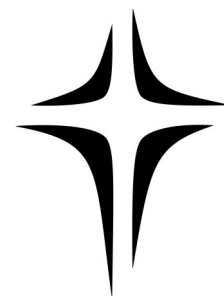




This QR code that will take you to an information page on our website. Just point your cell phone camera at the code and then click on the "subsplash" link. ("Subsplash" is our site host.)



The Purpose

From here to heaven... Following God wherever He leads us.

Commentary from a common Terry **The dark is so dark**

When I was a kid, one of my favorite movies was *The Court Jester* with Danny Kaye. Such a fun movie. We waited every year for it to air again. It is the story of mild-mannered Hawkins (Kaye), thrust into a situation that demands he be anything but mild-mannered.

At one point, he is forced to face the massive and vicious Sir Griswold on the jousting field. A battle to the death. As he is being prepared to do something he cannot do, he is asked what his weapon of choice is. He looks at the armament and sees several options—a sword, a club, ball-and-mace, etc.

Hawkins eyes light up. "I'll take one of those. Oh, and one of those." He looks over at Sir Griswold, then says, "I'll just take them all." Which, of course, he can't do.

"I'll just take them all." Every weapon for both protection and attack, I'll use them all. That's a good strategy. Take them all. Use them all.

The book of Ephesians builds to the final description of the battle between good and evil. It is not just any old normal run-of-the-mill adversary. Our battle is, "...against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:12

We have to be ready for whatever might come our way, but we are determined, "...to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand firm." Ephesians 6:13 And *then* Paul outlines the strategy and describes the spiritual armor with which we will be equipped.

The darkness is so very, very dark. It is evil. It is cosmic. It is beyond this world. And it is deadly. If we choose to belong to the King, joining Him in His purpose to defeat this darkness, shining light into the corners and crevices, we *must* be armed to the spiritual teeth with the weapons that not only can protect us, but can overcome the enemy. Otherwise, the darkness and evil continues in our lives, attacking us with the evil one's flaming darts. Ephesians 6:16

We don't take *some* of the armor. We don't *pick and choose* which spiritual armor to wear and use. *We need all of it.* We take one look at the evil

of this world and the darkest dark and can say nothing other than, "I'll just take them all."

- ♦ **The Belt of Truth.**
- ♦ **The Breastplate of Righteousness.**
- ♦ **Shoes that are the readiness given by the gospel of peace.**
- ♦ **The Shield of Faith.**
- ♦ **The Helmet of Salvation.**
- ♦ **The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word.**
- ♦ **Prayer envelopes it all.**

This is important. *Every piece of armor, every spiritual trait we are to possess, grow in, and demonstrate, are an answer to what the evil one attacks us with.*

We follow the **Truth** of God in a world that is filled with lies and deceit. Otherwise, we are tossed around like a rudderless ship on the ocean, susceptible to every ridiculous bit of information and influence out there.

Righteousness is the choice to live in the godly right of God's way, not giving in to the barrage of temptations to live otherwise and act like a heathen instead of a citizen of the Kingdom.

The **Gospel** gives us peace as we head into battle. We are *ready* because of the saving message, belief, and conviction we have. It can't be shaken because it is His gospel. His good news.

Faith is more than belief. It is trust. It defends who we are and what we stand for. No matter the earthly outcome, our confidence is solid.

Salvation protects our thoughts and intentions as we know not only who we are and who we belong to, but our eternal promised destiny.

The **Word** is more than a book. God's Word is life itself. We immerse ourselves in the Word because it repels the evil one. It is the lone piece of *attack armor*.

It is all wrapped in **Prayer**. We are in constant communication, connection, and conversation with the King, the General, the Warrior that leads us into battle.

The dark is so very dark. We need them all because they are weapons of light. And light wins.

Love one another,

Terry

We will have a congregational meal on Sunday, May 31st, at 5:30. You will receive information this week about the details. Plan now to join us.

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are thankful you are with us today as we worship our God and Savior. Our prayer is that you will encounter Him today.

A nursery for small children is available in the east hall off the lobby.

What will you experience at Westview?

- **Praise through song.** It is the tradition of our heritage to sing a cappella (without instruments) as we encourage everyone to be involved in uplifting praise.
- We value the **Bible**. You will hear God's Word read and all sermons will give the utmost respect and priority to Scripture.
- We share the **Lord's Supper** every week remembering Christ's sacrifice that provides us forgiveness as we celebrate our salvation through Him.
- **We do not expect our guests to give financially** to our work. We depend on the generous and godly giving of all Westview members to provide the funds needed to implement God's plans for this church.

We invite you to stay for Bible classes following our worship time. We hope you have been blessed today!

Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him.

~~Hudson Taylor~~
(19th century missionary to China)

Today's Order of Worship

*I Stand In Awe
To God Be the Glory*

Meet & Greet

Announcements & Reminders

Prayer

Scripture Reading:
John 3:16-17

'Tis Midnight and On Olive's Brow

We Remember Christ's Sacrifice

Contribution Collected
O How I Love Jesus

Elder blessing/prayer

Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing

Sermon

The Invasion:
God's Church God's Way (5)
Have you prayed today?

Victory Chant

Unison Reading:
Romans 8:38-39

Events, opportunities, and reminders:

Servers for Worship today (17th)

Scripture Reading Greg Hammer
Prayer Todd Zwetzig
Doug Blount (communion prayers)
Brandon Adkins (contribution prayers)
Zachary Blount
Ken Clark
Dan Esposito
Chad Goodwin



The Westview Men's Coffee is every Tuesday morning from 6 to 8 a.m. in the fellowship room.

The Westview Women's Coffee is every Wednesday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. in the fellowship room.

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

5/21 – Doug Seaman
5/21 – Barry Wells (75th)

The kids' worship handout is on the table at the back of the auditorium.

The Kitchen is a ministry to the homeless. We cook burritos on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and take them to the homeless shelter. You can help cook, deliver, or both. **It varies each week if we're meeting.** This week, on Wednesday, May 20th, *The Kitchen* is **OPEN**. See you there.

NO WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK

The *Women's Bible Study* group scheduled for this Tuesday will **NOT** meet. There are several schedule conflicts. The next meeting, then, for the WBS group will Tuesday, June 2nd.

Time is running out for camp registration.

See the flyer in the lobby for details.

Or you can check with Terry for more information.

Note—there is scholarship funds available. Families who need help with the cost of camp tuition need to contact Terry as soon as possible.

Sunday morning classes: The fellowship room class is a verse-by-verse textual study, led by Randy and Tom. Tom is currently leading a study of the book of **John**.

Terry's class, which meets in room #14, is in the second of a four week study of the book of **Jonah**. The class is entitled **Not Another Fish Story**. We will see how relevant the lessons of this small book are to today.

The **Wednesday night Bible study group** meets at 6:30 in the fellowship room. We are currently studying the book of **Galatians**.

The May Bible study plan guide handout is in the lobby on the table.



Prayer reminders

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

We do not include personal information, such as the prayer list in our online bulletin. If you would like that information, it is available in the hard copy bulletin at the building. Or, you can contact the church office to receive a copy.

I choose gentleness.... Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice, may it be only in praise. If I clench my fist, may it be only in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself.

~~Max Lucado (contemporary Christian author)~~