

## Add To Your Faith Virtue...

*“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 our faith in God develops and grows, it should naturally lead us to grow in other areas of our spiritual lives as well. Faith becomes a natural stepping stone to virtue because of our desire to be closer to and more like our heavenly Father. The word “virtue” can be better translated as “moral excellence” and pertains to the character and integrity of our everyday lives. Peter had already referred to the moral excellence of God who has called us (1:3) and now challenges us to diligently strive to emulate that same moral excellence in our own lives. Decency, honesty, purity, sincerity – these are just some of the qualities that characterize moral excellence and that bring dependability and consistency of character to our lives and relationships. While our world continues to value these traits as admirable and desirable, it seems that they are displayed less and less in the lives of people today. But God has called His people to live by a higher and nobler standard! A life that is lived in devotion and service to God must be a life that exhibits integrity and character, that is to say, moral excellence. Our influence in the world depends on it. Our faithfulness and salvation require it.

So, how do we go about adding virtue to our faith? The process must surely begin with a decision. We must decide that we desire to be close to God and to be as much like Him as we can be while clothed with this human body. We must then determine to make God’s standard our own, conforming our will to His and turning away from the unacceptable mentalities and attitudes of the world. As we do so, our lives take on the qualities of virtue that allow us to emulate God’s moral excellence. May God help us to strive for moral excellence, adding virtue to our faith.

*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*

“You’ve got to stand for something or you’ll fall for anything.” This quote is attributed to the likes of Alexander Hamilton, Gordon A. Eadie, Irene Dunne and others. If folks would just open their Bible, they would see the idea is original to the Lord.

Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians wrote, “...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes” (Ephesians 4:14). In context, Paul is discussing the need for Christians to grow in the Lord and stand fast in the truth of His word. Paul, through inspiration, was addressing the danger of Christians being easily distracted and pulled away from the truth.

Satan has an almost unending supply of tools at his disposal with

which to trip us up. One of those tools is false teaching designed to soothe “itching ears.” God knew Satan would try this. This is evidenced by Paul feeling the need to address the idea of standing fast in God’s truths and not being “as children, tossed to and fro.”

There are stadiums which are regularly filled with souls listening to a preacher who resembles little more than a motivational speaker. There are university classrooms in which professors are bent on destroying any amount of belief our Christian students might have. There are those in the government who, if they had it their way, would remove any historical record of our Christian heritage.

How is a Christian to respond to these challenges? When the world around us seems to be dead set against us, what are we to do?

### Stand firm.

Christian, stand firm in the truth of God’s word. There is great power in the word of God, “*for the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any two-edged sword...*” (Hebrews 4:12). The Bible is not an outdated book of “good advice” or “good stories,” it is literally the word of God to the world.

Stand firm in the promises of God. God has made us many promises through His word. The world will try to prove them false, but it will never succeed. Satan will try to plant seeds of doubt as to whether or not God will keep His promises; do not allow them to grow in your heart. Stand firm.

Christian when the world seems against us, when Christianity seems to be becoming more and more unpopular, **stand firm.**

## I Cannot Help Myself!—*Nathan Adams*

The apostle Paul had so much to be thankful for in his life. Jesus Christ had brought such a profound and monumental change to it. Before Jesus spoke to him, Paul was a violent and aggressive persecutor who hunted, imprisoned, forced Christians by threat to blaspheme their Lord, and, consented to the deaths of many. Yet, after the road to Damascus we see a man who gave that same ferocity to his love for all the lost and for the Lord’s church. Yet, I do not believe a day went by that Paul was not amazed at the reality of Jesus’ love for him. It truly was amazing grace that saved him.

Even late in his life, Paul seemed to get caught up in his awe regarding our Lord and Savior. Twice in 1 Timothy Paul seems to become distracted from his teaching by a need to give praise and honor to Jesus Christ. It is almost as if he could not help himself.

In 1 Timothy 1:15-17, Paul speaks of Jesus’ purpose in coming to the world to save sinners. Then in a very personal way he uses himself as an example of the greatness of Jesus’ saving power. It seems at that point, Paul is thinking about what Jesus did for him and suddenly breaks away from his point and says, “*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*” After this,

he returns to instructing young Timothy to fight the good fight of faith.

In chapter 6, Paul is speaking of our need to be faithful till the Lord returns. Again, at the mention of the Lord’s return Paul suddenly breaks into praise by saying, “*He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.*” Immediately again, Paul returns to his instructions telling the rich to trust in God, not uncertain riches.

I love this thought of Paul just getting so wrapped up in his reverence, love, and dedication to Jesus that he just has these apparent outbursts of praise. For us today, too many people are unable to worship God unless the singing is beautiful and the sermon is charismatic. Yet, we see Paul praising Christ at the simple thought of what Jesus had done for him. I doubt the singing or the message affected the quality of his worship. May we be literally bursting with praise every time we think of our Lord and Savior! May we simply be unable to help ourselves.

## *News Of Interest*

### Sick

#### Big Spring Manor

Louise Merryman

Libby Lewter

**Home:** Donell Parker and Bert Edwards

### Bridal Tea

Come-And-Go Bridal Tea, today, 2:00—4:00 p.m., dining room, honoring Courtney McGugin and Kevin Deck.

### Balance Class

Tuesday, Sep. 13; Thurs., Sep. 15; 1:30 p.m.

### Pantry Item

Canned fruit.

### Special Contribution Today

For the Chase Servant United Appeal Fund. There will be two separate contributions (our regular contribution and a separate one for the fund). Please make checks for the benevolence contribution payable to “Chase Servant United Appeal Fund.”



## *Today and Upcoming at Chase Park*

### Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: Dennis Lawson

Song Leader: Michael Sims

### Hospital Visitation

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

### Super Seniors

Wednesday, September 14. Cooks will prepare lunch.

### Regency Retirement Village Singing

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

### Ladies Breakfast

Saturday, September 17, 8:30 a.m. Jan Rowe will be the speaker. Theme: “Favorite Things.” Sign-up sheet at Hospitality Desk.

### Family Day

Sunday, September 18. Reed Swindle former Youth Minister at Memorial Parkway, will be speaking. Morning Worship 9:00 a.m.; combined 7th grade—adult Bible classes; potluck lunch; and afternoon worship around 1:00 p.m. followed by an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

## **Thank You**

“Dear Chase Park Church of Christ,  
There are truly no words to adequately thank you for all your kindness through the loss of our dad, Hilliard King. Your words of encouragement and prayers through the service days were invaluable to us. Your tangible kindness in the form of flowers, food, use of the Naugher house, hugs, and your many donations to the Church Building Fund and the Hilliard King Scholarship Fund were very much appreciated. Even as we continue to grieve, please continue to pray for us. Your love and friendship for him is felt and we are forever appreciative to you and hope to visit in the future! Sincerely,”

*Erica Lewis and Hilliary Lee*  
(daughters of Hilliard King in Orleans, Indiana)

“Chase Park Church family, There are no adequate words to express our deep appreciation to you. You as a church family reached out in so many ways to make this past week as easy as possible and I know Mama would have been pleased. You thought of everything from Kleenex on the pews, snacks, food, embraces of encouragement, words of comfort, flowers, cards, opening the doors of your building and allowing everyone to come say good-bye to our mother, wife, and grandmamma. Thank you, Chase Park, for taking care of our family through this difficult time. Our family will never forget your many acts of kindness on our behalf.”

*Jerry Kilpatrick*  
*Jan and Dudley Brewer*  
*Kenny and Jan Kilpatrick*  
*Chuck and Yvonne Kilpatrick*

# Weekly Bible Reading

## Reading for September 11-17: 2 Thessalonians 1-3

Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians picks up where the first left off, by reminding the Thessalonians of the assurance of Christ's return and urging them to remain faithful to God in preparation for that great day. False teachers will rise up, persecution will come, and trials will test, but God's people will be victorious if they will remain faithful to Him and continue to endure. As you read and study this week, consider these thoughts:

- *What does this letter teach us that can give us confidence as we strive to be faithful in this world?*
- *What are some things that we can do to help us to remain focused on faithfulness and service as we wait on the Lord's return?*

### VERSES TO REMEMBER:

*2 Thessalonians 2:13-14*

"But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you brethren, beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

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### Statistics

#### Sunday, September 4, 2016

AM Worship .....	358
Month Average .....	358
Bible Class .....	292
PM Worship .....	237
Wed., Sep. 7 Bible Classes.....	299
Regency Ret. Worship .....	37
Offering.....	\$17,200.85
Budget.....	\$18,300
Average '16 .....	18,116
Under Budget for year.....	-\$6,626
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$70.00</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