

In the last year, I have noticed in these spiritual posts a couple of Bible verses that seem to be quite popular. One that stands out and is shared frequently is 2 Chronicles 7:14: “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 I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” This is a tremendous verse that seems almost tailored to our needs this year. There’s talk of healing and deliverance. The passage is full of hope. I wonder, though, whether we pay much attention to the content of the verse because of how often it is shared. The odds are good that we will see it posted again. Because of this, here are a few considerations that might help us get the most from it:

1. Whether the people that post this verse know, this is a very good verse to apply in a national sense. In the context of the statement, Solomon is dedicating the Temple and the people are worshipping God (2 Chron. 7:1-4). Keep in mind that Israel was a theocracy, meaning the nation was both a spiritual and political entity. This also means there is an application that can be made to the church, especially since God identifies the audience as “My people.” Compare that language to 1 Peter 2:9 and Titus 2:11-14. Is there a sense in which all nations are God’s people? How is the relationship of the church to God different?

2. God conditions the reception of His favor on humility. This means pride is an enemy of our progress. We’ve learned that lesson from the beginning (Gen. 3:1-6). There is always trouble ahead for those that seek their own way—for those that forget God is the King of kings and Lord of lords. These are the people that are ungrateful. These are the people that care only for self and little of others. These are the people that refuse advice. These are the people that are quick to criticize others but cannot see their own faults. So, we are called instead to bend our knee to God and place ourselves under His rule. Only then can we be delivered. Only then will we turn from our wicked ways. Humility is the key to repentance. Humility is the key to transformation. What are some things we should repent of as a nation? What are some things we should repent of as the church?

3. Let us also notice the connection between a convicted heart and faithful service. We are to pray and seek God’s face, both of which are grounded in humility. Prayer is the admission of dependence on God. We are accepting our own inability, which must then be reflected in our priorities. Seeking God means He is our first consideration in everything (Matt. 6:33). Do you see our nation now as closer or further away from God? What about in the church? What are some ways we could prioritize God in our nation and in the church?

I’m nominating this as Facebook’s verse of the year (there’s no such thing but there should be). It’s an incredible verse that deserves deeper reflection than what we often give it, especially since it has application in both a national and spiritual sense. Be humble. Pray. Prioritize so that God is first. Repent of sin. These are the keys to success. The next time you see this verse pop up in your feed, reflect on these things.

North Hamilton Church of Christ

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Schedule of Services:
Sunday: 10:30am & 6pm (worship)
Wednesday 7pm (Bible classes)
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-Noon



November 15, 2020

“Study thoughts for the Facebook Verse of the Year” David B. Smith

Somewhere, perhaps still alive, there is the person that invented chain email. You’ve seen it and received it, right? These are the emails that have been forwarded several thousand times so that when it finally makes it to you there are several pages of email addresses prior to the actual content. That same person is probably laughing as we all suffer the psychological effects of chain email, because it has since morphed into group chat/text and shared posts on social media. I’m joking, of course (and part of me isn’t). If you’ve seen one post on social media you’ve likely seen it a few hundred times. A person will share a story and then the same story is shared to you by all of your friends. Most of these are political in nature. Some relate to sports. Only very few are spiritual.

Continued on back...

Elders:

Willard Elsea
240-9539
Art Greer
902-6295
Joel Laney
322-7828

Deacons:

Joe Anderson
Keith Herron
Brad Jones
Tommy Qualls
Chris Randolph
Curt Stewart
Justin Tripp
Toby Ward

Preacher:

David B. Smith
667-1987

Prayer List - Members

Nancy Birch	Bobby Wilson	Susie Hargis
Jenny Partin	Loretta Leffew	Judy Lusk
Tommy Grandfield	Barbara Castleberry	Kathy Castleberry

Prayer List - Friends and Family

Mike Bouldin	Fred Hafley	Tina Brown
Tony Miller	Steve Gaines	Steve Higginbotham
Tim Randolph	Bill Greer	Juanita Johnson
Janice Smith	Grayson Ledbetter	Bessie Smithson
Diane Stacy	Becky Eustice	John Webster
Ruth Fuller	Terry Driver	Jan Burton
Tammy Hudson	Kathy Hamilton	Carol Dodd
Clinton Miller	Kenlie Carr	Willie Langley

(See additional information on each of these on the bulletin board at either hallway.)

Sick and Recovering

Please continue to remember all those that have tested positive or have been exposed to COVID 19 and are still dealing with the virus: the entire **Essex family (especially Shane who was at the ER Friday night with breathing difficulties), Andy and Amanda Stewart, Barbara and Kathy Castleberry**, and there may be others that we are not aware of at this time.

Freeman Cooper had successful surgery on his wrist last week and is recovering at home.

George Farmer had successful heart ablation done last week and is recovering at home.

Please remember **Brody Smith** in your prayers. He is experiencing some health issues.

Sympathy is extended to **Chris Randolph**. His grandmother, Laura Trehwitt, passed away last Sunday and private services were held on Friday.

Participating in Worship Service – October 18, 2020

Leading Singing: Art Greer
Lord’s Supper: Steve Pell, Sr.

Opening Prayer: Tommy Leslie
Closing Prayer: Joel Laney

PM Opening Prayer: Phil Phillips

PM Closing Prayer: Keith Herron

It is such a comfort to drop the tangles of life into the hand of God and leave them there

“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

Sermon Topics

- **AM:** “Mission Possible” part 2 – Acts 4
- **PM:** “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?” – 2 Timothy 2:23
- Livestreaming continues in the fellowship room (masks mandated) for all services.

Attendance: Sunday 11/08 AM – 101; PM – 68; Wednesday 11/11 – 61

Important Dates for Your Calendar

- **Thursday, November 26 – 61st Annual Thanksgiving Day Service** at Central Church of Christ with David Schonhoff speaking. Service at 9:00 AM.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays: Monday – Stephen Jackson; Tuesday – Kenzi Harvey
Wednesday – Pat Billingsley; Saturday – Travis Fridell.

Anniversaries: Sunday – Jesse & Ashley Ellison

Congregational Information

- Congratulations to **Johnnie Perry** who retired after 50 years working for the Orange Grove Center. Needless to say, she will be missed there.
- The **Randolph** family recently spent a few days in Gatlinburg.
- The **Willard and Gail Elsea** are using their new camper this weekend with a trip to the Cumberland Plateau.
- Several of our ladies are visiting the Smokies this weekend.
- **Tom and Kaye Greer** took a day trip to Muddy Pond recently.

Building Fund Contribution: The Elders wish to extend a Great Big Thank You to the congregation for your generosity. Our contribution for the Building Fund was over \$14,000.