

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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God Is Wrapped In Light

Psalm 104

When I read the Psalms I often wonder if I really know how to praise God. David and other Psalters seemed to grasp the essence of their Creator far better than we have done. Their recognition of His presence and power, as well as His love and mercy, caused them to lift up their voices in hymns of praise with hearts of devotion.

One of those Psalms portrays the majesty of God by describing seven wonders of His creation. Following a declaration of God's greatness as one who is "clothed with splendor and majesty", King David outlines the various ways in which God has revealed Himself through His creation (Psalm 104).

First, he declares that God "wraps Himself in light as with a garment; He stretches out the heavens like a tent" (v. 2). The sky is filled with evidence of His glory. The Hebrew word for "wraps" suggest that God "darkens" Himself with light. His splendor is so wonderful that man cannot see it, but can only stand in awe of it. We look at His creation and marvel at what He has made. The psalmist was able to look beyond the creation to the glory of the One who made it.

The second wonder David mentions is the earth, around which He has set a boundary (vs. 5-9). In another psalm he declared "the whole earth is full of Thy glory." Next, he praises God for the water which God supplies to the earth and its inhabitants. When he looks at the grass and flowers and trees, he erupts in praise that the Lord has taken care of every need through massive vegetation.

As one who spent many nights on the mountain ranges with the sheep he had shepherded, David couldn't forget the moon and the sun. Their radiant beauty was a constant reminder that God was near. The sea, "vast and spacious" (v.25), is structurally balanced with the celestial realm of creation.

All of these proclaim that the crowning part of God's creation is man himself, to whom He has given life and for which He deserves to be praised and worshipped. The beloved apostle Paul captured it well, "In Him we move and breathe and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Without Him, we are nothing at all.

David concludes his thoughts by saying, "May the glory of the Lord endure forever." His glory never fades. All we touch fades in glory but God's glory never fades. His compassion never ends. Jeremiah recognized God's marvelous expressions of His grace, "They are new every morning! Great is Thy faithfulness!" (Lamentations 3:23).

"Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!" (Psalm 150:6).

—Al Behel

Food Contact For Month: Joyce Keyser. Contact Joyce if you wish to help.

Bible Classes: The elders would like to encourage all our members to become involved in regular Bible study. We have classes for all ages and excellent teachers who dedicate themselves to serious preparation. We appreciate our teachers. Marc Hayes will be concluding an excellent Wednesday night adult study the end of this month. Rick Cliett will lead us in a study of Hebrews beginning the first Wednesday night in March. Plan to come and bring your children Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. Let's grow together!

Elder Contact for Month: Jim Anderson, Phone No. 924-1067

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "God Means What He Says"; P.M. - "Lessons From Revelation: Patmos and Beyond"- No. 2

Interpreter for deaf and hearing impaired available for AM and PM worship

Our Known Sick

-Dez Anderson— continues to battle multiple health issues and her activity level is very limited. Keep praying...God is listening and answering.

-Sheryle Elkins—battling lung cancer. Had a PET scan recently that indicates the tumor continues to shrink. Keep praying. Her address is: 1383 Lake Front Drive, Dandridge, TN 37725.

-Polly Cline has macular degeneration in both eyes, requiring shots in her right eye. Let's keep her in prayer that her left eye will stabilize.

-Estlina Wilson is battling blood clots in her leg.

-Bill Greene—good to have him back with us.

-Hubert and Jean Compton—Hubert recovering from a fall and Jean battling heart issues.

-Cody Kihlberg—battling strep since before Thanksgiving, now dealing with immunodeficiency/bacterial infection. He is home.

-Pauline Swallows-has colon cancer. Please pray.

-Bill Green—starts radiation treatment for bone cancer on Tuesday.

Friends and Family News

-Mary Wagner, sister of Tina Yates, is facing radiation treatment for cancer. She lives in Arlington, TX.

-Mrs. Florence Tolliver is in Ft. Sanders Nursing Home, Rm 172. Her daughter, Rita Taylor from Kodak, has been visiting with us.

-Tom Elkin's brother, Max, hospitalized with fluid on stomach. He was recently injured in a 4 wheeler accident.

-Christopher Howell-grandson of the Littletons-spinal cord injuries.

-Jerry Ellison, Brenda Scott's brother-in-law, failing lungs with no further treatment available.

-Tom Behel, Al's brother - slowly improving from post-operative stroke and broken femur. Still having minimal speech.

-Debbie Little, mother of one of Marti's students, is recovering from a brain aneurysm rupture. The family appreciates your prayers and cards. Their address is: Debbie, Randy, Michael, & Katie Little, 4152 Briggs Loop, Kodak, TN 37764. Please drop a note.

-Morris Fields, Leah Turner's uncle, is now home and will be seeing a cardiologist& pulmonologist soon. Home health is assisting him.

-Barbara Copley, friend of Bill England and Sheryle Elkins— cancer.

Deployed to Afghanistan: Tyler Behel, Al's nephew.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall.

Exploring The Life of Joseph

K-Teen, Winter Sunday School
Fellowship Hall—9:30 a.m.
Teens as Teacher's Aids
Mark Haynes, Director

Adult Class

Colossians—Al Behel

Times of Services

Sunday A.M.

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday P.M. 6:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

Building Fund

Loan balance as of 02/05/15 is **\$1,097,710.52**. Extra contributions to reduce the loan debt are needed and appreciated. Envelopes are available in the pew.

Nursery

Located across main foyer. Closed circuit TV allows viewing and participation in worship.

CDs and DVDs of Sermons are available free at sound booth. Also available on the website at: www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com.