



## August 16, 2020

### Weekly Newsletter

#### The Preacher's Post – *Darin Kennedy*

“You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.”

—2 Peter 3:11-12

2 Peter has one of the most terrifying descriptions of the Second Coming of Jesus found in the New Testament. One would think that the command following such a description of Judgment Day would be, “Be afraid. Be very, very afraid.” But Peter has another perspective for “those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours” (2 Peter 1:1). His response is more like, “Isn't it wonderful what's going to happen? So now let's get down to living well.” Rather than Judgment Day, it's more like a birthday or Independence Day or a wedding day.

I am amazed at how calmly the biblical writers describe death and destruction. They see Armageddon through the lens of the promises and grace and love of God, and they long for it to happen. What are the things that most excite them?

1) We get to be with God. The continual presence of the Lord and of the Lamb is far more exciting a prospect than if there will be golf in heaven or a cruise-ship-like buffet. Forget the golden streets and pearly gates. Nothing will be more brilliant than His light, and nothing will be more valuable than being close to Him.

2) Our enemies will be conquered. From the earthly powers that enslave us to the spiritual powers that plague us to death itself, we will be free. They will no longer have any dominion over us as the true King subjugates them under His feet and imprisons them for all eternity.

3) Our work will be vindicated. The world has never appreciated our peacefulness, our sacrifice, our holiness, or our proclamation. One day, everyone will see that that way of life has always been the only one worth living. I don't know whether I ought to gloat, but there will be a powerful

moment of “I told you so.” Hopefully, I will be more gracious than that.

4) We will continue what we have started. Much of what has been built, what people have spent their whole lives building, will be completely gone. I grieve for the moment when people realize the time and energy wasted in their lives. Nothing is more frustrating now than to realize what has been wasted, and I can't imagine what it will feel like then. But for those who have been devoted to righteousness, they will continue in that “new heaven and new earth, where righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13). The apostles worked in the kingdom of God while they were here because the kingdom of God is what will continue. Nothing will be wasted “for their deeds will follow them” (Revelation 14:13).

Live in such a way that the coming of Jesus and Judgment Day will be a transition and a fulfillment rather than a disaster and a defeat.

#### Birthdays: August 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

Carrie Eaton – 17<sup>th</sup>

Todd Hadley – 17<sup>th</sup>

Buddy Self – 17<sup>th</sup>

Vickie Sullivan – 17<sup>th</sup>

Troy Cook – 20<sup>th</sup>

Tony Pollard – 20<sup>th</sup>

Lauren Battistelli – 21<sup>st</sup>

Aylee Palmer – 21<sup>st</sup>

London Jones – 22<sup>nd</sup>

## Prayer Requests

**Roman Martin** – had shoulder surgery on Tuesday, **Lillie Ramage** – has stage 4 pancreatic cancer, **Gideon Guntert** – fell out of a tree, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Sandra Innacarro) – has bladder cancer, **Paul Walker's** friend (Barbara Landis) – was diagnosed with ALS, **Gerri Hasty** – has melanoma in her finger and has surgery on September 3 (**DATE CHANGE**), **Drew Battistelli's** sister (Khristi Thomas) – has returned to work haltime and is still recovering, **Stormy Cook's** brother (Ralph) – had surgery concerning his esophagus, **Mary Ellen Myers's** son-in-law (David Ellifrites) – is having heart issues, **Cathy Eldridge** – has some internal bleeding, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Arthur Smith) – has bone marrow cancer, **Linda Hyde's** mother (Willa Dean Haley) – is currently in hospice care, **Donna Wealand** – had foot surgery and is finally able to put some weight on it, **Marina Belekonnii** – from Ukraine has Hodgkin's lymphoma, **Anne Johnston** (former member) – is requesting prayers for medical issues and she is facing a tough and uncertain path forward, **Jeannie Ewens's** daughter (Emily) – health problems that have affected her ability to work, **Debbie Peerson** - (**UPDATE**: She had plasma injections. Praying for no surgery!), **Mary Ellen Myers's** sister (Carmen Stevens) - has been given only 3-6 months to live. (**UPDATE**: she is doing very well!!), **Flora Swartz's** friend (Joanie Green) -**UPDATE**: the chemo pills are not having the desired effect. She started the second round, but if there aren't any changes, they will start drip chemo. David Church – **Ben Church's** brother, **Andy Hester, Ralph and Eloise Staley, Joel Morehead, Bruce Keeton, Jurhee Bench, Will Kreisel, Dave Nash, Lena Bramlett**



London Jones is tuning 14!!!

## A Note from our Elders:

### Giving Update

This has been the strangest year in my lifetime. I am sure many of you are saying the same thing. I think back to celebrating New Year's Eve as we began the year with so much promise. Who knew that just a few weeks later we would be impacted so drastically with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic? Everything shut down and our worship together impacted in ways we could not have foreseen. We went from worshipping from home while livestreaming to meeting in small groups in the building. While many of you are still live streaming about 100 of us are meeting in the front yard of the church property each Sunday morning. Many of you have been impacted equally in your work life. Some became temporarily unemployed while others found their selves working from home.

With this in mind, we would like to take the opportunity to update you on the financial condition of Blue River. Our core giving is down \$24,000.00. Yes, we have some funds set back for emergencies and for future building projects. We will use these as necessary to meet the obligations and financial commitments we have made. However, we want to keep you informed where we are. If you have been unable to make the contribution you intended to at the beginning of the year but would like to, there are some options. You can make your contributions online. There has been a special account set up to receive that by going on the Blue River website. You could mail your contribution to the building. Or you could have someone who is attending our outside service bring it for you.

May God continue to bless you and keep you safe in this very unique time.

-Russ Simmons