



"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" - Hebrews 6:19

Welcome! We're glad you are here!

Sunday - February 5, 2023

The Four Great Equalizers

by Troy Spradlin

Since the dawn of time, we humans have had a terrible tendency to want to divide ourselves into smaller groups. We are constantly separating ourselves from each other by face, place, race, space and any category we can conceive. We are prone to do this from small cliques to entire nations of people. As a result, all the various divisions have caused almost insurmountable hatred, violence, and wars over the past several millennia, with many lives having been lost or ruined. The tendency to compartmentalize ourselves is all extremely tragic and completely unnecessary.

If you stop and really consider it, we are all equal. From both a physical and spiritual point of view, I can think of four areas where every human being on the face of the earth has commonality with one another. All people have these four things uniformly when you take away our ethnicity, eliminate our social status, remove the color of our skin, and even get rid of our gender. It doesn't matter if you are young or old, rich or poor, slave or free, male or female - or any category you want to choose - we are all equal when it comes to blood, soul, death and judgment.



Blood is a great equalizer because no human being can function without blood. Despite the many compartments and distinctions we like to draw between ourselves, **every living individual has the same physical element pulsing through their veins, red blood.** In fact, without blood, there is no life at all (Leviticus 17:11). The need for life-giving blood makes all humans stand on equal ground. This is why Jesus sacrificed His blood on that cruel cross, because all human beings need His life-saving blood. We need that blood if we want to have eternal life, just as we need blood for this life, here and now (Col 1:20).

Every individual who is living now, has lived, or will ever live, has a soul. Having a soul is another great equalizer. The soul was given to us by God, the Father, and it belongs to Him (Ezekiel 18:4). It is that part of our being that will live on in eternity. One's soul is not subject to all the divisions we create. It knows nothing of political affiliations, nationalities, tribes, generations, or sexuality. Therefore, having a soul removes the separations and makes us all equal to each other. This is why Jesus sacrificed Himself, so that all the souls of mankind can be redeemed back to God and receive the reward of eternal life with Him in heaven (John 3:16; Hebrews 6:19-20).

Every living being is subject to death. Death is truly a great equalizer. No one human individual is immune to death (Hebrews 9:27). Despite one's wealth, age, race, social status, personal beliefs, or any other demarcation, death comes for all human beings equally, until Jesus returns. It puts all of us on the same level ground. Once again, this is where Jesus Christ comes into the picture. Paul explains that Jesus "has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel," (2 Timothy 1:10). That means it's the same for everyone.

Lastly, **every human being will stand before the throne on Judgment Day.** Revelation 20:12 says, "And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books." In other words, and once again, all the divisions, separations, categories or factions has no bearing whatsoever on who will, or will not, stand before judgment. In fact, Romans 14:11 says, "For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God." Judgment Day is an equalizer.

Therefore, the bottom line is simply this, every living soul is exactly the same in the eyes of God. There is no one better, higher, greater, more important, or anything else. Whatever divisions we like to make, Jesus Christ eliminated them all with His death, burial and resurrection making us all ONE in Him (Gal 3:28; Eph 2:14).

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YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

- Matthew 22:36-40



YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT

Wed. February 22
@ 5 pm in the FH



Upcoming Events

Feb. 12 – Speech Dress Rehearsal
Feb. 26 – Workshop, PEARLS & Bible Bowl Tests



Upcoming Deadlines

ASAP – Pre-convention events & Hurdles are due
February 26 – Last Day for Hotel changes



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Special

- Patricia Ann* - prayers, health (MZL)
- Kandi Armand - surgery, recovery (Bostwick*)
- David Black - Baptist, heart issues (McGriff)
- John Broam family - loss of John
- Josie Coons - leg/recovery (McReynolds*)
- Louise English's families - loss of Louise*
- The Godwin family* - birth of Annie!
- Annie Godwin-hip dysplasia, harness 6 weeks
- Zeb Hamilton family* - loss of Zeb
- The Hudgens' family - birth of Liam
- Lauren Kreis (Martin family) - prayers
- Donald McGriff* - surgery/recovery
- Richard McCool* - heart attack, recovery
- Faye Smith (Jeanna's mom)- Jay hosp., health
- Edith Sullins - surgery, recovery (Blisse's gma)
- Gloria Vonada - recovery, new tests
- Ruth Williams* - fractured tailbone, recovery

2023 Recently Baptized / Restored / Identified

- Brittany Parker* - Baptized
- Laura Oliver*- Identified

Expecting Mothers

- Jennifer Cannon - March 2023

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute - Paul Discher

Students in College

- Seth Crider
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Caleb Owens
- Nick Webb
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

Other Requests / Health Issues

- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Bob Black - health (Lipford*)
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health (past member)
- Winston Burnham* - health
- Sherryn Canniff* - health, pain
- WillieMae Cosby - health, recovery (McGriff*)
- Sherry Davis* - health
- Fatima Deem- pregnant, problems (Nunes)
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Madeline Farley* - broken wrist, recovery
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Barbara Helms*- health
- Chris Hollis - (McGriff)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Marcia Jones - (Kenya's* friend)
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Eddie Longmire* - health
- Cindy Marotta - paralyzed (Nunes*)
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Mary McGriff* - health, asthma
- Ron Miller- esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Ella Parker* - health
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia*)
- August Eugene Smith -cleft palate (J.English*)
- Zyler Thompson - rescheduled surgery
- Julia Torpey* - health
- Gloria Vonada*
- Jan Whitney*

Military

- Nick Bartell - Ft. Walton Beach
- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer Gable-New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kentucky
- Byron Solomon - San Diego

Cancer

- Kandi Armand - (Bostwick*)
- Justin Barnhart - former member
- Ron Bartanen* - cancer
- Darlene Baxley* - lung cancer (Baxley*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis*)
- Tish Clark - surgery (Hatcher*)
- Pat Deforest*
- Brenda Dunham - (J.English*)
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jenning - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill*)
- Keith Pabst - (Webb*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin* friend)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Megan Sanders - brain cancer (Blisse*)
- Kevin Shanahan - operation (Scott's* dad)
- Al Sherdan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley* - good news!
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff*)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton*)
- Donnie Turner- cancer (Helms*)
- David Walther - brain (English*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Sherryn Canniff - homebound
- Donna Dudley-Life Care Center (S. Davis*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia* - Arcadia Senior Living rm 113
- Betty Lee - homebound (D. Lee's mom*)
- Linda Mann* - Shut In
- Ina Ruth Miller*- Grandview Retire Center
- Ruth Phillips*- Shut In
- Jim Pitts* - Sodalis house (moving 2/5)
- Lillian Raines* - Victorian Manor
- Mary Salinas* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith (Jeanna's mom) - Shut In
- Troy Vonada* - Sodalis House, Hospice



SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

MORNING

Opening Prayer David English
 Song Director Mason Chandler
 Sermon Troy Spradlin
 "Spiritual Giftedness"
 Scripture Reading Darrell Bozeman
 Romans 12:3-8
 Closing Prayer Joe Wilson

Serving Communion:

Comments Nick Bartell
 Luke McReynolds Jim Loftin
 Bob Locklin Jake Armstrong
 Justin Davis

EVENING

Opening Prayer Joe King
 Singing Blake Hatcher
 Scripture Chris Davis
 Judges 20:1
 Comments Nick Bartell

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep Bozeman family
 PowerPoint Connie Bartell
 Greeters: Jak Gallagher
 Secure Building Joe Wilson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director Brody Crider
 Opening Prayer Pat Mense

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 148
 AM Worship 210
 PM Worship
 Wed. Night Bible Class 140
 Contribution \$8,483

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:00 am
 Sunday AM Worship 10:00 am
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship ... 6:00 pm
 Wednesday PM Bible Class 6:30 pm

Visitors:

Thank you for coming!

You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

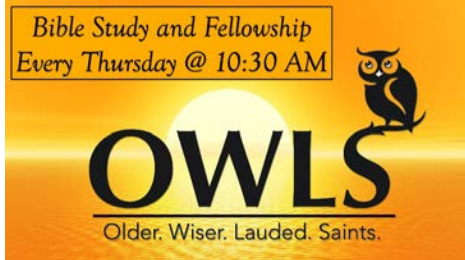
ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is **Thursday, by noon.**



EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!



WORSHIP

- Service Rosters are available on the Welcome Desk and Margaret Street website (listed under "Archives")
- "LISTEN" devices available in the foyer, located in the Armoire.

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



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DEACONS* & MINISTRIES

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 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell
 Building & Grounds Greg Lewis*
 Education Chris Davis*
 Evangelism Troy Spradlin
 Finance
 Fellowship Jeff Scott*
 OWLS Stephen Fulton
 Involvement Joe Taylor*
 Lads to Leaders David English
 Missions Mike Scott*
 Visitation ... Bob Locklin & Rick Martin*
 Youth & Family Casey Bearden
 Worship Blake Hatcher*