

Those to Serve

April 11		April 18	
Morning Worship		Morning Worship	
Opening Prayer	Ron Bazy	Opening Prayer	Clifford Layton
Song Leader	Kevin Odom	Song Leader	Paul Cartwright
Communion		Communion	
Presiding:	Bob Williams	Presiding:	Chris Lindelof
Paul Dillon	Rick Nudelman	Demetris Kelly	Charles Huckabee
Larry Roberson	Shawn Feezel	Bill Westmoreland	Kevin Odom
Loyd Wilson	Brent Finch	John Genaro	Tim Godwin
Closing Prayer	Von Knight	Closing Prayer	Gary Adams
Nursery		Nursery	
Maresha Scarsdale	Sarah Scarsdale	Canova Genaro	Julee Genaro
Evening Worship		Evening Worship	
Opening Prayer	Claude Anderson	Opening Prayer	Rick Nudelman
Song Leader	Kevin Odom	Song Leader	Paul Cartwright
Communion	B. Williams & B. Russell	Communion	L. Adams & G. Alatrash
Closing Prayer	Josh Hamilton	Closing Prayer	Kevin Scarsdale
Nursery	Amy Cuellar	Nursery	Donna Russell
Both Services		Both Services	
Ushers (*indicates head usher)		Ushers (*indicates head usher)	
*Bob Williams, Bill Russell, Bobby Parker, Paul Hamilton, Nathan Scarsdale		*Lynn Adams, Gheath Alatrash, Dal Randle, Kent Wroe, Ross Genaro	
Announcements	Greg Fabian	Announcements	Greg Fabian
Video Camera	Gavin Finch	Video Camera	Matthew Fabian
Greeters		Greeters	
C. & N. Layton	D. & B. Blair	G. & L. Fabian	S. & B. Feezel
B. & D. Westmoreland	R. Bazy	K. & M. Scarsdale	G. Lindelof & O. Putman
Building Lock Up	Von Knight	Building Lock Up	David Blair
Wednesday 4/7		Wednesday 4/14	
Song Leader	Wednesday	Song Leader	Paul Cartwright
Opening Prayer	Night	Opening Prayer	Bob Williams
Closing Prayer	With The	Closing Prayer	Von Knight
Devotional	Master	Devotional	David Blair

Pearland Church of Christ

...equipping the saints for the work of service, building up the body of Christ...

2217 N. Grand Blvd.

Pearland, TX 77581 • 281-485-2436

Worship Times:

Sunday

Bible Study9 am

Morning Worship.....10 am

Evening Worship.....6 pm

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Class.....7 pm

Wednesday Bible Study...7 pm

ELDERS

Gary Adams 281-485-2436
Greg Fabian 281-485-2436
Von Knight 281-485-2436

DEACONS

David Blair
Chuck Huckabee
Chris Lindelof
Rick Nudelman
Kevin Odom
Bobby Parker
Eddie Ray
Kevin Scarsdale
Bob Williams

MINISTERS

D.C. Brown Pulpit Minister
Paul Cartwright Youth & Family Minister
Paul Tiohanon Evangelist
 Bohican, Benin West Africa

www.pearlandcoc.com

APRIL 7, 2010

The Pearland Harvester

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF SERVICE, BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST

AND DO NOT GIVE THE DEVIL AN OPPORTUNITY

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Those eight words form one of the most important statements in the New Testament. They are often forgotten, disregarded or overlooked in our daily walk. The Christian who runs the other way from temptations will often unwittingly allow himself to be manipulated in seemingly innocent ways. Through that manipulation Satan gains an opportunity. The passage bears a closer look.

Ephesians 4:25-27 ²⁵ **Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE OF YOU WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.** ²⁶ **BE ANGRY, AND YET DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,** ²⁷ **and do not give the devil an opportunity.**

First, it will be noticed that the topic and title of this article actually forms the conclusion of a point that the Lord intends to be made. It is true that Christians should never give the devil an opportunity, but Paul was not stating generic truths when the Holy Spirit inspired him to pen those words. There was a specific point of opportunity that Paul is addressing.

Second, it is helpful to remember just what the word opportunity means. A literal translation would be "do not give place to the devil," and opportunity is certainly implied. Opportunity is defined as "a chance, especially one that offers some kind of advantage"; "a combination of favorable circumstances or situations" (Encarta Dictionary). A Christian presented with an invitation to pull off an armed robbery would instantly refuse. An invitation to kill a disagreeable person would be refused without hesitation. While resisting such blatant invitations to sin is a good thing, many times the very same Christian who says "No!" at those moments will, thoughtlessly, give the devil his place or his opportunity just by being thoughtless in innocent matters such as daily conversa-

tion. Back to that first observation. The concluding statement, "and do not give the devil and opportunity" concludes a section of Scripture dealing with sins of the tongue. Lying is specified. The anger of verse 25, in context, has to do with our dealings with one another and because it so closely follows the command to speak the truth, it is logical to infer that this is an angry outburst of the sort that makes us say and do mean spirited and thoughtless things.

The fourth chapter has a clearly stated goal: the spiritual maturity of a righteous person. We are intended to grow up and we were given exactly that diet of good words and teaching (4:11) and the right kind of works that exercise the spiritual body so that it grows and develops. The entire chapter is a list of spiritual exercises and walks to implement daily. Not only will (1.) following the inspired messages mentioned and (2.) doing the prescribed exercises make the individual Christian grow into maturity, these are also the very things needed to preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace (4:3).

But when we gossip about things we give the devil his opportunity to destroy that unity. When we pass around things and make them appear to be insidious works, without even objectively examining them first, we give the devil his opportunity. When we assume motives and convey those assumptions to others, but will not go to the source and see if the assumptions are correct, we give the devil his opportunity.

In that sense we are allowing ourselves to be used. Some people delight in getting others so worked up that they take matters into their own hands and try to right perceived wrongs in areas that they were not even aware of until they had been stirred up. They become the ones who are used to create controversy.

It's a cruel joke when it is done on the school playground



YOUTH EVENTS

JR. & SR. HIGH

Bible Class 2 Yr Old—8th Grade



Jr. & Sr. High Devo will be at the Taylor's house this Sunday evening.

There will be a service project on Saturday the 17th. Meet at the Annex at 9:00 AM.

Camp Bandina applications are available—See Paul.

Sunday morning's Bible class lesson will be *"Jesus has a Better ministry; Jesus is a Better Sacrifice"* (Hebrews 9—10) Wednesday evening's Bible class lesson will be *"The Better Way; Faith"* (Hebrews 11).



by little children. It's an immature action that is ugly when grown men and women engage in it. Don't let the devil take opportunity by being that person that "gets used" or "gets played." Check your facts, ask yourself if you are about to take part in something that builds up or something that destroys. Satan is the playground bully that whispers, cajoles, and makes just enough casual suggestions and shares just enough personal opinions to get any one of us to assume things in error and then use our tongues to do everything but build one another up in love.

these words:

Ephesians 4:29 **Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.**

May these thoughts challenge and bless us all. Lord willing, I'll see you when I return.

Keep studying, DC Brown © 2010

In the same context that produced "and do not give the devil an opportunity" the inspired writer also penned

April Birthdays

7	Elaine Genaro	13	Shawn Cravens
13	Tracey Mauney	14	Jean Coe
15	Slade Ray	17	Claude Anderson
18	Laurie Huckabee	21	Tex Greene
22	Lila Odom	24	Holly Bhojwani
25	Lacey Gartrell	28	Lucille Adams

May Birthdays—1st half

6	Haley Hopkins	6	Dagan Ray
7	Bill Westmoreland	8	Heather Brown
9	Jean Adams	9	Janice Pearson
9	Murrell Hill	12	Kaya Lindelof

April Anniversaries

7	John & Lacey Gartrell	7	Morris & Berna Dyes
9	Orlando & Amy Cuellar	19	Chuck & Sheila Banyai

May Anniversaries—1st Half

5	Chris & Ginny Lindelof	13	Claude & Leona Anderson
14	Gary & Jean Adams		

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Gary Adams** is the contact elder for April. If you would like to schedule a meeting with the elders, please see Gary.
- **Golden Agers Bluebonnet Trip** will be this Friday, the 9th. We will meet at the Annex at 9:00 AM. We will stop for lunch along the way.
- **Elders, Deacons and Ministers Meeting** will be this Saturday. Breakfast at Kelley's at 8:00 AM and meeting at the building at 9:00 AM.

- **Ladies Prayer Breakfast** will be this Saturday at 8:00 Am at Kelley's.
- **Medina Children's Home** will be here next week to empty the clothing boxes. They usually pick up on Tuesday or Wednesday. If you have clothing that you would like to get in the box, please do so by Tuesday.

KEPT IN PRAYER

Nina Layton got a great report from her doctor. Thanks for all the prayers.

Charlyne Harper is now undergoing rehab at Southeast Memorial Hospital. She is in Room 252.

Brenda Riggs with ongoing chemo therapy.

Natalie Robinson, Larry & Lou Ann Phillips' granddaughter, has improved with the antibiotics. She will see the doctor again on April 14th for the next check. Thank you for your continued prayers.

In Continuing Need:

Our Members: Terry Brown, LaRue Case, Glenda Cashiola, Jerry DeWeese Jr., June Evans, Cooper Gartrell, Elaine Genaro, Rossie Gilbert, Dorendia Hamilton, Becky Hopkins, Dorothy Kirkland, Ed & Wilma Koob, Claudia Martin, Jennifer & Chase Shelton, Wally Weeks, Bill Westmoreland.

Shut-In: Varnell Allison, Katie Barnes, Rebecca Morganthaler.

Others: Timothy Anderson, Elton Bennett, Justin Britt, Mark Brown, Delta Burner, Ruth Cartwright, Hazel Childress, Virginia Cole, George Dunn, Michael Fleury, Sonny Forrester, Rachel & Joe Glaze, Jim Godwin, James Green, Dee Grigg, Fred & Florence Henshaw, Lola Hill, Wendell Hines, Gail Hunter, Kaye Hopkins, Leslie Hunt, Bartis Knight, Samuel Knight, Kerry Lemoine, Margaret McKinney, Jim & Pat Miller, Lauren Murphy, Clairette Pool, Lt Col Robert Reese, Betty Rosenberg, Bing Scherzer, Ruth Schultz, Lance Smith, Brett Statham, Rick Stone, Gary & Kay Taliaferro, Penny Waldrum, Bruce Welch, Gary Wells, Elaine Wilson, Loretta Wilson, Claudia Scott Wright.