

# **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.*

December 15, 2024

(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!

- Visitors: Please fill out a visitor card and grab a Visitor Welcome Kit!
- Communion is available in the front of the building on the table.
- Our website is: [www.keavychurchofchrist.com](http://www.keavychurchofchrist.com), and our email address is [keavychurchofchrist@outlook.com](mailto:keavychurchofchrist@outlook.com) Please share this information with your family, friends, and social media pages!

## December Prayer List

Kurt And Joanne Martin, Sanders Family, Eddie Craft (Cancer), Jimmy Brooks (Tammy's cousin, cancer), Kathy Mingus (Cancer), Anne Baker (Cancer), Larry and Sandi Tabata, Bill and Mary Ruth Browning, David and Ivy Mosley, Molly And Ebb Baker, Margie Turner (Hospice), Jake Robbins (Cancer), Carl Peachtree, Coy Gilliam (Cancer), Roger and Sandra Frazier & Family, Carman Carroll, Bessie Young, Melinda Howard, Ann Phelps, Tracy Johnson, Ivy Mosley Family (Brother & Sister), Nathan & Patty McDaniel, Edward Young Sr., Elise Allen, Ed Young, Roy Lung, Mr Collett (Kin To Sister Phyllis Sanders), Ashley West (Lost Loved Ones), Mike Clayton (Liver Transplant) Corbin Junior Pennington, Larry & Rosetta Short (Sister Marlene's Brother & Sister In Law), Sue Joseph, Tommy Joseph, Darrell Hall, Joe Williams, Jamie Anderson, Shawn McCracken (New Christian), Justin Combs, Debbie Myers, Richard Baker, John Reeder (Cancer), Harmony Mullins, Richard Eubanks, Pam Worley And Family, Eryn Barrett, Aileen Smith, Bob Bowling Family (Lost Loved Ones), John Reeder, Mike Gill (Cancer), Claude Humphrey (Cancer), Maddox Alsip, Gary & Linda Lewis (Illness), Erb Family, Coy & Diana Giliam, Josh McKnight And Family, Brody Browning, Mason Garland, Cheryl Moore (Kin To Sister Ellen), Jim & Linda Day, Felicity Lanham (Cancer), Diane Duke, Chris Holt (Friend Of Brother Mark),

## Announcements

- BAPTISM NEWS: We rejoice with our new brother, Jerry Napier, who last Sunday made the decision to be baptized into Christ for the remission of his sins! Welcome brother to the Keavy church of Christ family!
- We will start back our New Foundations class in the spring.
- Please remember sisters Marlene Howard and Mary Ruth Browning in your prayers as they have also been very ill.
- Answered Prayers: Cathy Mingus (kin to sister Tammy Young) had a successful surgery. Brother Paul Matney had good test results. Sister Linda Lewis is doing better after a battle with COVID. Brother Nathan McDaniel is still doing well after his heart surgery.
- Arianna and Pyper Monhollen will be singing at Keavy Elementary School Tuesday December 17 at 9:45 AM and 1:00 PM. Anyone who can attend is invited and welcome to support them! We are proud of you girls!
- The KLASS (Keavy Ladies And Serving Saints) Ladies Group are collecting items for the Nursing Home. If anyone can donate to this, it would be greatly appreciated! Suggested items include nonslip socks for men and women, hand cream, candy, coloring books, and puzzles. We are making bags for 92 residents! We need to have everything at the church building by Tuesday December 17 so we can sort and prepare them. They will be delivered on the 19th of December.
- On Saturday December 21, the KLASS group (and anyone else who wants to go) are also going to be delivering fruit baskets for some of our sick members. They will also be doing some Christmas caroling! Everyone who can participate is invited! .
- Backpacks For The Homeless: Backpacks are available on the pew in front of the kitchen area. We are asking anyone who is able to please take a backpack (or more than one) and fill it up with any items that you believe will be helpful for the homeless in our community. Suggestions include: non-perishable food, sleeping bags, blankets, bottled water, gloves, tooth brushes, toothpaste, sanitary wipes, feminine products, dry shampoo, combs, mouth wash, razors, hand warming packs, body wash, etc. We will also have Bibles and/or Bible related material for each bag.
- Special Thanks to sister Donna Hill for helping to organize and create a new and updated church directory!
- Jail Ministry: This past week, our church started a new jail ministry at Laurel County Correctional Center. We hope to continue teaching and ministering there several times a week. Right now, we will be going in on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1-4. If anyone would be interested in helping with this ministry, please contact brother Mark. We have also reached out to our brothers and sisters at Mount Zion church of Christ and 19th Street church of Christ for volunteers. Please remember this ministry in your prayers. Special thanks to brother Brian Martin for helping in this much needed work!

- Proud Of Our Young People: For the past few weeks, our young people at church have been making Christmas ornaments for the nursing home residents. Young People, thank you and we are proud of you!
- Upcoming Events: Keavy Youth Night (Every First Thursday Evening Of The Month @ 6:00); Keavy Jail Ministry (Every Tuesday And Wednesday From 1-4 P.M.); Keavy Support Group For Addicts And Survivors Of Domestic Violence (Every Tuesday @ 6:00); Keavy Nursing Home Ministry (Every third Thursday evening @ 6:00); Keavy Fellowship Meal (Last Sunday of the month after morning worship: Sign-Up Sheet In Entryway).

Calling Upon God When People Speak Badly Of Us:  
Reading And Praying Psalm 109

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

It is written:

PSALM 109:1-31 (ERV)-TO THE DIRECTOR: A PRAISE SONG OF DAVID. GOD, I PRAISE YOU! HEAR MY PRAYER AND DO SOMETHING! **2** WICKED PEOPLE ARE TELLING LIES ABOUT ME. THEY ARE SAYING THINGS THAT ARE NOT TRUE. **3** THEY ARE SAYING HATEFUL THINGS ABOUT ME. THEY ARE ATTACKING ME FOR NO REASON. **4** I LOVED THEM, BUT THEY WERE AGAINST ME. SO I SAID A PRAYER. **5** I DID GOOD THINGS TO THEM, BUT THEY ARE DOING BAD THINGS TO ME. I LOVED THEM, BUT THEY HATED ME. **6** THEY SAID, "CHOOSE SOMEONE EVIL TO REPRESENT HIM. LET THE ONE AT HIS SIDE REALLY BE HIS ACCUSER. **7** LET EVEN HIS PRAYER BE USED AS EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM, AND LET THE COURT FIND HIM GUILTY. **8** LET HIS LIFE BE CUT SHORT, AND LET SOMEONE ELSE TAKE OVER HIS WORK. **9** LET HIS CHILDREN BECOME ORPHANS AND HIS WIFE A WIDOW. **10** MAKE HIS CHILDREN WANDER AROUND AS BEGGARS, FORCED FROM HOMES THAT LIE IN RUINS. **11** LET THE PEOPLE HE OWES TAKE EVERYTHING HE OWNS. LET STRANGERS GET EVERYTHING HE WORKED FOR. **12** LET NO ONE BE KIND TO HIM. LET NO ONE SHOW MERCY TO HIS CHILDREN. **13** MAY HIS FAMILY COME TO AN END. MAY HIS NAME BE UNKNOWN TO FUTURE GENERATIONS. **14** MAY THE LORD REMEMBER THE SINS OF HIS FATHER, AND MAY HIS MOTHER'S SINS NEVER BE ERASED. **15** MAY THE LORD REMEMBER THEIR SINS FOREVER, AND MAY HE CAUSE PEOPLE TO FORGET HIS FAMILY COMPLETELY. **16** HE NEVER DID ANYTHING GOOD. HE NEVER LOVED ANYONE. HE MADE LIFE HARD FOR THE POOR AND THE HELPLESS. **17** HE LOVED TO CURSE OTHERS, SO LET

THOSE BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO HIM. HE NEVER BLESSED OTHERS, SO DON'T LET GOOD THINGS HAPPEN TO HIM. **18** CURSING WAS A DAILY PART OF HIS LIFE, LIKE THE CLOTHES HE WEARS. CURSING OTHERS BECAME A PART OF HIM, LIKE THE WATER HE DRINKS AND THE OIL HE PUTS ON HIS BODY. **19** SO LET CURSES COVER HIM LIKE THE ROBE HE WEARS AND ALWAYS SURROUND HIM LIKE A BELT." **20** MY ENEMIES SAID THESE EVIL THINGS AGAINST ME. BUT MAY THOSE CURSES BE THE WAY THE LORD PUNISHES THEM. **21** MY LORD GOD, TREAT ME IN A WAY THAT BRINGS HONOR TO YOUR NAME. SAVE ME BECAUSE OF YOUR FAITHFUL LOVE. **22** I AM ONLY A POOR, HELPLESS MAN. I AM SO SAD; MY HEART IS BROKEN. **23** I FEEL MY LIFE IS OVER, FADING LIKE A SHADOW AT DAY'S END. I FEEL LIKE A BUG THAT SOMEONE BRUSHED AWAY. **24** MY KNEES ARE WEAK FROM FASTING. I HAVE LOST WEIGHT AND BECOME THIN. **25** MY ENEMIES INSULT ME. THEY LOOK AT ME AND SHAKE THEIR HEADS. **26** LORD MY GOD, HELP ME! SHOW YOUR FAITHFUL LOVE AND SAVE ME! **27** THEN THEY WILL KNOW THAT YOU DID IT. THEY WILL KNOW THAT IT WAS YOUR POWER, LORD, THAT HELPED ME. **28** THEY CURSE ME, BUT YOU CAN BLESS ME. THEY ATTACKED ME, SO DEFEAT THEM. THEN I, YOUR SERVANT, WILL BE HAPPY. **29** HUMILIATE MY ENEMIES! LET THEM WEAR THEIR SHAME LIKE A COAT. **30** I GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD. I PRAISE HIM IN FRONT OF EVERYONE. **31** HE STANDS BY THE HELPLESS AND SAVES THEM FROM THOSE WHO TRY TO PUT THEM TO DEATH.

This Psalm is profoundly powerful in its' descriptions. David is being unfairly attacked and criticized. How do we respond when we are the victims of slander and mistreatment? This Psalm has some important lessons for us.

The text suggests that David may be undergoing this attack legally, and is the subject of malicious and harmful speech in a court of law. Notice that the Psalm starts with a description of David calling on God to work and intervene in his situation. The curses of verses 5-20 seem to suggest that these are actually the curses David's enemies are raising against him.

"What is unusual about this particular supplication is that the long central section of the psalm, verses 6-19, is, in the most persuasive reading, an extensive quotation of the venomous words of accusation and imprecation that the speaker's accusers pronounce against him." (Robert Alter, *The Book Of Psalms: A Translation With Commentary*, 554 (Kindle Edition); New York, NY; W.W. Norton & Company)

Several things about this Psalm are worthy of notice.

First, consider that the Psalmist is showing kindness and grace to his attackers, even while he is being mistreated. The CEV brings out the original here in a powerful way.

PSALM 109:4-5 (CEV)-I HAD PITY AND PRAYED FOR MY ENEMIES, BUT THEIR WORDS TO ME WERE HARSH AND CRUEL. **5** FOR BEING FRIENDLY AND KIND, THEY PAID ME BACK WITH MEANNESS AND HATRED.

“The literal sense of the received text is ‘and I am prayer.’ The consensus of Hebrew tradition has understood this to mean something like ‘and I am all prayer.’ The ancient Syriac version may have worked from a Hebrew text that read *tefilati later*, ‘my prayer is for them.’ That reading would be more cogent as a parallel to ‘in return for my love’ in the first verses.” (Robert Alter, *The Book Of Psalms: A Translation With Commentary*, 554 (Kindle Edition); New York, NY; W.W. Norton & Company)

There are other Psalms where we read of God’s people praying for their enemies to be saved.

For example:

PSALM 83:16-FILL THEIR FACES WITH SHAME, THAT THEY MAY SEEK YOUR NAME, O LORD.

PSALM 83:16 (ERV)-LORD, COVER THEM WITH SHAME UNTIL THEY COME TO YOU FOR HELP.

Second, the Psalm operates under the assumption that these people are so wicked that they are unrepentant. This is where we need to discuss “Imprecatory Psalms,” which are prayers in which God’s people call upon the Lord to punish the wicked and stop their plots and attacks. These are not prayers of vengeance so much as they are prayers that God will stop the innocent from being injured and the wicked will be punished in a way that will not only satisfy justice, but will help lead them to repentance.

*“Eighth, most of the imprecations psalms (Psalm 109 included) assume these persecutors will not repent. They have resisted the love of the godly (Ps. 109:4-5). We, on the other hand, are called to love and seek the salvation of the wicked. We don’t have perfect knowledge of the possibility of someone’s repenting. We’re not biblical writers. We’re not prophets and apostles. While we pray for God to execute judgment and establish peace, our prayer for our enemies should focus on God’s bringing people to repentance.*

Further, in Psalm 83:17-18 the prayer sees punishment as a means of grace leading the wicked to repentance. You can see in Psalm 109 that this is a *song*. Imagine that! Why sing about God's judgment? One reason is to strike fear in the ungodly in hopes that they may repent. Our deepest desire for our enemies, even those who persecute us and inflict abuse on the church, is that they may be saved." (Tony Merida, Johnny Hunt, Danny Akin, Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus In Psalms 101-150, 113-114 (Kindle Edition): Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group)

It is good and right to pray for our enemies, as this Psalm teaches (and our Lord commands-Matthew 5:44-45). We remember at the same time there are some who will never repent of their wickedness in this life. So, it is good and appropriate for God's people to pray that the wickedness of the wicked would be stopped and their evil mouths be shut from the harm that they bring upon the innocent, even while we pray for their having time and opportunity to be saved (1 Timothy 2:1-6).

Third, it is important to mention that imprecatory Psalms still serve a purpose for the church today. Consider that Jesus several times quotes from Psalm 69, an imprecatory Psalm (cf. John 15:25 with Psalm 69:4; John 2 17 with Psalm 69:9; Matthew 27:24 with Psalm 69:21). The Apostle Paul, in Romans 11:9-10, directly quotes Psalm 69:22-23. As Copan points out:

"As we'll now see, several New Testament authorities quote various imprecatory psalms. Indeed, the apostle Paul cites this allegedly mean-spirited Psalm 69 passage in Romans 11: 8–10, applying it to hard-hearted Israelites: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever" (ESV)...The Old Testament encourages loving one's personal enemies and praying for persecutors. Jesus does so too, but he approves of believers' prayers "day and night" for God to "bring about justice" (Luke 18: 7–8; cf. Rev. 6: 9–11). Revelation 18: 4–6 calls for this same justice: "Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her." Some of our critics from within might say that this cry sounds like a voice from hell. But John tells us that this is a voice from heaven denouncing the wicked city of Babylon....Indeed, the New Testament has its share of imprecatory prayers and requests for divine vengeance (Acts 8: 20; 2 Tim. 4: 14; Rev. 6: 9–11; 11: 17–18; 15: 2–4; 16: 5–7; 18: 1–8). God is an avenger (1 Thess. 4: 6), and imprecations from both testaments are a call for the "public vindication of God's truth" in that they express a willingness to make God's enemies our enemies." (Paul Copan, Is God a Vindictive Bully?: Reconciling Portrayals of God in the Old and New Testaments, 134-137 (Kindle Edition); Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic)

It is good and appropriate for Christians to pray for the salvation of their enemies; and it is also good and appropriate for us to pray to God and implore Him to stop the workings of the wicked.

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

### Sunday Lessons

Adult Bible Class: Through The Gospels

Teenage Bible Class: There Is A God! (Handouts)

Middle School Class: Heroes Of The Bible

Sunday Morning Sermon: What Would The World Be Like If Jesus Had Never Been Born? Let's Ask The Women (PowerPoint Lesson)

Sunday Evening Sermon: What Would The World Be Like If Jesus Had Never Been Born? Let's Ask The Children (PowerPoint Lesson)

### Bible Class And Sermon Notes