

MESSENGER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 19

MAY 7, 2017

Passing the Test

One of the challenges that most of our young people are facing right now is the end of year testing that happens in schools each spring. For college students, it is final exams; for high schoolers it is ACT tests, AP exams, or end of course tests; for nearly all students, there seems to be an endless parade of standardized tests to be endured before the school year can come to a close. As adults, many of us looked forward to finally being finished with school so that our days of being tested were behind us, only to realize that, while the format and purpose might change, tests would be a part of every phase of our lives. In our careers, there might be proposals, presentations, processes, or products that we are involved with and evaluated on. As we age, there might be tests that evaluate our health, ability, or performance in other areas of life. I guess the lesson here is that, whether we like it or not, being tested is an unavoidable part of life.

There is also a very real and constant sense in which testing takes place in our spiritual lives. Each time we are tempted to sin, our faith and commitment to God is tested. With every hardship and struggle, our trust in God's care and promises is put to the test. With every challenge to our faith comes a test of our courage and loyalty to Christ. But in a much greater way than with the physical tests that take place in our lives, there are tremendous rewards that accompany the passing of the spiritual tests that come upon us. The Bible reminds us that "the testing of our faith produces patience" (James 1:3), and that, though our faith is "tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7). The spiritual tests that we face may not be easy or comfortable, but the reward for passing those tests is certainly worth the struggle!

One other thing about the spiritual testing that is involved in our lives. Not only are we to endure the tests that we encounter, we are also instructed to administer some tests. We are told to "test all things" holding fast to those things that are good and rejecting those things that are evil (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22). We are told to "test" ourselves to be sure that we are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). And, we are told to "test the spirits, whether they are of God" (1 John 4:1), referring to the soundness of teachers and teachings. These tests will certainly help us to avoid the spiritual pitfalls of life and to be successful in facing the other tests that come upon us. So, let's work hard and be committed to passing the test!

Rusty



Chase Park Church of Christ

Ministers

Rusty Hills Pulpit

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

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.

Lamications—*Andrew Lamica*

Is the focus of your life working toward getting to Heaven or working toward staying out of Hell?

When you read that question again, it seems like it is asking the same thing just in a different way. In reality, it offers two very distinct lifestyles and we must be on guard to not get them confused with each other. You might be asking, "what's the difference?" Let's look at the question in two parts in hopes that we can see the difference and be sure to be on guard for it in our lives.

One who in life is focused on going to heaven has his eyes fixed on Jesus. If we are living a life with the mindset of working toward heaven, we are mission minded. There is nothing that will distract us from our goal of heaven. We have no interest in getting anywhere near anything or anyone who might disrupt our plan of heaven. They reject sin and do their

very best (though not perfectly) to stay as far away from it as possible. Those whose eyes are fixed on the life to come are not easily distracted by the temptations that Satan throws at us in this world, because they realize their temporary nature. Those who are working toward getting to Heaven are living lives which are not conformed to the ways of this world but have been transformed by the renewing of their minds (Romans 12:2). The transformed life, the life that is heaven bound lives out the well-known verse "This world is not my home, I'm just a passin' through, my treasures are laid up, somewhere beyond the blue..." It is my prayer that each of us are working hard with each passing day toward getting to Heaven, our eternal home.

What about the life that is working toward staying out of hell? That life has a completely different perspective

on things and it's a VERY dangerous one. You see a life whose goal is to "stay out of hell" is one which desires heaven but also desires the temporary pleasures of this life. This lifestyle says how much can I get away with, how far can I go, and still avoid the penalty of a devil's hell. This lifestyle would be similar to those who were rebuked for being lukewarm in Revelation 3. This lifestyle is trying to straddle the fence of eternity. This is a VERY dangerous way of living and Christians should to be on guard of it.

Christians, fix your eyes on Jesus, live the lifestyle that says I am working toward my heavenly home and nothing on this temporary planet is going to stop me!

It Is Our Business

Obviously Christ made clear His purpose in coming into this world. At an early age, as Luke relates in Luke 2:49, Christ stated to His parents, "*Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?*" What then is the Father's business? Several chapters later in Luke 19:10, Christ further clarifies His purpose when He said, "*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.*" If we, being Christians (Christ-like) are to emulate our Savior, does it not stand to reason that we should also have the same "business" in this world as our primary focus?

As we go through any given day, are we aware of the people around us in the sense that they are precious souls who may be in danger of spending eternity separated from God, without hope of eternal salvation? Do we pause to realize and act upon the danger and death

that Satan is spreading around us? So often we are caught up in our day-to-day responsibilities and activities that our concern for, and attention to, those who are separated from God is left unattended. Without a doubt, God has left the responsibility of teaching the gospel to lost souls in the hands of His faithful followers (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16). Given that He has entrusted that responsibility to us, does it not follow that He will also hold us accountable for executing this teaching?

Over the next several weeks, the elders would like to share with you, in this portion of the Messenger, some thoughts on evangelism from a series of lessons by Mark Copeland, entitled "Evangelism Made Personal." It is our desire for each of us to evaluate our own life as a servant of God who is endeavoring to share the gospel with those souls who are in danger

of being lost eternally. Please pray for this effort to create an awareness within each of us to be constantly aware of reaching others for Christ, and to strive for a personal commitment to use our talents which God has given to reach the lost with the gospel of Christ.

We request that each of our members begin to pray fervently for us to examine our use of the talents God has entrusted to us for reaching the lost, and for us to have an increased zeal in being aware of and teaching the lost. Our goal should be to become a branch which bears fruit for Christ (John 15:1-2). What a blessing it will be to those souls we reach with the gospel, and comfort and peace that comes to the faithful follower who is carrying out the business of their Savior.

Your Elders

News Of Interest

Sick

Regency Healthcare and Rehab

Anne Fults

Bob Phillips

Redstone Village

Gladys Parker

Home: Judy Deck and Pam Almo.

Bennie Jacks stomach surgery tomorrow, noon, at Crestwood Hospital.

Directory Address Change

Fred and Betty King new email address:
fredbettyking@gmail.com

Balance Class

Tues., May 9; Thurs., May 11; 1:30 p.m.

Family Care

The Family Care Program begins Sunday, May 21.
Teams/Sections A and B will meet.

VBS Prep Sessions

VBS is scheduled for Saturday, June 17. We need all hands on deck for this year's "Submerged" event. Please come and see where your talents can be used.

VBS Prep Sessions 1 and 2:

1. Today, 2:30—4:30 p.m.
2. Sunday, May 21, 2:30—4:30 p.m.

Pantry Item

Canned pinto beans.

Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Curtis Hill**

Song Leader: **Jon Rosenblum**

Hospital Visitation

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

Financial Peace Class\$

Tomorrow, 6:00—7:30 p.m. (This is the final class.)

Super Seniors

Wednesday, May 10. No lunch.

Area-Wide Singing



Chase Park
Friday, May 12
7:00—9:00 p.m.

Chase Park is responsible for providing food. Sign-up sheet at Hospitality Desk. There is also a sign-up sheet for those who would like to volunteer to register guests and song leaders.

Thank You

"What a blessing it is to be associated with all the good Christians at Chase Park. Thank you all for being so supportive in all my losses. Kyle was such a nice good person, what grief to lose him at such a young age. Thanks and thanks again! In Christian love,"

Mabel Albright

High School Graduates



Buckhorn High

Tara Crawford
Ally Edwards
Taylor Rosenblum
Trevor Suddarth

Christian Fellowship Academy

Blake Gustin

Providence Classical School

Jack Lambrecht

Sparkman High

Mitchell Whitehead

Reception honoring our graduates Sunday, May 21, after p.m. service. Please bring non-sweet finger foods. Mary Milam will bake the cakes.

Congratulations to all of our Lads to Leaders Participants!

Bulletin Board

Kaelee Clark
Hayden Heady
Hadley Husband

Individual Scrapbook

Kaelee Clark—**1st Place**
JaneClaire Lamica (WC) - **2nd Place**

Powerpoint (Mass Media)

Kaelee Clark—**2nd Place**
Parker Clark—**2nd Place**

2018 Convention Dates:
March 29—April 1, 2018

2018 Theme:
“In Remembrance of Me”

Bible Bowl Books:
1 & 2 Corinthians

Pearls Study Series:
Faith is the Victory

As you can see from the lists of participants and winners in this section over the past several weeks, we had a great year in Lads to Leaders! Our program continues to grow and improve thanks to a fantastic group of young people and the wonderful support of parents and adult volunteers. Believe it or not, we have already begun working toward next year's convention and are excited about all that our young people are achieving as they learn to become leaders and ambassadors for Christ. As we begin this new year's work, there are a few thank you's that I think are in order:

Thank you to the elders for continuing to see the great value in this program.

Thank you to the adults of the congregation, those who do not have children involved in the program, for being such a great source of encouragement to our young people.

Thank you to the parents of our young people who put a great deal of time and effort into making sure that their children are involved in this program and in helping them to be successful.

Thank you to the volunteers and coordinators who so unselfishly devote their time and energy to helping our children learn skills that they are using to serve the Lord.

Thank you to Stephen and Jared for all of the behind the scenes work that they do in coordinating this program and getting us ready for convention.

Thank you, finally and most importantly, to our children. Thank you for your love for the Lord and for your desire to grow in your knowledge and ability. Thank you for your enthusiasm and desire to be successful. Thank you for being such great examples to all of us! Keep up the good work.

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Statistics

Sunday, April 30, 2017

AM Worship	370
Month Average	379
Bible Class	298
PM Worship.....	216
Wed., May 3 Bible Classes	233
Regency Ret. Worship	39
Offering.....	\$17,747.54
Budget.....	\$18,000
Average '17	\$18,023
Over Budget for year	+\$407
Building Fund	\$315.00

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

<https://www.cpcocf.org/home-bible-studies>
(Lesson 1 Link)
The Bible—God's Holy Word