

Exeter Church of Christ



December 29, 2019

320 East Firebaugh / 592-2909



"Praise the LORD... young men and women, old people and children" (Psalm 148:7, 12, NCV). Welcome!



29, 2019

TODAY'S Word: "Therefore"

(James 4:6-10)



THIS MORNING we begin a new DVD series on *Grace*, featuring **Max Lucado**. Class begins at 9:30.



Christmas is behind us,
2020 is before us,
Therefore what are your
plans for the New Year?

TONIGHT Church of God of Exeter will host the final **Fifth Sunday** community church service of the year, which will begin at 6:00. Chestnut & H is the location of the service, and refreshments will be served afterward.



THE WEDNESDAY night Bible class resumes this week.

We will finish the final "teaching" section of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew, chapter 25. Class begins at 7:00. Come early (6:00) for the first-Wednesday-of-the-month meal: *Chef's Surprise* this week, served up by **Bette Hull**. "Kids for Christ" will begin again this week -- Thursday, January 2, at 6:00 pm.



VOLUNTEERS: A new sign-up list for first Wednesday meals in 2020 is now on the bulletin board. Check it out and pick your preferred month.



THANKS to **Rick Rossner** for doing some work on our church website. Check it out. Remember in prayer many of our number who are travelling during this holiday season. Keep in prayer, too, **Linette & Larry Thompson, Peggy & Reed Shackelford**, and others who are dealing with health problems. We will host the next men's monthly breakfast (8:30) on January 18. The **BibleProject.com** has put out another reading schedule for those who would like to read through the Bible in 2020. Copies of them are on the table in the foyer.

"Lord, make me humble, but don't let me know it."

- D. L. Moody



Fight Back

"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

This is both a command and a promise. If we submit to God, we may be sure that when we resist the devil, he will flee from us. *We have no power in ourselves against the devil, but he has no power to use against us when we fight with God's power.* By ourselves, we can't win; with God's help, we can't lose.

The word "resist" is a military term. It means you stand and fight. You don't run away. We are to *flee* temptation, but we are to *fight* the devil. That means taking up the armor of God and standing in the evil day (Ephesians 6:10-17).

Satan is like a football coach studying the opposing team. He has "game film" on us, he knows our weaknesses and our strengths, and he uses what he knows against us. If he can get you discouraged, he's already won the battle. He knows when you lose your temper. Satan isn't equal to God, but he's a lot smarter than you or me.

Don't be surprised when he hits you out of the blue. Fight back!
Don't be surprised when he comes to you with a seductive temptation. Fight back!
Don't be surprised when he whispers in your ear in a moment of weakness. Fight back!

The devil is a murderer by nature (John 8:44). He will destroy your career, your marriage, your family, and your ministry if you let him. You've got to stand and fight.

- Fight back with the Word of God.
- Fight back by singing great hymns.
- Fight back by praying to Jesus.
- Fight back by leaning on your brothers and sisters.
- Fight back by confessing Christ openly.
- Fight back by coming to the Lord's Table.
- Fight back by fleeing every temptation.



Therefore put on the
full armor of God ...

EPHESIANS 6:13, NIV

Stand and fight, child of God!
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- Ray Pritchard

Church of Christ

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Sunday

Bible class 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Wednesday

Bible class 7:00 PM

Grace to the Humble

"But he gives us more grace. That is why the Scripture says, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'" (James 4:6)

"Grace" is a word you'd expect to find the Apostle Paul using. But here it is in James. God's grace helps us in our struggles with sin, in our struggles with the pleasure principle. God's Spirit woos us to him and, as we recognize our sins and humble ourselves in repentance, we receive grace.

It seems that too many conversions these days take place without a deep repentance. There is often a sense of need, an emptiness, answered by a trust in the Lord that fills us with joy and hope. And that is good. But at some point -- or points -- God needs to humble us so we are willing to turn away from our ingrained sins. Often that requires the pain of self-discovery and finally a heartfelt repentance. It's best when we can fully repent at the beginning of our Christian walk, but often there are some deep humblings as God lovingly strips back layer after layer of selfishness and trains us to be his holy ones, his disciples.



I've struggled with pride in my life. So when I encounter this passage: "God opposes the proud...." I find myself distinctly desiring not to set myself up as God's opponent. I don't want to find myself on opposite sides of the ring "duking it out" with God. How about you? Where does your stubbornness (an alternate word for "pride") place you in relation to God?

- John Wilson