

BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2: VOL. 1



MARCH 2020: BE ENCOURAGED!!!

- ✚ MARCH 15, 2020 – FOREGROUND VS. BACKGROUND
- ✚ DEVOTIONAL – GOD IS EVERYWHERE

MISSION STATEMENT:

WE, The FAMILY of GOD's people at 428 Bird Street are:
**PASSIONATE IN WORSHIP,
COMPASSIONATE IN SERVICE,
AGGRESSIVE IN WITNESS,
STRONG IN FELLOWSHIP,
AND
COMMITTED TO DISCIPLESHIP!**

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:
10:00 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM – MORNING WORSHIP
5:00 PM – SUN. EVENING WORSHIP
* 5TH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP
6:00 PM – WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY
* * 4TH WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER AND SONG SERVICE

¹⁹ GO therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in¹⁹ the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I AM Mm with you always, to the end of the age.”



LEADERSHIP

BRO. ELL T. BIGGERS

BRO. KEITH CHUNN

BRO. TERRY LOOPER

BRO. RICKY MCGEAR 931-607-9029

MINISTER:

BRO. ANTHONY BOOKER



TRANSPORTATION

TONY BOOKER - 931-703-7303










WILLIAM BURKE - 859-445-6617

ROBERT JOHNSON - 931-580-3690

CLIFFORD MCCLAIN - 931-575-9028



SEE SUNDAY BULLETIN:

-  PRAYER REQUESTS
-  SICK AND SHUT-IN
-  MEMBERS AT HEALTHCARE FACILITIES
-  BIRTHDAYS
-  YOUTH ACTIVITIES/SPOTLIGHT
-  ANNIVERSARIES
-  NEW MEMBERS
-  RESTORATIONS
-  ANNOUNCEMENTS

[BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST PRAYER WARRIORS \(Group\)](#)

[BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST @ BIRDSTREETCHURCHOFCRIST \(Page\)](#)

WWW.BIRDSTREETCOC.ORG

**VISIT BIRD STREET ON FACEBOOK – and SUBSCRIBE TO Our YouTube Channel at
Bird Street Church of Christ**

EVANGELISM

FINAL COMMAND OF JESUS

¹⁹ GO therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 21/8

⁸On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the **evangelist**, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.

Ephesians 4/11

¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, **the evangelists**, the **pastors and teachers**, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ

2nd Timothy 4

²**Preach the word**; be **prepared** in season and out of season; **correct, rebuke and encourage**—with **great patience and careful instruction**. ³For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, **do the work of an evangelist**, discharge all the duties of your ministry.



Foreground VS. BACKGROUND GOD

Psalms 27/1-4

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

3 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

Social Distance maybe looked at as Physical distancing because we are more “connected” than ever!

Jesus sought to put life into perspective in Matthew 6 by recognizing the foreground and the background of life.

²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought** for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. **Are ye not much better than they?**

²⁷ **Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?**

²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

It is **ESSENTIAL** to see the **BACKGROUND** – **THE** colorful dynamic background that is **GOD** and **HIS** Character. The light of that background that **JESUS** teaches.

The foreground and background causes us to have:

1. Something to **AVOID!**
2. Something to **PURSUE!**

Don't Be Anxious which is what we need to **avoid**.

The **KINGDOM OF GOD** and **HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** is what we should **PURSUE**.

The negatives and positives are given in the verses. .

In this chapter-JESUS repeats take no thought (do not be anxious) - 3 times in vs. 25, 31 and 34. May wonder why 3 times. Maybe Jesus thought they missed it or were distracted.

Before each of the statements is the word, “Therefore” – this is a very important word in the Bible. As Christians we have a peace in the midst of Christ. It is in the “**Therefore**” that we have this **PEACE**. There is no reason to dig deep or muster up, create or go find this **PEACE**. Whatever comes

after the “therefore” – removes all the anxieties, worry, confusion that may exist.

As **CHRISTIANS** we **ALWAYS** have a **THEREFORE!!!!**

In the foreground we see the sickness, death and the lack of social opportunities as well as empty church buildings. But what is behind that foreground...**WHAT/WHO** is in the **Background**.

The **BACKGROUND** IS A **GOD** WHO **Sees, Hears, Knows, Cares** and **Supplies**.

1 Peter 5/7

‘Casting all your care upon him; for HE careth for you.

***“Therefore” WE ARE under the
SOVEREIGN CARE OF OUR
HEAVENLY FATHER!***

Why is it then that we have a problem? – Why do Christians feel like those of the world? Because as humans we too are focused on the foreground and we begin to ask the wrong questions, the biggest one is the “What if” – the what if always shows where are focus is...what if I get sick – lose my job – plant closes – restaurants close what if the stock market crashes what if – it is a foreground question.

When we focus on the **BACKGROUND/GOD** we know the **ANSWER** – Because we know **WHO** supplies our every need! Now how often do you consider the “need” of a bird or

lilly. GOD knows EVERY Bird...now think about that – think over your life how many birds you have seen and GOD KNOWS EVERYONE of them!

So how much more(how much more valuable) do we mean to HIM when we are focused on HIM to take care of us. If we know who controls the Bird economy then we know who controls the world's economy. We must SEE GOD's control. Satan/Sin can obscure our view to looking/seeing GOD's goodness. That is satan's job – searching and seeking whom he may devour (I heard someone once say that “may” gives the permission – do not give the devil permission).

2 Corinthians 4/4

⁴In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

I am not minimizing this virus and its course – but we cannot be blinded to the GOODNESS of GOD

3 This is my Father's world:

O let me ne'er forget

That though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world:

Why should my heart be sad?

The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!

God reigns; let earth be glad!

3rd Stanza of the song – “This is My Father’s World” by Maltbie Davenport Babcock

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Seek the Kingdom FIRST – the gentiles were seeking after health, wealth and possessions and were anxious about these things.

Anxieties reveal our Priorities and put another way – the What ifs show us where we place our most importance and MAYBE what we trust GOD with the least. Whoa!

Therefore focus on AND SEEK THE KINGDOM! GOD IS GOOD TO US EVERYDAY!

Hebrew 10/32-34

³² But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

³³ Partly, whilst ye were made a **gazingstock** both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

³⁴ For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, **knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.**

The gazingstock means something that is center stage with the idea of it being disgraceful or being called out in an embarrassing manner. Christian persecution was put on center stage. But Christians endured it because they knew about a BETTER REWARD IN HEAVEN!!!

“The Spread of Christianity was largely due to the care and compassion that Christians showed for the poor and the sick during difficult plagues and epidemics.” --Rodney Stark from The Rise of Christianity

GOD is the Great Security of our Hope In Heaven.

We must **FOCUS** ourselves to **DEMONSTRATE** the **LOVE OF CHRIST!**

FOCUS LESS ON THE FOREGROUND

FOCUS MORE ON THE
BACKGROUND/GOD
OUR HEAVENLY FATHER WHO IS IN
CONTROL !!!!

DEVOTIONAL

³² But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

³³ Partly, whilst ye were made a **gazingstock** both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

³⁴ For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, **knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.**

³⁵ **Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.**

³⁶ For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

³⁷ For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

³⁸ **Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.**

³⁹ **But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.**

Remember the former days being excited about the Gospel – Being Enlightened and illuminated

The Gazingstock-one that was made a public spectacle – exposed to shame and ridicule – punishment was dealt in a very public way in front of assemblies/multitudes. A center stage presentation to humiliate .

During this crisis – Christians will be center stage and people will look to see how we respond – will we be terrified, scared like the rest of the world?

All of it can be endured when we realize that in Heaven we have a better and enduring substance or an abiding possession.

Acts 19/29.

⁹For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

Being persecuted, losing everything they owned, and being put to death – they accepted all this with Joy

They were able to keep a Heavenly perspective – Focused on Heaven – focused on a better possession.

“The Spread of Christianity was largely due to the care and compassion that Christians showed for the poor and the sick during difficult plagues and epidemics.” --Rodney Stark from The Rise of Christianity

GOD is the Great Security of our Hope In Heaven

John Thomas a minister from Southgate Church has come out of quarantine chronicled everything that happened: all the cards, phone calls food left and the first responders who in their mask and garments came to his aid. In the end, he stated that all of us should be First Responders.

We need to have compassion for those in need. The deeds of Christians should be on everyone's lips doing what we should always be doing all the time.

Cast away not your confidence – because there is great reward with this confidence. Don't throw away your confidence in GOD – use your confidence to draw Closer to GOD

James lets us know the value of the trying of our faith is perseverance - Don't let go of Christ – hold on – don't give up – don't quit. Be Patient and Persevere! Be stronger and closer to GOD! Be patient and endure until the end. The just shall live by faith – if we lose our faith God will have no pleasure in us. LIVE BY FAITH. This quote which comes from Habakkuk is used by Paul in different places and emphasis of each is different.

Habakkuk 2/4

⁴Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

1. The emphasis is on FAITH! Rom 1/17

2. The emphasis is on JUST! Gal 3/11

3. The emphasis is on LIVE! Heb.10/38

We must BELIEVE (IN GOD) TO THE SAVING OF THE SOUL.

Isaiah 52: For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the Lord will go before you; and the God of Israel *will be* your **rereward**(rearguard, rearward) – **Trust GOD because GOD has your back!!!**

A C T I V I T I E S

