



Weekly Newsletter

March 29, 2020

Attractive Hope

Some instructions for the Lord’s people ask more of us than rules can, take us farther, and lift us higher. “As you wish that others would do to you, do so to them,” for example, or, “Be imitators of God, as beloved children” (Lk. 6:31; Eph. 5:1). Sayings like these compel us to apply the teachings we know.

An important instance of such a call is in play in our reading of Titus. Concluding a paragraph of guidelines for relating to various groups, the text summarizes, “So that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior” (Tit. 2:9). In other words, that is the point of the instructions that have been offered, and it is the principle to be honored where there is not a rule. “Make the doctrine of God attractive.”

It seems to me that in Titus “the doctrine of God our Savior” especially focuses on his work to give us hope. The letter is written “in hope of eternal life”—that’s what his word brings to light (1:2-3). Our lifestyle as people who belong to the Lord is defined by our “waiting for our blessed hope” (2:13). God’s purpose in justifying us by his grace is even said to be that “we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (3:7).

One way, then, to understand the ethic that is meant guide us through difficult places and unusual times is this: make hope attractive. In everything, let the beautiful practical value of our hope of life stand out.

So what does attractive hope look like? “Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people” (3:1-2).

Attractive hope looks like the grace from which it comes, being extended to people all around, in ordinary circumstances and in practical ways. Our calling is to bless the world with it.

--Bill McFarland



Thanks to those of you who have shown love and concern for Carolyn and I during the last few days. Phone calls, cards, and other acts of kindness - especially the "care" package from the Thrashers.
Dennis Smith


Thank you so much for all the birthday cards and good wishes for David White’s birthday. He has never received this many cards before. We appreciate being a part of the Water Mill family. In Christian love, **David & Ginger White**

Bill & I want to thank you for the outpouring of love shown for his 97th birthday celebration and shared birthday with his son, David. Yes, Bill was surprised. We are thankful to be a part of this body of Christ here at Water Mill. Blessings & love, **Bill & Gail**

THE NEED IS NOW. GIVE BLOOD

Local patients are counting on you.

Call the Blood Center at 417-227-5000 if you can donate.



COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTER
OF THE OZARKS
and for-profit organization



- **Debbi Ratterree** is scheduled to check into Barnes on **Tuesday** with the transplant scheduled for early April. Just keep in mind that after the transplant she will have to stay in St. Louis for an extended period and will need our help. **KEEP PRAYING!**
- **Robin Scott's friend** delivered her baby by C-section Thursday. Mother and baby are doing well although the baby is small as she was only 32 weeks. Continue to pray for all.

- Orvella Blackburn's son-in-law, Josh's father, **Barry DeWeese**, had a heart attack Thursday. They had to postpone surgery due to his low kidney function. He is in Cox South. He is a member of the church in Ava/Gainesville area.
- Lucille High requests prayers for her great-granddaughter, **Ashley Hopper**, who is working on the front line at Cox South.
- **Ethan Bowling** broke his right arm this past week. Thankfully they were able to get it fixed Thursday. Pray for quick healing.
- **Carolyn Young** as she needs both knees replaced.
- **The Lilly Family** as Russell is dealing with the loss of a close family member and Rachel is having some concerning health issues.
- **Kim Maples** received a good report but still doing some testing.
- **Marlene Matthews** is still waiting on results from her bone and bone marrow biopsy from 2 weeks ago.
- **Oran Green** is at Cox South not doing well. Of course, no visitors.
- **Connie Westerman** as she deals with her health issues.
- **Shirlane Horton** also needs knee surgery but trying other things right now.
- Barney Crawford's sister, **Kathy Farris**, is rehabbing at home to gain strength.
- Becky Marsolf's sister, **Sandi McIntosh**.
- **Beverly Hammond**, Coyeatte Ewing's mother, is now home from the hospital.
- **Joey and Tammy Treat** (missionaries we support who are in Guam) are both suffering with "the virus".

Continued prayers for health concerns:

- **Bob Snider, Alice Daniels, Julie Alexander, Ann Fahr, Russell Harber, Betty Grabber, Ruth Raines, Marty Long, Connie Thompson, Dennis Smith, Sandra Pingenot, Lynette Schreiwes**
- Sympathy: We extend our sympathy to the family of **James Craig**, who attended North National and Water Mill before his health would not permit it. He passed away this past week. You can send cards to his wife, Shelia Taylor Craig, at 1445 E. Commercial Street. Apt. A, 65803.

PRAY FOR OUR ELDERS in the days and weeks ahead.

Pray for our congregation! Pray for the leaders of our country.

- ◆ Worship live on our Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sunday.
- ◆ Bill's Wednesday evening class live on FB at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.
- ◆ Prepackaged communion cups can be picked up at the office.
- ◆ On-line giving: go to our website, www.watermillchurchofchrist.org, and click on the GIVE link for your contribution.



April Anniversaries

- 3 David/Robin Scott 38 yrs.
- 6 John/Lisa Stayton 24 yrs.
- 7 Gaylen/Dedra Jones 30 yrs.
- 11 Carl/Yvonne Tindall 66 yrs.**
- 15 Brock/Christina Snitker 14 yrs.
- 17 Mike/Constance Jackson 21 yrs.
- 26 Byrle/Virginia Hayter 57 yrs.**

- Shut-Ins**
 Ron Bower
 Mary Bratcher
 Don Essex
 Clarence Feeney
 Ola Jean Feeney
 Cecil Frost
 Wanda Frost
 Doris Iorg
 Debbi Ratterree
 Jim Reaves
 Ruth Reaves
 Doris Tobler
- Nursing Homes**
 Ella Mae Findlay
 Ann Freeze
 Jerry Gillespie
 Frances Grann
 Wayne Harmon
 Virginia Morgan
 Sandra Pingenot
 Nancy Snider

- Expectant Moms**
 Chelsea Thrasher
 Girl/August 10
 Alison Thurlkill
 August 31



- Birthdays**
 3/29 Oran Green
 Patricia Andrews
 Tom Davis
- 30 Mary Bratcher
 Glenda Thurlkill
 31 Julie Gillham
 Aaron Loomis
 4/2 Helen Harber
 Sara Keener
 Henry Springer
 4 Brian Carroll
 5 Mike Putnam
 6 Carl Tindall
 Jon Davis
 Devin Nimmo
 7 Matt Kelley
 8 Ola Jean Feeney
 10 Alison Thurlkill
 Madden McFarland
 11 Jonathan Pendergraft