

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Vol. XX. No. 44

October 30, 2016

Fear And Faith

Fear is a powerful emotion which controls the lives of many people. Some are immobilized by it. They are overwhelmed by the fear of some dreadful event or consequence. They fear the reactions of others.

Danger is always present...disease, violence, economic uncertainty. We're told that one-fourth of our homes will be burglarized. Road rage puts thousands at risk every day.

Some Christians are motivated by fear. We have smelled the fires of hell through many scorching sermons. Guilt...often false guilt...has been the paralyzing result.

All our emotions are gifts from God and serve good purposes. Fear enables us to be sensitive to real danger and to take necessary precautions. But, like most of our emotions, when experienced to either extreme, fear creates devastating consequences. Too little fear makes us vulnerable and defenseless. Too much renders us ineffective and inefficient.

Scripture teaches us that healthy fear is desirable and useful in serving God. We are taught to fear certain things.

1) *We are taught to fear God and to keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13).* Solomon said, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...the fear of the Lord is a fountain of life (Proverbs 9:10; 14:27). The prophets of old fell on their faces before Him. Our boldness before our Creator seems presumptuous and vain. We are invited into His presence; and we approach Him through the One who is "the door" to the sheep. We claim no rights of our own.

2) *We need to fear Satan and his demonic host.* The apostle Peter reminds us that Satan is an "adversary" who "prowls" about seeking whom he may destroy (1 Peter 5:8). He has the power to ensnare, entrap, and deceive. He is crafty, diabolical, and shrewd. He dares to stand up against God. He is no weak force with whom we must contend. Our enemy is almost omnipotent.

3) *We should also fear hell.* Our world takes lightly the idea that there is an eternal hell. The idea of a real heaven and a loving God is far more appealing. Yet, Scripture teaches us that hell is real, eternal, and intensely undesirable. Hell is described as "outer darkness", a "lake of fire," and a place of "everlasting destruction." It's reality is not altered by the disbelief of the critics. Denying the existence of a life threatening cancer doesn't alter the reality of it's presence. Jesus warned that some would be turned away from heaven even though they Had been very religious (Matthew 7:21-23).

Faith is the antidote to fear. Faith in Him replaces doubt in self. It is the victory that overcomes the world (1 John 5:4). Through faith we claim victory over death, Satan, and all life's circumstances. Faith enables us to reach beyond the natural limitations of life and touch the hand of Him Whose power can heal, guide, and protect both in life and death.

—Al Behel

-**Tony Cantrell's mother**—very ill. Please keep her in prayer
-Tina's older sister, **Marylyne Hunneke**, is home from rehab but is not doing very well, staying in bed and not eating. Please keep her in your prayers.
-**Al and Linda** will be leaving immediately after service to go visit grandchildren (and their parents). They will return on Wednesday.

Food Contact For Month: Leah Turner

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes (1-731-608-4148)

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "When God Gives Up" - (John 12:35-43)
P.M. - Young men will lead our worship

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

Our Known Sick

-**Dez Anderson**— suffering many health issues. Prayers and cards are encouraging and appreciated.

-**Geordie Haynes** will have ear surgery at a later date.

-**Sheryle Elkins**-continuing chemotherapy. PET scan was good.

-**Bill Valentine** received a good report from his PET scan as nothing showed up. He will be re-evaluated in January. Please keep Bill and Gail your prayers.

-**Joyce Keyser**-Joyce suffers from peritoneal cancer. M.D. Anderson doctors confirmed that her treatment here is best for her. It was so good to back with us again last Sunday.

-**Bill Green**—suffering from many health issues.

-**Jean Compton** —is recovering at home.

-**Kathy May**—battling ongoing health issues.

-**Jeanette and Jerry Dyer**—as they face many struggles.

-**Charles & Frances Copeland**-newborn great granddaughter, **Madelaine Grace Kirby**, is very ill with a genetic disorder. Prognosis is not good. She is home at this time.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-**Linda Blass**, Vicki's mom, in rehab facility recovering from hip surgery.

-**Jackie Stearsman**, minister friend of Al's, the Littletons, and Copelands, has leukemia.

-**Nita Watern**, Brenda Scott's niece, chemo for liver cancer.

-**Lida Cliett**, Rick's aunt, ill with heart failure and cancer.

-**Meagan White**, Joyce's cousin, pain post brain surgeries.

-**Sue Hayes'** sister-in-law, **Jane Hufford**, suffering from leukemia, received a long awaited bone marrow transplant August 23.

-**Jim & Judy Watkins**—Rick's sister and husband, health issues.

-**Dee Lewis**, friend of the Cliett's, 6th occurrence of stage 4 cancer.

-**Breana Ward**, age 32, stage 4 cancer-has three children. Prayers and cards requested. Address in foyer. This family visits with us.

-**Grief Support Group**—See Patty Adair for updates.

Ladies Bible Class: First and third Tuesdays with Polly Cline leading a study on "Hunger In My Soul".

-It is good to have the Littletons and Copelands back with us. We hope they can stay awhile.

-**Rick and Ginny** should be back around November 8.

-**Thanks!** To everyone who helped with the Fall Festival.

Mark Your Calendars: Holiday Party, December 10 at 6 p.m.

Our young men will lead our worship tonight in Al's absence.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
I Timothy 3 & 4 —Al Behel

Wednesday Night Class
Danny Cline -"Faith and Conscience" I Timothy 1:5,19

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

The latest Loan balance is **\$1,000,823.59**. Extra contributions to reduce the loan debt are needed and appreciated. Envelopes are available in the pews.

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.