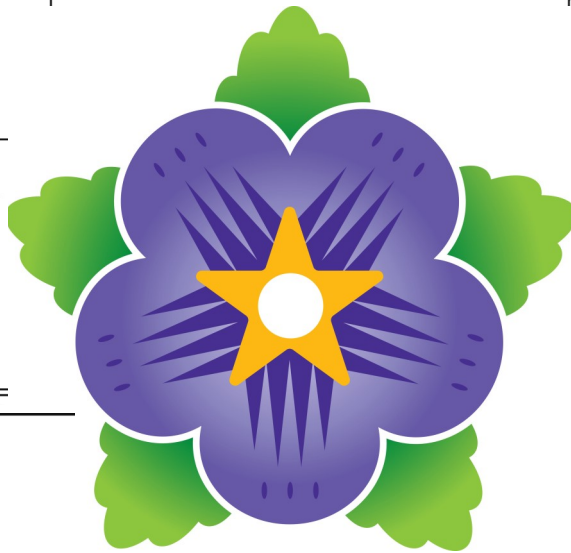
While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp — not following “proper” protocols. Who defended them?

- A. Moses
- B. Joshua
- C. Jethro
- D. The Lord



Answer: (See Numbers 11:24-29.)

Christian Symbols

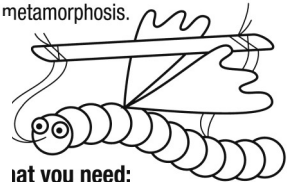


VIOLET

—The violet, a symbol of humility, is used most often to refer to the Virgin Mary, whom St. Bernard (1090-1153) described as “the violet of humility.” The purple flower also is sometimes used to express Christ’s humility in assuming human form.

CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.



What you need:

- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

What you do:

1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.

FROM THE EVANGELISM MINISTRY—REMOVE & SHARE THIS PAGE

THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Every person longs for some sense of security, but only a few are the happy souls who seem to have found it. The obvious reason for the lack of security is that people seek for it in the wrong places. There are those who look for security in financial prosperity, the strength of a nation, or the progress of science – but money rusts and decays, friends prove unfaithful, nations go to war. Real security must come from a source outside of ourselves, and so we turn to the God of Heaven.

The Bible teaches that the Christian may know with certainty his standing before God. The scripture says in **1 John 5:13**, “**These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life.**” The Bible presents a balanced view of assurance – and we must differentiate between the promise of assurance and the conditions on which the promise rests.

The Basis of Assurance (part 1)

Sin has separated each of us from God. We are all sinners. Our hearts have rebelled against God. Therefore, our salvation must be by divine operation and not by our own human attainment. The Bible says in **Titus 3:5** that **we are not saved by our own works of righteousness. God saved us “according to His mercy.”** How can we know personally that we have been saved?

Our assurance of salvation rests on the clear promise of God’s word. **The Bible says, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...beloved, now are we the sons of God” (1 John 3:1-2).** The Bible says that Christians are saved. The emphasis in salvation is not on the future nor on the past, but on the present. We do not wait until Jesus comes back to find out whether or not we are the sons of God, for the Bible says, “**Now we are the sons of God.**”

The scriptures in a number of places confirm this thought. **John 5:24** says, “**He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.**” **Romans 5:1** says, “**Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**” Our assurance rests upon the clear promise of God’s Word. The Bible says it; we believe it; that settles it!

Eternal life does not begin when we die. We have it now. We had our first taste of eternal life when we were born again. **Hebrews 6:5** says, “**we tasted of the powers of the world to come**”. We do not have to go through a graveyard to begin our enjoyment of salvation. God has not started everything in the hereafter as though in packages not to be opened until after death. A Christian can know that he is saved because God says so, and God saying so makes it so!

Our assurance of salvation rests on the inner testimony of the Holy Spirit. The scripture says, “**Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his spirit” (1 John 4:13).** When a person finds in his life the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control), he has a token evidence that the Holy Spirit is operating in his heart. The presence of these virtues in our lives are in themselves a witness that the Spirit of God is living within. Lastly, the Bible says in (**Romans 8:16** “**the Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God**”).

The Holy Spirit brings to our inner consciousness the vivid assurance that we are saved, and so the Holy Spirit becomes to us a voice of divine assurance that we are saved. The tender voice of the Spirit whispers to my wavering heart and assures me that the promises of God are true. Assurance is an inward impression on the soul, by which the Spirit of God directly witnesses to my spirit that I am a child of God, that Jesus loves me and gave Himself for me, that all my sins are blotted out, and that I am reconciled with God. I don’t deserve it! I can’t pay for it! But God says He will forgive my sins, and since the Holy Spirit witnesses with my spirit that I am a child of God, I stand on it! I know that I am saved because of the promise of God’s Word, and because of the testimony of the Holy Spirit.

Submitted by Deacon Marshall Merrill

If you need to talk to someone about this you can contact the Church office at 502-587-8869 and speak with Deacon Merrill or a member of the Evangelism Team!!!

The GoodNewsLetter is available online at greatersalembaptist.org



Greater Salem Baptist

1009 West Chestnut Street

Louisville KY 40203

Hours of Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Morning Worship

Service of Communion

1st Sunday

11:00 am Morning Worship

Office Staff

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Lenette Dennison

Telephone Number

502-587-8869

Email:

aagsalem@bellsouth.net

Office Hours

Monday through Friday

09: 00 am to 02:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Opportunities to be in the presence of God through the study of His word and in the Center of Prayer

(See Page 8 for updated temporary schedule of online audio or video Opportunities)



May 2020

My Mother Kept A Garden

My mother kept a garden
A garden of the heart
She planted all the good things
That gave my life its start
She turned me to the sunshine
And encouraged me to dream
Fostering and nurturing
The seeds of self-esteem
And when the winds and rain came
She protected me enough
But not too much because she knew
I'd need to stand up strong and tough
Her constant good example
Always taught me right from wrong
Markers for my pathway
That will last a lifetime long
I am my mother's garden
I am her legacy
And I hope today she feels the love
Reflected back from me



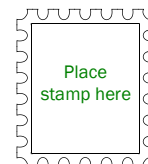
MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST
ONE HEART AT A TIME - ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

From:

Greater Salem Baptist Church

1009 West Chestnut Street

Louisville, KY 40203



Deadline for June 2020 GNL
05/24/2020