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Informer

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Jesus wanted growth

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

This week on Sunday we will discuss the growth of the New Testament church. The reason for it's growth was multifaceted, but the command for growth was clear. Jesus wanted his church to grow. He wanted more disciples. He wanted them to experience the forgiveness of sins that comes through obedience in baptism, and he wanted them to continue to grow as disciples through observing His commands. As He gave this directive he ended with a promise, "lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age."

His followers heard this command and gave their life to fulfilling it. They must have repeated this command to make disciples time and again because they constantly did what they could to make this happen. The question for us is "How well are we following the Lord's command to make disciples?" How bad do you want the Lord's church to grow? What are you willing to do to help someone else become a disciple of Jesus Christ? Let's all commit to the growth of the Lord's church and take confidence in the fact that He is with us as we do His will.

John

Wrestling in Prayer

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Jesus Christ, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

Not much is known of this man call Epaphras. Many Bible characters have a great deal of information written about them. With the little recorded about this man we can learn some important lessons. First, Paul said he was one of you. He was just like any Christian in Colosse. There are certain expectations of all Christians. Epaphras met these expectations and was striving to follow God's will. We don't have to be someone special to serve God. We can simply fit in with the rest of God's children. The second declaration about Epaphras is that he is a servant. This man served God and he served God's people. He desired that all Christians do what God expected of them. He was more than willing to help people live a Christian life. We would do well to just simply be a Christian and to serve God and fellow Christians in every way possible.

The third statement about Epaphras is that he is always wrestling in prayer. Christians are to be people of prayer. Specifically, he prayed that the members of the local congregation stand firm in all the will of God. Some Christians want to pick and choose what to do in order to serve God. He prayed that these friends would do all of God's will. He also prayed that they would mature. God's people should always be growing. Third he prayed that his brothers and sisters would be fully assured. Christians can sometimes feel unworthy. Some wonder how God could really save them. Epaphras prayed often concerning these ideas. He actually wrestled with these thoughts in prayer. How much do we pray for our brothers and sisters? Do we have great concern for all those serving God?

Joe

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

OUR MEMBERS

- Iris Anderson - undergoing chemo
- Mike Andrews
- Charlotte Attkisson-NHC Hillview Rm. 221
- Ann Brady
- Bernice Bratton
- Joy Brown & Fred Brown
- Rebecca Brown - NHC Columbia, Rm. 134
- Bill Carroll - 2502 Shangrila Trail
- Ruth Childress - NHC Hillview, Rm. 200
- Mary Chumbley
- John Churchwell
- Athaleen Cox
- Austin Gilmer
- Ila Goodman - NHC Columbia, Rm. 122-B
- Charline Gossett - Morning Pointe, Rm. 102
- Hannah Hill - recovering from gallbladder surgery
- Margaret Johnson
- Tammy Johnson - sick at home
- Maetta King - Poplar Estates 215
- Linda Luna
- Helen & Elmer Lusk - Life Care, Rm. 217
- Libby Moss - dislocated hip - to have surgery soon
- Frances Petty - Brookdale, Rm. 403
- James Ed Pollard - NHC Hillview, Rm. 206
- Barney Roland - NHC Hillview, Rm. 101B
- Betty Roland - MRMC, ICU-I
- Albert & Ethel Spears
- Virginia Staggs-Poplar Estates 101
- Myra Thomas - Home
- Elaine Whitehead

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Jay Morgan - father-in-law of Kim, Elvis Frierson - friend of John Mayberry, Glenda Collins - sister of John Mayberry, Katherine Jones - mother of Alice Bolton, Scott Brown - brother of Barry - NHC Walnut Ln., Rm. 149B, Daniel Harrington, Mike Primm -Vanderbilt, Tommy Hight, Sr., Darrell Brown, Ginger Chesnut - cancer, Melissa Stutts - home, Nick Tank - student at Baker - leukemia, Anita and Dwight Brown - NHC Scott, Rm. 227, 2380 Buffalo Rd., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464, Clara Harvey, aunt of Ray Rummage, Clarence Weaver - Poplar Estates, Rm. 219, Joan Hermsdorfer - aunt of Robin Weaver - Hillview, Rm. 108B, Stacey Brown - cystic fibrosis, Billy Oliver (Poplar Estates, Rm. 201) - brother of Corrine Goetz, Evan Rector, Lou Miller NHC Columbia Rm 152, Sherry Pritchett - mother of Jody, Dorothy Rea - sister/Elmer Lusk, Evelyn Felker, sister/Benny Bolton, Doris McKennon - sister/Edna Hardison, JoAnn Anderson, Ann Graham - Morning Pointe, Rm. 113, Beverly Dawson, Jack & Daisy White, Jane Davis - sister of Nell Hood, Allen Brown, Ronnie Springer-leukemia, friend of John & Debbie Massey, Stormy Lyle - 1305 Old Mill Road, Moore, OK 73160, Claude Crowe - Debbie Massey's dad, Richard Johnson - cousin of Ed Johnson, Josh Jones, David Luther

All ladies are invited to a tea in honor of Sarah James, bride-elect of Chase Thomason on Sunday, October 4 at 3:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. She is registered at Target and Bed, Bath and Beyond.

WORSHIP LEADERS SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

SUNDAY 9:00 A.M

Welcome.....Randy Jones
 Song Leader.....Kevin Mick
 Prayer.....Charlie Willis
 Lord's Supper: Presiding.....Richard Farris
 Benny Bolton James Bolton
 Trent Hill Bill Fuller
 Sam Quirk David Gray
 Blake Daniels John Massey
 Read: Acts 2:37-42.....Blair Keeling
 Sermon: Connected to Grow.....John Thomas
 Announcements/Closing Prayer.....Randy Jones

SUNDAY 5:30 P.M.

Welcome/Song Leader.....Joe Macer
 Prayer.....Boyd Wood
 Read: II Peter 1:12-19.....David Morgan
 Sermon: It All Adds Up.....John Thomas
 Lord's Supper Presiding.....Duane Allen
 Announcements/Closing Prayer.....Jim Pollard

If you have borrowed tables or chairs, please return them as soon as possible for inventory. Also, if you wish to borrow tables and chairs in the future, call Mike Lyle to reserve.

Ushers: Jason Kelley, Danny Lasater, Jim Anderson
 Greeters: Peggy Wilson, Blake, Jessica and Dana Daniels
 Audio/Visual: Chase Thomason

Security Team: A.M. Jason Kelley, Benny Bolton P.M. Corey Massey, Greg Lusk

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.....Melba Lee, Rita Skelley
 P.M.....Paula Gilliam, Rachel Farris

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 - 6:30 P.M.

Announcements/Speaker.....Jody Pritchett
 Song Leader.....Trent Thomason
 Prayer.....Joe Macer