

## An Example Of Obedience

*Dr. Paul Chappell*

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS. **Matthew 1:22-25**

The challenge Joseph faced was staggering. The young woman he loved and wanted to marry was pregnant, and he knew that he was not the father. Yet when God told him to move forward with his plans for his wedding to Mary, Joseph did exactly that. He knew that there would be consequences. No doubt he was the subject of rumors and gossip; probably he was an object of pity if not ridicule. Yet without questioning or complaining or pushing back against what he was told to do, Joseph obeyed. The potential future cost of doing what he was told did not matter compared to the value of obedience in Joseph's eyes.

Like the other Jewish people of his era, Joseph was no doubt looking for the promised Messiah. He probably never imagined that he would be part of the story and be given the incredible responsibility of bringing up God's promised Savior and taking on the role of His earthly father. There are times when we do not understand all of God's purposes and plans, but we can and must always be obedient to what He commands. We don't need explanations or justifications for doing what God says. It is right, no matter what others may think or whether it makes sense to us. God doesn't make any mistakes. He sees what we may not even recognize in ourselves and calls us to simply obey His commands.

**When we do what God says, we are doing right, no matter what others may say or think.**

## Sermon Notes

Our special speaker for the morning and evening services this Sunday is **Douglas Cook.**

Pastor Cook will also preach on **January 11, 2023** at the Wednesday night service.

Pastor Gray and the Pulpit Committee have scheduled these opportunities for you to meet Brother Cook and his wife, Michelle, in view of a possible pastoral call.



**January 8, 2023**

*Welcome to Harvest  
Baptist Church*

If you are visiting with us for the first time, we hope that you have already received a warm welcome by our Church Family. Our prayer is that the singing, teaching and preaching of the Word of God will meet a need in your heart and life.

### HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH

**Reverend K. Preston Gray, Pastor**  
535 N. Sarival Ave.  
Goodyear, AZ 85338  
\*\*\* 602-361-8025 \*\*\*

[www.hbcgoodyear.org](http://www.hbcgoodyear.org)  
Men's Prayer Meeting 9:00 am  
Morning Worship 10:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Prayer & Bible  
Study 7:00 pm

**Harvest Baptist Church**  
*'Where church still feels like church'*

**Worship Service**

Welcome To Harvest Baptist Church

**Psalms 95:1**

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**Welcome & Announcements**

**Instrumental Special**

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**Prayer**

**Special Music**

**Message: Pastor**

**Invitation**

**Closing Prayer**

**MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK**  
*please pray for...* **Jon and Jeri-Ann Cook**,  
 our missionaries and Church Planters in Canada



*Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. John 4:35*

**ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES** are available for use during the church services. Please see Robert in the sound booth if you wish to use this equipment.

**Events and Opportunities**

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to all our church members who give of their time, energy and talents to keep our church looking nice.

Saturday January 28 - 9:00 AM

**Visitation Ministry**



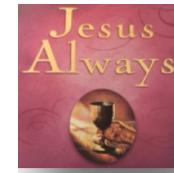
**Ladies Bible Study**  
 Every Tuesday  
 10-11 AM in the  
 missionary quarters.

**Wednesday, January 25, our missionary Gary Craft will be speaking and giving a ministry update.**

Jesus replied,  
 "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."  
**John 14:23**

**OFFERING UPDATE**

700	For The Week of 1/1/2023 - 1/7/2023	Month Total January
General	5,746.00	5,746.00
Missions	975.00	975.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6721.00</b>	<b>6721.00</b>
Native American Missions, Inc.	300.00	300.00
Christmas Offering	115.00	115.00



*Do not Dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! As you begin a fresh year, rejoice that I am continually working newness into your life.*

*Don't let recent disappointments and failures define you or dampen your expectations. This is the time to make a fresh start! I am a God of unlimited creativity; expect Me to do surprising things in this year that stretches out before you.*

*Today is a precious gift. The present moment is where I meet with you, beloved. So seek My Face throughout this day that I have made. I have carefully prepared it for you - with tender attention to every detail. I want you to rejoice and be glad in it.*

*Search for signs of My loving Presence as you journey along the path of Life. Look for the little pleasures I have strewn alongside your pathway - sometimes in surprising places - and thank Me for each one. Your thankfulness will keep you close to Me and help you in your journey.*

Isaiah 43:18-19 Psalm 118:24 Psalm 16:11

