Pastor Notes: November 17, 2024

Most every day, there are numerous things we do multiple times, like checking messages, eating something, brushing our teeth, using the restroom, … The wise old man, no matter how busy or stressful things got, rain or shine, whether he was dead tired or didn't feel like it, walked up the stairs three times a day, opened the windows, and knelt to do two things: Pray and give thanks to God.

He had been serious about building his life around acknowledging, worshipping, trusting, and obeying God since he was young. Long ago he realized that being serious about God required the practice of godly habits, habitual obedience to God's word and law, habitual worship, habitual prayer, habitual praise and thanksgiving directed towards God. We are not told when exactly he started his thrice daily, rooftop prayer habit, but everyone around him was aware of it.

It had been a particularly trying, actually very bad, day. A conspiracy specifically designed to permanently remove him had succeeded, had become the law of the land. Religious freedom had been banned, a state religion had been decreed, and violators would be executed. We do not know what went through Daniel's mind when he got the news, but what we do know is that it had no effect on his daily spiritual habits, **"Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously"** Daniel 6:10 (NASB).

I can understand him praying up there on the rooftop, this terrible situation needed prayer, warranted going straight to God for help, and the new law certainly called for open resistance and defiance no matter the cost. What I wonder about is what in the world Daniel was giving thanks for on this dark day, in these circumstances that called for mourning. What is clear, on this horrible day he had no trouble thanking God any less than in past glorious days, which tells us that he wasn't rattled. With the stroke of the king's signature, his circumstances had changed radically, but nothing about the God whom he served had changed.

I am sure that after a lifetime spent in politics at the highest level, Daniel wasn't surprised by the evil machinations of man, and I am equally sure that after a lifetime of disciplined, habitual, three times a day praying and thanksgiving his confidence in the faithfulness, goodness, and power of God was unshaken.

It is kind of surprising Daniel turned out to be like this, he had plenty of reasons to be cynical, even bitter, be mad at God, and play dirty like everyone else. His upper-class upbringing came to an abrupt end when, after the Babylonians conquered Judah, he was deported, sent to a reeducation school, and was forced to spend the rest of his life in government service to a foreign power. He lost his freedom, home and family, was renamed, and was forced to speak in a new language. And yet, many decades later, we find aged Daniel, undeterred by evil and brutal news, climbing the stairs, three times a day, opening the windows, and kneeling before God to pray and give thanks.

He wasn't too busy. How often do we claim busyness as our excuse for the lack of consistent, daily, and weekly spiritual habits? Daniel was the chief executive of an empire, on-call 24/7/365, answering to the king only. He didn't just find the time, he deliberately made the time. The climb up and down the stairs kept his legs strong, but the time of praying and thanksgiving kept his faith, his relationship with God strong.

Daniel coupled them, prayer and giving thanks to God. This is a consistent instruction and command throughout God's word (Philippians 4:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Prayer unaccompanied by thanksgiving quickly loses focus, gets us stuck on our needs and woes, lacks reflection, and forgets about the anchoring truths of who we are praying to.

So, in your daily routine, how often do you put everything down, climb the stairs, open the "windows" towards heaven, and get on your knees to pray and give thanks to God? Today is an excellent day to start emulating Daniel, don't you think?

To God be all glory. Love you, Pastor Hans

Lord Hear Our Prayers

PRAYER REQUEST

Bob Clayton, Philip Law, Karen, Beverly (heart stent surgery), Deanna (recovering from a stroke), Claire Wendel (pneumonia), Jerry Criswell's son John passed away (praying God's mercy on his soul and comfort for the family)
and those dealing with addiction.

SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray, Farney, Peter, Jimmy, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing, Noah Martin, John Michael Chavez, Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker, Brian Sula, Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen, Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski, Christopher Sula, Dylan Briggs

CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862 and/or e-mail **Judy Mahar** at **ldpbcprayer@gmail.com** with your prayer requests.

Church Board Members:

Hans Frei - Pastor , Richard Mayes - Head Deacon , Sue Kluding, Gabi Cox, Chuck Arndt, Barb Deibler

Christmas Schedule

Decorating the Church on
Dec. 2nd at 10 AM
All able-bodied individuals are
Welcome to help

Christmas Baskets -

Saturday, December 21st
By the LDPBC Food Ministry
(9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Sign up at the Food Ministry during regular hours of operation

Christmas Caroling -

Saturday, Dec. 21st
(Meet at the Church at 4:30 P.M.)

Candlelight Communion Service

Tuesday, Dec. 24th (6:00 P.M.)

Christmas Sunday Worship Service

Wednesday, Dec. 25th (10:00 A.M.)

Sermon Notes:

November Announcements

Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesday @ 6:00 P.M.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages @ 7:00 P.M.
- Food Ministry - 1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday 9-11 AM
- Women's Ministry - Wednesday @10:00AM

Fellowship Refreshments were provided by:
"Bart's Class"

Thank you

Next week "Beverly's Class & Youth" are up!!

Annual Church Business Meeting
Dec. 1st

(After the service)

It's Important that All Church Members attend
as we will discuss
New Church Board members, Deacon positions,
2025 Church Budget and so much more.

Giving

November 10, 2024

Offering:
$2,,067.00

Facilities:
$5.00

Food:
$1,150.00

Missions:
$60.11

World Hunger:
$15.00

Attendance:
63

Weekly Events

Sunday School/Small Groups:
9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Service:
10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship Service:
6:00 PM

Tuesday: Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday Food Ministry:
9:00 AM -11:00 AM

Wednesday:
Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM
GriefShare - 6:30 PM (On Hiatus)
Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM

Thursday: Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

Saturday: Youth Hang-Out 6-9 PM

Yearly Bible Reading Plan - 2024
November 18th - November 24th

DAY 1 - Micah 5-6
(Psalms 139)
DAY 2 - Micah 7- Obed. 1
(Psalms 140)
DAY 3 - 1 Chron. 1-2
(Psalms 141)
DAY 4 - 1 Chron. 3-4
(Psalms 142)
DAY 5 - 1 Chron. 5-6
(Psalms 143)
DAY 6 - (Psalms 144)
DAY 7 - (Psalms 145)

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Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.