



THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 31, 2021

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting
TBD

Weekly Bible Studies
All temporarily being
conducted via Zoom. Check
our “friends” page on
Facebook for more
information.

Times of Service
Sunday
Bible study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM
Wednesday
Bible study: 7:30 PM
(Immediately followed by a
short worship service)
First Friday of Month
Singing
On hold

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Christ
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ABOVE REPROACH

The word reproach has to do with unpleasantness. It is not a word I might use, in one context, to refer to that which is nice and proper, but might also use in some other context to refer to that which is improper and not nice. Such words as blame, discredit, disgrace, and scorn are found in dictionary definitions of reproach. Reproach is an ugly word that has to do with the ugliness found in the world. I find the language used in many translations regarding elders to be quite interesting. 1 Timothy 3:2 (ESV) reads: *Therefore an overseer^[a] must be **above** reproach.* The New Century Version explains “above reproach” this way: *An overseer must not give people a reason to criticize him.* That kind of criticism results from actions of a baser sort. But an elder is to live on a higher plain, above reproach.

God, through Moses just before the children of Israel began to take possession of the Promised Land, warned them of the dire consequences of disobedience. Among those consequences was the reproach that would be heaped upon them by their conquerors. Moses said, in Deuteronomy 28:37 *And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples where the Lord will lead you away.* (ESV); *And you will become an object of horror, a song of mockery, and an object of taunting among all the peoples where the LORD drives you.* (NAS)

In sharp contrast to the warning through Moses, Jesus taught, in Matthew 5:15-17, *“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to*

Members Needing Our Prayers

Janet Brundige, Julie Patton, Pat Seabolt, Jackie Litmer, John Thompson, Alexa and Charlie Lake, Bennie Poynter, Joyce Bolton, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson, Whitney Crouch, Rhonda Boyd (and family)

Others Needing Prayers

Rachel White, Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Andy Seabolt, Sarah and Jake Chandler, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Michael Hogan, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Jen Victoria Poynter, Terry Daniels, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Ginny Wren, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Cindi's niece, Dana, and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Mark (Carol's son), Ron Harmon

To Our Guests

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all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." The legitimate reproach Moses warned about occurs when those around God's people observe glaring inconsistencies between how they say they live and how they really live. The world may persecute Christians for righteous living, but such living ultimately results in God being glorified. It is when Christians talk about God but live like the world that our influence is jeopardized and even destroyed because of the reproach we have brought upon ourselves.

At this time when it seems that so much we hold dear is being systematically dismantled and we have clear evidence that leadership is a rare commodity, consistency between who we say we are and how we live is of utmost importance. Paul wrote, *Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! (2 Corinthians 13:5)* How often should we examine ourselves? As often as necessary to keep us from failing to meet the test. John Thompson

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
John Thompson	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

