

No Matter Where

Elders:

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons:

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Alan Cook
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs
Luke Yates

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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Daniel didn't ask to be where he was. He was caught up in the dustpan as God used the Babylonians to sweep His unfaithful people out of the land He had given them. The teenager was torn from his parents and five hundred miles from home. He found himself in an idolatrous environment, and the idolaters meant to make him one of them. They tried to force their kind of food on the conscientious young man. His parents had given him a name that would always remind him of his ultimate responsibility, Daniel—"God is judge." But his captors even stole his name from him and gave him one that payed homage to a false god. How did the young man stay faithful? It seems he knew...

No matter where you are, God is there. I knew a little boy who liked to hide under boxes and blankets and believe that no one knew where he was. Even in plain sight—especially if he had done something wrong—he would tiptoe through a room and say, "No one can see me." We never escape God's watchful eye. The Lord is our judge, and He is also our shepherd. He not only had His eye on Daniel; He had his hand on Daniel (Dan. 1:9,17). "...For He has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'" (Heb. 13:5-6). The writer quoted from Joshua and Psalms. It was true in Old Testament times. It is true today. Since God is wherever you are, do not compromise, and do not be afraid.

No matter where you are, God's way is best. Long ago He told the Israelites: "And now, Israel, what does the LORD God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?" (Deut. 10:12-13). While most of his peers convinced themselves that it was in their own best interests to conform to the wishes of King Nebuchadnezzar and the norms of Babylonian culture, Daniel and a handful of friends were convinced that God still knew better about everyday life. Obedience to God's commandments caused them to catch the king's eye in a good way (Dan. 1:15-20). Remaining loyal to God made them the best servants they could be for Nebuchadnezzar. Being loyal to God above all else will always make us the best spouses, parents, children, teachers, students, employers, employees, coaches, players and teammates to be found anywhere.

No matter where you are, you should make up your mind to serve God and not to defile yourself. The first chapter of Daniel does not tell us what would have been defiling about the king's food—whether it violated the Jewish kosher laws (Lev. 11, Deut. 14:3-21). was viewed as participation in idol worship, or indicated more dependence on the king than on God. Whatever the case, Daniel had limits. The Psalmist asked and answered: "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your word" (119:9). When all of Judah was falling around them, when their spiritual brothers and sisters willfully chose the wrong path, Daniel's parents had built their home on a rock. Daniel had obviously received the proper care physically, socially, and educationally, but the most important training he received was Biblical and spiritual in nature. It was the priority. It sustained Daniel in difficult times. And it was the only investment in Daniel that would pay dividends eternally.

Do you live like God is always present and involved? Do you trust that God's way is best? Have you chosen once and for all to serve Him above all else?

Danny Boggs

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14



Joyce Clarkson, Lee Crabtree, Glen Crumbliss, Faye Haught, Mae Hill, Wilma Hill, David Hofer, Bette Sinden, Helen Swem, Bobbie Tuggle, Ruth Ann Wilson.

- Heather Cobb is at Freeman West following surgery.
- Shirley Goeman spent a couple days in the hospital this weekend.

Ruth Ann Wilson has moved to Oak Pointe Assisted Living Center. Her family has requested her time to get adjusted before having visitors.

Grace Tolles expressed thanks for help we provided in paying her rent last month and asks prayers for her husband Terry who is in Freeman West Hospital after suffering a heart attack and undergoing three bypasses.

Congratulations to Wayne and Vera Douthitt on the birth of their great granddaughter, Lenora Jane Douthitt, who was born this morning weighing in at 7 pounds, 12 ounces, and 21" long. Mom and baby are doing well.

Thanks to generous giving the last few months and on the fifth Sunday of July, **we just paid an additional \$30,000** on the principle of the loan for our activities center! The balance has shrunk to \$79,645.72. Thanks to everyone who has helped to fund the building, clean the building, and especially to use it to reach and bless people.

One Word: Remember to read about "repent" this week.



This Sunday's Sermons:

AM: *Single-Minded* (Danny Boggs)

P.M. *One Word: Repent* (Luke Yates)

Every "One" Counts: Don't forget to give an extra dollar in the offering this week! Please let Luke know if you have any people who could use some encouragement and financial help as we do this good work in our community.



We are honoring school teachers with **lunch in the activities center tomorrow from 11:30-12:45**. Please sign up at the bulletin board to help provide food, and bring it to the activities center before services tonight or by 10:00 tomorrow morning.



Youth Devotional: Tomorrow night at 6:30 in the activities center. Boys bring chips and drinks; girls bring desserts.

Mens' BBQ night: next Tuesday at Billy Sims BBQ in Joplin. The van will leave Hillcrest at 6:00.

Golfers: Enjoy your sport while helping to raise money for Green Valley Bible Camp this Saturday at Cave Springs, Arkansas. See the flier posted on the bulletin board.

Come to a **brainstorming meeting** for next year's Vacation Bible School in the fellowship room tonight after services.

Tori Murray is getting married in a few days, and Andrea Wald's hostess group is collecting money for a gift card for her and Micah. Please see Andrea if you would like to contribute.

Back to School Ice Cream Fellowship: After services this Sunday night, we will have a back to school ice cream fellowship. Ginger Murray's hostess group will set up and clean up. Everyone with an ice cream freezer, bring some homemade ice cream to share, or bring some cookies to share!



Senior Saints will gather in the fellowship room this Saturday at noon for a potluck meal, fellowship, and news updates about fellow seniors. Come join us!

Kids who are due to move up to the next Bible class will be promoted this Sunday and next Wednesday.

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, August 12

- AM Opening: Todd Murray
- AM Closing: Wayne Douthitt
- PM Opening: Bryan Reiboldt
- PM Closing: Casey Flint

Wednesday, August 15

- Opening: Elijah Boggs
- Closing: Danny Boggs

RECORDS	8-5-18	8-6-17
Bible Study	151	131
AM Worship	207	205
PM Worship	133	126
Wednesday	136	132
Contribution	\$7,267.46	\$9,142.86
Budget	\$7,643.38	\$7,630.58