

FAMILY INFLUENCE

Nehemiah 9:34-38

Our family of origin has had an influence on who we are today. Some of us want to pretend that our family was, or is, nearly perfect. Others of us may tend to avoid responsibility for our actions by blaming our family. Whatever the case, when we think about our own life, we also need to deal with our family and the effects its members have had on who we are today.

We are told that the returned Jewish exiles "confessed their own sins and the sins of their ancestors" (Nehemiah 9:2). They blamed their ancestors for their captivity and the difficult situation they were facing. They said, "[Our ancestors] refused to turn from their wickedness. So now today we are slaves in the land of plenty that you gave our ancestors for their enjoyment!... We serve [conquering kings] at their pleasure, and we are in great misery" (Nehemiah 9:35-37).

It's all right to admit the truth about what brought us into bondage. This might very well involve the wrongs committed by our parents and other family members. It's perfectly all right to express our anger and regret over what has been done to us. We have a right to hold others accountable and grieve over the negative effects their actions have had on our lives. That is all part of the real picture. It's not all right, however, to use this as an excuse for our wrong choices or for staying in bondage. Our relatives may be partly responsible for bringing us to this point, but we are responsible for moving on to a better place for ourselves and our family.

INSIGHTS FROM THE MINISTRY OF NEHEMIAH

Great affliction and reproach! Ruins and wreckage! In Nehemiah 1:1-4 we see a situation that demanded rebuilding and recovery. When Nehemiah heard of the circumstances in Jerusalem, he was immediately touched. He wanted to do something about it. As we take inventory of our own life, we must take careful note of what areas need specific work. Rebuilding cannot take place until we know where to begin. In Nehemiah 2:17-18 Nehemiah performed a ministry of encouragement. He was completely honest about the people's problems; he didn't deny or underestimate their needs. Then he reminded them of God's powerful hand and challenged them to get on with the work. We all need a Nehemiah in our lives - someone who will honestly tell us what needs fixing and who will then stick close to help us complete the task. How do we handle ridicule and disdain? In Nehemiah 4:4-9 Nehemiah offers us a magnificent example. In such times, it is essential that we seek God and keep on guard. Nehemiah countered ridicule with prayer. Not only did he pray, but he also set a twenty-four-hour watch, guarding against an attack day and night. While It is important to pray to God for help with our lives, we must also be on the lookout for physical attacks from our enemies. Prayer must be balanced with action. One person can't do everything. In Nehemiah 4:14-18 Nehemiah recognized this and divided the tasks of defense and construction. This illustrates the truth that exterior attacks don't disappear just because we are busy focusing on our spiritual interior. We need to be prepared for attacks from external enemies who will try to take advantage of our busyness. This is especially true in recovery.

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME	#764. Teach Me Lord to Wait
Read Matthew 22:34-40	#345. Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
#102. Great Is the Lord Almighty	#193. Crown Him with Many Crowns
PRAISE PRAYER	#683. I Am Mine No More.
#448. Greatest Commands	LORD'S SUPPER
#176. Lamb of God.	CONTRIBUTION
Pew Packers	ANNOUNCEMENTS
LESSON	CLOSING PRAYER

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
Dani�� King – Benevolence .....		208-970-5078
Les & Teresa Pope – Special Programs .....		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	

INSIGHTS FROM THE MINISTRY OF EZRA

In Nehemiah 8:1-5 Ezra took on the essential task of spiritual rebuilding in the lives of the citizens. Now that the wall of Jerusalem had been rebuilt and its streets were safe, Ezra was able to give attention to the reading of the law. It is imperative to remember that the Bible contains the directions and resources for rebuilding broken lives. While we may obtain physical recovery, it is also necessary to recover spiritually through salvation by belief in Jesus Christ. God is the foundation on which we must build our new lives.

REMOVING RUBBLE

Nehemiah 4:10

Rubble can be very disheartening in itself. With every remodeling project, trash accumulates. This is true not only for physical rebuilding but for emotional and spiritual recovery as well. The garbage was getting in the way of the workmen, and they were discouraged by it. We may experience the same discouragement as some of the unresolved emotional garbage from the past still remains. We must recognize the garbage, resolve the problem, and then remove the rubble so we can continue on the path to recovery.

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	10:30 am	Senior Breakfast	At Perkins Restaurant
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Bible Study	At the building
Saturday	7:00 pm	Teen Group	At the building
Mar 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Singing Sunday &amp; Potluck</b> – Services 10:30 to noon, no classes, potluck following.		
Mar 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Spring Food Drive for Mountain States Children's Home.</b> They need canned & jarred foods, personal & household items, boxed & packet foods, snacks & beverages, and paper goods & plastics & cleaning supplies. See a fill list in the lobby. Donations must be at the building by 10:00 am March 11 <sup>th</sup> .		
Mar 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Senior Breakfast</b> 10:30 at the building. Seniors, caregivers, and friends are all invited. (normally 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month but moved up this month to avoid the Men's Retreat.)		
Mar 16-18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Idaho Men's Retreat '23:</b> There will be a Men's Retreat at the Railroad Ranch Dormitory and Dining Hall at Harriman State Park in Island Park. The cost is \$35 per person which includes lodging and meals. This retreat is open to teens also. We will begin Thursday early evening and finish Saturday early afternoon. Bring sleeping bags & pillows. If you have any questions, please ask Andy.		
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Family Day &amp; Potluck</b> - We ask all our Idaho Falls family to attend a potluck and family meeting after worship services. The leadership will discuss a variety of topics and answer any questions the family may have. A box and forms have been provided on the foyer table to ask questions or make comments in advance. We will gather those questions and discuss them as well.		
May 18-20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Montana Men's Retreat:</b> "Creating Communities of Conviction" at the C-N Camp near Augusta, MT. Guest speakers are Carlus Gupton, Wade Purdom, and Matt Burleson. Cost is \$150 for adults, \$90 for under 19, includes Thursday dinner, Friday all meals, Saturday breakfast & lunch.		

PRAYERS AND PRAISE

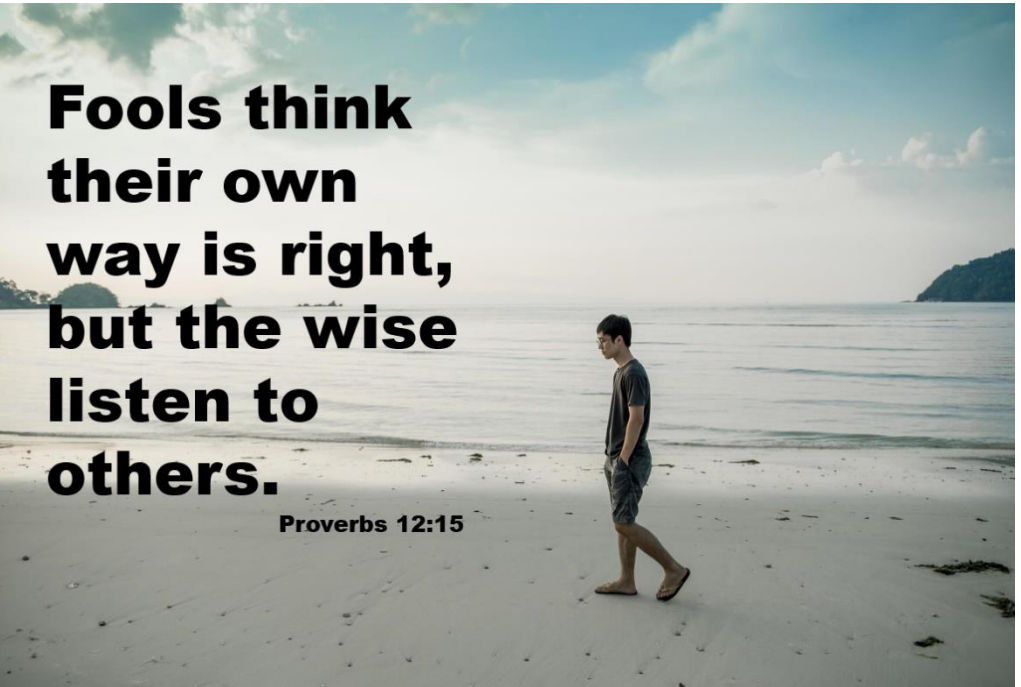
- Prayers for all in our extended family who are dealing with Covid.
- Prayers for Briley, coping with Marfans syndrome.
- Prayers for continued healing for Kay's nephew Jeremy.
- Prayers for Gary, Rob, Kyle & Andy as they lead our congregation.
- Prayers for Ryan Burns, Jordan Allbritten, and Thomas Mullinaux, serving in the armed forces.
- Prayers for our widows: Myrna, Ella, Miriam, Louise, Sallye, & Carolyn.

The Church of Christ in Idaho Falls

February 19, 2023

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.



Meditation for Today

I should pray for faith as a thirsty person prays for water in a desert. Do I know what it means to feel sure that God will never fail me? Am I sure of this as I am sure that I still breathe? I should pray daily and most diligently that my faith may increase. There is nothing lacking in my life because, really, all I need is mine, only I lack the faith to know it. I am like a rich man's child who sits in rags when all around me are stores of all I could desire.

I pray for the realization that God has everything I need. I pray that I may know that His power is always available.

Online Bulletin at <https://ifcocminister.wixsite.com/mysite/general-8>