



Drawing Near to God

James 4:8

“How These Christians Love One Another” by Chuck Durham

Tertullian, who lived in Carthage around 200 A.D., quoted the pagans of his time as saying, “See how these Christians love one another.” Jesus told his disciples: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12). Jesus’ apostles would teach this wherever they went. Paul wrote: “through love serve one another” (Gal. 5:13). Peter said: “...love one another earnestly with a pure heart” (1 Pet. 1:22). John said: “For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another” (1 John 3:11).

But not just Christians loving Christians, but Christians loved pagans, too. This was noticeably what set Christianity apart from ancient paganism. In Gal. 6:10, Paul wrote: “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good unto everyone...”. The Christians were noted to bury their own dead, especially the poor – to show honor to the body that God created. But they buried the poor


pagans as well. The pagans often threw out such bodies to be consumed by wild beasts and birds of prey. Bruce L. Shelley writes in *Church History in Plain Language*: “The impact of this ministry of mercy upon pagans is revealed in the observation of one of Christianity’s worst enemies, the apostate Emperor Julian (332-63)... ‘Atheism (i.e., Christian faith) has been specially advanced through the loving service rendered to strangers, and through their care for the burial of the dead. It is a scandal that there is not a single Jew who is a beggar, and that the godless Galileans care not only for their own poor but for ours as well; while those who belong to us look in vain for the help that we should render them’”(35, 36).

The present coronavirus crisis will provide opportunities for modern-day Christians to shine forth love, too. Could it be by our individual service to those in our sphere of influence, that when this crisis passes, they will want to know more about Jesus whom

we serve? They will see one thing or the other: either the love of the early Christians for their brothers and for pagans, or they will see a dead and hypocritical church. Which will it be? This is all about what you and I will do as servants.

Go check on the elderly who live in your neighborhood. Talk to them at their door. Take them a meal and leave it on their steps. Pray with them on the phone. Think. Look. Serve. Love.

There are those who live in our neighborhoods that will lose their jobs. If we are blessed with work and an income, then share what we have with others. It may be in the form of groceries or a gas card. It may be a meal left at their door or a pizza delivered. Think. Look. Serve. Love.

Coronavirus has profoundly impacted our world. We can be His shining light in this world of darkness. Who knows what good may come when the present crisis is done? Think. Look. Serve. Love. 

**AM Sermon: Get Plugged In...To God’s Power (Eph. 3:20)
PM Sermon: PM Service Cancelled Until Further Notice**

Quotables



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Times of Services

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

www.springdalechurchofchrist.com

“Throughout the Bible...when God asked a man to do something, methods, means, materials, and specific directions were always provided. The man had one thing to do: obey.” —*Elisabeth Elliot*

“It is a great deal easier to do that which God gives us to do, no matter how hard it is, than to face the responsibilities of not doing it.” —*James R. Miller*

“It is terrible to speak well and be wrong.” —*Sophocles*

Westside Family News... (send news to durhamchuk@aol.com)

Prayer List:

Tabitha Hudspeth (cancer); **Parker Family** (family issues); **Kat Deuster and boys** (continued stability); **Kellye Hardin** (for improvement)

Shut-Ins: **Bill Lundy;**
Nadine Poteete; **Darl Feagin**

General Family Info:

Tabitha Hudspeth is at her parents in quarantine. Pray for **Heather Kinyon**, who is scheduled to be induced tomorrow **Monday, April 6**. Keep her, the baby, Steven and Noah in your prayers. **Becca Leblanc**, gave birth to a son, **Callum David**, on

March 25. Both are doing great. **Makenzie McJunkins'** father, **James McJunkins**, pathology report revealed a good prognosis for the next ten years. No chemo or radiation is needed. Keep **Jennifer Bean** in your prayers. **Austin Bray's** grandmother died this past Monday. Please keep him and his extended family in prayer. **Tim & Wendi Cheatham** need our prayers that he finds a good job.

Due to the Covid19 outbreak: The elders made the tough decision to cancel **ALL** worship assemblies and Bible classes at Westside's building for the next few weeks. **Sunday AM Worship services**

are Live-streamed on our Facebook page. **Chuck** is posting videos on the website and Facebook page for **Wed. study on Genesis 12-50**. Check with **Chris Alsip** for a schedule of the kid's classes.

For members who want to meet in homes together (no more than 10 people per house, please) to follow the Live-stream worship on Sundays at 10 AM, you may contact the elders who will put you in touch with homes willing to host this. This request comes from some Westside members. The elders strongly urge the elderly to shelter in place and follow the AM worship on Facebook, or by the call-in phone number.