

# Harmony Newsletter

Web Site: [www.harmoniypbchurch.org](http://www.harmoniypbchurch.org)

## HARMONY PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

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"Come thou with us, and we will do thee good..."-Numbers 10:29

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### "LET US PRAY"

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer." -Psalms 19:14

The 19<sup>th</sup> division of the psalms is a prayer of David. He begins this prayer with praise. Then he extols the glory of God's creation, and notes the importance of God's word. He closes his prayer on a more personal venue: "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer." That is a good request for us all.

The reason I say it is a good request for us all is because the words of our mouth are not always what they should be, not even in prayer. David knew it, and sought acceptance.

James mentions two challenges, common to all who pray: (1) "...ye have not, because ye ask not. (2) Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." (James 4:2,3).

The first challenge James mentions is our lack of commitment to prayer: "ye ask not." We are not praying. The Lord has some blessings for us, but we never asked for them. What is bothering you? Pray!

The second thing he notes is that we are asking for the *wrong* things: "Ye ask amiss." That means our prayers are missing the mark. We are asking for the things we want for ourselves, and not the things that God wants for us.

Yes, all prayerful people struggle in knowing what they should be praying for. Even the apostles came to Jesus with this request: "Lord, teach us to pray." Paul even wrote: "we know not what we should pray for as we ought." If *they* were struggling, we should not be surprised when we do as well.

Without divine assistance, we really don't know how, or what to pray for. So, I made up a little acronym that I use that helps me cover the bases, and remember some of the things that I believe are God-honoring. The acronym is a word we all love, easy to remember. It is **H-O-P-E**. Where there is hope, there is encouragement, there is strength, and there is a vision.

The **H** stands for *Home*. After praise, pray for your home. Remember your children, grandchildren, your husband, wife, parents, those you love the most. The home is the nest, the place where we should find the greatest peace. Pray for peace in the home.

The **O** stands for *Others*. Let our petitions extend to those around us who may be suffering.

This includes our friends, our brethren, and others who have touched our heart.

The **P** stands for *Personal*. Surely, we need a lot of help in this area. Even David wrote in this very psalm: "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults."(Psalms 19:12). If David didn't understand his own heart, if he had some secret sins, we can be sure we do as well. In this personal category let us also remember to thank the Lord for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us.

The **E** stands for the Everlasting Kingdom of God. Pray for the church. Pray for revival. Pray for your pastor. Pray for your brethren. Pray for the messages. Pray for those who are in bondage to sin. Pray for God to send laborers into the kingdom.

There is a lot to be praying about. So, let us pray. Let our hearts meditate upon the things we should say. Then, let us pray...believing!- NMP

### ANOTHER SAINT HAS GONE HOME

Our church has been saddened, once again, by the passing of one of our members, my mother, Norma Phelan. Due to her illness, she was unable to attend services for the past few years. Yet, she longed to be with her brethren, sing the songs we love so dear, and hear the grace of Jesus Christ. We will miss the trio of Rhodes sisters singing from their usual place in the pew. Yet, I know she is singing with the angelic host in heaven now.

The emotions that a child feels when they lose a loving parent are hard to describe. Now matter how old we are, we are always their child. These emotions are mingled with thankfulness, love, appreciation, and a great sense of loss. One of the two people on earth that we looked to most for counsel, wisdom, and encouragement, is no longer available. The planet seems somewhat different knowing they are not on it.

When mother took her last breath, and the angels took her home, a text came powerfully to my mind: "Jesus wept." That was when Lazarus, the brother of Mary, and Martha died. They were Jesus' friends, and ministered to Him often. I wondered: Why would *He* cry? *He knew* He would walk to the tomb in just a few hours and raise Lazarus. *He knew* the mourning family would be comforted shortly by the display of His power, and the restoration of their brother. *He knew* God's glory would dissolve all of the sorrow, and doubts of the loving family.

He knew, He knew, He knew. Yet...Jesus wept.

As we mourned, I felt Jesus mourning with us, as He did with Mary and Martha. I felt a kindred spirit with Him, as I understood more about *His* weeping. He knew He would raise my mother shortly. *So did I.* He knew our mourning family would be comforted shortly. *So did I.* He knew that God's glory would be revealed on resurrection morning, dissolving all sorrows and doubts. *So did I.* We both knew that mother was with Him, perfectly happy. Yet, we wept. We both knew, yet, we both wept.

I realized that my weeping, and Jesus' weeping, was for somewhat different reasons, though both due to the same event. I wept for the loss, and the separation time until I would see my mother again. He wept because I wept. Mine was for loss, His for compassion. I wept for mother, He wept for me.

Yes, I thought, that is why Jesus wept on that day. Not because of Lazarus, for Lazarus was with the Lord in either place. Jesus wept because those He loved wept. What a commentary! The shortest verse in the Bible exposes the greatest comfort to His people: Jesus loves us, He knows, and He cares. He walks with us, and feels our sorrow.

It was then that I realized something else, something we both shared at that moment with great joy: we both anticipated resurrection morning even more!

- NMP

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### IN WORLDS ON HIGH

"There is a land, a golden strand,  
Where saints and angels robed in white  
Are singing praise thru endless days  
In shining worlds of pure delight."

"In worlds on high, in yonder sky,  
Are dazzling mansions bright and fair;  
I'll fly away, some happy day,  
And live forever over there."

-J.B.F. Wright, #471 Old School Hymnal

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### WEB PAGE NEWS

The August download report from our web-site indicated a record number of sermons downloaded from Sermon Audio. The remarkable thing about the download was the response from China. Though China has always been at the top of the list of countries that listen, this was an amazing month. There were 1192 downloads of the same sermon from China. The sermon title was "Love", preached on 09/06/2009.

We have 182 sermons on Sermon Audio. There were 1531 sermons downloaded in August, and 8847 downloaded since we began.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our people, who do not get a lot of recognition from the Christian world. The Internet allows our voice to be heard all over the world, in a day in which free and sovereign grace

has been silenced in most churches. It allows us to get our message of grace out to hungry people who have never heard of a successful Savior, and the grace of our God as the Bible teaches.

These messages can be heard from a computer, a smart-phone in the car, or while walking. They can even be recorded on a C.D. to pass along. This is an excellent opportunity for us to share our truths and messages with our friends and relatives. Just go to our church website and click on podcasts. It will take you to Sermon Audio where our messages are stored. You can select our church as your favorite, and go to it instantly.

Let us pray for those in China, in hopes that the Lord will bless them with a good church like we have here. Let us all pray together that this work of evangelism will bless the hearts of many. -NMP

### WHO ARE YOU?

Roleplaying is innate to our being. Whether we realize it or not, we emulate others. We see it everywhere, in dress, gestures, and even words used in conversation. I remember one person I knew in college who was always acting like the Fonz from Happy Days. These roles are all affected by who we are around, movies, television shows, even sports.

As Christians, we have a nobler sort to choose from for our role models. Of course, Christ is our ultimate role model. To the best of our ability, we are to emulate Him.

Yet there are others. I believe God wants us to become the characters in the Bible as we read about them. This is especially helpful in times of sorrow as we read the sweet psalmist of Israel, pouring out his complaints before a loving God.

These characters come to life, in living color as we read about their trials, their triumphs and their weaknesses. I believe that God has so designed the word of God that we can draw comfort by identifying with our brethren, pilgrims of other ages. Yes, we are encouraged to role-play.

It may be a different person during different circumstances: David in his prayers, or Abraham in his wilderness wanderings. But if you will, I'll bet you can find someone that you can identify with on a very personal level, every day of your life. So I ask, "Who are you?"-NMP

### MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ September meeting start on Friday night, September 21<sup>st</sup>. We will have soup and sandwiches at 5:30, singing at 7 P.M. with preaching following. We will also have services on Saturday afternoon at 3:30 P.M., Saturday night and Sunday morning. Let us be praying for this meeting. Also, let us remember that any special meeting incurs additional expenses: "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift."

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Louise Beason
- Sister Cindy Hughes