

“You Won’t Stub Your Toe”

David Wright

If we trust God, nothing bad will ever happen to us. Our beloved country won’t fall into the hands of communists. Our sweet grandmother will not get COVID and die alone in a nursing home. Our spouse will never leave us for someone else. Our children will never suffer paralyzing injuries in car accidents.

This is how Satan interprets scripture. He takes Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and says, “If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: And in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone” (Luke 4:9-11; cf. Psalm 91:11,12). If you trust God, the Devil suggests, you will not ever stub your toe.

The psalm quoted by Satan does seem to say this, but God’s idea of security is different from ours. Jesus tells the disciples: “And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and *some* of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls” (Luke 21:16-19). What? Some of you will be put to death, but not a hair of your head will perish? Isn’t this a complete contradiction?

No, it is not. The final line in this quotation explains the meaning. If we stand firm in times of trouble, even if it means death for Christ’s sake, we gain or win back what is lost. If we suffer hostility, imprisonment, or even death for Christ’s sake, we will possess life in a truer, richer, and fuller sense than we can presently imagine.

Bad times definitely happen to people who trust in God. Even the author of Psalm 91 acknowledges this. Yes, he does claim that the person who takes refuge in the Lord will never stub his toe (Psalm 91:12). This is hyperbole, though. The exaggerated statement is followed by a literal promise from God, “He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him” (Psalm 91:15). We are often “in trouble”- are we not? But we will never suffer alone. God will always be with us.

(Copied and Adapted from an article found in a bulletin from the church in Trenton, Tennessee, TJK)

ARE YOU IN PRISON?

Terry Joe Kee

“Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage.” Charles Dickens said, “I wear the chain I forged in life.” Men often imprison themselves by their own lusts, hates, temptations, resentments, grudges, and sins in their lives. Only Jesus can set us free, but we ourselves can build prisons for ourselves with bars stronger than iron. Notice a few with me—

1. **The prison of self-satisfaction.** Many are happy right where they are. They seek no improvements and look simply for the easiest way to live life without any effort to improve and grow. (cf. I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 12:1,2; Phil. 3:13,14)
2. **The prison of inferiority.** We feel we will never have the ability needed to overcome. But each of us has the ability to overcome (Phil. 4:13; Matt. 28:19,20; Heb. 13:5).
3. **The prison of superstition.** More than half a billion dollars is spent on fortune tellers, horoscopes, astrology, etc. every year. Remember Christianity is based on knowledge (John 8:32; I Peter 1:22-25).
4. **The prison of hatred.** Many have filled their hearts with hatred and bitterness toward others. Christianity is not a religion of hate, but of love. Jesus teaches us to love one another (Matt. 5:43,44; I John 3:13-18).
5. **The prison of unrest.** This explains why some seek entertainment- the need to please ourselves. Why do we have 500 channels on our televisions? Why do so many turn to drugs and alcohol? This unrest is seen in our materialism and worldliness. The answer is to live for Christ and walk with Him (Phil. 1:21; Matt. 11:28-30; Phil.4:7).
6. **The prison of sin.** This is what it all boils down to. Sin is the prison we cannot escape from by ourselves (cf. Isa. 59:1,2; Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23)

What has you imprisoned? How long before you plan and execute your escape? Do not wait too long to get out of prison. If you fail to escape now, you will never get out of prison. Eternity waits!

(These thoughts come from a sermon I preached several years ago. I do not remember where or from whom I took these notes or I would give them credit. Thought this was worth some thought.)

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Remember in Prayer:

Louis and Myra Preston remain in ICU at NEA Baptist Hospital. Both are on ventilators and have shown slight improvements last week.

Mark Brewer has been in Room 3006 at St. Bernards Hospital because of breathing complications.

Susan Pickens remains at home recovering from pneumonia.

Marshall Lands is in Encompass, Room 215 by the door, and has shown some improvement.

David Dye is recovering from kidney stone surgery last Wednesday.

Clydene Nelson has shown some improvement last week.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists. Please update us if needed. Also please pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.

Louis and Myra Preston

Jeff and Paula Presley

Karen Kalkbrenner

Stephen and Vicki Robertson

Mark, Leah and Carissa Brewer

In Other News:

Children and Teens: Even though our elders and your Bible class teachers are showing an abundance of caution to keep you safe by keeping you with your family during class time for now, that does not mean your Bible study needs are forgotten!

Ages from Babies to 6th grade and parents are invited beginning today to start the routine of going before Bible class to Room 4 and picking up a Bible study/activity packet to carry to the auditorium and work on during each Bible class period. Teens, please go to your classroom to get your Bible study packet to work on in auditorium during class time or at home if you prefer!

Those Privileged To Serve

January 3, 2021

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Ben Johns
Opening Prayer: Jerry Dodson
Closing Prayer: Barry Roush
Bible Reading: Logan Snyder
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Noah Flanrey
Mike Felts Dan Nichols
Jack Johnson Jimmie Powell
Tom Carner Carlos Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Ben Johns
Opening Prayer: Jason Garland
Closing Prayer: J. L. May
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

January 6, 2021

Song Leader: *Singing Night*
Opening Prayer: Mike Felts
Closing Prayer: David Loggins

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

January 6, 2021

Terry Joe Kee

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of

December 27, 2020

Sunday Bible Study	49
Sunday AM Worship	90
Sunday PM Worship	81
Wednesday Bible Study	61
Contribution	\$13,121

“The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.”

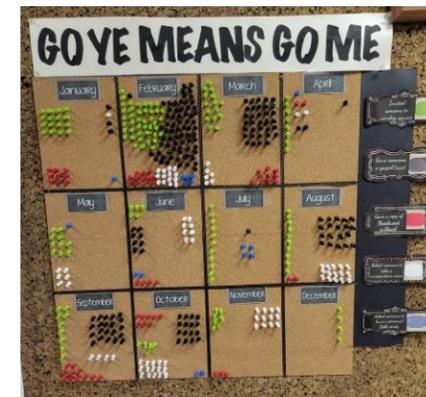
Proverbs 20:4



Vol. XXIX, No. 1

January 3, 2021

KeeNotes



Last year we put up this board on the bulletin board next to the secretary's office. We asked everyone to place a pin according to the work we were doing of inviting and encouraging others to come to Christ, to serve Him faithfully, to invite a friend, give out a tract, etc. As you look at this board, do you notice anything unusual or that just catches your eye?

It seems very evident to the casual observer that we started well in January, but then in February we really began to take notice and mark what we were doing. Then came March. Does anyone remember what happened in March? That's right, the pandemic hit and everyone was being told to stop visiting and to keep our distances from one another. We were told to limit our assemblies and to reduce the times we spent in close contact with others. Everything we had started to do was now being curtailed and our visiting, handing out tracts, and all the different ways we were seeking to evangelize in our community were being hindered and even stopped.

So now nine months later, where are we? What do we do now? Do we continue to restrict ourselves from doing anything for fear of contracting Covid or passing it on unawares? Do we wait and see what happens and what changes may be coming with the change in administrations? Do we throw caution to the wind and go full steam ahead?

We MUST look for new and improved ways of getting the Word of God sown into the fields before us. Have we not noticed that the fields are white unto harvest? Pray that God will send out reapers into the fields and gather before the Lord returns and we are found lacking. Do not let our external circumstances hinder or stop us from sowing the seed of the kingdom where and when we can.

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols

Randy Oden

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard

Jerry Dodson

Mike Felts

Jason Garland

Marshall Lands

Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Samrit Kammanee

Arnold Kelley

Micah Robertson, Montana

Guyana, South America

Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God

Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God

John 8:24

Repent of your sins

Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus

as the Son of God

Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the

remission of your sins

Acts 2:38

Live faithfully

Revelation 2:10

Each One Invite One in Twenty-One