

RESTING IN THE CHAOS

Twenty-four hours. The amount of time that is in a day; no more and no less. It is our single most valuable resource, and its beauty is that no one has more of this resource than another, not now nor throughout all history. However, we have made more happen within that time allotment. The invention of “time-saving” technology has not increased the measure of time; instead, it has made the time obese with activity. We expect responses within minutes of an inquiry; the phone is attached, even in the world’s most remote areas. We have the purchasing power to bring the goods we desire to our doorstep in minimal time. The news is delivered with the touch of a screen to reveal the darkest corners and ugliest truth to any who would desire to know. We are more than busy. We live in chaos.

It is this thing we call life; notice it is what we “call” life, but I would argue we are not living but rather existing. In the existing, though, life does happen. What is life in this context? It is the part of our days that requires our attention and, if permitted, consumes every bit of our existence. There are deadlines; some are real, and others are self-imposed, leading to a sense of no time to get it all done. Finances, though most of the time it is a result of our own doing this part of life, can incarcerate our thoughts and drive us to unending labors to gain the idolatrous object of our res, leaving us exhausted and unfulfilled. Likewise, the death of someone close can cause us to be “off,” unbalanced and out of control, lacking stability and further loading the wagon as the essential-to-life things are prioritized and any unnecessary activity is tabled but doesn’t go away. The emotional burden of life, which you don’t have time for, becomes heavier, more asphyxiating; the cares of the world, observing the hopelessness of those around you, and feeling helpless. It comes in many ways: hurting loved ones, aging family members, incurable sickness, knowing the lostness of the world, and knowing they refuse to call out to the one person who can cure it all. The chaos consumes.

Counselors’ offices are filled with those suffering from the effects of the chaos and being of the world; they offer the world’s solutions. Find your thing. There is great benefit to procuring methods of disconnecting. There are many options; just be sure they alleviate rather than contribute. For some, it is a creek bank, or locally, a lake with a shade tree and a bream bed. Others find respite up a tree, listening to the stream winding through the hardwood bottom, listening to squirrels forage the leaves and storing up supplies for the hard of winter, waiting on the chance to harvest the object of their pursuit. Perhaps it is chasing a golf ball, taking in the scenery, and having camaraderie with other codgers. It could be a warm coffee, a book, a relaxing environment, hiking, walking, the beach, the mountains, or even shopping. Whatever it is, it is individually unique. The chaos set aside.

“Come to me,” the beckoning of the Savior to all who are weary and burdened. He promises we will find rest for our souls (Matt 11:28 ff.). For those who are in Christ, we have a place of rest, simple enough to hear but difficult to do. In his teaching on the mount, we are told not to be anxious about our life. We are valued in Christ, and if God takes care of the sparrow who neither sows nor reaps, surely he can take care of us. How do we come to him? Churches have been declaring the key for millennia: prayer and reading the word. In his closing to the church in Philippi, Paul gives this exhortation; “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:4 ff.). The chaos calmed.

As I sat in Restoration Coffee, downtown Wetumpka, writing this, I noticed that he gives rest, not deliverance...yet. And though that seems not to be a comfort, knowing that in just a short time, I will be back in the chaos, I am calmed by knowing that God is always with me. That I at any moment can come to him and find rest. Bible study is like entering Superman’s fortress of solitude, only you are not alone; you are holding the very breath of God, given to his people to guide them through this world of trouble and sorrow and into his everlasting Kingdom. The Kingdom where we will ultimately find our rest, total deliverance not only from the sin and chaos of the world but from the effect of our own sin. True rest. But, in the meantime I encourage you, and myself, to go often to the well of living water, Jesus Christ, and find rest for your soul. Reflect upon this quote from one of Spurgeon’s sermons:

I like that saying of Martin Luther, when he says, “I have so much business to do today, that I shall not be able to get through it with less than three hours’ prayer.” Now, most people would say, “I have so much business to do today, that I have only three minutes for prayer; I cannot afford the time.” But Luther thought that the more he had to do, the more he must pray, or else he could not get through it. That is a blessed kind of logic: may we understand it! “Praying and provender hinder no man’s journey.” If we have to stop and pray, it is no more hindrance than when the rider has to stop at the farrier’s to have his horse’s shoe fastened; for if he went on without attending to that it may be that ere long he would come to a stop of a far more serious kind.

NHBC NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



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Sunday Schedule

8am Men’s Prayer
8:45am Sunday School
10am Worship
5pm Men/Women’s Bible Studies

Wednesday Schedule

5:45pm Dinner
6pm Bible Studies

Office Hours: Tue–Thurs, 9am–3pm

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

What can we take away from the Thanksgiving time of year to remind us throughout the year of God's un-ending love for us? Best thing is look to scripture to find your answer.

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." (Psalm 100:

We finally managed to get the Senior Adult Luncheon in on October 19th and were blessed with a good turn out and a great program. Our guest speaker was Reverend Ed Shirley and we were blessed by his words. A great time was had for all.

We are planning our annual Senior Christmas Party for December 7th. Keep an eye out for details, but it will be in the FLC, bring 2 covered dishes; meat furnished.

You want to know a very easy way to praise and thank God for His many blessings? Try this - Prayer is the simplest and surest way to convey appreciation to God. Simple and sincere prayer, given from the heart and expressing your thanks for the wonderful life you've been given, will touch God deeply. There are no hard and fast rules about praying. Come to God just as you are! Have a blessed Thanksgiving month! We love you all.

Ron and Donna

Psalm 118

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

2 Let Israel say:
“His love endures forever.”

3 Let the house of Aaron say:
“His love endures forever.”

4 Let those who fear the Lord say:
“His love endures forever.”

Well we have come to that time of year when we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. Some put posts on Face-book everyday in November of what they are thankful for. Some offer thanks in prayer of things they are thank-ful for. As we approach this time of this year, I have been thinking, what if God was going to list some things he was thankful for?

Would the time we spend on our relationship with Him make the list? What about the time we spend in prayer? Would the time we spend in His word seeking to know Him better make the list? Or the time we spend sharing His goodness and the Gospel? What about the time we spend in fellowship and gathering with other believers? What about the preparations we make to celebrate the birth of our Savior next month?

Just a few thoughts, I would like to know what you think. Let me know!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve your families!

*Please have payments for WinterBlast in by Nov 26th. Thank you!

Happy Thanksgiving!!!



This year, as we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, let's remember to celebrate the greatest gift of all — salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Colossians tells us:

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 (NKJV): As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. This, made me think of Pastor Matt's message these past weeks, about God's Grace and our promise of salvation.

Let's not forget those words as we move into the season of thanksgiving, knowing as Chris-tians that God truly loved us, and Jesus sacrificed himself for our salvation.

Here is a list of events planned for November. Please try to attend, as we celebrate the thanksgiving season and move to a special December.

Calendar Events for November

Date/Time	Event
November 3 / 6pm (1 hr)	First night of Discipleship Training (Sanctuary)
November 4 / 6pm (2 hrs)	Second night of Discipleship Training (Sanctuary)
November 5/Morning Service	Message from Brett Donovan/Discipleship
November 12/After service	Church Thanksgiving Luncheon. Bring your favorite dish. We will do Pastor Appreciation on this day.