

~ Kevin's Kolumn ~

Eternal Freedom

The story of Esther in the bible is one of the most poignant sagas of all time. The Jews lived in exile because of their disobedience toward God. Persia had been assigned by God to chastise His people. In the midst of this saga we're introduced to some key players: Esther, Mordecai, Haman and King Ahasuerus. Because Haman thinks more of himself than the furtherance of the Persian kingdom or the Hebrew slaves, he sets himself up for disaster. The king had promoted Haman and set his throne above all the officials who were with him. (Esther 3:1). Because Haman was promoted he felt little respect for his subordinates. One of the Jewish slaves, Mordecai had sworn that he would not bow to anyone but the Lord. Because of his resistance, Haman became incensed. He despised Mordecai so much that he set in order a plan to annihilate ALL the Jews! Little did Haman know that Mordecai was kin to one of Queen Vashti's successors! Enter Esther: beautiful, smart, loyal and niece of Mordecai. Mordecai had been called to raise her after her father and mother had died. Once Mordecai learns of Haman's plot to kill all the Jews, he summons his niece/daughter to help the Hebrew cause. Listen to his words in Esther 4: 13, ***"Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"*** We know how the story ends, don't we? Esther does as her uncle instructed her and Haman ends up hanging on the gallows he had built for Mordecai. But the best part is when Esther wins the king's favor and reverses the edict which Haman had instituted to kill all the Jews. Notice the reaction of the Jews when they learn that that a decree had been signed by the king to spare the Hebrew people. Chapter 8: 16, ***"The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor. And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday."*** Light, gladness, joy and honor. Can you picture it?? And yet, this was only temporary freedom. What is our reaction to our God knowing that we enjoy ETERNAL freedom through Christ Jesus? Jesus truly paid it all. All to HIM we owe. Sin had left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow.

Have a blessed day and remember the One who gave it to you!
Kevin

Prayer Requests

- ♥Randy Kisner is improving after having a benign tumor removed from his back. Margie continues to struggle with her knee. Keep both of them in prayer.
- ♥Judy Securo is at home recovering from her recent knee replacement surgery. Please encourage her with cards, calls and prayers.
- ♥Continue to keep John Pheasant, Buck Osborne, Marsha Kisner, Edwina Summers, Joann Hall, Margret Brand and Noah Miller Jr. in your prayers.
- ♥Sharon Little's doctors spotted a suspicious spot under one of Sharon's ribs, but after a PET scan, they are confident her cancer is not spreading. She still has to take treatments, so please remember Sharon in your prayers.
- ♥Pat Morris continues to struggle. Vicki Nuzum is caring for her ailing father. Please keep the Nuzum and Morris families in your prayers.
- ♥Linda Huber asks that we keep her sister (Patsy Roberts) in our prayers.
- ♥It's possible that Kenny Ashcraft (Kaylyn Lipscomb's uncle) has Lou Gehrig's disease. He will be seeing doctors in Pittsburgh to determine the cause of his symptoms.
- ♥Thank you for praying for Ronnie Dalton (Ruth Ann's son). He had his shoulder realigned and a pin installed. He is now recovering at home.
- ♥Please pray for Marian King (Karen Tucker's mother). Marian is experiencing chest pains, shortness of breath and a fever.
- ♥Robert and Mary Moore traveled to Norfolk to be with Robert's family. His older sister (Nancy Richards) is not doing well at all. Hospice has been called in.
- ♥Pray for Sue Born (Brenda Grant Born's mother-in-law). Sue is terminal because her cancer has returned and Brenda as well as the other care givers are very tired and all are in need of our prayers.

News and Notes

Fall Festival – Our annual Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 8th. More info coming soon!!! If you would like to help, please see Dave or Holly White.

Auditorium Adult Class – Beginning this morning, this class will be taught by Darrell Conaway & Tim Jackson. They will be studying from the book of Numbers. Please be sure to attend for some great lessons!

Baptisms

We rejoice as SIX precious souls were baptized into Christ this past week!!!! Congratulations to Robert Lough, Darby Criss, Kayla Lough, Peggy Glaspell, Jasmine Ashcraft and Ron Hayhurst.