

Facing Sadness

Nehemiah 8:7-10

We must make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Most of us falter at the prospect of making an honest personal inventory. Rationalizations and excuses for avoiding this abound. The bottom line is that we know there is an enormous amount of sadness awaiting us, and we fear the pain that facing the sadness will bring.

The Jewish exiles who returned to Jerusalem after captivity in Babylon had lost touch with God. During the Exile, they hadn't been taught his laws, so naturally, they hadn't practiced them either. After rebuilding the city wall and the Temple, the priests gathered the people together to read the Book of the Law. The people were overwhelmed with grief and began weeping, because their lives in no way measured up.

The priests said to the people, "Don't mourn or weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the LORD your God. . . . Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. . . . Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!" (Nehemiah 8:9-10). The next day marked the beginning of the Festival of Shelters, a required Jewish feast celebrating the Israelites' escape from bondage in Egypt and God's care for them while they wandered in the wilderness.

When we set out to face the pain and sadness of making a moral inventory, we will need the "joy of the LORD" to give us strength. This joy comes from recognizing, even celebrating, God's ability to bring us out of bondage and care for us as we pass through the sadness toward a new way of life.

Learning the Word

Nehemiah 8:7-8

Not only did Ezra publicly read the Scriptures; he also chose a team that was responsible for the public teaching of the Word. This group of men assisted the people in understanding what the Bible meant and how to apply it to their lives. Success in life always involves the study of Scripture and its application to our lives. The Bible tells us that we "have no excuse for not knowing God" (Romans 1:19-20) - even not having the Scriptures is no excuse. Without Scripture, however, it would be difficult to discern God's purpose in our life. Those of us who do have God's Word are responsible to live according to God's will and to help others understand what God expects of them.

The Importance of Boundaries

Nehemiah's rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem illustrates the importance of personal boundaries in our lives. When we don't have boundaries, other people may feel as if they control us, and they usually can. Our identity becomes confused with the identities of others till we lose touch with who we really are. The Jews living in Jerusalem after the return from Babylon lacked physical boundaries of protection. They were at the mercy of the people living nearby. The task of rebuilding Jerusalem's boundaries met with opposition, for with a wall, the people of Jerusalem would be able to defend themselves against their enemies. Rebuilding the wall was a difficult task for Nehemiah, as it is for us, but we must have protective boundaries.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	10:00 am	Bible Study	At the building and live stream
Sunday	11:00 am	Worship	At the building and live stream
Sunday	4:00 pm	Walking the 12 Steps with Jesus	At Pam & Rob's
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Bible Study	At Ella Smith's Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> At Rob & Pam's Nov 16 <sup>th</sup> thru Dec.

Leadership

Web Page: [Idahofallschurchofchrist.org](http://Idahofallschurchofchrist.org)

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Andy Burns, Evangelist	<a href="mailto:apburns8@gmail.com">apburns8@gmail.com</a>	208-569-9193
Doug Barber – Worship		208-589-3674
Aaron Kays – Building & Grounds		505-879-4624
Daniāl King – Benevolence		208-970-5078
Les & Teresa Pope – Mountain States Children's Home		208-524-0238

Supported Missionaries and Works

Glenn Langston - Blind Ministry	Nathan and Alvin Luther – Philippines	Caleb Odle - Arlington, Texas
Ghana West Africa Water Project		Cimi Kafexhiu - The Church in Durres, Albania

Prayers and Praise

- Miya asks for prayers for Zion. She is still not gaining weight. Her joints have become stiffer and more impaired. She sleeps most of the day. It's tough. She is being referred to St Luke's. As you go throughout your day or church service, can you please just pray for miracles.
- Darcy asks for prayers for Danny's dad, Lloyd – he's in the hospital right now and they're checking on his heart.
- Jean asks for prayers for her friend Sharon Stickley – problems with dizziness and bouts of vertigo.
- Prayers for all in our congregation and extended family dealing with Covid.
- Prayers for Briley, coping with Marfans syndrome.
- Prayers for continued healing for Kay's nephew Jeremy.
- Prayers for Gary, Rob, Kyle & Andy as they lead our congregation.
- Prayers for health for Anna's Nana, Bonnie Borgstrom, and for her caregiver Barb
- Prayers for Ryan Burns, Jordan Allbritten, and Thomas Mullinaux, serving in the armed forces.
- Prayers for our widows: Myrna, Ella, Miriam, Louise, Sallye, Millie & Carolyn.

## Events Calendar

- Oct 30<sup>th</sup> **TODAY! Potluck and Fall Party** after services. Indoor Carnival Games, Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot, fun for all.
- Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> Michael & Kay Elliot's **50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!**.

A graphic for a 50th anniversary celebration. On the left is a circular inset photo of a man and a woman in wedding attire. In the center, the text "50th Anniversary" is written in a large, elegant, gold-colored script. To the right of the text is a bouquet of yellow roses. Below the text, it says "Michael & Kay - November 3, 1972". At the bottom, there is a bulleted list of details for the celebration.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Michael & Kay - November 3, 1972

- Please join us for a Come and Go celebration
- Bring your favorite finger food
- Thursday, November 3, 2022 – 6:00pm - ???
- Idaho Falls Church of Christ Fellowship Hall
- 2650 Plommon Street – Idaho Falls, ID 83402

- Nov 13<sup>th</sup> **Orphan Sunday** – On Orphan Sunday, Christians stand for vulnerable children and families in their communities and around the world. We are a people called to defend the fatherless, seek justices, and show mercy and compassion. We do this not out of a sense of duty or guilty, but simply because He first loved us. We will take up a special collection – please pray about what you can do to support this work.
- Nov 13<sup>th</sup> **Potluck** in honor of **Baby Blue** directly after services.... bring a dish to share for our bellies and something for the baby girl in Kelsey's belly. Registered at Amazon, Target, & Walmart.
- Nov 19<sup>th</sup> **Senior Breakfast** 10:30 at the building. Seniors, caregivers, and friends are all invited. (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month.)
- Dec 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> **West Yellowstone Winter Retreat** is BACK!! We have joined an effort with a few congregations in Wyoming and Montana to bring back the Winter Retreat in December. You must register - registration information is on the table in the foyer.

# The Church of Christ in Idaho Falls

October 30, 2022

## Welcome!

We're a bible-based congregation of Christians meeting in Idaho Falls to praise and worship the one God and to support and encourage each other. All are welcome!

Please join us in our worship services and classes.

A graphic featuring a large wooden cross against a blue sky with white clouds. To the left of the cross, a Bible verse is written in a clean, black, sans-serif font.

People who  
conceal their  
sins will not  
prosper, but if  
they confess  
and turn from  
them, they will  
receive mercy.

Proverbs 28:13  
NLT

### Meditation for Today

We should work at overcoming ourselves, our selfish desires, and our self-centeredness. This can never be fully accomplished. We can never become entirely unselfish. But we can come to realize that we are not at the center of the universe and that everything does not revolve around us. I am only one cell in a vast network of human cells, I can at least make the effort to conquer the self-life and seek daily to obtain more and more of this self-conquest.

"He that overcomes himself is greater than he who conquers a city.

I pray that I may strive to overcome my selfishness. I pray that I may achieve the right perspective of my position in the world.