

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

November 12, 2023

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KEEP THE JEWS IN CONTEXT

By David Sproule

God had an eternal plan! That plan did not waver one bit based upon man's acceptance or rejection of that plan!

Adam and Eve disobeyed God. God's eternal plan was already in place and already at work. The whole world turned their hearts to wickedness in the days of Noah. God's eternal plan was already at work and would not be thwarted. The Israelites became slaves to an Egyptian superpower. God's eternal plan was already at work and this was part of it. Israel continually rebelled against the Lord from the exodus through the judges. God's eternal plan was still at work and would not be altered. The nation of Israel became strong and their borders expanded far and wide, as God had promised, but they turned against God and worshipped idols. God's eternal plan was still at work, and He would remain on course, even though His people were taken into captivity. The Lord had a purpose for the Jews.

This is the background for Romans 9-11. Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel warned, wept and wrote of Judah's captivity in Babylon; yet all 3 prophets gave Israel hope, speaking of a "remnant" that would come out of captivity. The remnant had a purpose—to bring the Messiah into this world!

Just as a "remnant" of Jews came out of Babylon, **fulfilling those prophecies and their God-given purpose**, a figurative "remnant" of Jews (some of them, not all) would be saved in Paul's day by following the same plan that God had for the Gentiles. All of the Jews who would be saved, would be saved by following God's plan.

Even when the Jews rejected the Messiah when He came, that was expected by Jehovah and would not alter His eternal plan of redemption. God wants "all" (Jew and Gentile) to be saved! "The way" for salvation is the same for all—through Jesus Christ. Each person (not as a nation) must choose for himself.

**He has granted to us His precious
and magnificent promises. 2 Peter 1:4**

Pray for the sick: You may not know some of them but God knows them and their needs, so let's lift them up to Him!

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Terry Hastings, Sandi Holt, Pat Tucker, Myra's sister, Connie; Norma Hudson, Ruth Banks, Tracy Moran, Ashley Cox.

On-going personal Bible studies

World turmoil; people of Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza

Cipolla family

"Celebrate Recovery"

AIM missionaries, Carolina Aguilar, Miguel Javier

Dale and Maddy

Latin American Missions

Debbie Revel (Cassie's mother, cancer)

Coleman family as they care for Kenny's parents

Karen Sowell; medical procedure Nov. 29

Michelle Tucker; cardiac testing

Prince Ituni's wife; surgery in Nigeria

Sue Banks (Jean's niece)

Brenda Pepper; continued prayers

Jesse Jenkins family member with collapsed lung

CELEBRATE RECOVERY each Monday evening from 6-8 in the FLC.

WOMEN'S STUDIES— Apostle Paul study Fridays at Cathy's, coffee and fellowship 10:30, study at 11:00. Ladies' Tuesday evening Zoom study at 7:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS TEA AND ORNAMENT EXCHANGE will be Dec. 9, an event always highly anticipated by the ladies!

THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP FEAST is next Sunday, Nov. 19th following worship. This is a planned menu and you can sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer for what you wish to bring.

MEN TO SERVE;

Welcome/Scripture; Dave-12th; Shawn-19th

Prayer; Vinny-12th

Table; Andy-12th; Philip-19th

Announcements/Closing prayer; Danny-Nov.

Song Leader; Troy-12th; Christian-19th

Opportunities for study and worship

Sunday: (In person and virtually at:
www.laurelcoc.org)

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday:

Women's Zoom Study 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Men's prayer (Shawn's) 7:30 a.m.

Bible Study at building 6:30 p.m.

Friday ladies' Paul study 10:30 a.m.

We invite you to attend any of our service times, and we look forward to welcoming you, and pray that you might find a home here with us in Laurel and with God in heaven as His child.

If you need Media help — connections, addresses, or general questions contact: Don Trader or Julio Brennick

WHO WE ARE

The body of Christ in Laurel, Delaware is a family of believers knit together in love (Colossians 2:2), striving to serve God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and carrying the gospel to the lost (Matthew 28:18). We are an autonomous body with Christ only as our head, and elders shepherding the flock of God (Acts 20:28).

We have been entrusted with the gospel (I Thessalonians 2:4) and so it is that we speak. The congregation seeks to uphold the doctrine and practice of the first century church using the only true standard, the Bible, as our guide (2 Peter 1:3). It is our prayer that all would come to a knowledge of the truth and partake in that divine fellowship in the body of Christ, being immersed for the remission of sins, and beginning life anew with Christ as Lord (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1). Our plea is that we might be one in Christ, and serve the Lord faithfully unto death to receive our crown (Revelation 2:10).