



The *Southwesterner*

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“WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING...AND WHY?”

We read Ephesians a few weeks ago in our daily Bible reading plan, but I just came across this article by retired preacher, David Srygley, this week. It's a great synopsis of what happens in that letter and how its message is practical to our own struggles. - Brian

“What on earth are you doing...and why?” This question is asked by many Christians when life is not going as expected. Regardless of their faithfulness, God seems to be absent, uncaring, or worse, out of control. Paul's letter to the Ephesian church reminds us all that such is never the case. Paul encourages us not to lose heart (3:13) because God is “able to do exceeding abundantly more than we can think or imagine...” (3:20).

It is important to recognize the function of Eph. 3:20-21. It is the summary, not just a doxology or parenthesis, of the first three chapters--with a particular connection to chapter 3. Paul began Ephesians with a prayer that they might have the wisdom to “know the hope..., riches..., and power” of God. Each of these is described as gloriously abundant throughout these chapters.

He goes on to unpack those three ideas over the next two chapters. Finally, in chapter 3 he returns back to the beginning—wisdom, describing it as undiscoverable (literal Greek) and manifold (many layers with lots of twists and turns) wisdom. As an example of this wisdom, he offers the introduction of Gentiles into the body of Christ through the death of Christ. What a plot twist, and nobody saw it coming—even the heavenly rulers!

In v. 13 we have the “theological purpose” of this story: “do not lose heart.” Paul has said that God's will is too grand for our feeble minds, but he has demonstrated over and over again that his plan is perfect (and inconceivable). We just need to learn to trust that plan so that we will “not lose heart.” This message is for those who are struggling with the question, “What on earth is God doing and why?”

In vv. 14-19, Paul returns to his prayer from chapter 1. It is a prayer of empowerment so that they will not lose heart (v. 13), with the added reminder that all of the hope, riches, and power of God are ours because he loves us.

Finally, vv. 20 & 21 drive home the final message. God can do more than you think or imagine. Regardless of the “hopelessness” and “poverty” and “powerlessness” we may feel in our current situation and of the limits of our own human thought and logic in comparison to God's wisdom, KNOW that God is working within us with unimaginable power to accomplish his plan for our lives. This is not a generic “God is able,” but a specific application of God's inconceivable omnipotence to the struggles of living a Christian life in an ungodly world.

December 7, 2025



Elders

Jeff Butler

Greg Hatton

David Hendricks

Richard Howard

Brent Lowe

Butch Platt

Ministers

Brian Lewis

Thorin Turner

Kyle Wilson

Secretary

Dana Chilcoat

Family Matters

Jeff Butler's father, Harold Butler, had surgery Thursday for bleeding on the brain which resulted from a recent fall. He is in Mercy Hospital in OKC. The family requests prayers.

Jerry Miller will have another stint put in on December 9th at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital. Please keep him in your prayers.

Jeannie Wingard's cousin, Jim French, is struggling with some very serious health issues at this time. Please keep him in your prayers.

James Bryant's father-in-law, Elmo Anderson, is struggling with his health. Please keep him in your prayers.

Our sympathy goes out to Terry and Lisa Fulton and the family on the passing of June Fulton, who passed away last Sunday. Her services were held Friday at Southwest. Please keep this family in your prayers.

We would like to thank all those who prayed for us, sent cards, called to check on us, brought food and all the good thoughts. A special thank you to the Tuesday morning Ladies Class for prayers and cards every week. You'll never know what it means to us. God Bless You all! Our Love, Jerry & Wilma Miller

Meals on Wheels week is **December 8th - 12th**. Helpers are Bill Young, Kim Simpson, Don Kite, Wendell Voto, and Chuck Love.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

"Pray without ceasing."

Mary Lee, Barbara Cannon, Lea Crain, Susan Pickle, Glenda King, Jana & Stacey Stewart, Ken & Wanda Roper, Myrtie Clarke, Nash Gilliam, Betty Gerth, Barbara Hataway, Sherry Price, Barbara Lewis, Randy Hall, Ronald Trent, Sue Silkey, Katie Meaders, Johnnie Sing, Cherry Bennett, Shirley Perry, Pattie Mitchell, Debbie Harber, Warner Fleck, Randy Wilson and Thayne Consequellos.

Happenings

Church Events & Announcements

There will be a Golden Doers Lunch on Sunday, **December 14th**, in the fellowship building following our morning services. If you are 60 years or older, please come join us! If you would like to participate in the "Dirty Santa" gift exchange, then the women need to bring a woman's gift and the men need to bring a man's gift. The gift limit is \$10.

The Ladies Prayer Group will meet next on Sunday, **December 14th**, at 4pm in room 111.

The last class of 2025 for the Tuesday morning ladies Bible class will be **December 16th**. The class will resume on **January 6th**.

We will pass out Christmas Baskets on Tuesday, **December 16th**, from 4pm - 7pm at the Yellow House for some families from a couple of our community's schools. If you would like to help pass out the baskets, please sign up at the welcome desk.

There will NOT be any church services on Wednesday, **December 24th**, due to the Christmas holiday.

The church office will be closed on **December 24th, 25th, and 26th** for the Christmas holiday.

Level up your personal evangelism with a new Bible class "To Tell the Truth." This Wednesday night class for beginners and experts starts on **January 14th** in the kitchen side of the fellowship hall. More information to follow.

There are two Marriage Retreats coming up in **February**. If you are interested in attending either one of them, please see the board in the foyer for more information.



Please bring finger foods to share.



The Yellow House will hand out food this month on Friday, **December 19th**. The change in days is due to the holidays.

Helpers this month are: Scott & Sharon

Estes, Diana Hatton, Donna Duncan, Butch Platt, Glenda Lillard, & Jan Manuel. *The food for the Yellow House will be picked up & sacked on the morning of Wednesday, **December 17th**.* If you are unable to help with either date, please contact Chuck Love.



12/07 AWTG (Chickasha)
 12/08-12 Meals on Wheels Week
 12/13 Christmas Paint Party
 12/14 Golden Doers Lunch,
 Ladies Pr. Grp, Y. Gp. Meal/Fel.
 12/16 Last Ladies Bible Class f/2025,
 Christmas Baskets Passed Out
 12/17 Pick Up/Sack Yel. House Food
 12/19 Yellow House
 12/21 Youth Grp. Meal/Fellowship
 12/24 No Church Services
 12/24-25-26 Office Closed (Christmas)
 12/28 Ladies Prayer Group,
 Youth Meal/Fellowship



TEENS AND YOUTH

December 7th

AWTG
 (Chickasha)

December 14th

Youth Group
 Meal & Fellowship



December 12th - January 20th

College Students on
 Christmas Break



12/07 Linda Medlock,
 Sierra Trekell
 12/08 Amanda Lampkin,
 Al Lucas
 12/10 Ann Mayes
 12/11 Glinda Byers
 12/12 Jamie Maples,
 Zach Sullivan
 12/13 Jeff Butler,
 Kyle Wilson



12/09 Ray & Melba Hamlett
 12/11 Brian & Stacey Lewis

**PRAY FOR OUR
 SERVICE MEN & WOMEN**

Heaven Allen Hunter Wilson
 Michale Perry
 Frank Holsapple Jr.
 Josh Higginbottom



2025 Daily Bible Readings

12/7 - James 4-5, Psalm 32
 12/8 - 1 Peter 1-2, Psalm 33
 12/9 - 1 Peter 3-5, Psalm 34
 12/10 - 2 Peter 1-3, Psalm 35
 12/11 - 1 John 1-2, Psalm 36
 12/12 - 1 John 3-5, Psalm 37
 12/13 - 2 & 3 John, Psalm 38
 12/14 - Jude, Psalm 39



Adults

David Hendricks
 Covenants

Jeff Butler

The Gospel of John
 Room 100

David Dirrim

Adult Bible Class

Fellowship Building

Drew Adams

Class will resume on January 11th
 Room 111

College Group

Kyle Wilson
 Room 107

Youth Group

Thorin Turner
 Room 101

Elementary

5th - 6th grades: Room 104
 2nd - 4th Grades: Room 102
 K - 1st Grade: Room 105

Preschool

3's & 4's: Room 112
 Toddlers, 2's & 3's: Room 114
 Babies: Room 113

For the Record: 11/30/2025

Bible Study	—
AM Assembly	264
PM Assembly	101
Wednesday PM	136
Contributions	\$15,700
Budget	\$15,738

SERVING THIS WEEK

Sunday Morning:

Song Leader: Richard Howard
Opening Prayer: Mark Coleman
Closing Prayer: Brad Trekell
Scripture Reading: Jared Hudson
Lord's Supper Thoughts: Raymond Johnson
Communion: James Bryant, Cale Hudson,
Raymond Johnson, Chuck Love, Todd Martin,
Keith Nail, Cody Reynolds, Mark Tinsley
Alternate Communion: Jack Cadenhead & Kyle Wilson
Balcony Communion: David Lewis & Tommy Myers
Nursing Home Communion: Brent Lowe
Attendance Counter/Safety Team Walk: Will Lampkin
Attendance Recorder (**Dec**): Amy Barrett & Karan Huddleston
Safety Team Camera **AM/PM**: Nathan Lewis
Service Coordinator: Matt Bryant & Tyler Jones
Sound Booth **AM/PM/Wed**: Drew Graham & Garrett Hatton
Welcome Desk (**Dec**): Amy Graham & Linden Hatton
Greeters (**Dec**): Cody & Tiffany F. / Cody & Trixy R.

Sunday Evening:

Song Leader: Kerry White
Opening Prayer: Quaid Clark
Closing Prayer: Jared Griffin
Attendance Counter/Safety Team Walk: Will Lampkin
Communion: Mark Clark & Justin Lane
Service Coordinators: Matt Bryant & Tyler Jones

Wednesday PM:

Song Leader: Cale Hudson
Announcements/Opening Prayer: Ried Duncan
Closing Prayer: Thorin Turner
Devotional (8 Minutes): Scott Estes
Attendance Counter/Safety Team Walk: Brad Butler
Safety Team Camera: Kevin Graham

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome
Prayer
Joy to the World
Hosanna
All Is Well
All Hail the Power of Jesus Name
Thoughts From the Cross: Raymond Johnson
Bethlehem...Galilee...Gethsemane
Communion
Highest Place
Contribution
O Lord, Our Lord
Scripture Reading: Hebrews 10:23-24
A.M. Lesson: Persevere
I Know Whom I Have Believed
Announcements
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Prayer

P.M. Lesson: Faith at Work

An elder and his wife are available in room 107 during each invitation.

Shepherd December: Jeff Butler
Supporting Shepherd & Wife: David & Darla Hendricks

December Contribution Counters:
Tommy Vass, Caleb Estes, Brad Butler

SOUTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ONLINE GIVING



Sunday

Bible Classes - 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class - 10:00 a.m.
(Class does not meet during summer)

Wednesday

Bible Classes - 6:30 p.m.

Worship & Classes Online

facebook.com/swcocada
youtube.com/swcocada



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