

## **THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

### **Meditating on the Word of God**

King David the psalmist said, "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; ...the rules of the LORD are true, ...sweeter also than honey" (see Psalm 19:7-14 ESV). Another Spirit-filled poet composed an extensive acrostic poem of prayer expanding and applying David's insights. Psalm 119 is made up of 176 verses. These odes to the word of God are made up of eight couplets devoted to each letter of the Hebrew alphabet in turn. A devotional treasure.

I have grown to appreciate this monumental meditation on the word of God as I have gotten older. I wish I had appreciated it sooner. J. Alec Motyer wrote of the writer and his work, "It was the psalmist's privilege to celebrate the fundamental reality that the word of God is central to the life of God's people. Our God is a God who speaks and it is the possession of that verbal revelation which marks his people off from all others on earth."

Psalm 119 speaks of the *word* of the Lord, his *commands*, *precepts*, *promises*, *decrees*, and *laws*, among other words for God's revelation to us. The late Motyer instructs us that these various English words are translated from a variety of Hebrew words. They tell us different aspects and emphases of God's word: it is divine speech (*word*); it expresses the mind of God (*laws*, *statutes*); his word is enduring—it is perpetually valid (*decrees*); it is a perfect combination of authority and love (*law*); and the word of God is designed for practical application to life (*commands*, *commandments*, *precepts*, *ways*).

Each time I read and meditate on this psalm I am attracted to new thoughts and concepts beyond the verses we all seem to remember from VBS and Sunday School (verses 9, 11, and 105, for example). Consider praying over and thinking through the ones below (and discover your own) that especially describe the benefits we receive from God's words to us.

*I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules (v. 7).*

*In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches (14).*

*My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word (28).*

*This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life (50).*

*Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my sojourning (54).*

*I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts (63).*

*Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in your word (74).*

*If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction (92 (see 67, 71)).*

*Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me (98).*

*The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple (130).*

*My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law (136).*

Through God's word we become established in praise. We learn the joy of the Lord over against coveting the goods of the world. We are able to keep going even in grief and to have hope in the face of troubles. God's word provides a soundtrack in the midst of loneliness. God's rules help me find my true friends in this life. Believers will be encouraged as they see the fruit of God's word in my life. Knowing God's prescription saves us and sustains us through the hardest of times. God's law written on the heart will preserve you in these treacherous days of rebellion not only against God but against nature. The word of God likewise gives us courage for our battles with the world, the flesh, and the wiles of the devil. Finally, with the convicting, convincing, and converting power of the Holy Spirit at work within us, we, like Jesus, are filled with compassion for the lost people in this world. We see they are indeed like sheep without a shepherd.

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer (19:14). Amen.*

# MARCH 2024



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

					1	2 <b>B-day:</b> Doug McNutt
3 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am	4 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am	5 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:45pm	6 <b>Fellowship:</b> 6pm <b>Study/Prayer:</b> 6:15pm	7	8 <b>B-day:</b> Katie Gill	9
10 <b>Daylight Savings</b> <b>Time begins</b> <b>Deacon Meeting</b> <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am	11 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am <b>B-day:</b> Martin Lessmann	12 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:45pm	13 <b>Fellowship:</b> 6pm <b>Study/Prayer:</b> 6:15pm <b>B-day:</b> Luke Mackin	14 <b>Anniv:</b> Glenn & Katy Basinger	15 <b>Registration Opens for the PCA CDM Women's Conference: <i>Made for More</i></b> (see page 5 for more information)	16 <b>B-day:</b> Ava Basinger
17 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am <b>Fellowship Potluck</b>	18 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am	19 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:45pm <b>Anniv:</b> Scott & Patty Kirkpatrick	20 <b>Fellowship:</b> 6pm <b>Study/Prayer:</b> 6:15pm <b>Session Meeting:</b> 7pm <b>B-day:</b> Patty Kirkpatrick	21	22	23
24 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am <b>HOP:</b> 2pm	25 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am	26 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:45pm <b>B-day:</b> Theo Symon	27 <b>No Wednesday Events</b>	28 <b>Maundy Thursday Communion</b> <b>Service:</b> 6pm <b>B-day:</b> Grady Atkins	29 <b>Good Friday</b> <b>B-day:</b> Landon McClure	30
31 <b>Easter Sunrise Service:</b> 6am <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am <b>Deacons Fund Offering</b>						

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH

**DEACONS OF THE MONTH:** Glenn Basinger and Mike Cork

**FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH:** Karen Davidson

**RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:**

- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
- Sunday Worship at 11:00 am.
- Monday, Game/Fellowship Time, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday, Women’s Ministry Circle Study, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall or 6:45 pm at Patty Kirkpatrick’s home.
- Wednesday, Dessert Fellowship and Bible Study/Prayer Time. Dessert fellowship at 6:00 pm and study with prayer time at 6:15pm.

**SESSION:** Dr. Josh Carmichael, Teaching Elder. Ruling Elders: Dennis Davidson, Scott Kirkpatrick, Jimmy Mackin, and Billy Symon.

**DEACONS:** Glenn Basinger, David Coddington, Mike Cork, and Ray Evans.

<u>2024</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>2024 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 9,924.16	\$ 9,924.16
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 7,338.98	\$ 7,338.98
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 2,585.18	\$ 2,585.18
<u>2023</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 8,931.50	\$ 8,931.50
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 16,058.54	\$ 16,058.54
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (7,127.04)	\$ (7,127.04)

**JANUARY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 50

## MARCH EVENTS

**March 10:**

- Daylight Savings Time begins.
- Deacon Meeting.

**March 15:** Registration opens for the PCA CDM Women’s Ministry Conference: *Made for More*. This conference will be held on September 13-14, 2024, in Birmingham. See page 5 for more information.

**March 17:** Monthly Fellowship Potluck Luncheon, immediately following the worship service. Setup/Cleanup Committee: Davidson, Kirkpatrick and Harbin families,

**March 20:** Session Meeting, 7:00 pm.

**March 24:** Hooked on Prayer (HOP) meeting, 2:00 pm at Eloise Harris’ home. For more information on HOP please see page 4.

**March 27:** No Wednesday evening events.

**March 31:** Deacons Fund Special Offering. This offering is collected every month with a 5th Sunday, and it is used to provide for those in our congregation and in the community who are in need.

## EASTER HOLY WEEK EVENTS

**March 24:** Palm Sunday.

**March 28:** Maundy Thursday Communion Service, 6:00 pm.

**March 29:** Good Friday.

**March 31:** Easter Sunday

- Easter Sunrise Service, 6:00 am, at Spillway Falls - Lower Pool (Foscue Park).
- Sunday School, as regularly scheduled.
- Worship Service, as regularly scheduled.



## 2023 FAITH PROMISE COMMITMENTS

The Faith Promise pledges will continue to be collected through the month of March. The submissions received will determine our church’s giving to our Faith Promise missionaries for the year.

- Robert & Lisa Stewart . . . . . Mission to the World — Japan
- Andy & Bev Warren . . . . . Mission to the World — Ethiopia
- Doug McNutt . . . . . Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa
- Jimmy & Nadia Dukes . . . . . Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru
- Joy Ayabe . . . . . Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
- Clete Hux . . . . . Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL
- Jonah . . . . . Frontiers — Undisclosed Muslim Country
- General Support . . . . . The Lighthouse Women’s Center — Demopolis, AL
- General Support . . . . . Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS
- Chaplain Ministry. . . . . Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains/Military (PRCC)



# HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

MARCH 2024

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAITH PROMISE MISSIONARIES

Robert & Lisa Stewart	Mission to the World — Japan
Andy & Bev Warren	Mission to the World — Ethiopia
Doug McNutt	Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa
Jimmy & Nadia Dukes	Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru
Joy Ayabe	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Clete Hux	Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL
Jonah	Frontiers — Undisclosed Muslim Country
General Support	The Lighthouse Women's Center — Demopolis, AL
General Support	Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS
Chaplain Ministry	Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC)

## HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

Abrams, Riddell	Hux, Karen
Acton, Beth	<b>Johnson, Glenda</b>
Allinder, Kate	Lane, Barbara
Anderson, Kirsta	Lawrence, Lisa
Bazuin, Caiden	Lessmann, Linus
Beale, Amy	Ligon, Brandon
Beeler, Peggy	Mackin, Jimmy
Belcher, Samuel	Mader, Rebecca
Brooker, Chrissy	Margo, Chrissy
Brooker, Jan	McIntier, Jodie
Brown, Walt	Morgan, Laura
Busby, Rhae	Morris, Seth
Bynum, Linda	Phillips, Ronnie
Davidson, Karen	Ramey, Carrie
<b>Desmond, Huey</b>	Renner, Andy
DeWitt, Robert	Renner, Elizabeth
Duncan, Conner	Reynolds, Christy
Dyer, Doug	Sharp, Chris
Earl, Amelia (Tulipan)	Sims, Anna Katherine
Finley, Betty	Stewart, Lee
Gardner, Greg	Townsend, Laura
Graffeo, Anthony (A.J.)	Tulipan, Hansen
Hall, Jimmy	Turner, Becky
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Twist, Ty
Haubert, Chloe Belle	VanderMolen, Popko
Headley, David	Wilder, Emily (Espy)
Hocker, Jeannie	Womble, Caleb
Hoggle, Judy	Zimmerman, Steve
Huizenga, Fran	

**If you have a heart to pray for the critically, chronically or terminally ill, HOP needs you.**

**Can you pray?  
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you knit or crochet?  
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you write note cards?  
WE NEED YOU!**

HOP is a prayer shawl ministry. We give shawls, throws, or blankets to the critically, chronically, or terminally ill to let them know we are praying for them. You do not need to know how to knit or crochet to be involved.

Any monetary gifts or donations of supplies, yarn, note cards and/or postage is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Eloise Harris or Joy Mackin for more information on how you can get involved.



### OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

#### Cancer:

Luke (Jonah's son)  
Scott Kirkpatrick  
Jimmy Mackin  
Rick Wilson  
Jimmy Hall

#### Illness:

Laura Morgan  
Neal Bules  
David Headley  
Linda Dunning

#### Special Needs:

The Hutton Family

#### Other Needs:

Christina & Danny Addison  
Abigayle Kircharr  
Harry Jeong  
Eliza Horton

#### Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick  
Sam Brasfield  
Steven Mackin  
Victor Resto  
Josh Tyson  
Blake Ivy  
Austin Griffith  
Kaleb Brown  
Nathan McCaskill

If you know anyone who needs to be added or taken off any of these lists, please provide Ann Resto with the information to keep the prayer lists current.

God's WORD tells us we are  
**MADE FOR MORE...**

**MORE Purpose • MORE Value**  
**MORE Mission • MORE Hope**  
**MORE Belonging**  
*...than the WORLD*  
*could ever offer!*

**COVENANT PCA, Birmingham, AL**  
**September 13-14, 2024**

**Early Registration Opens:** March 15, 2024  
**Early Registration Cost:** \$75/person; \$30 for girls Grades 3-12 and college students.



**ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:** We live in a culture of “not-enoughness.” We feel the lack of not enough time, energy, relationships, or resources. Our hearts cry, “I need, I want, or I deserve more!” Are you driven to accumulate more “likes” on your social media or influence over others? Maybe you are exhausted by a never-ending quest for peace amid anxiety. This ideology of scarcity underscores our need to consider the sufficiency or “enoughness” of God’s character and purpose. We’ll be talking about creation design, gospel identity, and the joy of inter-generational friendships. We will explore how satisfaction, significance, and sufficiency can only be found by seeking our Savior.

**Schedule:**

Friday evening, 7:00-8:30 pm –

Session 1, *Creation Design* with Paula Miles

Saturday, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm –

Session 2, *Gospel Identity* with Ellen Dykas;

Session 3, *Created for a Purpose* (for girls grades 3-12); *Biblical Sexuality Workshop and Q&A* (for adults);

Session 4, *Walking Each Other Home: The Joy of Intergenerational Friendships* with Karen Hodge