

Family Information

Today's Sermon Title

God in Your Future

Theme Passage

Revelation 21:1-4

Thoughts to consider

- 1) How do you imagine heaven in your mind?
- 2) How has God been preparing for the future reality of heaven?
- 3) Reflect on God's desire for relationship based on verse 3.

Intimacy With God Thru The Psalms

Come explore the closeness of our God in this Spring Sunday morning Ladies Bible Class 9:30 a.m. in Room E31. All participants are welcome to share their favorite Psalm that assures us our God is near! Various women form the Body will facilitate the 13-week class. All are welcome to facilitate and join the class. See Karen Susenna or Robbie McVicker for further details.

Northland Banquet

Sat. April 6th 5:30 pm Dinner at 6:00 pm. "A Joyful Heart is Good Medicine" Proverbs 17:22. Join the Northland Family for an evening of Food, Fun and Fellowship at the Der Dutchman. \$15 for Adults \$9 for Children ages 6-10 \$6 for children 3-5 Payments are due by March 24th to Robbie McVicker. Please contact Josh Kruse if you would like to be part of the "Talent"

2nd Annual Ladies Renew & Refresh Retreat

Friday May 3rd 6:00 p.m. - Saturday May 4th 3:00 p.m. Heartland Retreat Center, Marengo, Ohio. Cost is \$70 for the Retreat overnight stay and 3 meals. The first \$35 is due by March 24th. The final \$35 payment is due by April 14th. God makes us stronger and more beautiful in our broken places. Ladies are invited to join this 2 day retreat to grow closer to God and to each other. Please be praying that this retreat brings Glory to our Lord and Savior. Please make checks payable to Northland.

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Ghana Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Ghana Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Spanish Worship	3:00 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Minister: Caleb Dillinger
Elders: Roy Estep, Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins
Deacons: Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva
Spanish Ministry: Elmer Renderos

Calendar

March

- 22 Teen Game Night
 31 Area Wide Worship At Spring Road

April

- 3 Singing At Willow Brook Home 10:30am
 6 Northland Banquet, 5:30pm @ Der Dutchman
 14 Services At Willow Brook
 14 Single Sisters Lunch
 15 Tax Day
 21 Easter Sunday
 25 Take Your Daughter Or Son To Work Day

Spring Sunday AM Class

This Spring, the Sunday morning adult class will be "The One Who Calls Us Is Faithful", a study of 1 Thesalonians. The class is open to everyone, and it will be taught by several teachers. The Spring class begins **TODAY**, and it will meet in E41/42.

For The Month of March

Invitation/ Responses: Mike Evans
Foyer Duty: Bobby Graham Jr.
Greeters: Mike and Leisha Evans

Communion Servers

James Allison	John Allison
Glenn Culler	David Estep
Gary McMasters	Leon Norwood
Frank Rynearson	Art Silva

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$4344	\$5032
Designated:	\$110	\$166



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The One Enthroned In Heaven

(Of Kings & Tides)

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed . . . The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. - Psalm 2:1-2, 2:4

The One enthroned in heaven is the Lord, our living God, and none of the world's rulers or authorities can overthrow him. The Lord is our Heavenly Father, and none of the world's theories or plots or schemes can overcome his love for us. As we must endure the world's vain efforts and its ambitions and its chaos, our Father in heaven reassures that he understands what we must undergo, and that he has installed our true King on his heavenly Mount Zion, a king who will reign forever with truth, mercy, and compassion - *I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain. - Psalm 2:6*

Canute the Dane became king of England in 1016 AD. Canute had impressed everyone with his strength and his skill, and his advisers constantly praised him and boasted that their king could do anything. Yet when Canute began to learn about the good news of Jesus, he gradually became uneasy with receiving these extravagant praises. At the same time, he had been remarkably successful, so he also wondered if they were true.

One day in AD 1028, he and his court were in Southampton, near the English Channel. When his advisers again began giving him exaggerated compliments, Canute asked them to accompany him to the seacoast, where the tide was scheduled to come in shortly. They brought his throne, and he sat on it with all his fancy robes and his glittering crown, with his advisers surrounding him. He began commanding the tide to turn back, and he ordered the tide not to touch his robes.

Of course, the king and his advisers got soaked. Yet Canute was at peace with what he had learned, so he stood up and said, "Let all men know how empty and worthless is the power of kings, for there is none worthy of the name, but He whom heaven, earth, and sea obey by eternal laws."

Indeed, God's Son has become the King of the Jews and the Greeks and the Romans and every nation, so that everyone who turns to him may have the eternal life of being with God -

I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me, You are my Son; today I have become your father. Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance. - Psalm 2:7-8

Soon afterwards, Canute went to a local chapel to worship. On his arrival, he removed his crown and placed it on the cross, and he never again wore a crown. And Jesus gives us refuge from the world's futility and its false hopes and from the accuser's reproaches, and *Blessed are all who take refuge in him (Psalm 2:12).*

- Mark Garner

Studying Scriptures With . . .

From time to time, we're talking with some of our brothers and sisters about the scriptures they've been reading. This week, we are talking with **Ashley Dillinger**.

Q: Hi, Ashley! What scriptures have you been reading?

Ashley: I've been reading 1 Samuel; it's about real people who often had 'messy' lives and sometimes had a hard time understanding. Hannah and her prayer have encouraged me - she let God know about her hurt and trusted God - *He will guard the feet of his faithful servants . . . It is not by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the Lord will be broken (1 Samuel 2:9-10)*. Sometimes my faith has been shaken by being around 'wolves in sheep's clothing', so Hannah and her prayer have helped me tell God how I feel, and then have faith in him.

Q: Very good thoughts about trusting God. What other scriptures in Samuel have been helpful?

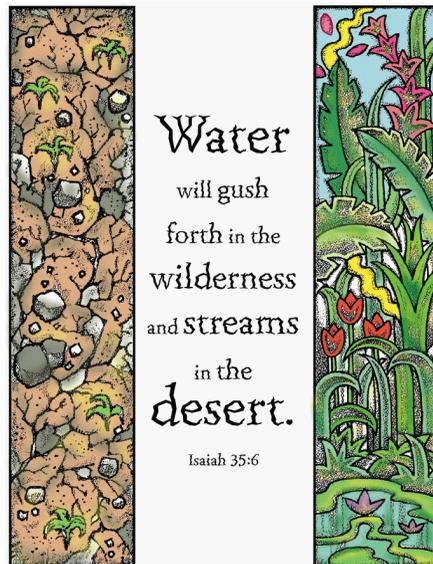
Ashley: I've liked seeing the humorous side of God in the story about the Philistines having the ark - *There was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the Lord (1 Samuel 5:3)*. Then they put their idol back, yet the next morning, *there was Dagon, fallen on his face . . . his head and hands had been broken off (1 Samuel 5:4)*. I can see the Philistines saying to themselves that it couldn't really be the ark. God could have crushed them, but he just teaches them until they finally understand.

Q: More good thoughts. What overall thoughts have you had from Samuel so far?

Ashley: It helps me realize that God doesn't follow our time lines. A lot of time passes before we see Samuel again - *The ark remained at Kiriath Jearim a long time - twenty years in all (1 Samuel 7:2)* and the Philistines are defeated. With Hannah, it took time then too - *In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son (1 Samuel 1:20)*.

1 Samuel also reminded me of one of my favorite scriptures, *The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still (Exodus 14:14)*. It is helping me to be more patient, not to panic when something goes wrong, and to be secure in trusting God.

Thank you, Ashley!
(Ashley Dillinger with Mark G.)



Joy

This is not written by someone who is all bubbly with an infectious smile, etc. At least not yet . . .

I have every reason to be joyful. I follow Jesus, He died on the cross to pay for me and many others to go to heaven, and even in this life, I've been blessed with good health, a wife and a son, abilities, more material things than I need, and I've been surrounded by others who are seeking to serve Jesus too. So what's the problem?

While I have been blessed in ways many people have not, real life, for me and everyone, has its ups and sometimes huge downs: illness, death, betrayal, loneliness, and all kinds of uncertainty. I am amazed at how well some people take such huge challenges. No wonder Jesus told us not to put our hope in treasures on this earth – financial, emotional, or any other kind. (Matthew 6:25-34; 1 Timothy 6:17-19) Any of them can suddenly be taken away.

True joy is not dependent on circumstances, but on God working through us, and on our willingness to think good thoughts, not bad thoughts, among other things. This doesn't just happen; it takes prayer, effort and struggle . . . especially if you tend to be easily negative as I do.

Philippians has only 4 chapters, but has an amazing amount to say about this, especially in chapter 4. It was written by someone who was in prison at the time, for his faith, but his joy shines through this letter. He talks a lot about what to do, and what to think about. And he was hardly joyful in Acts 8 and 9, before his conversion.

"I thank my God every time I remember you." -1:3.

"...what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel." -1:12.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves" -2:3.

"...Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead" -3:13.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" -4:4.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." -4:6-7.

"...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." -4:8.

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." -4:13.

Take God's advice in Philippians (and anywhere else in His word) and let Him transform you.

- Don Milnor