

June 2020



 Omega Baptist Church

A circle of believers with Christ at the center.

BEACON

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

What in the World is Going On?

With the disruption and suffering as a result of the virus, the mitigation actions and now the riots in many of our cities, people have been asking me questions about the end times. It is normal in times like these to wonder if we are getting close to the times described in the Bible leading up to the return of Jesus.

With that in mind, beginning on June 14th I am going to preach a series of messages related to end times events. The information will help us to be able to interpret our times. It will also help us to view some of our current events in the larger context of the ongoing battle for the eternal destinies of people.

Spiritual warfare is real and it is on display. One of the dangers of ignorance these days is that it is very easy to be tricked into supporting something that you really don't approve of. Satan is called by Jesus “The Father of Lies” so it shouldn't surprise a follower of Jesus that Satan would deploy all kinds of deception.

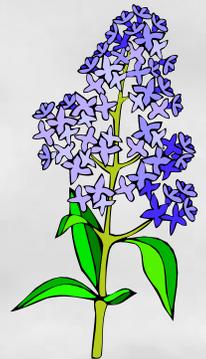
One of the passages we will use in this series is the little New Testament book of Jude. We will read of the kind of infiltration of God's people by people of

the enemy that will happen in the last days. You will likely be able to think of examples in our current day.

I do not know at the time of this writing what the order of messages in the series will be. Please pray for me as I work to bring you helpful information related to our sometimes quickly changing situation. Thank you!

In His Joy,

Pastor Rodney



“But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.”

Jude verses 20-21, 24-25



YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

about time. We've had a lot of time lately to slow down, to reflect, but in reality there has been no more "time" added to our plate. It's still the same 24 hours. Maybe you've used this time wisely and have started a new hobby, read a few books, or gotten things done around the house. Or maybe you've just survived these last few months on chocolate. I found a saying on Facebook that I think is fitting. "We are all in the same storm, but we are not all in the same boat." No one is going through this time in exactly the same way and that's ok. Not going to lie, this has been hard for me. I've had to fight my way back to a place where I can trust that God loves me, no matter what, and to turn over my fear and my plans to him. As a planner, I want to get ready for the next "thing" and it took a couple of weeks to figure out how to cope with waiting and uncertainty. I still don't get it right all the time. In fact, in my need to plan I have somehow started reading 4 different books at the same time, on top of reading through the Bible in 90 days. That's a lot of reading and information floating around in this learner's brain! Sometimes my eyes quit before my brain does and I lie awake thinking about all the stuff I've read. I don't remember doing that when I had a "normal" schedule. I've also developed a bad habit. I have started checking my email and responding to texts, social media posts, or messages from students and friends before getting out of bed in the morning. What a weird way to start my day and probably not the smartest.

My dad recently told a story about my great-grandpa. I never met him, but my dad talks of him often. Apparently he was known for saying, "Wake up stupid and you're stupid all day." He used this story to illustrate the importance of choosing to wake up with God. We've probably all heard or been told that we're supposed to start our day with God, which for most of us means reading the Bible, quiet time and prayer. There is absolutely nothing wrong with this advice, however, some people aren't morning people. They need time for their brains to wake up. Others have to be up at 4:30 a.m. to get to work. Still others have little ones to attend to and sometimes trying to wake up before them is impossible. So what are they to do? Does it make them less of a Christian if they can't "start" their day with God? Absolutely not. It just means you have to get creative. Like maybe listen to the Bible on the drive to work or read the Bible after exercising or on lunch break. I think we often look at what others do and wonder why we can't do it like them. We think others have a better spiritual life because their quiet time or prayer life seems like a rock star version compared to ours. We weren't created to be the same, so quit trying to wear other people's armor! You need to find the armor that fits you! This means you have to figure out who you are and how you are wired. God made everyone unique with different personalities, temperaments, internal clocks, strengths and worship styles. That's why humans are special and it's what makes us special to God. What God wants, I believe, is for us to be real. To figure out what works for us and do it and stop comparing it to others. Quit using the excuse of "no time" or how "we really want to get into our Bibles" and just do it! Your way though, not mine.

But I do think it's possible to give him the first moment of our day, no matter what our schedule looks like. As we fight this unseen spiritual battle together and separately we must prepare. We have an enemy that wants us to look at Facebook first thing in the morning instead of praying. He wants our tired brains to tune out on a YouTube video instead of an inspirational or educational podcast on our drive to work. He wants us to choose anything over what we need to choose. So, we might not all be able to sit down and read the Bible and spend time with God when we first open our eyes, but we can make the choice every day in those first few moments to choose God. Instead of waking up stupid, we can wake up smart! Ephesians 6:10 (KJV) says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might." It then goes on to describe the type of armor we are to wear. On our own we don't have the power to get it right. We don't have the power to be enough. We don't have the power to avoid stupid on our own. But, as believers (as the brethren), we have access to a power that is strong enough. A power that is perfect and mighty. We only have to choose it! So no matter what your schedule looks like, find a way to make the choice to avoid being stupid all day and choose God. Even if it's simply looking up and saying, "I choose you today!"

...until next time. Rebecca Anderson, OBC Youth Director

June OBC Meetings & Ministries

WORSHIP TEAM

7	Sam & Aimee
14	Isaacsons
21	Steve & Krista, Jim & Pattie
28	Youth Group

ORGANIST

Ellen
Dolly
Jody
Karen



ARRANGING SPECIAL MUSIC - Jody Isaacson

AUDIO TECH - Matt Swan

VISUAL TECH - Sam Blomberg

MEETINGS

Missions Committee	Thursday, 4th	7:00 p.m.
Trustee Board	Monday, 8th	7:00 p.m.
CE Board	Tuesday, 9th	7:00 p.m.
Deacon Board	Monday, 22nd	7:00 p.m.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAMMING

We will let you know when we will start offering Nursery care, Children's Church, and Sunday School for all ages. If your children missed any of our virtual Children's Church messages, they can be found at our church website: www.ogemabaptistchurch.org.

**"The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness;
He will quiet you by His love;
He will exult over you with loud singing."**

Zephaniah 3:17

The First Fruit of the Spirit

by Dwight L. Moody

The fruit of the Spirit is love. What a heavenly grace love is! It has its center in the heart, but its circumference sweeps, like omnipresence, around everything. Love is a grace of boundless scope. We love God. We love His dear Son. We love the Spirit.

Following upon this, for God's sake we love the creatures He has made. Our love climbs to heaven, sits among the angels and bows among them in lowliest attitude, but in due time our love stoops to earth, visits the haunts of depravity, cheers the garrets of poverty, and sanctifies the dens of blasphemy, for it loves the lost. Love knows no outcast; it has cast out none. It talks not of the "lapsed masses," for none have lapsed from its regard. Love hopes good for all, and plans good for all. While it can soar to glory it can descend to sorrow.

Love is a grace connected to eternity, for we shall never cease to love Him who first loved us. But love has also to do with this present world, for it is at home in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, nursing the sick, and liberating the slave. Love delights in visiting the fatherless and the widows.

In the list of the fruit of the Spirit, love is the first. First, because it leads the way. First, because it becomes the motive and stimulant of every other grace and virtue. Love fulfills the whole law. You cannot say that of any other virtue. Yet, while it fulfills the law, it is not legalistic. Love, moreover, is Godlike, for God is love.

"A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. ...

Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." - Jesus in Matthew 25:35-40

June Birthdays



- Joseph Pearson, Jill Smith
- Adam Blomberg, Ann Reynolds
- Dan Blomberg, Heidi Michaelis, Ezekiel Stolhammer, Renee Zook
- Jessica Andrae, Tammie Blomberg
- Tina Hensley
- Jordan Nelson, Ameris Grapa, Danielle Blomberg
- Jeremy VanCamp
- Laura Lord, Malcolm Monroe, Lucas Cook
- June Larson, Tirah Meier
- Bo Jones
- Emilie Blomberg, Pam Wildberg, Kendrick Wear
- Nate Erickson, Diane Bulgrin
- Kyle Belan, Macy Erickson
- Nick Erickson, Gene Haskins, Nancy Espinoza
- Doug Erickson, Tom Schubring, Gabriel Ulrich
- Josh Jones, Preston Nelson, James Gustafson
- Cody Gasser, Sarah Leick, Kailee Mann, Aelita Price
- Joel Esterholm, Tyler Olson
- Garrett Blomberg, Marcia Carlson, Steve Swan
- Andy Swan
- Janet Blomberg, Rebecca Anderson, Ciara Scheithauer
- Brandon Hallstrand, June Johnson
- Vivian Rhody, Brooke Nelson
- Anna Dielschneider
- Kay Sue Belan, Nathan Karlik, Carol Heikkinen, Renita Ulrich, Manny Espinoza Jr.
- Heidi Esterholm, Donna Nelson, Ron Mattson



Happy Birthday!

"The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."

Romans 8:26



OGEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. BOX 556, OGEMA, WI 54459 715-767-5157 www.ogemabaptistchurch.org

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Please contact us if:

- You or someone in your family (on our mailing list) has an address change
- You no longer want to be on our Beacon mailing list
- You would rather receive your Beacon by email

Email:

info@ogemabaptistchurch.org

Thank You!

Sunday Worship Service - 10:15 a.m.
or online at www.ogemabaptistchurch.org

Wednesday Adult Prayer Meeting - 7:00



Missionary Spotlight Paul and Ana Hill Santiago del Estero, Argentina

Paul and Ana Hill serve with Converge Worldwide in Santiago del Estero, Argentina.

"Santiago del Estero is located in Northwest Argentina, and its harsh geography, climate and Limited development make it one of the poorer areas of the country. An unreached middle-class and a poor marginal rural population are the driving forces in our ministry. Our ministry involves planting churches, leadership development and compassion ministries."

"Survival: How do the poor people survive in the midst of this world lockdown that touches even the remote rural areas we have been working in? I have been friends with Esteban and Noni Luna for years and have mentored and helped them in many different ways as they first served in a rural setting and then when they started a church plant in their own home in one of the poorer neighborhoods of Santiago. When quarantine was declared in Santiago, everyone was sent home and police blocks established everywhere controlled people from moving around. Immediately the poor parts of town began struggling, as most are day laborers who have no savings whatsoever. What Pastor Luna did immediately is start two soup kitchens in very marginal areas giving children and sometimes adults a warm meal with a piece of bread once a week. He faithfully gets on his bike and with his wife and son have sneaked around to feed over 200 kids! Once the church's resources ran out (they don't even have a finished building) donations from the food bank and individuals have helped them continue with the warm meals."

PRAYER REQUESTS (from May 19th missionary letter): *For a travel permit for Ana who traveled to Catamarca for her father's funeral 40 days ago and has not been able to get a permit to return home. *For effective outreach and ministry helping and sustaining the local leadership. *That we can establish once and for all small home groups, one of those cultural resistances we have struggled with. *For our finances as we know the whole world is suffering and that our supporting churches are suffering too. *Within the new vision that Converge has established, the Southern Cone Initiative is looking to establish gospel movements among the least reached of southern Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, focusing on large urban centers of 1 million inhabitants. Pray for guidance for what our part will be in this initiative and what this will entail for us. *For our children as third culture kids who struggle with identity and purpose. *My mother will soon be 97! Pray she will stay healthy until our precious Savior calls her home. *For Ana's brother and sister who have never met the Lord.

Please keep Paul and Ana Hill's ministry and family in your prayers!

Learn more at <https://converge.org/missionary/paul-anita-hill>

or contact them by email: sgohills@hotmail.com or facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sgohills>

