

Keep the faith in good times and bad

Lesson Scripture:
Psalm 42

Lesson Aims: to acknowledge a yearning for God, to realize that He is always near, and to exercise unflinching trust in God.

Background: There are 150 Psalms with several writers. David pens 73 of them. Two Levitical clans, Asaph and Korah contribute some and 43 of them are anonymous. Last week I mentioned that the hymns were divided into five books. They are: Book I - 1 through 41; Book II - 42-72; Book III - 73-89; Book IV - 90-106; and book V - 107-150.

"Those Scriptures are also classified by types, praise, historical, lament, royal, messianic and wisdom" ("The New Jerome Bible Commentary").

Book II was probably added during the time of Solomon. Our lesson today is the first division of this book. Most scholars agree that 42 and 43 were originally together. The unknown author experienced many emotions before his spirit was lifted. Let's follow along to see if we could walk in his shoes.



Mildred Peppers

Sunday School Lesson

Lesson: Psalm 42 can be divided into several emotional states. First, there is longing (despair). As a deer searches for water, the psalmist's soul thirsts for God. Observe animals panting in the heat for water; they need that nourishment right now, not later. The soul pants for God in the same manner. The question at the end of verse 2 suggests that the longing exists in order to worship Him. Worship can occur at any time and in any place.

The second emotion is grief. Apparently there is some harassment about his religion.

Very often believers are taunted and encouraged "to make God show up." The writer is lamenting (deep sorrow) over his current situation. He remembers the times when the presence of God was with him. Verses

4-6 refer to worship in the temple. Those were the good times, and the taunts make him remember. During our times of longing, we too remember

and that encourages the spirit.

The third emotion is hope. The psalmist's misery resurfaces but not for long. Hope springs forth when he has a surge of faith. He knows that God is faithful and unchanging.

There is renewed strength to face whatever the future holds for him because he is not alone. He puts restraints on himself by telling his soul to praise God the Savior. Psalm 43 goes on to plead for vindication (punish the enemy). By the end, the refrain is the same as the ending of Psalm 42: "Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God."

Application: There have been times on this journey that we've felt forsaken. The enemy taunts us, "Where is your God?" The

emotions conveyed today are not new. Some of us, if not all of us, have been there, done that. Yet our faith doesn't erase the obstacles before us but will get us through them.

This brings up an important point. Let's rear our children in the knowledge of God. This helps them to remember. As we grow spiritually, our faith gets deeper and deeper while we become more focused on Him.

Life's storms have a way of making us think that God has deserted us. How many times have our memories revitalized our faith? When things aren't going well, take the time to reflect on the past. Remember being in His presence and His deliverance. Look at how He has blessed others. This will remove some of the uncertainty.

Study the Bible and it reveals God's faithfulness to humanity. Faith sparks hope for the days ahead. Hope is positive and it anticipates the blessing. Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. Keep the faith in good times and bad times. God loves us and He cares.

Take someone to Sunday school with you.

Religion Calendar

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Hope Baptist Church is at 1201 New Hope Lane. Rev. John C. Parks is host pastor.

June 28

Clemmons church will hold fish supper

Centenary United Methodist Church, 5280 Hampton Road in Clemmons, will hold a fish supper on June 28 from 4-8 p.m. It's all you can eat for \$8 (under 6 free). You can pay at the door. To-go orders are \$8.50. The church is taking advance ticket sales. Proceeds from the fish supper will go to Centenary Child Care.

For information, call 766-5660.

Other

Dreamland Park Baptist will hold early services

June 2 through Aug. 30; Dreamland Park Baptist Church will hold early services. Sunday school will convene at 8 a.m., followed by at 9 a.m. worship service. The public is invited. The Rev. Ronald C. Fisher is pastor. The church is at 2340 Dunbar Street.

Christian Charm

Christian Charm is a program to teach young ladies aged 12-18 to be virtuous in the new millennium using biblical principles. Christian Charm desires to educate and empower young ladies to strive for excellence in every area of their lives. After completion, each participant will be motivated to be a young lady of integrity, purpose, and destiny.

For more information, call (336) 721-3333.

Interested in being a foster or adoptive family?

An interest meeting for prospective foster and adoptive families will be held the first and third Thursdays each month at the Forsyth County Department of Social Services, 710 Carl Russell Ave., room 206, from 6-7 p.m. Contact Brigitte Lindsay at 727-2023 or 727-2446.

Summer worship at Grace Presbyterian

The regular Sunday worship for the Lord's Day at Grace Presbyterian Church will be changed from 11 a.m. to 10 a.m. from May 2002 through August 2002. For this same period, church school will begin at 8:45 a.m.

This seasonally adjusted schedule is offered in consideration of those who desire an earlier Lord's Day worship experience during the warm months. In addition, Grace is mindful of persons whose work schedules are more adaptable to an earlier hour of worship. Everyone is invited.

Grace is at 3901 Carver School Road. Rev. Samuel Stevenson is the pastor.

Judah Praise and Worship Center

Elder Ricky A. Pouncey and the Judah Praise and Worship Center invite you to worship with them in their new home. The Sunday morning worship service begins at 11; Monday night prayer service, at 7; and full Wednesday night worship service, at 7.

The church is at 2411 Urban Street. Pouncey is the pastor, and Bishop Claude C. Turner is the general overseer. For more information, call (336) 721-3290.

Beulah Baptist holds Wednesday night Bible study

Bored and looking for some-

thing productive to do on Wednesday nights? Pastor L. Bruce Ford and the Beulah Baptist Church congregation, 1352 N. Trade Street, invite you to fellowship with us during our Wednesday night Bible study from 7-8. The first and third Wednesdays of the month from 6 to 8 p.m., dinner will be served and various groups will be on the program. For more information, call (336) 722-2907.

Calvary Hill Church of Greater Deliverance is holding Wednesday programs

Calvary Hill Church of Greater Deliverance holds "Super Wednesday" each Wednesday, except for the second Wednesday of each month.

Macedonia will celebrate the 35th ministerial pre-anniversary celebration of Apostle Sylvester Davis Johnson on June 12

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Macedonia TVPH Church of God Inc., 500 Kinard Drive, invites you to attend the 35th ministerial pre-anniversary celebration of Apostle Sylvester Davis Johnson on June 12 at 7:30 p.m. Bishop Larry D. Trotter will be the keynote messenger. Trotter is the pastor of



Apostle Johnson

On "Super Wednesday" dinner is served from 5:45-6:45 p.m. Immediately after dinner, a full worship service is held. The public is invited. The church is at 4951 Manning Street. Bishop Claude C. Turner is the pastor. For more information, call 721-3290.

Bible study class for women at Oak Grove Baptist

A Bible study class for women is being held at Oak Grove Baptist Church every first Thursday and third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. All interested women are encouraged to attend.

The church is at 3978 Pine Hall Road, Walkertown. Rev. L.L. Anthony is the pastor.

Sweet Holy Spirit Full Gospel Baptist Church in Chicago, Ill., and third presiding bishop of Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International.

All clergy are asked to RSVP by Friday for a reception/dinner after the worship. For more information, contact the church office at (336) 725-2190.



Bishop Trotter

LIFT YOUR VOICE IN THE CHRONICLE!! THE RELIGION DEADLINE IS 5 P.M. MONDAY.

Mt. Olive Baptist Church
1301 E. Belows Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
336-724-5842 or 721-1959

Listing of Services

Sunday School	9:30 A.M.
Worship Service	11:00 A.M.
Wednesday Bible Study	12:00 Noon & 7:00 P.M.

Pastor & Mrs. C. E. Gray "Let God Be God"

Goodwill Baptist Church
548 Goodwill Rd., Clemmons, NC
Arcadia Community
764-3930 Phone
764-3975 Pastor's Office
764-5658 Fax

Transportation Available.

Pastor & First Lady Samuels
"A full service ministry Meeting the Needs of the People, Spirit, Soul & Body."

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
1905 N. Jackson Avenue • Phone 761-1351
Rev. Mack H. L. McConnel

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Morning Prayer	11:00 a.m.
Bible Study	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

"A Church seeking to strengthen the household of Faith in Christ Jesus"

Macedonia Holiness Church Of God Of The Apostolic Faith, Inc.

Sunday Services	
Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
M.Y.P.U.	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Services	
Prayer & Bible Study	7:30 p.m.

4111 Whitfield Drive
Phone: 336-767-3700
Fax: 336-767-7006

Bishop R.L. Wise, Sr.
D.D.; S.T.D. - Pastor

Pentecostal Lighthouse Baptist Church of W-S, Inc.
4349 Kernersville Road
Kernersville, NC 27284
336-650-0033

Schedule of Worship Services

Sunday Morning Worship	8:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
Monday Study Class	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Children's Choir Rehearsal	5:30 p.m.
Thursday: Bible Study and Preach Night	7:00 p.m.

"To Love, To Know, To Serve and To Grow God's Kingdom!"

Piney Grove Baptist Church
4715 Indiana Ave. • Winston-Salem, NC 27106 • (336) 767-4044

- ♦ Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
- ♦ Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
- ♦ Evening Services 4:00 p.m.

Bible Study Every Wednesday 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Mission Statement: "A Saving Station for Lost Souls and Enrichment Center for Christians"

Website: www.pineygroveinc.org • E-mail: pgb2005@bellsouth.net

James F. Linville
Pastor

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Winston-Salem location: Northside Shopping Center 3565 N. Patterson Ave. Winston-Salem, NC 27105 (336) 767-3455	Greensboro location: Food Lion Plaza 1015 Alamance Church Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407 (336) 370-4052
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Tuesday - Thursday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Friday & Saturday 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Closed Mondays

Special Group Rates ... Big & Tall Suits Available!

Upcoming Events
New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
1201 New Hope Lane • Winston-Salem, NC 27105
Rev. John C. Parks, Pastor
(336) 724-3401

Church Events For June

June 6th at 7:30 p.m.
Joy Night Service - "Blessed"

June 14th at 7:00 p.m.
Women Fellowship Service

June 16th at 4:00 p.m.
Gospel Explosion - Pastor Leak
Solid Rock Baptist Church

Coming Soon
"Empowered To Win" Conference 2002

Every Thursday - Joy Night Services - 7:30 p.m.

The Word & You	9:30 a.m.
Devotional Service	10:45 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:15 a.m.

Morning Service - Videos & Tapes Available - Van Service Available
Website: www.voicesofnewhope.org
"A Church Striving To Make A Difference"

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Men of Honour Conference II
Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor: Robert E. Lee McGowens, Sr.

Friday, June 14, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.
and Saturday, June 15, 2002 at 9:00 a.m.

Theme: Understanding and Upholding the Standards of God

Friday, June 14, 2002 Presenter: Pastor John Mendez, Emmanuel Baptist Church Topic: Understanding the life of a Christian Messenger: Dr. Sir Walter Mack, Jr., Union Baptist Church	Saturday, June 15, 2002 Presenter: Pastor James Linville, Piney Grove Baptist Church Topic: How to live right in a sinful world Messenger: Pastor Sheldon McCarter, Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church
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You are invited to come and share in this time of fellowship and growth in the word and things of God.