



Volume 40

April 7, 2020

No. 14

Fact not Fear

One of our local television stations will introduce their daily coverage of the coronavirus with the phrase “fact not fear”. I applaud the intent.

In a time, for many, when the word truth has become nothing more than personal thoughts or feelings, we need a reminder of what the word actually means.

The Biblical definition of truth is that which corresponds to facts. It is reality, reliability, dependability.

We are often warned to “listen to reliable sources.” What are those sources? How can we know?

In Deuteronomy 18:22, God gives a means of knowing. He warns the Israelites about the danger of false prophets. In this verse, if the message of the prophet does not come true, then you know he is not from God. If the prediction does not happen, then you know the prediction was not true.

Truth is reality, factual, it corresponds with fact.

We need to be careful of predictions and models. It seems so much of our news today comes from predictions and models projecting the future. We need to take those with a “grain of salt” until we see the factual reality. When we see the factual reality, then we can determine the reliability of the predictors and model makers.

- Dewayne

Upcoming Events:

**RCOC Virtual Game Night
Saturdays at 6:00 p.m.**

**Contact Eric Gott, eric@riverchasechurch.org or
David Dorantes, jdave.dorantes@gmail.com for more
information.**

Family Devotional Time

Eric Gott

Over the past few weeks at home I have been looking for ways to implement more Bible time into our daily schedule. Usually our family does a nightly devo at bedtime with the children where we read a section out of a children's Bible and then review the story with them with questions and songs. Daily family devotionals are so important to your family. If family devotionals are not a part of your schedule, I encourage you to use this time at home to begin implementing Bible time. For our family, bedtime seems to be the best time for our kids to listen and enjoy a Bible story, however you may find another time fits your schedule better. Here are some tips to make Bible time an enjoyable moment for the entire family:

- 1. Structure the devotional.** How do you want to do your devotional each day. Is there memorization? Can you teach the story in an age-appropriate manner? Having a loose plan will make the devotional run smoothly, but also know being too rigid can lead to frustration.
- 2. Use a family devotional book as your guide.** This will eliminate some of the stress of trying to plan everything you need to say. Family Bible study does not have to be difficult. Any time spent talking about God with your kids will be well worth your time. Make it fun.
- 3. Create silly methods for teaching.** Use toys in the kid's bedroom to act out the Bible lesson. Make funny voices for the characters in the lesson. Incorporate object lessons. Make it personal and make it your own.
- 4. End the Bible lesson with one main point and a prayer.** This is the time we summarize the story into one key takeaway for our kiddos. Then we ask them what they are thankful for and what they want to give praise for. Their answers are always sweet, and we rotate who says the prayer.

"we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. So the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children." Psalm 78: 4, 6.

Emergency Numbers

Scott Pruitt

¹² *Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

¹³ *Relent, O LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.*

¹⁴ *Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.*

¹⁵ *Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.*

¹⁶ *May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.*

¹⁷ *May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us-- yes, establish the work of our hands. (Psalm 90:12-17 NIV)*

In my office, I have a piece of paper hanging on my wall that has emergency numbers...verses to ponder in times of uncertainty. The verse above is entitled "When the World Seems Bigger Than God."

We have all been hit with feelings of "when will this season of sickness end." As in Eric's lesson a couple of days ago, we have found ourselves in one of these stages of grief: Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, Acceptance.

What has been getting you through the past few weeks? What has gotten you through the hills and valleys of your life? What is your focus as you strive to overcome the hurdles?

Counselors teach us, during times of suffering, grief and sadness to "Lean into the discomfort." In the verse above, who better to lean into that discomfort, uncertainty, and fear that we are facing than God? We are certainly battling circumstances that are bigger than what we can handle. Share those emotions with God out loud and personal.

Trust Him.

Trust Him.

Trust Him.

Trust Him...

Don't Take It Back

1 Peter 3: 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you. (NIV)

As I remember my childhood growing up poor in Mexico, my parents never used money to buy toys. Most of my toys were donated by parents and sometimes by other kids who were tired of their toys. One time I got a toy taxi that a kid neighbor gave to me, because it only had three wheels. It was really cool! It was yellow, and it was big. I was so happy that I made roads on the dirt, I pulled down branches to make trees, I found rocks for obstacles. It was a big city in my eyes. When the kid who gave the car saw what I was doing, he came and asked for the toy back. He said that he loaned it to me and that it wasn't a gift. I was brokenhearted when I gave it back to him.

When I read this Scripture in Peter, it reminded me that on March 7, 1990 I gave my life to God. It reminded me that I promised to live for him and to do everything he would ever ask of me. I promised to give him everything I am and everything that I will be. I can't take back. My life belongs to him. All of us who have been baptized have forfeited this life. We don't live for ourselves. We live for Christ!

- David

Ladies' Ministry

Since we cannot meet together, we have a project that we have been asked to participate in for our local community. Our sister nurses Charman Harper, Paula Davis and Lori Fornwalt have asked if we can make surgical masks for their hospitals. We are in need of 1/8 - 1/4 inch elastic and cotton fabric. You can drop the supplies or the made mask off at the church office Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Mount (205-470-4540).

Announcement from our Elders

With regard to the COVID-19, Corona Virus concerns. In keeping with recommendations from medical professionals and the CDC, the Eldership, in an abundance of caution, will be implementing some temporary precautions for the next several weeks.

Our gatherings:

At this time, we are suspending our regular meeting times here at the building. **Instead, we ask that you join us, as of now, via our live streaming service at 8:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evening and 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening. The broadcasts will be available on our Website, Facebook page, YouTube and Vimeo.** All other assemblies, classes, fellowships, gatherings are postponed until further notice.

The office will remain open Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Feel free to come by the church office to pick up communion supplies sufficient for the next few weeks, and worship with us. Please keep the church office informed so that we can assist with any immediate need. The current condition will present many opportunities to serve one another and our community, use those opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ.

Finally, we encourage you to stay informed by credible sources. Make sound health decisions based on fact rather than panic. Communicate with us if you have concerns. Watch for frequent updates from us, this situation is rapidly changing.

Again, these are temporary measures being taken in an abundance of caution. Disease is ever present in our sin-sick world. The Elders encourage every member to pray we will benefit from God's protection, be guided by His wisdom, and that He will bring this situation to a safe and prompt resolution.



For the Record

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Bible Study	—
Early Worship	—
Late Worship	—
Total Sunday Morning	—
Sunday Night	—
Contribution	\$55,902.69
YTD Average	\$35,774.90
Budget	\$37,500.00

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to **Phyllis Williams** in the death of her brother, Grant Williams. A memorial service will be at a later time.

A Message From One Of Our Elders Tim Parker

“We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

These are words from the second paragraph of the letter the 13 American Colonies sent to England, the Declaration of Independence.

Our country was therefore founded on the belief that God, the creator, wanted us to have certain freedoms.

But even further, looking at His word, starting with Adam, He made us free. Free to make choices. Good or bad, right or wrong, He gave us freedom of choice.

He wants us to love him, to serve Him and to worship Him.
God loves us!

He wants us to love Him; furthermore, He wants to hear from us. We are commanded to pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:16). And we are to pray for one another (James 5:16). Moreover, He has promised to answer our prayers.

Now what can we do, what should we do during this time of crises in our country? Pray, pray for each other without ceasing. God is listening, speak to Him. He will answer.

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PELHAM, AL 35124
PERMIT NO. 197



1868 Montgomery Hwy.
Birmingham, AL 35244
www.riverchasechurch.org

This week at Riverchase:

All Events Have Been Cancelled Until Further Notice

Please continue to remember in prayer:

Patricia Anderson (former member), **Tommy Cleghorn** (Jay's mother), **Joan Harris** (Betz's friend), **Richard Howe** (Steve's dad), **Martha Manwarring** (former member), **Jay Odom** (Kevin Arvin's brother-in-law), **Claudia Sibert** (John's mother), **Barbara Stetler** (Howe/Sims mother), **Kristy Tatum** (Rardin's neighbor).

Please pray for our active duty deployed military:

Riverchase Family:

Keith Dunn (#1) recovering from defibrillator surgery.

Terry Pruitt (#2) recovering at home from shoulder surgery.

CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS:

FTG #1: Rejetta Balentine, Lynda Cardwell, Angie Dickinson, Keith Dunn, Ollie Scott, Michelle Whitaker

FTG #2: Glenda Arnold, John Bearden, Victor & Glinda Boone, Vonda Cook, Nina Pitchford, Lance Rushing, Bob Smith

FTG #3: David Bath, Ruth Bath, Becky Carter, Billy Gaines, Angie Guffey, Martha Johnston, Nona Miller

FTG #4: Jeff Carroll, Elaine Evans, Gary Evans, Bill Hester, Alan Jackson, Ruby Lakeman, Martha Mann, Everleigh Self, Cindy Snider

FTG #5: Beverly Strange, Ron Waddell

FTG #6: Zane Armstrong, Erick Boggs, Michelle Dichiaro, Don & Shirley Genry, Don Greer, Addie Jackson, Grover Jackson, Sarah Wolford

FTG #7: Don & Jan Haefner, Peggy Hendley, Lori Lambert, Candy Parker, Tim Parker, Jerry Sharp

ADD TO YOUR PRAYER LIST OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES:

Gladys Akers (David Akers mother) health issues.

Noreen Anderson (Jina O'Clair's mother) health issues.

Alice Ball (Michael Ball's mother) acute myeloid leukemia, chemo.

Joe Belmont (Johnny's father) lung cancer.

Toby Blackwood (friend of Ollie and Mary Scott) cancer.

Joy Borland (Twila Bedgood's sister) cancer.

Jessica Brown (Glenda's daughter in law) breast cancer.

Patsy Burks (Rhonda Ball's mother) eye issues.

Randy Chew (Missy Wright's dad) heart related issues.

Cathy Crittenden (Dee Davis' friend) brain tumor.

Jerry Earnest (Handley's friend) cancer.

Bob Edwards (Ron Steen's cousin) MDS.

G. Estes (friend of Pitchford's) chemo.

Jan Hall (Helen Haskew's sister - in - law) health issues.

Eli Hairston (Teen in Chelsea) brain trauma from a golf cart accident.

Jane Harrison (Peggy Hendley's sister in law) heart issues.

Bob Hull (Howe's brother-in-law) cancer.

Valari Lagrone (Cindy Thompson's cousin) 3rd degree burns on both hands.

Becky Morris (Rodney Morris' sister in law) cancer.

Myra Myrick (Pam Wampol's aunt) ovarian cancer.

Lauren Orth (David Orth's sister) health issues.

Cecil Parker (Rhonda Ball's grandfather) liver disease.

McKenzie Ray (friend of Amber Henderson) leukemia.

Ronnie Rogers (CJ Rogers father - college student) brain cancer.

Pattie Ryan (Sarah Pate's mother) melanoma.

Margaret Seagrest (long time visitor) health issues.

Mary Ella Sirmon (The Sirmon's granddaughter) seizures.

Lisa Wallace (Bath's niece) breast cancer.

Carol Watson (Fred Langdon's sister) lymphoma.

Raymond White (Cindy Thompson's cousin) health problems.

Ann Winsett (Brett Moran's grandmother) heart issues.

Joseph Wright (Stephen Wright's father) health issues.