

## Laying the Groundwork for Growth

*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

As Peter begins to discuss the spiritual growth that is essential to a fruitful Christian life, he points back to some foundational groundwork that has already been laid in the opening words of this letter. The phrase, “But also for this very reason” tells us to look back to find the reason and motivation for our diligent striving for growth. As we do so, we quickly find three things that Peter points to as the groundwork for our spiritual growth:

**Faith (vs. 1).** As Peter begins his listing of qualities to add to our lives, we notice that faith is already present. In verse one, he explains that we have obtained that “like precious faith” as we have come to know God and His Son and have been convinced of their righteousness. Faith is fundamental to our relationship with God and, without it, we cannot please Him (Heb. 11:6).

**Knowledge (vs. 3).** God, through His power, has given us everything that we need to know in order to live a good and godly life and to establish and maintain a faithful relationship with Him. God’s inspired word, when properly studied and applied to our lives, is able to make us complete as faithful servants of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

**Promises of God (vs. 4).** As we spend time in the word of God, we are constantly reminded of the many “great and precious promises” that God has made to us. These promises give us confidence, hope, joy, and peace as they assure us of God’s love, mercy, and grace, allowing us, through the atoning sacrifice of Christ, to have a relationship with God and freedom from sin.

Over the next several weeks, we will examine the attributes that we are to add to our faith as we diligently strive for spiritual growth. But, it is important to recognize our beginning point. The addition of those important spiritual qualities requires a proper foundation on which to build. That foundation, as Peter points out, is made up of faith, knowledge, and the promises of God. How is your spiritual foundation? Is it complete, strong, and ready for building upon?

*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*

The school year is off to a great start for our Chase Park teens. I have enjoyed hearing about all the goings-on as a new school year gets under way.

Though the new school year is in full swing, that does not mean the Youth Ministry here at Chase Park has slowed down. We have a busy next couple of months ahead; I am looking forward to it and I know our teens are as well! Here is a list of a few of our events coming up in the near future:

**Every Wednesday Afternoon.** Each Wednesday our teens are invited to come to the building starting around 4:30 p.m. for “*Hang-Time.*” Hang-Time is just what it sounds like, an opportunity for our teens to be together in a casual atmosphere before Wednesday Night Classes. Teens will often bring homework, play ping-pong, play video games and just enjoy

each other’s company. Encourage your teen to be a part of Hang-Time!

**September 9, 11.** *7th–12th Grade Fall Retreat.* Our Fall Retreat is one of the highlights of the year for our young people. The theme this year is “Resolved”. We are looking forward to a great weekend together!

**September 18.** *Family Day at Chase Park.* Reed Swindle, former Youth Minister at Memorial Parkway and current preacher at Foote Street in Corinth, MS, will speak three times. Family Day is a special day in which we are placing emphasis on strengthening our families. We will have morning service followed by a combined 7th grade to adult Bible class with a fellowship meal to follow. We will have an afternoon service immediately following lunch, I hope you will make plans to stay for each lesson. After the afternoon service we will spend the day playing

games and enjoying one another’s company. Please make plans for your physical family to spend the day with our spiritual family!

**Friday, September 23.** *5th Quarter following the Buckhorn football game.* We will host a “5th Quarter” after the Buckhorn game on Friday, September 23. This is a way to outreach into our community. Will need plenty of adult help with this. Please let me know if you are willing/able to assist.

**Sunday September 25.** *Lads2Leaders Kick-Off.* It is almost time to get started back with the L2L program. I hope you and your family are planning to be involved this year. L2L is a great program which helps to train the future leaders of the church!

## The Light Overcame the Darkness—*Nathan Adams*

I love the “I am” statements by Jesus Christ in the book of John. In John 9:5, Jesus stated, “*I am the Light of the world.*” As proof of that statement, Jesus opened the dark eyes of a blind man so that he could see light for the first time in his life (vs. 6-7). In John’s introduction to Jesus he stated, “In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (1:4-5). John repeatedly used the stark contrast between light and darkness in his writing. He did this to show the extreme difference between the beautiful righteousness of Jesus Christ and the horrible sinfulness of man.

God made a similar powerful contrast at the cross of Jesus. After Jesus suffered on the cross for three hours an amazing event took place.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record that at 12:00 on that Friday it became dark. Luke tells us that the sun was “obscured” (23:45). This is a word that literally means the sun “failed” or “ceased” to shine. I have seen darkened days due to thick cloud cover, but there was still light pushing through the clouds that demonstrated that the sun was still shining. I have witnessed solar eclipses, yet the darkest parts of those events were only for a few moments, not three long hours. Can you imagine the sun ceasing to shine in the middle of the day for three hours? For the most evil event the world has ever witnessed, God removed the light of day and made the world dark for three hours. This darkness was a physical representation of the hearts of men that would seek to destroy the Light of the world upon a cruel cross.

As we think of this, I believe there is something about this event we forget. Most of us can readily state what happened at the death of Jesus. The earth shook and the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. What many forget is the light! Luke recorded for us that it was dark till the ninth hour at which time the veil of the temple was torn (23:44-45). Matthew tells that the veil was torn after Jesus yielded up His spirit in death (27:50-51). When we consider the harmony of the texts, it indicates that when Jesus breathed His last breath the light of the sun burst back upon the scene. Imagine how bright it was after 3 hours of darkness. When Jesus died - the light overcame the darkness. Jesus was, is, and forever will be the Light of the world!

## News Of Interest

### Sick

Crestwood Hospital  
Libby Lewter

Huntsville Hospital Main  
Donell Parker

Regency Rehab  
Margaret Reeves, room 309

Home: Bert Edwards, Diane Cox.

### Sympathy

We express sympathy to the family of Myrtle Douglas in her death.

### Balance Class

Tuesday, Sep. 6, Thursday, Sep 8.; 1:30 p.m.

### Diana Singing

Friday and Saturday, September 9,10, 7:00 p.m.

### Bridal Tea

A Come-and-Go Bridal Tea honoring Courtney McGugin and Kevin Deck, Sunday, September 11, 2:00—4:00 p.m., dining room. A basket will be available for monetary gifts.

### Ladies' Breakfast

Saturday, September 17, 8:30 a.m. Jan Rowe will be the speaker. Sign up at Hospitality Desk.

### Pantry item:

Canned potatoes.



## Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

### Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.  
Speaker: Paul King  
Song Leader: Jerry Johnston

### Hospital Visitation

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

### Super Seniors

Wednesday, September 7. No lunch.

### Quarterly Meal

Wednesday, September 7, 5:00 p.m. Cost: \$4.00 adult; \$1.00 child under 12 years of age.

### Chase Servant United Appeal Fund Contribution

Sunday, September 11, will be the date for this special contribution. There will be two separate contributions that day (our regular contribution and then a separate one for the fund). Please make checks for the benevolence contribution to "Chase Servant United Appeal Fund."

### Grief Share Program at Lincoln Church of Christ

begins September 25, 2016 and will occur each Sunday afternoon from 2:30 to 4:30 until December 11, 2016. The cut-off date for registration is September 14. You can pick up a registration form and more detailed information from Judy Deck at the Hospitality Desk.

## Thank You

"Thank you for the food, calls, prayers, and visits during my recent surgery and recovery. Your thoughtfulness really meant a lot to me. Love,":

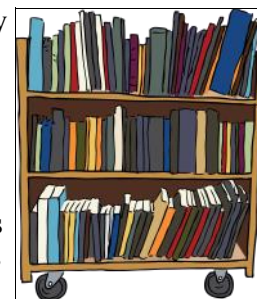
*Janet Clayborn*

"There simply aren't enough words to tell you how thankful we are! The wonderful meals, visits, calls, cards, and especially prayers were all reminders of what a blessing it is to be a part of the Chase Park family. Thanks again,"

*Don and Diane Cox*

## Library Addition

The book, *I Saul/Paul*, has been placed in our library by the author, B. B. Luther. It is written as if Paul was keeping a journal as he traveled the Road to Damascus, became a new Christian and then began his new work for the Lord. It is an easy-to-read and informative book. It is in the biography section of our library.



# Weekly Bible Reading

## Reading for September 4-10: 1 Thessalonians 1-5

Among the many issues that Paul touches on in this first letter to the Thessalonians is the truth concerning Christ's second coming. He presents the Lord's return, not as a day to be dreaded and feared, but rather, as a day to be anticipated and a promise to take comfort in. It occurs to me that we still need that reassurance today. For the Christian, the Lord's return should be a longed for and prayed for event. As you read and study this week, consider these thoughts:

- *Why do you think that we often fear or dread the return of Christ?*
- *Considering the certainty of Christ's return, what are some lessons that we learn from this letter about how our lives should be lived?*

### VERSES TO REMEMBER:

*1 Thessalonians 5:8-9*

<sup>8</sup> But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Statistics

### Sunday, August 28, 2016

AM Worship .....	400
Month Average .....	384
Bible Class .....	334
PM Worship .....	242
Wed., Aug. 31 Bible Classes.....	271
Regency Ret. Worship .....	42
Offering.....	\$16,120.93
Budget.....	\$18,300
Average '16 .....	\$18,142
Under Budget for year.....	-\$5,527
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>

MESSSENGER is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January by the Chase Park Church of Christ, 1640 Winchester Road, N.E.; Huntsville, AL 35811; (256) 852-3801. Send address changes to Messenger, 1640 Winchester Road, N.E.; Huntsville, AL 35811

## 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

Chase Park Newsline  
256-319-5625