

## ~ Kevin's Kolumn ~

### ***Facing Trials: Learning from our Lord***

This week we're looking at the life of Jesus. There's one thing I've come to appreciate about looking at the life of our Savior. Life is uncertain. Things can change at a moments notice. One minute folks were praising Him, singing "Hosanna" to the King of kings and the next minute they're flogging Him and leading Him to the gallows. Just like Jesus, we can experience sudden changes in health or finances, the unexpected death of a loved one, or abandonment by a good friend. Any one of these circumstances can bring us into a dark season. We may even find ourselves questioning God because we do not understand why the Lord has allowed the trial or lets the pain continue. One of my bible heroes is Joseph. Joseph probably experienced many of the same questions/concerns we have, but he managed to hold fast to his faith. Even as a slave in a foreign land, he experienced the blessing of God's presence. And recognizing that the Lord was with him the entire time led those around him to acknowledge his allegiance to the Lord. One of the keys to walking through dark valleys—those times when life seems to be crumbling and the future's looking grim—is to embrace the reality of the Lord's presence with us. From the time we take Christ Jesus on in baptism, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us. God's Holy Spirit seals us to God. As we walk in the light, just as Jesus is in the light, we have fellowship with God and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all unrighteousness. There is NO greater gift! Because of the indwelling Spirit, we're never apart from God. No circumstance, suffering, or loss can separate us from Him or His love (Rom. 8:35, 38-39). Take a few minutes each day and reflect on Jesus' promise to be with us always (Matt. 28:20). There is no greater hope, no greater promise and no greater comfort than embracing this truth!

# Good Morning & Welcome!

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Area Wide Sing** – We will be hosting the Area Wide Sing on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars now for this event. Please see Tim Jackson or Cecil Holbert for more information.
- ◆ **Baby Shower** – There will be a Baby Shower in honor of JoAnna Kirk on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> immediately following the morning service. She is having a girl. If you have questions, please see Pam Jackson.
- ◆ **Church Picnic** – The annual Church Picnic will be held on September 27<sup>th</sup> at the farm of Cecil & Kelly Holbert. This is will be starting at 4:00 PM. Bring your favorite picnic dish and come join the food, fun & fellowship! Everyone welcome!

## News & Notes

- © **Nursery School Giving Tree** – If you chose items from the Giving Tree, please return these items by TODAY. If you would rather make a monetary donation, you can do so by seeing either Edwina Summers or Dianne Tonkery. Thank you so much for all your help with this wonderful ministry! Your contributions help us keep the cost of tuition at an affordable rate for everyone. Thanks again!!! Also, thank you to all who have come out and have been helping paint and install ceiling tiles in the Nursery School area. It is looking great!!
- © **College Students** - We will be collecting snack items for our college students to send them care packages from their church family. There is a sign up sheet on the back table in the auditorium. Please leave your items in the "Caring Corner" in the front foyer. If you have any questions, please see Pam Jackson, Dianne Tonkery or Marsha Sparks. The kids love getting a package from their home congregation.

## Prayer Requests ♥

- ♥ Please continue to keep Edwina Summers in your prayers as she has been placed on the list to receive a liver transplant.
- ♥ Joan Matheny is in need of prayers at this time as she is not feeling well.
- ♥ Elsie Matheny recently had back surgery and could still use prayers as she recovers.
- ♥ Our Nursery School teachers are hard at work preparing for the start of the school year. Please keep them in your prayers as they serve in this great