

# South Gate Church of Christ

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# Informer

Volume 61

November 16, 2016

45

## How to Respond to the Plans of God.

Our lesson this Sunday covered some reminders about the characteristics of God and His power and authority in this world. In many ways it is difficult for us to process how we should respond in our daily lives to the fact that God has plans for this world. It leads to many questions. How should we respond to these events? Do we have a say if God is in control? Does it matter what we do at all? In my next few bulletin articles, I will address some ways we should respond to these facts.

My first encouragement is try to understand it. These issues are very difficult to understand and it is tempting to just throw up your hands and say "I don't get it". Instead of giving in to this mindset, I would encourage you to do your best to grasp how God is in control. In Ephesians 1:11 we are told God "works all things after the counsel of His will", however we also see that everything that occurs in this world is not according to His will. Peter tells us He "doesn't want any to perish (2 Peter 3:9)", but we know that many will perish (Matthew 7:13). Many people want a simple answer, but there is not always a simple answer to these questions. To find how God works in this world involves a submersion into his word to seek His attributes, and how we should operate in response to How God operates. During the next few weeks, we will consider some of God's traits and how we should act because of them.

John

## Is God For Us?

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

Joshua wanted to know if this messenger was for Israel or against them. The men were about to go into battle. They were very concerned if God was on their side. If he was not then it would be a certain defeat. We often want to know the answer to the same question. Is God for me or against me? Will God provide for me or not? Will God protect me or not? The man answered, "Neither, but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Joshua's response is very valuable to us. "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" First, he wanted to know what the Lord's message was. Second, he stated he was the Lord's servant. Joshua was willing to do whatever God wanted done. If we are to ask, "Is the Lord for me", then we must be willing to hear his message and then to do what he has required. God was with Joshua because they encircled Jericho, followed his instructions and watched the city fall in a miraculous way.

More insight into this question is given to Christians in the New Testament. Is God for us? The meaning of the word Christian is simply a follower of Christ. Paul stated, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" God is for his people! God gave his only Son to die on the cross for those who would follow him. This is the great depth of love God has for his people. God is for us. God will protect us. God will guide us. God will provide for us.

## KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

### OUR MEMBERS

- Mike Andrews
- Alice Bolton - chemo
- Ann Brady
- Bernice Bratton
- Joy Brown & Fred Brown
- Bill Carroll - 2502 Shangrila Trail
- Mary Chumbley
- John Churchwell
- Dave Coleman
- Athaleen Cox
- Clyde Farris
- Myrna Jett
- Ed Johnson-MRMC-Rm. 667
- Margaret Johnson
- Maetta King - Poplar Estates 215
- Frances Petty - NHC Columbia, Rm. 111-A, 375-4887
- Jimmy Quirk - chemo
- Barney Roland
- Virginia Staggs - Poplar Estates, The Gardens, Rm. 6
- Donald White MRMC Rm. 383
- Elaine Whitehead

## FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Jeff Porter - grandfather of Natalie Thomas, Jeanne Nicholson - niece of Helen Lusk, JoAnn Posey - sister of Jean Sims, Alene Cox - sister of JoAnn Coleman, Ronald Mayberry - brother of Eldridge Mayberry, J.C. Gray - cousin of Kay Beard, Marvin Norman - brother of Roberta Bolton, Wray Wright, uncle of Cheyenne McNeese - lung cancer, Ralph Gilmore, Vonda Hoeye - friend of Kayla Kirtley, Dianne Thomas Stevens - friend of the Nicholsons, Charles Wilkins - Tracey's dad, Cynthia Cheek Spicer - sister of Myrna Jett, James Garner-uncle of Terry Burgess, Dot Martin, sister of Linda Weaver - NHC Columbia, Rm. 138-A, David Phillips, Laurie Ann Beever - cousin of Kim Fitzgerald and Baileys Christensen - friend of Kim, Patricia Luna - aunt of Jason Kelley, Austin Long and Joyce Runions - relatives of Phillis Churchwell, Alex and Evan Rector, Shirley Sharp - lung cancer, Debbie Spears, Norma Boyette - sister of Bill Jones & Elaine Whitehead, Roiki Phillips, Juanita Boyd - stepmom of Gary, Kathy Reed - friend of Linda Mabry, Elvis Frierson - friend of John Mayberry, Glenda Collins - sister of John & Eldridge Mayberry - Life Care, Rm. 141A, Nick Tank - student at Baker - leukemia, Clara Harvey, aunt of Ray Rummage, Clarence Weaver - Poplar Estates, Rm. 219 - 901-0280, Stacey Brown - cystic fibrosis, Dorothy Rea - sister/Elmer Lusk, Evelyn Felker - sister/Benny Bolton, Ann Graham - NHC Columbia Rm. 106, Beverly Dawson, Jack & Daisy White, Jane Davis - sister of Nell Hood, David Luther, Jacqueline Potts, Mary Blocker, Kendall Westmoreland, Virginia Clay, Willard Blocker, Mary Robb - Poplar Estates, The Gardens, Rm. 8.

## WORSHIP LEADERS NOVEMBER 20, 2016

### SUNDAY 9:00 A.M.

Welcome.....Dennis Thomason  
Song Leader.....Nathan Hixson  
Prayer.....Greg Gray  
Lord's Supper: Presiding.....Barry Cross  
    Randy Jones                      Barrow Brown  
    Benny Bolton                     Sonny Hargrove  
    J.W. Gilliam                      E.J. Hill  
    Jim Anderson                     John Allen Thomas  
Read: Psalm 41:1-3.....Ryan Massey  
Sermon: Helping The Hurting.....Joe Macer  
Announcements/Closing Prayer.....Dennis Thomason

### SUNDAY 5:30 P.M.

Welcome/Song Leader.....Jerry Wilson  
Prayer.....Eric Hixson  
Read: Ezekiel 34:25-31.....Chris Mobley  
Sermon: Count Your Blessings.....Joe Macer  
Lord's Supper Presiding.....Jeremy Britt  
Announcements/Closing Prayer.....John Thomas

Ushers: Jason Kelley, Johnnie Johnson, Cheyenne McNeese

Greeters: Jerry & Peggy Wilson, Dennis & Jan Thomason

Visual: Chase Thomason, Jerry Thornton

Security Team: A.M. and P.M.—Greg Lusk, Bobby Daniels

**If you are unable to keep your appointment to serve, please call Ray Rummage (446-0668) or Joe Williams (388-9183)**

**Or go to our website and follow the "Unable to Serve" link and submit the information.**

### NURSERY CARE

A.M.....Dana & Jessica Daniels, Katherine Nicholson  
P.M.....Elizabeth Hargrove

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2016 - 6:30 P.M.

Song Leader .....Jacob Pollard  
Prayer.....Nathan Hixson  
Announcements/Speaker.....David Thomas