Look ahead

It’s a cliché, I know, but it became a cliché because it’s true. Don’t live in the past.

Is that you?

Are you beating yourself up over something you did years ago?

I think the apostle Paul struggled with that.

In some of his letters he mentioned the terrible things he’d done to Christians years earlier, referring to himself as the “worst” of sinners and the “least of the apostles” (1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Corinthians 15:9).

It bothered him. I’m guessing that every day of his life he saw in his mind the faces of some of the Christians he’d hurt.

But he also recognized that those things no longer defined him.

Listen to what he says here:

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:12-14).

He wasn’t a boastful Christian. He knew he wasn’t where he wanted to be or even where he ought to be, and that led him to look in the right direction. Ahead.

He strained forward and kept his eyes focused on the finish line.

Humanly speaking, of course, he couldn’t completely forget the past, but he disciplined himself to look toward that “upward call.”

Maybe that’s a word you need to hear this week.

You’re living every day with the guilt of the past, and it’s holding you back. You think more about what you’ve done to hurt God than about what he’s done to heal you.

Think about Paul’s words.

Thank God for forgiving, redeeming, and saving you.

By the way, when God does something, he does it right . . . and that includes forgiveness.

There’s no such thing as a partially forgiven Christian. —Chuck
### Worship Assignments

#### Sunday Morning
**Call to Worship:** Chuck Webster  
**Scripture Reading:** Sid Aultman  
**Song Leader:** Kyle Wadley  
**Opening Prayer:** Bill Rayburn  
**Communion:** Wes Blankenship

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<tr>
<th>Servers:</th>
<th>Alex Roberts</th>
<th>Bart Burleson</th>
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<th>Jason Blakemore</th>
<th>Jim Reece</th>
<th></th>
<th>Jim Petruzella</th>
<th>Mark Pope</th>
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<th>Norman Rutland</th>
<th>Tom McQuillan</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alternates:</td>
<td>Chad Yeilding / Harold Rhodes</td>
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**Sermon:** Chuck Webster  
**Announcements:** Carl Logan  
**Closing Prayer:** Damian Fantroy  
**Ushers:** Shawn Troughton / Joel Abbott  
**Nursery AM & PM:** Jamie Starns

#### Sunday Evening
**Song Leader:** Darrell Powell  
**Opening Prayer:** Jonathan Weimer  
**Devotional:** Chuck Webster  
**Communion:** Kyle Percer / Griffin Webster  
**Closing Prayer:** Luke Percer  
**Class:** Chuck Webster/Mervyn Prince  
**Communion Trays Preparation:** Bart & Beth Burleson  
**Baptistery Garments:** Beth Burleson  
**Communion Cups Pick-Up:** Caleb Winningham / Corinne Winningham  
**Cards for Pews:** Caroline Handley / Hope Handley  
**Pencils for Pews:** Eli Oni / Zachary Blakemore  
**Audio / Video:** Josh Shelton  
**Winter Quarter Facilities:** Marc Handley

### Today

The **Bridal Shower for Holli Davis, bride-elect of Logan Webster**, is this afternoon at 2:30-4:00pm, in the front lobby. They are registered at Bed Bath & Beyond and Target.

**The Weekly Devotional at the AHEPA 3 Apartments** will meet this afternoon at 3:30pm.

### Youth

The **Teen Devotional & Fellowship** is tonight at the home of Corey and Leah Covington.

The Teens will have a **Devotional and Fellowship** at Chick-fil-A on Wednesday, February 6.

There will be a **6th-8th Grade Leadership Meeting** on Tuesday, February 12.

Our next **Area-wide Devotional** will be at the Deerfoot Church of Christ on Sunday, February 17.

### Happy Anniversary

- **Greg & Trish Nobles**  
  February 4

### Happy Birthday

- **Kyle Bedgood**  
  February 4
- **Cindy Hartman**  
  February 4
- **Tabitha Lackey**  
  February 4
- **Emilyn Jones**  
  February 4
- **Jake Williams**  
  February 5
- **Ava Shelton**  
  February 5
- **Claire Lyles**  
  February 7
- **Joan Arnold**  
  February 8
- **Gale Jett**  
  February 8
- **Dena Percer**  
  February 8
- **Ava Lyles**  
  February 8
- **Jim Banks**  
  February 9

### Family News & Events

Members, invite your friends and family to our **Second Sunday Visitors’ Luncheon on Sunday, February 10**, in our Fellowship Hall after the morning worship service. Visitors, if you can come back on the 10th, please join us for a meal that has been prepared just for you.

The **Food Pantry** will reopen on Sunday, February 24th, from 3:00 - 4:30, and the items this month are rice and canned fruit.

―*If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world.*

- C.S. Lewis

―*Though you have changed a thousand times, He has not changed once.*

- Charles Spurgeon
**Carelines**

Mary Mason Pope, daughter of Mark and Susan Pope, had foot surgery on Thursday, January 31.

Sylvia Huffman is under a lot of stress and needs our prayers for strength and courage. Her daughter, Ginger Stack, has medical problems and is at Shelby Baptist Hospital.

Jim Banks has been moved to South Haven Rehabilitation and Health Center. His room number is 106.

Please continue to pray for Virgie Banks as she is struggling with some health issues.

Charles Gilbert will have shoulder replacement surgery on February 12.

Suzie Easterling, Peyton Judd’s teacher, has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Frank Dearien, Donna Dearien’s husband, will undergo tests for a spot that was discovered on his lung.

Dalton Jordan, Jennifer Roberts’ dad, is in a hospital in Murfreesboro, TN, and has been diagnosed with MRSA.

Cheryl Murphy, Charlene Thomas’ sister, is struggling with health issues.

Sheryl Pitts, a close friend of Jennifer Roberts, is recovering from a heart attack.

Kia and Kobe Ferguson, cousins of Sarah Washington, are in critical condition after a car accident.

Kindal Harrell is having health issues.

**Attendence and Offering January 27, 2018**

**Attendance:**
- Bible Class: 202
- Worship AM: 301
- Worship PM: 171
- Wednesday: 208

**Contribution:** $13,303.88

**Weekly Budget:**
- Weekly Average: $20,395.75
- Contribution to Date: $81,583.01

**Supported Works**

- **Childhaven, Cullman, AL** ($20,000 annually)
- **Rainbow Omega, Eastaboga, AL** ($10,000 annually)
- **Churches of Christ Disaster Relief** ($10,000 annually)
- **George Funk, Gospel Chariot Missions, South Africa** ($2,400 annually)
- **Cusco, Peru Mission Team, Barton Kizer** ($1,800 annually)
- **Cy Walker, Guyana** ($1,200 annually)
- **Brint Rice / Backwoods Camp** ($12,000 annually)
- **Local Missions / Food Pantry** ($9,000 annually)
- **Stateside Missions** ($8,000 annually)
- **Guyana**
- **Tanzania**
- **Philippines**

**We Love the Souls of Everyone**

“This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:3–4).

Because we love the souls of men and want them to go to heaven, we preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul knew this burden and said, “I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:14 - 16).

Because we love the souls of men, we are not afraid to speak out against sin. We know that passions of the flesh “wage war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:11).

Because we love the souls of men, we preach the need to follow Jesus. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. “No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

Because we love the souls of men, we point people to what is best. The Lord Jesus came to bring us an abundant life (John 10:10). His yoke is easy, and His burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30). He is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). He is “our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:30). We can do no better than to preach Jesus and Him crucified to every soul in every place who will hear.

- Phil Sanders
Author of *A Faith Built on Sand* and *Adrift*
Speaker for “In Search of the Lord’s Way”
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Sea in Heaven: From Chaos to Cosmos</th>
<th>Reading Through the Bible Together</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Revelation 21:1)</td>
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<td>A new heaven and new earth:</td>
<td>In the Sunday evening service, Mervyn Prince and Chuck Webster will reflect on what they’ve learned from reading the book of Job, and they’ll also help us anticipate what we’re about to read in Exodus and Leviticus.</td>
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<tr>
<td>“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” (Gen 1:2)</td>
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<td>The “tossing sea” became a symbol of ______________.</td>
<td>If you have questions about what you’re reading, please text or email Chuck at 205-586-5610 or <a href="mailto:chuck.preacher@gmail.com">chuck.preacher@gmail.com</a>, or you can submit questions online at <a href="https://hooverchurchofchrist.org/ask-a-question/">https://hooverchurchofchrist.org/ask-a-question/</a>.</td>
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<td>(Isa 57:20; Rev 13:1)</td>
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Reflections:

________________________________________________
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