

# KEEPING THE FAITH

*Where families make eternal homes*



## Persistence Through Christ

Philippians 4:9 – What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

No matter the phase of life that we find ourselves, persistence is often necessary to achieve those things that we most desire. Whether it's a newborn crying for a bottle at 2:00 AM, a man trying to draw the attention of woman, a college student studying for weeks on end to obtain a degree, or \_\_\_\_\_, all will find that being persistent will eventually gain the desired end goal. Just as we are determined to acquire certain items in our lives, we must be even more determined and persistent in our journey to be granted a home in heaven.

*Determination, perseverance, resolve, diligence, and tenacity* are just some of the words in the English language that are synonyms for the word *persistence*, and these human features must be applicable in our daily walks with Christ.

Now that we are twelve days into the year 2020, here are a handful of spiritual suggestions to living a life of persistence through Jesus that I would like for you & I to consider:

1. We will arise to each new day with the desire to be a holy vessel for his glory. Philippians 4:1,4: "Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say rejoice."

2. We will not allow any challenge to deter us from living for Jesus. Philippians 4:6: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

3. We will be mindful of the thoughts which we allow to linger in our minds, and we will only embrace those thoughts which motivate us to live even the more for Jesus Christ. Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brothers,



"Keeping the faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith."

1 Timothy 1:19

2053 High School Road  
Hueytown, AL 35023  
(256)-431-4551  
(317)-363-9900

Information Line:  
Janet Hamrick:

**Schedule of Services:**  
Sunday  
Worship: 9:30 a.m.  
Lord's Supper: 11:30 a.m.  
Wednesday  
7:00 pm

### Elders:

Roger James  
Amos Rowe  
Keith Parks

### Evangelists:

Ed Rangel  
(317)-363-9900  
rangellalo@gmail.com  
www.edrangel.com

Benjamín Muñoz  
(256)-431-4551  
bmunoz754@gmail.com

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." – Romans 3:23



Visit us

whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

4. We will strive to obey Jesus, no matter how others treat us, talk about or ridicule us. Philippians 4:5,7: "Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

5. We will display the Spirit of Christ through our lives each day. We can't just talk about being Christians; we must mirror our words with our actions. Philippians 4:9: "What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." Hebrews 12:14: "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness, no one will see the Lord."

6. We will share with others the joy and benefits of living persistent lives as Christians. John 20:21: "Jesus said to the disciples again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

7. We will find that as we mature in the Lord, all that God requires of us not only advances the testimony of His Holy

Kingdom, but also enriches our own lives. 1 Peter 1:8: "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory."

*Patience, persistence and perspiration  
make an unbeatable combination for success.  
- Napoleon Hill ~ American author & journalist*

The life of a Christian involves patience (God works in His time), persistence (It takes a lifelong commitment), and even sometimes a little sweat (it's work...but there is an eternal award that awaits).

A Christian's walk is sometimes likened to that of a race or a boxing match (1 Corinthians 9:25-27). If we expect to be rewarded with an eternal crown, we will have to endure the rocky terrain and uppercuts delivered by Satan. The Lord equips us with gear to persist through those trials and stand victorious at the end.

Having a relationship with God requires of us an all-consuming vision, burning desire, inner confidence, highly developed spiritual habits, and commitment to lifelong learning. *-(edited) By Kolby Taylor*

## Family News

- **Don Horne** is feeling somewhat better. He is scheduled for some testing and then possibly surgery.
- **Les Davis** had two strokes and his left side has been affected. He will be moving to an assisted living facility during his therapy and additional care. Please continue to send cards at: 70 Chesterfield Court, Youngsville, NC 27596
- **Teen class** will be 1/12 at Billy Birtley's home.
- **Ecclesiastes class** will resume 1/21 at 10:00 am in the building and at 7:00 pm at Lottie Smith's home.
- Please keep **Vickie Stevens** in prayer. She will have her PetScan on January 17th at 10:00 a.m. She has an appointment with the oncologist on the 21st to discuss the results and then an appointment on the 24th with the radiologist. But her spirits are good and she plans to attend the singing at the Vestavia congregation!
- Please consider supporting the **Spanish speaking effort at 4:00 pm**. All lessons are presented in both English and Spanish.
- Please pray for our shut-ins and stay in contact with them: **Norma Armstrong**, 1701 North 16th Way, Bessemer, AL 35023; **Jean Baughn**, 131 Crest Road, Self Nursing Home Room 028, Hueytown, AL 35023; **Warren and Yvonne Elmore**, 2609 Virginia Drive, Hueytown, AL 35023; **Carl and Faye Webb**, 2616 Novel Drive, Hueytown, AL 35023

## Serving

Deacon in the Back: Lee Kelley  
**Sunday 01-12-2020**

Song leader: Michael Merritt

Opening prayer: Keith Parks

**Collection scripture:  
1 Chronicles 29:6-10**

**Serving at Table:  
Clint Armstrong - Greg Hamrick  
Tucker Downey - Gage Kelley  
Logan Sims - Levi Weaver**

Sermon (1) Benjamin Muñoz- God Initiated-I Reciprocated  
Sermon (2) Ed Rangel - There's a Great Day Coming

Prayer before class: Buford Turner  
Closing Prayer: Jesse Kelley