

What's the Big Deal?

How easy is it to get discouraged in your faith? Since COVID-19 all of us have gone through spiritual trials of all kinds. From the lack of or changes to church services, struggles with relationships, falling into addictions to try and overcome, or even facing the death of close friends or loved ones. It is safe to say that many of us have been pretty discouraged. However, with just a slight change of perspective, we could soon be asking ourselves, "What's the big deal?" Think about the lives of all the saints who have lived before us and what they had to face. COVID-19 has impacted us most of this year, but what many of them faced lasted many years or even a lifetime.

Right now, many of our young people are discouraged because of changes in our school and social behavior. It makes it easy to want to give up on our faith and say, "why even try going to church". But before you do that, think about Daniel and his three friends. They were living the good life in Jerusalem. I mean, Daniel and his friends were part of nobility (**Daniel 1:3**)! Then Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, besieged Jerusalem and took them as captive. They were taken from their homes and brought to live among some very different people. They were given new names to go by and were told they had to eat food that violated their faith. They were not facing a virus but a furnace! Yet Daniel remained faithful through his life. When we compare that perspective to the problems we are facing, they seem like nothing. So, what's the big deal?

It isn't just the youth who are being affected though, many of our older members throughout are struggling as well. It is easy to get stuck in the mindset of wishing for everything to be like how it used to be. Before you get trapped into that mindset, consider what it was like after the Babylonian captivity. After traveling 500 miles and about 4 months of traveling, the older generations returned from that captivity, and found Jerusalem in complete ruins. It was in so bad of shape that when they cast lots to see who would live in the city, the losers had to go there (**Nehemiah 11:1-2**). When they rebuilt the temple, **Ezra 3:12** says, "But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid." They were remembering how

Solomon's temple was, and in comparison to this new one, they were distraught. When we compare what we are going through with what they went through, what's the big deal?

When we think of all the struggles we are facing right now, compare them to the struggles we read of in **Hebrews 11**. How does what you are facing compare with Noah's life? Imagine seeing such an evil world where no one thought about God, then after the flood, being in a world where there is no one but your own family. Compare your struggles to that of Abraham. He left his great city to spend the rest of his life in a tent. Even when his own wife died, he had to purchase a burial plot from others because he owned none of the land (**Genesis 23:4**). Then in **Hebrews 11:36-38** we see what happened during the lives of other faithful followers as well. It reads, "Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth." When we compare the struggles they faced with what we are facing, and they remained faithful throughout, what's the big deal?

No matter what trials 2020 has brought us, we must remember to remain faithful throughout. After all, God tells us in **1 Corinthians 10:13**, that "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

So let me ask you, What's the big deal? God is still in charge and His work still needs to be done. God hasn't given up on you. Don't let your struggles cause you to give up on Him. **Andrew Spivey**

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.

Psalm 9:9-10

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday: Read Genesis 39
Wednesday: Read Genesis 40

FALL QUARTER BIBLE STUDY #2

Since we are not having children's Bible classes at this time, we will be putting the scriptures for their lessons in the bulletin each week. There will be two scriptures each week, one for Sunday and one for Wednesday, for your family to study together. Then the next week we will include questions for review about the previous week scriptures.

Questions for Reading of week #1 ;

1. How many sons did Jacob have?
2. Who were the sons of Rachel?
3. Who was Jacob's favorite son?
4. In Joseph's dream about the sun, moon, and stars, who were the 11 stars?
5. How did Joseph's brother feel about his dreams?

WORSHIP SERVICE

We will begin having Sunday evening worship on Sunday September 20, at 5:00 p.m. We will still continue with the two services on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. and at 11:00 am. We need to continue to follow the guidelines for wearing a mask and social distancing. We will also continue sanitizing after each service.

BIBLE CHALLENGE

We want to encourage everyone to continue to do their daily Bible reading and send in how many chapters you read to the office for us to record for our daily updates. *Considering how fast we have exceeded our previous goals, let us make the next goal be 4,000! Chapters read to date: 3,334*

SYMPATHY

Our love and sympathy to **Doyle Farris** (a member from Hartsville Pike) and family on the passing of his wife **Gail Farris** who passed away on Friday September 11. Funeral service were held on Monday September 14th in Gallatin.

ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

September 20, 2020

9:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Jim Cherry
Song Leader.....Carl Newby
Opening Prayer.....Lee Boone
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Tony Butler
Closing Prayer.....Tim Cummins

11:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Jerry Watson
Song Leader.....Ben Hutson
Opening Prayer.....David Thompson
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Eric Stephenson
Closing Prayer.....Jim Huffman

5:00 P.M. SERVICE

Welcome.....Jerry Watson
Song Leader.....Carl Newby
Opening Prayer.....Tim Strickland
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Jim Huffman

WEDNESDAY,

September 23, 7:00 P.M.

Welcome.....Jim Cherry
Song Leader.....Ben Hutson
Opening Prayer.....David Johnson
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Fate Evans

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL

Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935
Church Office.....615-452-3431

FACING TRIALS;

...you are discouraged;

"He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds" (Pslams 147:3, also Isaiah 51:3, 2 Corinthians 2:14)

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sun. Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. & Sun. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Wed. Evening Bible Class 7:00 • Tues. Ladies Bible Class 10:00 a.m. September-May

SICK LIST

James Spivey is home now after few days in the hospital. **Ken Veale** is home recovering from gall bladder surgery. **Bob Harris** has been placed on Hospice care. **Grace Bracey** is having significant health issues. **Diane Spitz** is recovering from a knee replacement. **Jo Ann Williamson** had a fall and broke her arm. She is home and doing well. **June Thompson** is home recovering from double knee replacement surgery. **Faye Britt** continues recovering from surgery and is doing well. **Allyn Hosman** is home and doing well. **Donna Jennings** has finished her radiation and chemo treatments. More tests in Sept. to determine any other treatments needed. **Jim Sweeney** is home now on home health. **Robert Williamson** continues treatments for lung cancer. **Cora Mayes-Barron**, daughter of Barry & Rachel Mayes has been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She has finished her first round of chemo but is home recovering from pneumonia. **Danny Lowe**, cousin of Linda Cherry has been diagnosed with cancer. **Beth Smith**, wife of Kenneth Smith and sister-in-law to Bernice, Frances, Jean & Mary Ann, has been placed on Hospice Care. **Craig Sweeney**, son of James & Doris Sweeney, has been accepted into a new drug trial clinic. **John Arnold**, father of Brenda Veale is homebound and dealing with serious health issues.

CARE LINE: 615-452-2464



PRAYER LIST

Bob Harris; J.H & Frances Catron; Melba Hill; William Dunn; Jean Deaton; Ron & Anna Radish; Donna Holmes, daughter of Eva Petty; **Melvin Stephenson**, father of Eric Stephenson; **Wade & Wanda Kennedy**, parents of Diana Stephenson; **Bob Wall**, friend of Betty Johnson; **Ida Lou Sherrill**, mother of Alex Sherrill; **Will Flowers**, brother-in-law of Grace Bracey. **Dana Loveless**, friend of Jim & Linda Cherry; **Zachery Simmons**, grandson of Charles & Fay Simmons; **Elias Benjamin Simmons**, great grandson of Charles & Fay Simmons; **Lester Sparks**, father of Rachel Mayes; **Debbie Sparks**, sister of Rachel Mayes; **Lawrence Redding**, son-in-law of Betty Melcher; **Taylor Lackford**, niece of Brenda Veale; **Dustin Lackford**, nephew of Brenda Veale;

(cont)

Janice Haskins, sister of Jim Cherry; **Larry Conley**, friend of Wanda Proctor; **Wayne Holt**, nephew of Grace Bracey; **John Gregory**, brother of Bob Gregory; **Pam Flory**, friend of Sherry Sever; **Harold Cole**, friend of Lena Baggett; **Bobbie Carter**, sister of Janice Johnson; **Betty Billingsley**, sister of Wanda Proctor; **Walter Wooten**, brother of Wanda Sherrill. **We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes.**

SHUT-INS

Ilene Kinney; Jane Hughes, 126 Seabury Dr., Greenville, SC 29615; **Bill & Jane Dunn; Cathy Henderson; Penny Campbell**, The Village of Bellevue, Room 417, 8118 B Sawyer Brown Road, Nashville, TN 37221; **Dorothy Sullivan**, Front Porch Senior Living 115 Sunset Pl. Portland TN, 37148; **Jean Thurman**, mother-in-law of Myra Rasnick, Brookdale, Hendersonville.

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	N/A
Morning Worship 9am.....	56
Morning Worship 11am.	61
Wednesday Evening.....	37
Contributions.....	\$5,886.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$9,024.92

Elders

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621
Jerry Watson.....	615-461-8137

Deacons

Carl Newby	Brent Smith
Ken Veale	Adam Williamson



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ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister