



**SERVICE TIMES:**

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:30 AM  
5:00 PM  
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

**ELDERS:**

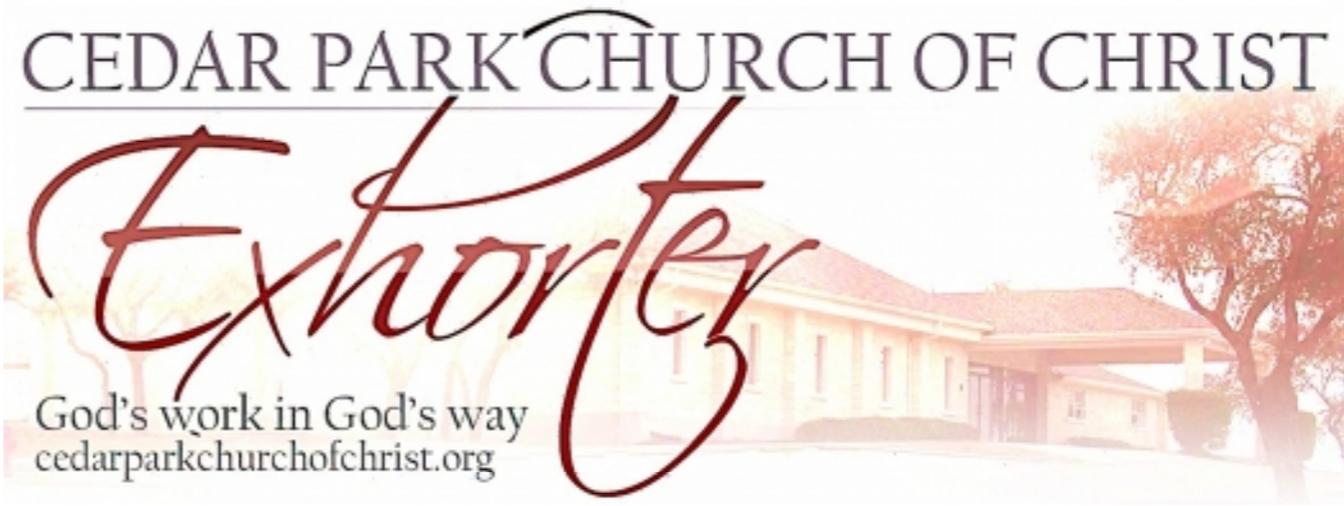
Todd Cox Jimmy Griffith  
John Smith Bryan Tacker

**DEACONS:**

Derek Anderson Travis Everett  
Ryan Griffith Dan Harbin  
Craig Hecht Danny Meek  
Phil Parker Jason Stannard  
Travis Starling Steve Turquette

**EVANGELIST**

Paul White



Nov 10, 2019

**Spread Them Out Before God**

There are many fascinating characters in the Bible; some have major roles and some minor. Either way we can find many life lessons from their stories. One such character we can learn many life lessons from is Hezekiah.

Hezekiah became king of Judah at the age of 25 and reigned for 29 years. He was one of Judah's good kings, much different from his father Ahaz, who was a terrible king. His father closed the doors of the Temple, furnished it with idols, and erected idol worship in every city in Judah (**2 Kings 16:3-18; 2 Chron. 28:1-4**).

When Hezekiah became king, he immediately went to work reforming the errors that were introduced by his father. In the first month of his reign, he assembled the priest and Levites, reopened the Temple, and commissioned them to cleanse it and reinstate the sacrifices. Even the Passover was observed correctly, for the first time since the reign of Solomon (over 200 years).

We know the story of Hezekiah and how he becomes ill. Isaiah the prophet came to Hezekiah and told him to put his house in order, because he was going

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Three horizontal lines for writing.

to die. The king responded to the news by going to God in prayer. The Lord heard his prayer and saw his tears. Before Isaiah even made it out of the palace, the word of the Lord came to him, telling him to return to Hezekiah and inform him that God would extend his life another 15 years (**Isaiah 38:10-19**). His prayer in Isaiah is well documented showing his dependence on God.

This prayer in Isaiah tells a lot about Hezekiah, his relationship with God, and about his character. I want us to look briefly at another prayer of Hezekiah that sometimes gets overlooked.

In **2 Kings 19:8-19, 35-37**, we see Sennacherib king of Assyria threatening Judah. Sennacherib realized that he could not afford a long battle against Judah so in an effort to hasten their surrender, he sent an intimidating letter to king Hezekiah. In this letter, Sennacherib reminded Hezekiah that none of the gods of the other nations had been able to deliver them, and that the God of Judah would prove to be equally impotent.

Hezekiah took the letter to the house of the Lord, “spread it out before the Lord”, and prayed **vs14-19**. There a couple of points to consider from this passage. The first lesson we can take from **vs 14-19** is the attitude that Hezekiah had concerning his request. His prayer was not just focused on God's defense of the people or himself, but that God would defend His own honor and glory. How often do we pray, and it's all about me and my needs and desires? It becomes a "me fest" rather than the Lord's will be done. God wants us to bring our needs to Him and show our reliance upon Him.

Second, Hezekiah protected his nation from Assyria not by his might, military strategy, or ability to form powerful alliances with other nations, but by his trust in God and his reliance upon prayer. How often when challenged in life, do we take on those challenges by ourselves first and not spread it before God. Too often we trust in our own abilities first, then if need be or if things are not going as planned, go to God. We need to make it a habit and part of our daily walk to spread our fears and challenges before God.

**Phil 4:13** says “*I can do all things through Him that strengthens me*”. Do we truly believe the words penned by Paul and are they manifest in our life?

**1Peter 5:7** says “*Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you*”. Do we cast our anxiety on him... spread them before God? Hezekiah's example to us is to go to God first in prayer, because the living God is ready to help us.

The Lord answered Hezekiah's prayer by sending his angel (yes that is singular) to kill 185,000 soldiers within the camp of the Assyrians. Sennacherib, who had boasted so confidently against the true and living God, returned to Nineveh in defeat. Later, he was assassinated by his own sons, while worshipping in the temple of his god. It turned out that Judah's God was powerful enough to defend them, while Sennacherib's god could not defend him.

Our victories are not the result of our might, abilities, or wisdom. They are the result of our prayers of faith. Like Hezekiah, we should always be willing to take the things that trouble us and “spread them out” before the Lord in prayer.

**Romans 8:31**- *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?*

- Craig Hecht

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### **The Hidden Cost of Sin**

Sin will take me further than I want to go,  
Keep me there longer than I want to stay,  
And cost me more than I want to pay.

- Wilson Adams