

# **The Keavy Encourager**

*1 Thessalonians 5:14 (GW)-We encourage you, brothers and sisters, to instruct those who are not living right, cheer up those who are discouraged, help the weak, and be patient with everyone.*

October 28, 2023

(For Any Corrections Or Updates To The Bulletin, Please Contact brother Mark Tabata (Call Or Text) @ 606-216-1757)

## WELCOME TO THE KEAVY CHURCH OF CHRIST!

- If you are visiting with us, you are our welcomed and honored guest. We are so thankful that you came to be with us today! PLEASE remember to pick up one of our “Visitor Packages” before you go! PLEASE also leave your name and address with us so that we can get you a “thank you” card in the mail. If we can help you in any way, PLEASE let us know!
- If you would like to participate in our Communion service, you will find Lord’s Supper packets in the Foyer (the area where you first enter the church building).
- Visit us online for Bible studies, live streaming, and other resources! Our website is: [www.keavychurchofchrist.com](http://www.keavychurchofchrist.com), and our email address is [keavychurchofchrist@outlook.com](mailto:keavychurchofchrist@outlook.com)

## October Prayer List

Kurt And Joanne Martin  
Sanders Family  
Laura Ann Osbourne  
Eddie Craft (Cancer)  
Coy Gilliam  
Jimmy Brooks (Tammy’s cousin, cancer)  
Kathy Mingus (cancer)  
Anne Baker (Cancer)

Larry and Sandi Tabata  
Josh and Holly Baker  
Christine (aunt of Marlene)  
Violet (Ivy's sister)  
Rachel Greer  
Paul Mattney  
Barbara in Louisville (friend of Jewel)  
Samantha Collins  
Randall Mitchell  
Wilma (Glen's sister)  
Rosetta Short  
Leslie Prescott And Family (Winchester)  
Katherine Myers  
Teresa Cabin Family  
Bill and Mary Ruth Browning  
James And LeAnne Day  
Josh Abner  
Josh Hibbitts (Back injury)  
Mason Family  
Terry and Rita Wooten  
Kandace Scalf  
David And Ivy Mosley  
Martha  
Robin McDonald  
Glen And Barbara Hale  
Gary And Vanessa Fleming  
Jim and Linda Day  
Jessica  
Theresa H And Family

Something To Help Us Laugh...

(Adapted From Charles and Frances Hunter, *Healing Through Humor:  
Fabulous Jokes From The Happy Hunters*)

*Secrets To Getting Stronger*

My grandfather worked in a blacksmith shop when he was a boy, and he used to tell me how he had toughened himself up so he could stand the rigors of blacksmithing. He said he would stand outside the house and, with a five-pound potato sack in each hand, extend his arms straight out to his sides and hold them there as long as he could. He did this religiously for three weeks. After a while he tried ten-pound potato sacks, then fifty-pound potato sacks, and finally he got to where he could lift a one-hundred-pound potato sack in each hand and hold his arms straight out for a full minute! He never missed a day and performed this exercise in the hottest weather. He was determined to be the best blacksmith in the country. Eventually, he started putting potatoes in the sacks.

### *Preachers Remember Paul And Eutychus*

A preacher, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterward the preacher asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut," was the reply. "But," said the preacher, "why didn't you do that before the service?" "Because," the gentleman replied, "I didn't need one then."

### The Restoration Movement (Three)

(More Bible Studies Available At [www.marktabata.com](http://www.marktabata.com))

It is written:

*Ephesians 1:22-23-And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

In God's arrangement, every congregation (or church) of saved individuals is to be overseen by pastors (also called bishops/elders/presbyters-cf. Acts 14:23; 20:17, 28; Titus 1:5, 7; 1 Timothy 3:1-8). There was to be a plurality of these bishops in every congregation (cf. Philippians 1:1). There was no "head church" on Earth. Early in the second century church, the Christians understood and abided by this arrangement-but then eventually some began to elevate one bishop over all the rest. This in turn led to that one elevated

bishop taking control of that church, and then other congregations in his vicinity. These things led brought about the formation of five “mega churches” which started to contend for power over the Christian world, following the downfall of the Roman Empire.

“As the city churches began to evangelize those in the country, the city bishops began to assume authority over the country bishops. These were called the Metropolitans. Thus began the avenue by which the organizational structure eventually evolved into the hierarchical form of church government that exists today in the Catholic and some Protestant churches. BISHOPS over elders (beginning in the second century). METROPOLITANS (city bishops over country bishops). PATRIARCHS in five cities (Alexandria, Antioch, Constantinople, Jerusalem, Rome).” (Calvin Fields, 10, 000 Faces Of Christianity: What Face Have You Seen? 5569-5574 (Kindle Edition); Xulon Press)

Eventually, the church in Rome began to make the (untrue) claim that Christ had built His church on the Apostle Peter. It even forged documents to try and justify this teaching! Sadly, the Catholic church was victorious in the struggle for power, and the papacy was eventually formed on the lie that the Apostle Peter was the first pope (and that the church was therefore built upon the Apostle Peter at Rome).

However, both the Bible and church history clearly show that there was not a pope (in the Catholic sense of the word) until around the sixth century A.D.

“The first point of note in examining the early Church and the origins of the Papacy should be that of the equality of the bishops. If the Roman claims regarding the Papacy are true, that is, if Peter acted as a Pope, chose a successor to follow him as a Pope, and established the foundations of the Papacy at Rome, teaching all other bishops that he, and he alone, was the “Vicar of Christ on earth,” then we should find evidence of this important teaching in the writings of the early Christians. But we do not. Rather, we find that for hundreds of years after Christ each bishop was considered equal to each other bishop. Indeed, during the first two centuries, the Biblical teaching, clearly drawn from an unbiased interpretation of the New Testament itself, had been maintained: that being that the office of bishop, elder or presbyter, was all one office. A presbyter was a bishop, a bishop a

presbyter. Only as the the “clergy/ laity” split took place and deepened did this primitive, Biblical situation change. Cyprian (200-258), bishop of Carthage, was an impressive thinker and theologian, who died a martyr under Valerian. In a preface, written by him to the seventh council of Carthage, we read, “For neither does any of us set himself up as a bishop of bishops, nor by tyrannical terror does any compel his colleague to the necessity of obedience; since every bishop, according to the allowance of his liberty and power, has his own proper right of judgment, and can no more be judged by another than he himself can judge another.”<sup>3</sup> Note that Cyprian surely does not believe that there is a hierarchy of bishops in the church, or that one has the “primacy” over the others. Each is the bishop of his own territory, and has authority within that territory, and not elsewhere. No bishop can then sit as “judge” over other bishops, as all are equal to one another. Not only this, but Cyprian in a letter to “the clergy and people abiding in Spain” rebuked the Roman bishop Stephen who had meddled in the affairs of the African church....It is difficult to imagine such an attitude or belief in one of the bishops attending the Council of Trent, or any modern Roman Catholic conclave for that matter. Cyprian did not see the Roman bishop as being superior to, but rather equal with, all other bishops....The bishop of Rome was an equal among equals—important, for he lead the large and influential church which was located at the very seat of the Roman empire, but not superior for any reason...Not only does Cyprian not see the bishop of Rome as a “Pope” in the modern sense of the term, but he denies that the Church is structured in such a way as to allow for one man to be the “head of the Church.” Yes there was evolution, change, development—in fact, a nearly total rejection of the Biblical form of the Church and nearly every one of her doctrines!...Canon 35 reads, “The bishops of every country ought to know who is the chief among them, and to esteem him as their head, and not to do any great thing without his consent; but every one to manage only the affairs that belong to his own parish, and the places subject to it. But let him not do anything without the consent of all; for it is by this means there will be unanimity, and God will be glorified by Christ, in the Holy Spirit.”<sup>8</sup> There is no mention of the Roman Papacy here; the unity of the Church is not maintained, according to this canon, by adherence to the Roman See. But, if the Papacy was in existence at this time, and it was the “universal” faith of all Christians that the Roman See perpetuated the primacy of Peter, why is this not taught here?...The Council formed a very interesting canon, Canon 6. It is very important in that it gives us a clear understanding of the position of

Rome at this time: “Let the ancient customs in Egypt, Libya and Pentapolis prevail, that the Bishop of Alexandria have jurisdiction in all these, since the like is customary for the Bishop of Rome also. Likewise in Antioch and the other provinces, let the Churches retain their privileges. And this is to be universally understood, that if any one be made bishop without the consent of the Metropolitan, the great Synod has declared that such a man ought not to be a bishop. 10 Here the early Church Fathers indicate that the Roman bishop is on an even plane and of equal status with Eastern bishops...Gregory likens anyone who would claim to be “universal bishop” to Lucifer himself who attempted to raise his throne above the throne of God Himself (Isaiah 14). Would the modern claims of the papacy qualify for Gregory’s ridicule? This author believes that they would.” (James R. White, Answers to Catholic Claims: A Discussion of Biblical Authority, 1700-1807 (Kindle Edition))

The “man of sin” of 2 Thessalonians 2:3-14 had its’ fulfillment in the papacy of the Roman Catholic church.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

### Questions

1. Read Matthew 16:13-18. What is the “Rock” upon which the church is built? Pay special attention to verse 16, and compare with 1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20-22; 1 Peter 2:4-6.

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2. Who were some of the early Christians, councils, and canons that show that there was not a Pope in the early church?

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3. “Mega churches” in which five cities of the early Christian world fought for power?

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### Announcements

- Thanks to everyone who has been helping with the food boxes!
- We have started a church “text group” on a free app called “Discord.” If you would like to be added to this, please download this app and search for “Keavy church of Christ.”

### Sunday Lessons

A.M. Bible Class: Through The Gospels

A.M. Lesson: The Three Dispensations

P.M. Lesson: The Holy Spirit And The Christian (Three)

### Bible Class And Sermon Notes