

## Add To Your Godliness Brotherly Kindness...

*“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*  
2 Peter 1:5-8

So far, all of the characteristics that Peter has encouraged in this text have been for the purpose of developing our internal character and strength, allowing us to endure the hardships of life and to remain faithful in our relationship with God. But as those traits continue to develop, causing us to look and think more and more like our Father, our actions and attitudes toward others will inevitably be impacted in profound ways. To that end, we are encouraged to add to godliness the characteristic of brotherly kindness.

While brotherly kindness may seem like a very ordinary and simplistic characteristic, it is a vitally important trait for the effective working and success of God’s people. If we are to show the love of God to the world around us, we must first learn to treat one another with love and kindness. So, what does it mean to show brotherly kindness? The apostle Paul describes it as being “kindly affectionate to one another...in honor giving preference to one another” (Romans 12:10). It involves putting the needs and well-being of our brothers and sisters before our own as we apply all of the principles of kindness and consideration that God instructs us in through His word. Brotherly kindness prompts us to treat those who are weak with care and gentleness (Romans 14), to help strengthen and restore those who are struggling with sin (Galatians 6:1-2), to avoid improper judgment and give the benefit of the doubt (James 4:11-12), and to consider how to encourage and edify one another (Hebrews 10:24-25). Maybe Paul sums up the concept of brotherly kindness best when he writes: *“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all”* (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15). It is brotherly kindness that provides a true sense of family in our relationships with one another in Christ. May God help us to love one another as we grow in brotherly kindness.

*Rusty*

## To Our Guests

We are so pleased and honored that you have chosen to visit with us today! Chase Park is a wonderful Christian family, devoted to serving God through our lives and work. We are excited to share our love for Christ with others and we are thankful to have the opportunity to meet you and to have you join us for worship.

As we worship together today, our desire is to worship God according to the New Testament pattern and in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to Him. It is also our prayer that our time together is uplifting to those who are here including you, our guest. If you have any questions about anything that you see or hear today, please ask us. We would love to speak with you about those things and help you in any way that we can.



### Chase Park Church of Christ

#### Ministers

Rusty Hills ..... Pulpit  
Nathan Adams..... Outreach  
John Denney ..... Education  
Andrew Lamica..... Youth Minister

#### Elders

John Denney  
Curtis Hill  
Sam Kachelman  
Dennis Lawson  
Greg Parker  
Barry Todd

#### Missionaries

Jaime Mendoza .... Chalco, Mexico  
Liborio Encarnacion. Ecatepec, Mexico  
Slava Savkovsky ..... Ukraine  
Barton Kizer..... Peru  
Dewayne Tapscott..... Southwest

## Lamifications—*Andrew Lamica*

It is almost 2017! A new year is fast approaching. Every year around this time, I like to look back and consider how great the blessings of God have been the past year. God has indeed blessed the youth group and the Chase Park congregation as a whole in 2016.

The youth group and I recently took some time to take inventory of the past year by way of a youth survey. It was great to get some really insightful feedback from our teens. In addition to doing a survey, the teens and I set aside some time to do some youth related goal setting for 2017. I was very much impressed with the goals our teens set for the program. In fact, I think the goals the teens set would make great individual goals for each of us! I want to share a few of the goals with you and also provide you with

the insight that came along with them.

1. ***Encourage a More Positive Atmosphere.*** The world does a great job at tearing one another down and causing discouragement. As the body of Christ, we should strive to be people who provide encouragement to one another.
2. ***Closer Relationships Among All Members.*** How well do you know the person who sits across the auditorium from you? How about the person just a few rows behind you? It is easy to get into a rut and associate only with those with whom we are familiar. The church is a BIG family—strive to be intentional about getting to know more members of your family.

3. ***Be okay with being uncomfortable.*** This one is difficult, but necessary. How many things get left unsaid or undone because we are not comfortable with them? How many relationships go great lengths of time needing repair without a resolution because it would be “uncomfortable.” Church, be okay with being uncomfortable if it means good things for the kingdom!

The teens set 10 total goals for 2017. I plan to share more of them with you in next week’s Messenger article. I hope each of us will consider applying those goals to our individual lives as well as for the building up of God’s family here on earth.

## Forgetting To Know Christ—*Nathan Adams*

Philippians 3 continues the thought of having this “others before self” attitude in our lives. Paul began by telling them to rejoice “in the Lord.” We must note that our rejoicing is not because of who we are, it is a result of our being in the Lord. A person can only be truly “in the Lord” when they put the Lord first in their lives by taking up their cross (crucifying self) and following Him (Matthew 16:24; Galatians 2:20). Joy only comes when we put Christ before self. This is why many cannot find joy.

In verse 3, Paul warned the brethren to beware (i.e. look at; take note of) of the false teachers. He referred to them as being of the “false circumcision.” Yet, Paul did not use the word for circumcision, instead he used the word for mutilation. The circumcision of their flesh that they were so proud of had so little value that it was nothing more than the mutilation of their body. Paul then contrasted these “evil workers” with

the faithful of God. He stated in verse 4 that they were of the “true circumcision” (Romans 2:29). Those of the “true circumcision” “worship in the Spirit of God” (John 4:24), “glory in Christ Jesus,” and “put no confidence in the flesh.” Those of the true circumcision do not live focused on fleshly/earthly things, they do not glory in who they are — they glory in who Christ Jesus is. Once again, this is Christ before self.

Paul then illustrated the point with his own life in verses 4-6. There was much that he could brag about regarding his life and accomplishments as a Jewish man. He was circumcised in the flesh and had all the right titles and pedigrees for a highly successful man in Jewish society. In verses 7-8, Paul stated that he gave it all up for the sake of Christ. He put Christ first and gave up anything and everything for the “surpassing (i.e. exceeding everything else in life) value of knowing Christ Jesus.” This was what

Paul was referencing to when he said in verses 13, “...but one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead.” Paul forgot the fleshly accolades of his past in order to focus (“press on toward”) what was ahead—Christ Jesus (v. 14). These past things forgotten are not sins, they are fleshly accomplishments that he counted as rubbish. In verse 15-17, Paul admonished the brethren to have this same attitude of “others before self.”

Verses 18-21 contrasted the citizens of heaven and those “whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things” (v.19). As we consider our lives, are we focused on how successful we are in this earthly/fleshly existence or do we count all those fleshly things as worthless so that we might be citizens of heaven who understand the “surpassing value of knowing Christ.” He must be first in all things—including before self. Is He?

**News Of Interest**

**Sick**

**Huntsville Hospital**

**Louise Merryman**

**Home:** Barry Todd and Martha Norris.

**Sympathy**

We express sympathy to **Janet Lawson** in the death of her brother, Tommy Harlan, in Florence, AL.

**Peru Medical Mission 2017 Meeting**

Short meeting tonight after evening worship, before the Holiday Party. See **Derek Horst** for more information.

**Ladies Night Out**

Tomorrow night, December 5, 6:00 p.m. Chase Park dining room. Potluck meal. Bring Christmas ornament to play Dirty Santa.

**Balance Class**

Tues., Dec. 6; Thurs., Dec 8; 1:30 p.m.

**Officer Appreciation Tokens**

Please leave items in the basket at the Hospitality Desk. Our Officers names are Jermaine Nettles and Terrence Petty. Deadline is Sunday, December 11.

**Offices Closed**

Church offices closed Friday, Monday, December 23, 26, for Christmas holidays.

**Pantry Item**

Canned white meat chicken.

**Combined Bible Class  
Today  
Auditorium  
Budget Presentation**

**Today and Upcoming at Chase Park**

**Regency Retirement Service**

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Paul King**

Song Leader: **Rick Rosenblum**

**Hospital Visitation**

Team #1 (**Toney Atchley**), please pick up your assignments today after evening worship.

**Little Lights**

Tuesday, December 6, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon, dining room/fellowship hall.

**Super Seniors**

Wednesday, December 7. This is the last meeting for 2016. Bring finger foods.

**Tuesday Ladies Bible Class**

Tuesday, December 13, 10:00 a.m.

**Regency Retirement Village Singing**

Thursday, December 15, 6:00 p.m.

**Sunshine Gang**

Saturday, December 17, 1:00 p.m. See **Ron McCall** for more information

**K-3rd Grade Devotional**

Sunday after p.m. service, December 18, dining room/fellowship hall.

**Congregational Holiday Party**



**Cookie Making Station**

**Today after p.m. worship  
Please bring sweet and non-sweet finger foods**



**Sing-Along**

**Ho! Ho! Ho!**

**Santa  
will be here!**



**Hot  
Chocolate  
Station**



# Weekly Bible Reading

## Reading for December 4-10: Revelation 1-5

As we near the end of the year, we also find ourselves near the end of the New Testament. The book of Revelation is a beautiful way to conclude the word of God as it promises victory to the faithful and gives hope to those who are facing hardship in the world. It is important to remember, as we read this wonderful book, that it is written, not only to an oppressed church in the first century, but also to all Christians in any place and time. As you read and study this week, consider:

- *What are we to learn from the vision of the throne room of God in chapter 1?*
- *Can the letters of Revelation 2-3 be applied to the church today? If so, how?*

### VERSES TO REMEMBER:

*Revelation 5:4-5*

“So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.’”

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### Statistics

**Sunday, November 27, 2016**

AM Worship .....	357
Month Average .....	359
Bible Class .....	307
PM Worship .....	244
Wed., Nov. 30 Bible Classes.....	218
Regency Ret. Worship .....	43
Offering.....	\$16,231.24
Budget.....	\$18,300
Average '16 .....	\$18,702
Over Budget for year ....	+\$19,284
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>

### Services

#### *Sunday*

Worship.....	9:00 a.m.
Bible Class .....	10:15 a.m.
Worship.....	5:00 p.m.

#### *Wednesday*

Super Seniors .....	10:00 a.m.
Bible Class .....	6:30 p.m.

#### Web Site Home Bible Studies

<http://bible.us/e/Hdj>  
(Lesson 1 Link)  
The Bible—God’s Holy Word