

A Prayer for More Resting and Less Fretting

By Scotty Smith

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land. **Ps. 37:7-9**

Dear heavenly Father, you send your Word with Swiss timing and uncanny precision. Whenever I'm vexed or fretful, you bring your daily mercies to bear. Whenever I'm confused or anxious, you meet me right there—with grace, not shame. Whenever I feel vulnerable or angry, you center my heart, by the Scriptures and your Spirit. **Thank you** for such faithful and Fatherly care.

Like a little school of piranha, there are a few things nibbling away at my peace that I want to bring before you. The success of those who've hurt people I love isn't easy to swallow. The ongoing globalization of terror is heart-wrenching and crazy-making. The state of health care and the political gamesmanship of power in our country... How long, O Lord, before you send Jesus back to put all things right?

Your voice in this Scripture is just what I need today. You won't give me a date, but as always, you do give me yourself. I hear you loud and clear, Father. You're speaking stillness and fretless waiting to my heart. **No good** comes from my obsessing about evil and evil making. Nothing profitable results from my spending extra time fertilizing my anger and fueling my disgust.

A Day is coming when the knowledge of your glory will cover the entire earth as the waters cover the sea. The whole world—not just one small and important bit of real estate in the Middle East, is holy land. The New Jerusalem is coming down from heaven, not a day early and not a day late.

Until that Day, I will seek to seek **first** the kingdom of God, and the righteousness of King Jesus. How I praise you that the very righteousness with which you have already robed me is the very righteousness with which you are going to fill the earth.

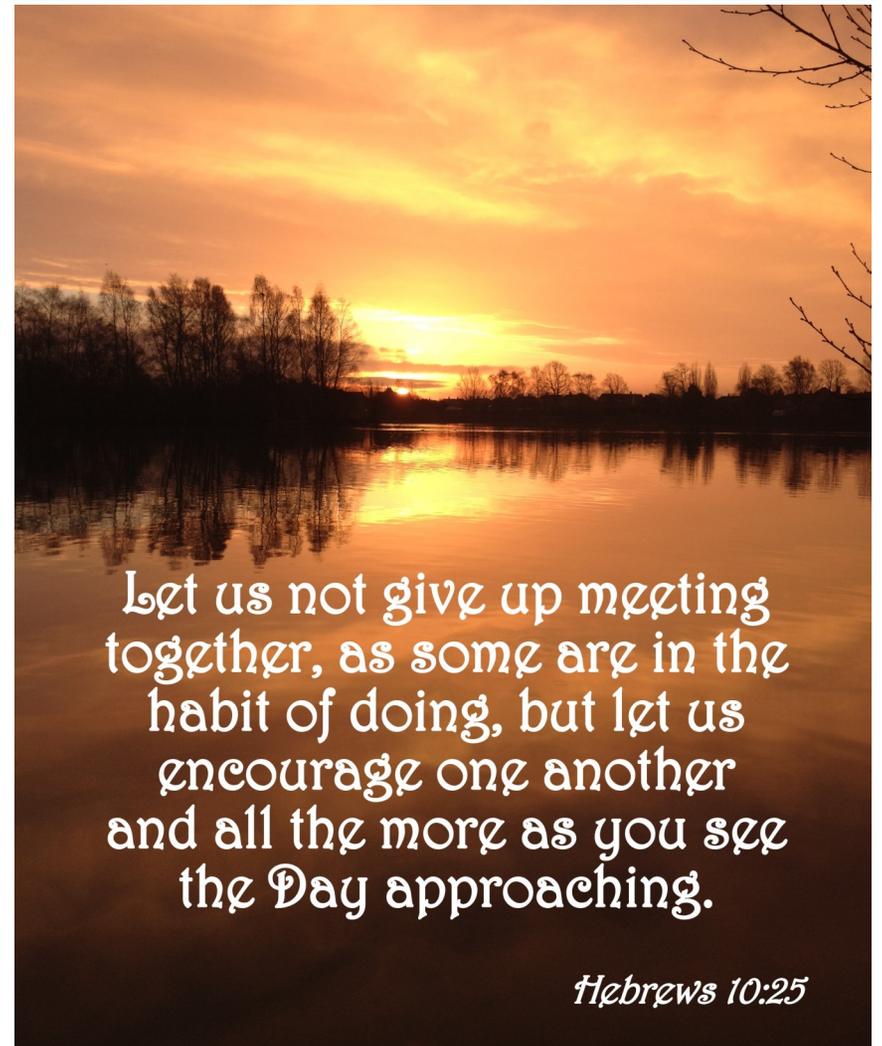
You've already made me both your son and an heir of the new heaven and new earth. Hallelujah, **many** times over. So today, I choose faith over fretting; stillness over agitation; patience over pettiness; trusting you, over vexing about others; the gospel over gossip. So very Amen I pray, in Jesus' loving and powerful name.



July 25, 2021

10:30 A.M.

God's People Must Gather



Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25

Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call to Worship

Hymn of Adoration

"Cornerstone" Liljero/Morgan/Myrin

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Belgic Confession* , Articles 3 & 7

Song of Praise

"House of the Lord". Smith/Wickham

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal-----

Understanding Ourselves Rightly

Public Confession: Romans 3:20, 23; 6:23

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Galatians 2:20

Song of Renewal

"You Alone Can Rescue". Redman/Myrin

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: *Hebrews 10:19-25*

Prayer

The Sermon

"God's People Must Gather"

Words of Institution

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn: "Mercy" Hall/Levine/de Jong/Tofa

Prayer of Approach

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

"My Worth is Not in What I Own". Getty/Kendrick

Benediction

God blesses his gathered people with his Spirit:
The Lord engages himself to let forth as it were, a stream of his comfortable, quickening presence to every particular person that fears him, but when many of these particulars join together to worship God, then these several streams are united and meet in one. So that the presence of God, which, enjoyed in private, is but a stream, in public becomes a river, a river that makes glad the city of God.

—David Clarkson, *The Works of David Clarkson, Vol. 3*
(Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1988; originally published 1696), 190.

Notes

God's Gracious Provision 7/18/2021

Attendance: 53

Offering: \$3178.00

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

When Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, things changed. Christ, the second Adam, “finished” ([John 19:30](#)) the work that the first Adam failed to do ([Rom. 5:12-19](#)). Because of that pivotal event, the church determined that for Christians under the new covenant, the day of worship and celebration of the Lord’s grace in Jesus Christ was to be the first day of the week, Sunday: “From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, [the Sabbath] was the last day of the week; and, from the resurrection of Christ, was changed into the first day of the week, which, in Scripture, is called the Lord’s day, and is to be continued to the end of the world, as the Christian Sabbath” (WCF, 21:7).

The Church Gathered

The local church is not *less* than a people, true, but it is more: it is a people *who gather together in a place*. A church without any gathering place — that is, one that never assembles — is not a church. At least not according to Jesus. If a church never meets, it is no church at all. Meeting, however, isn’t just something churches *do*. A meeting is, in part, what a church *is*. God has saved us as individuals to *be* a corporate assembly.

The word in the Greek translation of the Old Testament for “assembly,” *ekklesia*, is the same word the New Testament writers use to refer to the local church. It’s simply the term for a gathering. But when applied to the church, it carries the rich Old Testament connotations of standing together as God’s chosen people.

“In assembly, the church... becomes conscious of itself, confesses itself to be a distinct entity, shows itself to be what it is—a community (a people) gathered by the grace of God, dependent on him, and honoring him. The assembly allows the church to emerge in its true nature.”

—Everett Ferguson

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 27 6:00 –8:00 P.M. **Young Adults**(under 30) meet at the Deicherts for supper, Bible Study(groups separated), Volleyball, and ice cream.

Saturday, August 14 **Men’s Breakfast**
Time and location to be announced

Sunday, August 15 6:15-7:15 P.M. **House of Prayer**
GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults
1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA

Friday, August 20 **Reading Phillies Game**
Please see Steve Simons today if you are planning to attend this event.

Everyone is invited to join with the elders in prayer every Sunday from 9:30-10:00 in the back of the gym.

Sabbatical Plans for Pastor Rick

During the five Sundays in the month of August the elders of Grace Covenant Church have granted our pastor the privilege of taking a sabbatical. This is something that churches often do for their pastors but to date our pastor has never had the opportunity to take a sabbatical at any of the churches he has ministered.

The sabbatical definition is “a break from work” during which employees can pursue their interests, like traveling, writing, research, volunteering or other activities (or even rest). During that time, the employee is still employed at their organization, but they don’t need to perform their normal job duties or report to work.

Pastor Rick will be taking this time to understand and study the church's response to the recent cultural challenges that unless mitigated will result in the church becoming the enemy of society needing to be extinguished for the good of the future. These include critical race theory, transgenderism, etc.

While our pastor is away the elders will be assuming the necessary responsibilities for the church to continue to function without interruption. The pastor may be contacted in an emergency but please do it through an elder during this time.

Elder contact information is as follows:

Matt Deichert - 484-300-9999 or Deichert210@comcast.net

Bob Priest – 856=535-0220 or rgpriest@live.com

Karl Yorgey - 610-310-7638 or Kyorgey1@gmail.com

Please pray for both our pastor and the elders during this time; that it will result in a more prepared church to meet the challenges that face us in this world.

Prayer/Praise. July 25, 2021

- Pray for Sara's upcoming heart valve repair on July 28th.
- Pray for Marcy Nettleton's two stepdaughters. One has stage 3 breast cancer, and the other one went in for a biopsy. Pray for wellness and God's wisdom in the hands of the doctors.
- Pray for Koreen Mace's friend, Bev, as she has a growth on her liver. Prayers for wisdom for the doctor and that she would come to know Christ.
- Pray for Koreen Mace's dad, who has challenges with blindness and daily life. Pray for continued strength for Gwen, who is his caretaker.
- Pray for Jim Tobin, the husband of Donna Jenkins' cousin, Terri. Jim has Lou Gehrig's disease. Pray for Terri as she cares for Jim and their grandchildren.
- Pray for Margaret Henz, friend of Donna Jenkins, who is in a hospice center in Virginia. Pray for her daughter Eva as she goes through this time with her mother.
- Pray for Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece. He is having a series of surgeries for severe burns over most of his body. Pray for his healing and for his family as they walk with him through this time.
- Pray for Dave Conway, husband of Steve Simon's cousin, Trish. Dave has liver cancer. He fell and broke his hip, but he is feeling better. Pray for God's healing and strength for Dave.
- Pray for Christopher, son of Susan and Glen Williams. Pray that he is freed from his addiction and that most importantly, he finds that Jesus is his only hope.
- Pray for Deana Deichert's father. He was admitted to the hospital on Friday with a lot of pain. He has a tumor in his spinal column. Praise that Frank attended church last Sunday and shared his testimony! His address is: Frank Pearn 1324 Culver St. Catasauqua, PA 18032.
- Pray that a position will open for Jeremiah Mace to be employed at Teen Challenge. Pray for healing for Koreen's family.
- Pray for Rhonda Clark's father, Donald Mace, who had his last treatment on Thursday, July 1, 2021 and next will have a CT scan.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak, friend of Barb Knarr. Praise that the bladder cancer is not in the muscle; however it is a very aggressive type of cancer. Pray that the series of 6 weekly treatments are effective.
- Pray for Denny's 13-year-old nephew, Evan Kadyka, with kidney issues. Pray that a suitable kidney becomes available for a transplant.
- Pray for Ashley, the niece of Lisa Frame's friend, Denise, who is continuing her chemotherapy treatment and is doing well. Pray for healing and salvation.
- Pray for Baby Evan, who is the son of Donna Jenkins' niece, Tracy. Pray for continued healing for Evan and God's peace for Tracy and her family.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker, mother of Renee Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment.

Message

God's People Must Gather

Hebrews 10:19–25 (ESV)

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

“There is, however, a more subtle snare lurking in this world of immediate access to information that affects Christians in a unique way: the temptation of allowing online sermons to displace one's commitment to hearing God's Word preached in person alongside fellow covenant members at the place and time where their local church gathers. Don't misunderstand, listening to sermons online is generally a good thing. But when it takes the place of gathering with God's people to hear God's Word in person from the appointed shepherd of your soul, much of what God intended for our growth as followers of Jesus gets lost.”

—Brian Croft in “Tabletalk Magazine”

Why we worship on Sunday

From creation onward, the people of God worshiped on the seventh day of the week. This was a “creation ordinance” that the Creator Himself established by His example, with the intent that His creatures would follow it. He worked six days and called His image-bearers to work (Gen. 2:15); He rested on the seventh day (Gen. 2:2; Ex. 20:11; 31:17) and called His image-bearers to rest.