



FAMILY NEWS

DECEMBER 29, 2024

Classes

Auditorium Class: Andy Scott
Teens: Arpoika Daniels
4th - 6th Grade: Lani Renner
1st - 3rd Grade: Ginger Posey

3yr - K: Lynn Grimes
Nursery: Miranda Hays

Sermons

AM: Arpoika Daniels
PM: No Evening Bible Study



IN **SEARCH**
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

Next Sunday on Search:

Jan 5 – Authority

If Jesus is Lord, does that mean He has authority over my life? How does He rule in my life and how do we know what He wants us to be and do? Does it matter whether I serve the Lord Jesus?

Daily Bible Reading

Sunday

Psalms 145-146 & Revelation 20

Monday

Psalms 147-148 & Revelation 21

Tuesday

Psalms 149-150 & Revelation 22

Wednesday

Genesis 1-3 & Luke 1:1-25

Thursday

Genesis 4-6 & Luke 1:26-45

Friday

Genesis 7-9 & Luke 1:46-80

Saturday

Genesis 10-12 & Luke 2:1-24

IF WHAT'S AHEAD SCARES YOU . . . AND WHAT'S BEHIND HURTS YOU . . . THEN JUST LOOK ABOVE! GOD NEVER FAILS TO HELP YOU!

“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”
Isaiah 12:2 (NIV)

Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus!

Holiday Schedule

Sunday, December 29th - No Potluck Luncheon
Wednesday, January 1st - No Midweek Bible Class

In Our Hearts:

"I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me." Psalm 120:1 (NIV)

Please continue to remember those on our long term prayer list.

Larry Waddell, Lee Daniels, mother of Arpoika Daniels, Pat Joslin & Barbara McKinney, sisters of Sue Alexander, LaRohnda Jones & Mary Ray, nieces of Johna Myers, Kenny Brewer, Sue Alexander, Talhia Vanlandingham, Steve Lashley, Alvis Campbell, Ted Criswell, Shirley Carson, the late Wayne Maxell's sister

Let's remember our shut-ins: *Peggy Jackson and Carolyn Self*

Annual Praise Service: Next Sunday, January 5th, the annual praise service hosted by the Shawnee and Tecumseh congregations will be held at 5:00 pm at the Highland Church of Christ in Tecumseh. The elders have cancelled our 5:00 Bible study that evening so our members can attend the service in Tecumseh.

Food Collection: There are collection boxes in the foyer for canned goods and non-perishable items for MaMa's Christ Van. This pantry helps to feed the needy in Seminole. We will be collecting items until January 26th.

 *"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." - C.S. Lewis* 

Due to the New Year holiday, the January 5th bulletin will be printed and emailed on December 30th. The church office will

2025

be closed the remainder of the week.

2025



Be ready for 2025! Pick up your
Daily Bible Reading Schedule
and get a great start on the new year!

Time With Tim

A New Year, A New You: Setting Spiritual Goals

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Matthew 6:33

The start of a new year is a time for reflection, renewal, and resolution. Many people vow to exercise more, eat healthier, or finally tackle that garage. While these are commendable goals, what if we prioritized spiritual growth this year?

A man once shared his New Year's resolution to his friend: "This year, I'm going to be more patient." A week later, he was stuck in a traffic jam, honking furiously. When reminded of his resolution, he replied, "I resolved to be more patient, not a saint!" Resolutions are easy to make but hard to keep, especially without a strong foundation.

As Christians, our spiritual goals should reflect our desire to grow closer to God. For example:

- 1. Strengthen Your Prayer Life:** Jesus often retreated to pray, demonstrating the importance of a direct connection with God (Mark 1:35). Set aside daily quiet time to talk with Him.
- 2. Study the Word More Deeply:** Psalm 119:105 reminds us, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Commit to reading scripture regularly to guide your daily walk.
- 3. Serve Others:** Galatians 6:9 encourages us, "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Find ways to serve your church, community, or neighbors.

As you reflect on your goals, remember to include God in the process. Pray for wisdom, patience, and persistence to carry out your resolutions. Don't be discouraged if you falter—keep moving forward, trusting in His grace. This year, let's resolve to grow spiritually, focusing on what matters most: our relationship with God and our service to His kingdom.

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established."

Proverbs 16:3

What Sort of People?

At the end of Peter's second epistle, he writes that the Lord is returning in judgment (2 Pet 3). While many mocked this as they followed their own sinful desires, they overlooked the fact that God always keeps His word and has judged the world before in the flood. Yet God's timing is not the same as man's, for with God "one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (v. 8). Even so, the Lord is not slow about keeping His promises the way we count slowness, but is longsuffering, "not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (v. 9). The Day of the Lord will come, the heavens and earth will pass away, and the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells will be a reality (vv. 10-13). Embedded within these promises is a question that needs answering: "Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God...?"

What sort of people ought we to be? There are some matters over which we have no control. We do not control God's timing, His judgments, or details about what happens when the Lord returns. We, do, however, control our response to truth. God has given His word and it will happen. Knowing this, the question is put forth: what sort of people ought we to be? How should we live in view of the return of Jesus Christ?

While we can find answers to this question throughout Scripture, let's just focus on the context of 2 Peter. What does he have to say about the kind of people we ought to be? The full answer to this requires a complete reading of the book (which I recommend), but I want to think about three primary areas on which Peter lands as it concerns how God's people are to behave in the light of the coming of the Lord.

First, Peter shows that we ought to be the sort of people who are growing in character. We are to have "lives of holiness and godliness." In chapter one, Peter writes that God's people have been called to God's glory and excellence (v. 3). We have escaped the corruption of the world because of sinful desire (v. 4). Consequently, we are to "make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love" (vv. 5-7). These are not independent of one another, but grow in harmony with each other (much like the fruit of the Spirit in [Galatians 5:22-24](#)).

We are to be diligent in adding these to our faith so that we do not stumble (vv. 9-11). This indicates that faithfulness, holiness, and godliness are the result of diligence in growing and increasing in these qualities.

Second, Peter shows that we ought to be the sort of people who have an unwavering commitment to truth. In chapter two, Peter warns of false prophets and teachers who would "secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction" (v. 1). Many would follow their destruction path as the "way of truth" is blasphemed. No one is immune to this type of influence, and even angels fell to the delusions of false words as they came to despise authority. The point is that God's people must be vigilant in their stand for truth, understanding that there are many ways to go astray and that "ignorant and unstable" teachers twist the Scriptures to their own destruction ([2 Pet 3:16-17](#)). Christians are dedicated to reality, and truth corresponds to what is real. If we give up our commitment to truth, we become slaves of corruption and error.

Third, Peter shows that we ought to be the sort of people who are looking for the return of the Lord. This brings us full circle back to the text in which Peter asks the question. Scripture is full of examples of God judging the unrepentant. All judgments point us to a final judgment, the proof of which is found in the resurrection of Jesus Christ ([Acts 17:30-31](#)). Peter says we are to be "waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God" ([2 Pet 3:12](#)). Other passages concur with this (e.g., [Titus 2:11-14](#); [2 Thess 4:13-18](#)). Because we trust God's promise and we await His Day, we are dedicated to lives that reflect God's glory and excellence.

In the conclusion of the epistle, Peter reminds us 1) to be diligent to be found by Him without blemish and at peace, 2) to count the patience of the Lord as salvation, 3) to take care not to be carried away by the error of unprincipled men, and 4) to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." May God help us to be the sort of people we are called to be as we await the Day of God's visitation.

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Deacons:

Ken Crane
Jim Grimes
Steve Johnson
Jerry Renner
Bob Swearingen

**Worship & Bible Study
Schedule**

AM

Sunday 9:30 - Bible Class

Sunday 10:30 - Worship

PM

Sunday 5:00 - Bible Study

Wednesday 6:00 - Bible Study

Worship Workers

December 29

In Charge: Alan Morgan (405-481-6163)

Welcome AM: Jack Mattingly

Song Leader: Steve Johnson

Opening Prayer: Tim Smith

Closing Prayer: Syd Morgan

Lord's Supper & Offering AM: Jack Mattingly

Lord's Supper & Offering PM: No Service

Scripture Reading: Paul Alexander

Heritage House

Thursday, January 2

Sue Alexander &
Debbie Ernst

December Nursery Attendants

Dec 1 - Kay Lashley

Dec 8 - Ashley Noey

Dec 15 - Debbie Crane

Dec 22 - Ginger Posey

Dec 29 - Kay Lashley

December Worship & Bible Class Greeters

North Doors: Nuben & Ann Barton

South Doors: Bob Griggs & Alan Morgan