

THE ENCOURAGER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF HUDSON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Devotional Thoughts from Charles Spurgeon

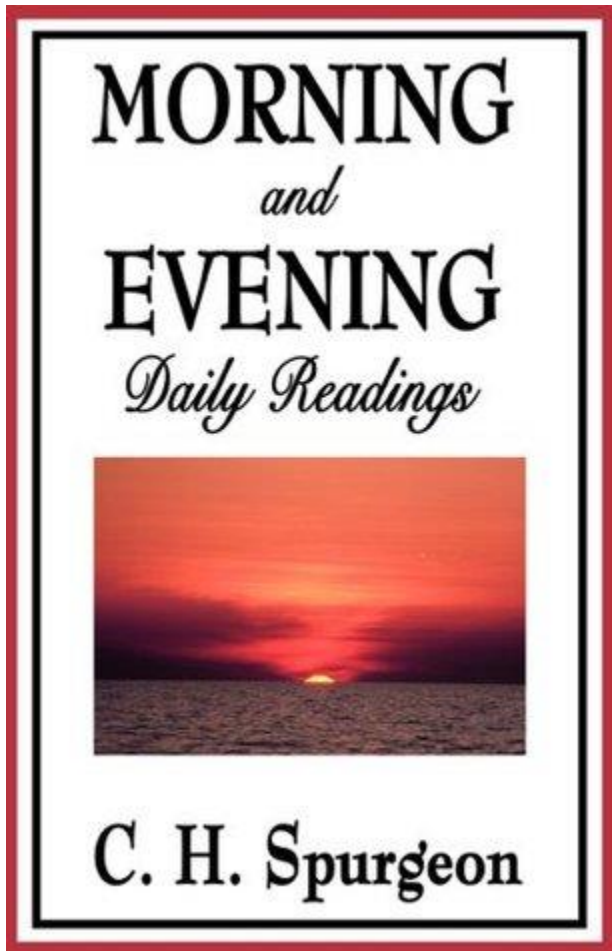


Image courtesy of Good Reads.com

I can't recommend Spurgeon's devotional "Morning and Evening" highly enough. I have found enough to dig into that I know I will be continuing to use it for years to come.

Here are a couple I would like to share from last month:

*"Oh that I were as in months past."
—Job 29:2*

Numbers of Christians can view the past with pleasure, but regard the present with dissatisfaction; they look back upon the days which they have passed in communing with the Lord as being the sweetest and the best they have ever known, but as to the present, it is clad in a sable garb of gloom and dreariness. Once they lived near to Jesus, but now they feel that they have wandered from him, and they say, "O that I were as in months past!" They complain that they have lost their evidences, or that they have not present peace of mind, or that they have no enjoyment in the means of grace, or that conscience is not so tender, or that they have not so much zeal for God's glory.

The causes of this mournful state of things are manifold. It may arise through a comparative *neglect of prayer*, for a neglected closet is the beginning of all spiritual decline. Or it may be the result of *idolatry*. The heart has been occupied with something else, more than with God; the affections have been set on the things of earth, instead of the things of heaven. A jealous God will not be content with a divided heart; he must be loved first and best. He will withdraw the sunshine of his presence from a cold, wandering heart.

Or the cause may be found in *self-confidence* and *self-righteousness*. Pride is busy in the heart, and self is exalted instead of lying low at the foot of the cross. Christian, if you are not now as you “were in months past,” do not rest satisfied with *wishing* for a return of former happiness, but go at once to seek your Master, and tell him your sad state. Ask his grace and strength to help you to walk more closely with him; humble yourself before him, and he will lift you up, and give you yet again to enjoy the light of his countenance. Do not sit down to sigh and lament; while the beloved Physician lives there is hope, nay there is a certainty of recovery for the worst cases.

Spurgeon, C. H. (1896). *Morning and evening: Daily readings*. London: Passmore & Alabaster.

“If fire break out, and catch in thorns, so that the stacks of corn, or the standing corn, or the field, be consumed therewith; he that kindled the fire shall surely make restitution.”
—Exodus 22:6

But what restitution can he make who casts abroad the fire-brands of error, or the coals of lasciviousness, and sets men’s souls on a blaze with the fire of hell? The guilt is beyond estimate, and the result is irretrievable. If such an offender be forgiven, what grief it will cause him in the retrospect, since he cannot undo the mischief which he has done! An ill example may kindle a flame which years of amended character cannot quench. To burn the food of man is bad enough, but how much worse to destroy the soul! It may be useful to us to reflect how far we may have been guilty in the past, and to enquire whether, even in the present, there may not be evil in us which has a tendency to bring damage to the souls of our relatives, friends, or neighbours.

The fire of strife is a terrible evil when it breaks out in a Christian church. Where converts were multiplied, and God was glorified, jealousy and envy do the devil’s work most effectually. Where the golden grain was being housed, to reward the toil of the great Boaz, the fire of enmity comes in and leaves little else but smoke and a heap of blackness. Woe unto those by whom offences come. May they never come through us, for although we cannot make restitution, we shall certainly be the chief sufferers if we are the chief offenders. Those who feed the fire deserve just censure, but he who first kindles it is most to blame. Discord usually takes first hold upon the thorns; it is nurtured among the hypocrites and base professors in the church, and away it goes among the righteous, blown by the winds of hell, and no one knows where it may end. O thou Lord and giver of peace, make us peacemakers, and never let us aid and abet the men of strife, or even unintentionally cause the least division among thy people.

Spurgeon, C. H. (1896). *Morning and evening: Daily readings*. London: Passmore & Alabaster.

- Pastor Brandon Current



Summary of the Deacons & Elders Meeting October 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. Present were Brandon Current, Dave McGraw, Denny Vaughn, John Walsh, and Larry Dowden. The meeting was opened in prayer. The September 19, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. The Financial Reports were reviewed and approved.

Team Reports:

- Worship – Jason will be gone in October.
- Building – Baptistry – repair still on hold.
- Missions – The report on the Ecuador trip will be given at October's potluck.
- Farm Trust - \$18,000 was received from the Farm Trust.

Pastor's Report:

Brandon gave a report of his activities. He is in the process of planning a weekly advanced discipleship training class. The agenda, proposed 2020 budget, the Deacons/Trustees to present for election and the selection of annual meeting officers for 2021 were approved. The state of Illinois Annual Report is due in October. The registered agent will be changed to Dave McGraw. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m. and closed in prayer.



Congregational Meeting

The annual Hudson Christian Church
Congregational Meeting will be held on
Sunday, November 3, immediately following
the worship service.
Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Prayer Requests

**Tina Vaughn is the
HCC Prayer Coordinator**

If you have a prayer request to share or an update, please speak with Tina, write your request on the prayer card in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate, or contact her at the following number or email.

Tina Vaughn
(309) 530-4588
vaughns777@yahoo.com



Image courtesy trinitywesternuniversity

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

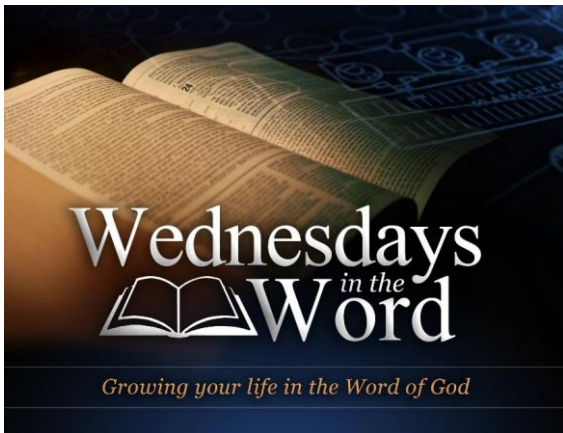


Photo courtesy of Zion.org

Bill Brown will be leading our adult Bible study Wednesday at 6:00-7:00 p.m. We are using a 4-step method of reading through the Scriptures to answer these questions:

- 1) **What does this tell me about God?**
- 2) **What does this tell me about man?**
- 3) **What should be my personal response to this Scripture to follow Christ?**
- 4) **What cross-references are there that help me understand this passage?**

Everyone is welcome to join us – we meet downstairs! Bible studies are one of our primary avenues of discipleship here at HCC. I hope you all will arrange your schedules to not miss out on this opportunity for God to shape our hearts!



The Potter's Kids

The Potter's Kids meets upstairs in the classrooms each Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. We will be discussing **Journeys!**

Did you know God often tells his children to **GO?** Sometimes on long journeys, sometimes just down the street. Come to Potter's Kids to find out who went where, and why! See Terry Dowden for more information.

Image courtesy Lonaviewchurch.org



Image courtesy Gunnison Community Church

Our 1st Sunday Fellowship Potluck is November 3, 2019, immediately following the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Everyone is encouraged to attend and enjoy a great meal and fellowship together. Please bring a dish to share!

November 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>November Birthdays</p> <p>Adam Taylor 11/3 Linda Simpson 11/4 Gaye Siebert 11/5 Denny Vaughn 11/6 Ron Johnson 11/11 Vanessa Baird 11/18 Irma Talbert 11/19 Josey Baird 11/22 Lois Whitwood 11/29</p>					1	2
<p>3</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting</p> <p>1st Sunday Fellowship Potluck</p>	4	5	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study</p> <p>NO Potter's Kids</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Food Pantry Preparation Day</p>	8	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 Food Pantry Distribution Day</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Sunday School</p>	11	12	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 p.m. The Potter's Kids</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Deacons/Elders Meeting</p>	15	16
<p>17</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Sunday School</p>	18	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Ladies Aid</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 p.m. The Potter's Kids</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Helping Hands Meeting</p>	22	23
<p>24</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Christmas Decorating – Sanctuary</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Sunday School</p>	25	26	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 p.m. The Potter's Kids</p>	<p>28</p> <p>THANKSGIVING DAY</p>	29	30