

## Add To Your Knowledge Self-Control...

*“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

The old adage, most often originally attributed to Francis Bacon and repeatedly used in books, songs, and speeches is that “knowledge is power.” Truly, the more knowledge we gain in any endeavor or area of life, the better equipped we become to take advantage of opportunities, overcome obstacles, and find success. Peter applies this principle to our spiritual lives by instructing us to add to our knowledge the attribute of self-control. As we grow in our knowledge of God and His word, we gain a greater understanding of God’s will for our lives and of the attitudes and conduct that brings us into conformity with the image of Christ that we are to portray. That knowledge and understanding, along with the faith and spiritual strength that it continues to nurture, gives us greater power to control our words, actions, and attitudes in any circumstance of life.

That power, however, must be coupled with desire and determination in order to produce the desired effect of self-control. All of the knowledge that God’s word has to offer will not give us self-control if we are not willing to commit ourselves to choosing words and actions that are in keeping with God’s will for our lives. Therefore, Peter instructs us to add, through conscious decision and effort, self-control to our spiritual lives. Self-control—the harnessing of our thoughts, emotions, desires, and impulses along with the words and actions that we display—is a virtue that constantly challenges our imperfect fleshly nature. We so often allow things such as anger, pride, envy, or desire to affect our decision-making. To control such impulses requires a great deal of discipline and determination. We must desire to be pleasing and faithful to God more than we desire to satisfy our own wants and needs. Peter reminds us that, as we gain more and more knowledge of God and His word, we deepen our understanding of how God would have us to live and, hopefully, grow in our motivation to add self-control to our lives.

*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*

Are you guilty of being an adulterer or adulteress? That question might shock you, and frankly I hope it does. Further, I hope the answer is a resounding NO. I am not asking if you have ever cheated on your spouse. James tells us that those who engage in friendship with the world are enemies of God (James 4:4).

Essentially what James is saying is Christians who try to live in the world, and of the world, are caught in adultery against God. It is a difficult thing to live in the world we live in, have influence among those in the world, and at the same time not allow ourselves to become like the world.

Human beings by nature are selfish. The world tells us we must look out for number one, ourselves. We must be vigilant in resisting this

type of outlook in our lives. When this type of mentality creeps into the church it is a very dangerous thing. Consider what James writes in James 4:1,2 *“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.”* James Burton Coffman in his commentary on James says this, *“The pursuit of pleasure must be regarded by every Christian as a fruitless and dangerous course, loaded with all kinds of disastrous consequences.”*

In a dog-eat-dog type of world this seems counterintuitive at best. The so called “rat-race” to the top of the food chain is easy to get caught

up in. When we take our focus off God and put it on ourselves, we open ourselves up to many of Satan’s devices. James gives us advice on how to avoid this trap of Satan and it’s simple *“draw near to God, and He will draw near to you”* (James 4:8).

We are at our best when we are closest to God. We are at our strongest and most able to resist Satan when we are close to God.

Friends, we must resist the temptation to allow selfishness to enter into our lives. Satan knows the damage a life of selfishness can have on a Christian. Satan uses the world and all its temptations to try to entice us into a lifestyle and attitude which will pull us away from the Father. Christian, draw near to God!

## The Unattractive Jesus—*Nathan Adams*

So often we see the paintings portraying Jesus as a handsome man with beautiful long flowing hair. Why did they paint Him that way? I think there is and always has been this desire in men’s hearts to be associated with the “pretty people.” As a result, the pictures of our Lord’s earthly appearance tend to portray a very handsome Jesus. However, is that accurate?

Isaiah 53:2 states, *“He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.”* According to Isaiah’s prophecy concerning Jesus Christ, there would not be any physical aspect of Jesus that would attract people to Him. He wasn’t necessarily handsome or attractive. How can this be? How could Jesus attract so many people without being physically attractive? This is hard to believe in a time when most people (including some Christians) hold physical appearance to be a primary factor in judgments

regarding people. If a person is dirty, dressed in cheap or worn clothes, or if they are not well groomed - many people immediately make assumptions about such people. Such attitudes and judgments should never be found in Christians.

Jesus was not physically attractive, because such attractiveness is vain and incredibly shallow. If Jesus lived in our vain and shallow society I am sure that He would be “despised and forsaken of men”, and like one from whom men hide their face He would be despised, and we would not esteem Him (Isaiah 53:3). We obsess on our hairstyles, bodies, and our faces as if any of that matters. Billions of dollars are spent each year on cosmetics, surgeries, and procedures on people’s fruitless efforts to look attractive or younger than their age. Yet, it benefits them nothing. Age and the decline of it cannot be stopped. Someone will always be prettier, skinnier, or more attractive in some way. These outward vanities are

not what Christians are to be focused upon. Such are totally self-oriented when Christ calls us to be others-oriented (Philippians 2:3-8).

The beginning of Isaiah 53:2 says, *“He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground.”* This is the image of a beautiful green sprout coming forth from dry and cracked soil. The beauty of Jesus always was about who He was and what He did. He was selflessly beautiful in the midst of an ugly world of hypocrisy and narcissism. Paul makes a call to women to dress not to impress or gain the attention of people, but in a way to show that they were Godly women (1 Timothy 2:9-10). This made them truly beautiful in a world full of false beauty. God looks to our hearts for beauty (2 Samuel 16:6-7). May we give more time to the real beauty of godliness than we do to the vanity of our physical appearance. May we be attractive like our Lord in an ugly world by showing the beauty of God in our lives.

***News Of Interest***

**Sick**

**Redstone Village Rehab**

**Robert Nance**

**Big Spring Manor**

**Libby Lewter**

**Valley View Rehab**

**Nancy Harton, (Janet Jenkins' mother)**

**Home: Peggy Champion, Donell Parker and Nancy Pond.**

**Sympathy**

We express sympathy to the family of **Orville Cain** in his death.

**Balance Class**

Tuesday, Oct. 11; Thursday, Oct. 13; 1:30 p.m.

**Pantry Item**

Dried beans (any kind) and self-rising corn meal.



***Today and Upcoming at Chase Park***

**Regency Retirement Services**

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **John Denney**

Song Leader: **Joel Heady**

**Hospital Visitation**

Team #2 (**Emerson**), please pick up your assignments today following evening worship.

**Super Seniors**

Wednesday, October 12. Cooks will prepare lunch.

**Elders/Deacons Meeting**

Thursday, Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m., small auditorium.

**Clothes Give Away**

Saturday, October 15, 8:30—10:00 a.m. See **John Johnston** for more information.



**Thank You**

“Dear Chase Park,  
Thank you so much for hosting our bridal shower. We are incredibly grateful for the women who planned, worked, and hosted us. We received gifts, but also many kind, thoughtful, and encouraging words. We both feel incredibly blessed! In Christian love,”

*Kevin Deck and Courtney McGugin*



**Chase Park**

**Saturday, October 22**

**10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

**Please make plans to be a part of this great community outreach effort!**

# Weekly Bible Reading

## Reading for October 9-15: Hebrews 1-4

Christ is greater! That is the theme and overall message of the letter to the Hebrews. To those who would consider abandoning their faith in Christ to return to their old faith, the writer argues passionately that there is nothing in that old faith, or in any faith for that matter, that is greater or to be preferred over Christ and the spiritual blessings that He offers. What was true then is still true for us today! There is no religion, philosophy, or belief system that can compare to the salvation that Jesus offers us. As you read and study this week, consider:

- *Why do you think that so many in our world have made a decision to turn away from Christ?*
- *How can the message of Hebrews be applied today?*

### VERSES TO REMEMBER:

*Hebrews 3:12-13*

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

MESENSENGER 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

### Statistics

#### Sunday, October 2, 2016

AM Worship .....	337
Month Average .....	337
Bible Class .....	291
PM Worship .....	205
Wed., Oct. 5 Bible Classes .....	227
Regency Ret. Worship .....	30
Offering .....	\$17,041.66
Budget .....	\$18,300
Average '16 .....	\$10,026
Under Budget for year .....	-\$10,967
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$92.00</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

Chase Park Newsline  
256-319-5625