

FAMILY NEWS

FEBRUARY 04, 2018

Madrid
CHURCH OF CHRIST

"COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS..."

TODAY'S SCHEDULE:

9AM



11AM



WELCOME GUESTS!

If you are visiting with us and have any questions about what you have seen or heard today, please fill out a visitor's card or ask to talk to one of our shepherds. Our desire is to give you a biblical answer about the things that we believe and practice.

ASSEMBLY TIMES:

SUNDAY

Sermon 9:00 am
Bible Classes 10:00 am
Worship 11:00 am

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Ladies:** Remember that you get to choose what class book the adult class will study on Wednesdays during the 3rd quarter of 2018. Let the elders know any ideas you may have.
- **Events to plan for:**
 - 2/4 - Song Service during 9am service. All of the men will be able to have the opportunity to lead songs that they know.
 - 2/4 - Super-Bowl party @ the Kokemiller's @5PM
 - 3/2-3/3 - Marriage classes for younger couples
 - 3/4-3/7 - Spring gospel meeting with Mark Broyles. Announcements for the meeting are on the back table.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Larry - issue he has been having with the nerve in his face. Pray that the procedure he had would help resolve the problem.
- Franki - issues with high blood pressure
- Erb & Jan - Erb getting treatments
- Jim & Janis Anderson - comfort for Jim and strength for Janis
- Sam Davidson - God would continue to work in him and heal him.
- Sandy - lung/breathing issues
- Alicia and baby
- Samantha and baby
- Bart - breathing/asthma issues. Also be praying for his family.
- Evangelists we support in the U.S. and Africa (Jason, Brewer, Esrael, Bob B., & others)
- Widows (Margaret, Ramona, Sandy, Renee)
- Our Shepherds as they lead and feed this flock
- Our deacons as they serve
- Spiritual growth for new converts

"I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone..." (1 Tim 2:1, 3-4).

THIS WEEK'S READING:

- 2/5 - Lev 23-26
- 2/6 - Lev 27; Num 1-2
- 2/7 - Num 3-5
- 2/8 - Num 6-9
- 2/9 - Num 10-12
- 2/10 - Num 13-15
- 2/11 - Num 16-19

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

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Are Americans a Meek People?

Do the Meek

During our 11am lesson last Lord's Day, I talked about our need to be meek if we are going to inherit the Promised Land that God has promised to His people. I gave a profile of the meek person, showing that he/she is one who submits to the Lord's care and protection, is patient, does not fear what man can do to him, refrains from anger and worry, and in following the example of Jesus, is willing to submit to mistreatment and death.

Consider our American culture, all the way back to our Revolution. We don't like the idea of enduring injustice quietly and gently. That seems like weakness to us, doesn't it? We don't like the idea of waiting on God or trusting Him to take care of the wicked in His own time. We think the right thing to do is fight and kill.

I think about the, "Don't Tread on Me" Revolutionary War flag that Americans still fly today. Is this meekness? Can you be meek and also say, "I will take up arms against my government if I feel like they are oppressing me"? Isn't meekness the exact opposite of that sentiment?

For an American, I know this sounds radical, but think about the things Jesus taught. He taught His followers to gently submit to mistreatment, humiliation, and oppression (Matthew 5:38-42). He said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:44-45). He didn't say, "If someone attacks you or mistreats you, retaliate. If someone tries to hurt you for your faith, defend yourself and bring harm to them." Our natural tendency is to not be meek and to act contrary to these teachings.

As Americans, we do not tend to be a meek people. We tend to be a people who fight (even violently) for our rights. We tend to see meekness as a sign weakness or cowardice. We think, "People who don't stand up for themselves will always be run over and taken advantage of." The zealots of Jesus' day thought the same thing about the Romans. It is the worldly man who says, "If you don't stand up and protect your pride, your property, and your people against tyrants or violent people, you'll lose everything you have." Jesus disagrees. He essentially says, "If you fight for what's yours, you'll lose everything. But if you wait meekly, you will eventually have everything you need:"

"²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 16:24-25, ESV)

Disciples of Jesus believe that because of the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, we have nothing to fear from anyone in this world (Matthew 10:28). We do not even fear death, because we believe in the coming resurrection (1 Corinthians 15).

This is why we can bless those who persecute us (Romans 12:14) and why we feed and give drink to our enemies (Romans 12:20). This is why, so far as it depends on us, we live peaceably with everyone (Romans 12:18). This is why we don't have We believe through goodness and self sacrifice, rather than violence and retaliation, evil will be overcome. Paul says: "²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21, ESV)

Those who are meek will submit to the Lord's care and protection. They will entrust all judgment to Him. And Kingdom citizens will be willing to even suffer harm or death for their faith in Jesus Christ because they know that even if they suffer or die, they are not living for this life. They are pilgrims here living for eternity.