

Spiritual Motivation

By: Kevin Rhodes

The assembly should highlight the week of every faithful child of God. This period of worship, study, and devotion provides the much-needed focus and spiritual context for life that the world attacks as dull or meaningless. Every gathering offers yet another opportunity to remind ourselves of the extent of God's interest, the depth of God's love, and the might of God's power—all exercised throughout millennia for our personal and eternal benefit. However, even many Christians fail to appreciate this blessing. Some consider it onerous drudgery; some treat it as ritualistic sacrament. Some attend out of duty and obligation; some cannot even seem to manage that. But those who understand the LORD and think about the LORD will always take time to unite and join their hearts together in worship to the LORD. "Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation" ([Psa. 111:1](#)). Nevertheless, even those who diligently gather can have trouble concentrating and focusing on their purpose. Dinner plans, the score of the game, relationship problems, and worries of day to day life tend to intrude because people rarely plan and prepare their minds for worship even when their bodies are in attendance. This makes the remainder of [Psalm 111](#) even more relevant. An acrostic psalm, the author weaves through the Hebrew alphabet while offering numerous allusions to

the proven character of God, with special attention to the Pentateuch. Thus, pointing to the past, the psalmist pictures the steadfastness of the God of the present, giving all readers a series of recommendations that provide motivation to assemble together and worship the LORD and that offer focus as we bow before His throne. Therefore, in preparing yourself for the assembly, give attention to the message of this brief psalm.

- Contemplate the power the LORD displayed in creation ([Psa. 111:2](#)). Never view the beauty of creation without seeing beyond the physical majesty to the spiritual majesty of the Creator ([Psa. 19:1](#)).
- Consider how the work of the LORD through His providence contributes positively to life ([Psa. 111:3](#)). Whether working through Joseph or Esther, God accomplished great things by using the faithfulness of ordinary people. This should be our goal as those belonging to Him ([Phil. 1:21](#)).
- Think about how the LORD put His grace and mercy on display in making salvation possible in a way worthy to be remembered. Every day should include thanksgiving for God's grace displayed in the cross of Jesus Christ, and every remembrance of that love should bring us back together to remember Him as His people ([1 Cor. 11:23-29](#)).
- Reflect on God's faithfulness in caring for

us (Psa. 111:5). Whether physical or spiritual, the Lord has provided what we need the most (Jas. 1:17; Eph. 1:3; Matt. 6:33).

- Ponder how much God did to make a people HIS people (Psa. 111:6). The LORD took a people enslaved in Egypt and made them the nation of Israel. In Christianity He has taken a mass of unrelated individuals and made them His family (1 Pet. 2:9-10).
- Study the inspired truth God has revealed (Psa. 111:7-8). The more attention we give God's Word, the more guidance it offers, the more it unites us, and the greater our reward (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:18).
- Meditate on His majesty and holiness that have made redemption possible (Psa. 111:9). Regardless of all the evil that goes on in this world, God's plan will prevail; therefore, His will deserves our greatest attention and His Son our every allegiance (Rom. 8:35-39).

If these truths do not motivate us to gather in the assembly and do not help us focus on our Lord while there, we have lost sight of everything God has done. In the end, our motivation to worship should find root in something greater—our motivation to serve and obey the LORD every moment of every day. Therefore, all this reflection should serve as both motivation and means to translate our reverence for God and a knowledge of His will into humble obedience (Psa. 111:10). Many attempt to worship with a passive heart, learn with a passive interest, and live with a passive faith. But a real relationship with God requires more, and that is why God is right to expect more.

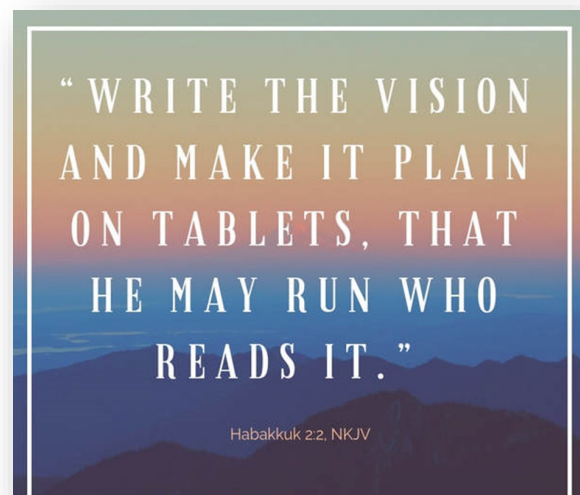
Make It Plain

Article Selected

As the prophet Habakkuk was questioning God, the Lord responded with direct and precise instructions. Following the prophet's second interrogation, look at what the Lord told him. "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it" (Hab. 2:2). Think about that.

The Lord wanted the prophet to record the vision that he would receive from heaven, and then the prophet was to make it known to others, so that they could respond to it. The Lord said, "Make it plain." Do not add to it. Do not take from it. Do not make it your own message. Do not complicate it. Make it plain, so that men may understand. The Lord said, "So that he may run who reads it." The message from heaven would require immediate action, so don't get yourself or your words in the way of that response.

Apply that today. People around us need to hear the saving message from heaven. Our responsibility is to make it plain, so that they may respond appropriately. Keep the focus on the message and not on us!



Upcoming Events

TODAY!: A welcome fellowship honoring the Starling family will be held after evening services. Please bring sandwiches. A cake will be provided.

Oct. 30-Nov. 1: Midtown will be hosting an evangelism seminar with guest speaker Rob Whitacre. There will be a potluck luncheon after morning service with a 1pm afternoon service. Please bring a potluck dish to share. (This luncheon will be in lieu of Nov. 6)

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

Oct. 16-21: A Faith that Counts by Patrick Hammock hosted by Goliad church of Christ.

Oct. 22: Ladies day at Southwest church of Christ. Please let Kelly Cannady or Nia FitzSimmons know if you would like to carpool.

Oct. 23-26: Gospel meeting at Portland church of Christ.

Nov. 12: Bible Bowl 2022 at Weber Road

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

David Clifton, Allen Clifton's brother, who has been battling cancer. He is now back in Victoria under hospice care. Please keep Allen and his family in your prayers.

Patty Smith, Rieke Bass' sister, had her first knee replacement surgery which went well. She will be getting the other knee surgery soon.

Clara Bass, Rick Bass' mother, will be having leg vein surgery.

Veronica Serenil, who had eye surgery this past week.

Letty Randle's aunt, Beatrice Garcia, passed away last week. Please keep Letty's family in your prayers.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson.

Service Roster

Week of October 16, 2022

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Mike Atkinson
Song Leader..... Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer.....Rick Bass
Closing Prayer.....Fred Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread.....James Cammock
Cup..... Clifton Rutherford
Offering..... Ron White
Assist.....Mike Atkinson
Assist..... Lupe Escojido
Assist..... Bryant Siegel

Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Ken Dorries

Opening Prayer.....James Cammock
Closing Prayer.....Fred Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Lupe Escojido,
Bryant Siegel

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class.....James Cammock
Song Leader..... Ken Dorries
Devotional..... Bryant Siegel

Other

Prepare Communion..... Bass

Congregational News

Birthdays

Mickey DeDear.....Oct. 19
Debra Sanchez.....Oct. 19
Corinne Flonnory.....Oct. 20
Pam Stryker.....Oct. 22

Food Helpers for the month of Oct. - Team B.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“That is, that I may be encouraged together with
you by the mutual faith both of you and me.”
Romans 1:12

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of October 9, 2022

A.M. Bible Class.....62
A.M. Worship.....88
P.M. Worship.....44
Wednesday Bible Class.....69

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
B.K. York *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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