

Martyrdom

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Benny Haught
Rick Hyder
Tim Murray
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Jason Bryan
Carl Cobb
Charles Collinsworth
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Jason Giebler
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Darren Pierce
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Preacher

Danny Boggs

Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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Peter's words were full of conviction..."Even if I have to die with you, I will not deny you" (Matthew 26:35). Yet, as we read further, we learn that the inquiries of a young servant girl were enough to cause Peter to lose his conviction and deny his Lord (Matthew 26:69-70).

Less than 200 years later, Origen who became known as one of the "church fathers," made a similar decision. As a teenager, Origen had decided to turn himself over to the authorities, along with his father, and die the death of a martyr. However, he didn't. Why? because his mother hid his clothes. While he was willing to die for Jesus, he was unwilling to be seen inadequately dressed in public.

Then there is our case. Wouldn't we all affirm that if it came down to it, nothing could cause us to deny Jesus, even the threat of death? Yet, how many who say they would embrace martyrdom could be moved from it for lesser things? While I don't know the answer to that question, I'm pretty sure that if one is not willing to live for Jesus, he certainly wouldn't be willing to die for him.

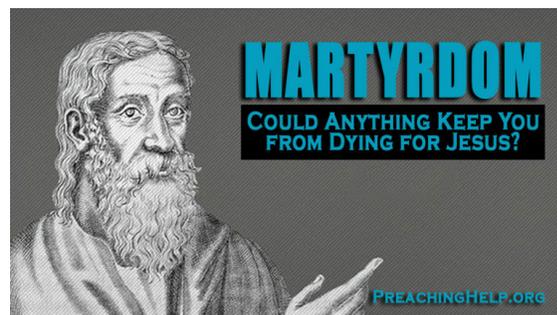
Did you know that the Greek word translated as "martyr" (Gr. martureo) is the

same Greek word that is also translated as "witness" and "testimony?"

What does that mean? It means that Jesus sent out his disciples to be (Gr. martureo) i.e. "witnesses/testifiers/martyrs" (Luke 21:13; Acts 1:8). But how were his disciples supposed to be "witnesses/testifiers/martyrs?" By faithfully recounting the things they saw and heard about Jesus. And as we know, some faithful "witnesses/testifiers/martyrs" were even called upon to forfeit their lives as did Stephen (Acts 22:20) and Antipas (Revelation 2:13).

Friends, I hope you're already a "martyr" for Jesus. And if someday being a "martyr" for Jesus demands we must also die for him, I pray that we all have the courage and conviction to do so.

Steve Higginbotham
Via PreachingHelp.org





Pam Babb, Carol Bessman, Fred and Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Eli Dodson, Jaren Dodson, Joe and Teresa Freund, Coral Haggard, Ervin and Wilma Hill, Mike and Anita Hinman, Justin Houston, Nadine Keith, Millie Lyons, Monwell Magee, Sherry Merrill, Cheryl Neilans, Mebyl Privett, Andy Rasbury, Baelyn Rasbury, Rylee Schroeder, Edith Toney, Janell VanSlyke, Miles Wogamott.

- Monwell Magee has been moved to a long care facility in Springfield
- Eldon Morgan is hospitalized.
- Jason Bryan's mother is being moved to a care facility for about two months as her leg heals.



Every "One" Counts: When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. If you know someone who needs help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Welcome to Taylor and Victoria Keith and their daughter Sophie. We are pleased that they have placed their membership with us at Hillcrest under the direction of our eldership. We look forward to working alongside of them.

If you are not able to be at church, visit our Facebook page, website or YouTube channel to see or hear our services **online**. Services will be at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on Sundays and 7:00 pm on Wednesdays.



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. *The King We Need*
(Psalm 72, Danny Boggs)

P.M. *Am I in the Place of God?*
(Danny Boggs)

Thursday morning **ladies' Bible class** will initiate a 16-week study of the Gospel of Mark January 7. If you don't have important Thursday morning plans, why not join us? You'll be encouraged by faithful people and by four months of focus on the life of Christ. We meet in the auditorium, so there is plenty of room to keep your distance if you'd like.

The **Lads to Leaders** kickoff was after church on Sunday. The convention will be April 1-4 in Little Rock, AR. Register and plan to attend.

Neosho Christian School is in the middle of a "*Dream Big, Pray Bigger*" fund raising event to make some physical improvements to the property and building. There are more details on the bulletin board. Please help them reach their goal, if you can, and continue to pray for their efforts to provide a Christian education.

Your kindness and sympathy are more deeply appreciated than any words of thanks can ever express. Thank you for all your support. The flowers were beautiful.

Coral Haggard.

CHILDISH BEHAVIOR

My wife and I went to eat with a young couple, fulfilling an invitation made a couple of weeks earlier. From the first, things appeared to be strained. Ultimately, it became obvious the couple was not speaking to each other. We have also known of adult siblings going for some time without speaking.

Are there Scriptures that forbid that kind of behavior? One that immediately comes to mind is "Do not let the sun go down on your anger" (Eph. 4:27). The thrust of that Scripture is "Don't hold on to your anger," "Talk out your differences calmly and quickly," "Exchange mutual apologies." When adults in anger refuse to speak to one another they are exhibiting childish behavior.

Adults should act like adults.

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PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, December 27

AM Opening Prayer: Jim Friend
Communion Prayers: David Fehring
AM Closing Prayer: Wayne Douthitt

PM Opening Prayer: Peter Wald
PM Closing Prayer: Aaron Wilson

Wednesday, December 30

Opening Prayer: Stuart Anderson
Closing Prayer: Caleb Boggs

RECORDS

	12-20-20	12-22-19
Bible Study	130	141
AM Worship	155	181
PM Worship	108	128
Wednesday	91	156
Contribution	\$8,045.96	\$8,951.26
Budget	\$7,864.15	\$7,717.37