

## FROM THE PREACHERS DESK

### Ordinary or Extraordinary?

You've probably heard the saying before, "The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little *extra*." It's a bit of a cheesy saying, but true nonetheless.

In the case of Daniel, it took great courage for Daniel as a teenage, prisoner slave, to stand up to his captors, the mightiest nation in the world, and decide that he would not break God's law to please them or to blend in.

Daniel 1:8 says, ***But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank;***

As we discussed last week, Daniel didn't oppose the Babylonian education and he didn't oppose the Babylonians assigning him a new name. After all, there was nothing in God's law that forbid those things.

But Daniel drew the line and made his stand when they gave him food that, to eat, would have broken God's law. Daniel drew the line where God drew the line, but then he took it one step further. Daniel also would not drink the Babylonian wine, even though to do so would not break God's law. Why?

Because Daniel didn't seek a good path, he sought the best path. This point is lost on too many Christians today. Too many times I have witnessed Christians defending their right to do whatever they want saying things in their defense like, "If it's not a sin, I can do it."

What they're missing is a bigger picture. The most common defense I hear is Christians defending their "right" to drink alcohol. And look, I'm not saying that it's a sin to drink alcohol. But I do stand with Paul when he says in 1 Corinthians 10:23,

***All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.***

What is Paul teaching? He's teaching that just because something isn't a sin, doesn't mean that it's a good thing to do. But why? Why would Paul teach such a thing? The reason is in the very next verse, 1 Corinthians 10:24,

***Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.***

This teaching is among the most controversial things that could ever be taught in our world today. Paul is teaching that, for the good of others, sometimes we don't do what we want, but we do that which is best for our neighbor. (continued)→

Few who call themselves Christians practice this teaching, even though to do so would be the fulfillment of what Jesus said was the second greatest of all commandments, Mark 12:31,

***'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'***

So, what was Daniel doing? He recognized that in his situation, the best and highest and most influential thing he could do would be to not drink the king's wine. How would that be the best and highest and most influential thing?

He's the leader of his friends that are making a stand with him. His aim for their little group is to not defile themselves, in other words, sin, in an unknown place, among an unknown people, drinking an unknown wine.

Daniel recognized the danger of letting his guard down in a godless environment, surrounded by sinful temptations, so he resolved that in order to safeguard he and his friends as best they could against temptation, they would not take part in an activity that lowers one's guard.

Oh, that Christians would take similar stands today! Imagine the influence we would have for Christ if we too sought the highest good – the most influential stance for Christ – instead of constantly demanding and defending our personal rights, with no thought whatsoever to the feelings of our neighbors.

The result of Daniel's unusual stance? Seventy years of godly influence in a pagan culture. Giving up the wine was a small price to pay in order to have a mighty influence for God.

My point is not to keep you from having a drink; my point is that we never even consider taking a drink if it violates the teaching of 1 Corinthians 10:24,

***Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.***

Followers of Christ are never called to be ordinary, but always, extraordinary. Just do the little extra. I'm also not saying it will be easy, but neither was the cross.

Much love,

Wes LeFlore (918) 607-8489 or [huskerwes1@gmail.com](mailto:huskerwes1@gmail.com)

## WESTVIEW GROCERY PICK UP

You have one more week to get your groceries here for Westview Boys Home. Have them here by Sunday, October 4. There are still bags by each door, so grab one, fill it.

## PRAYER LIST

**Violet Clay**—sister of Leroy Lewis—her surgery went well and is now back in Dodge at a rehab facility.

**Clint Townsend**—was released from the hospital and is recovering at home.

**Don Duscher**—is dealing with cancer and heart problems and has been diagnosed with Covid.

## EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY

We express our deepest sympathy to Tom & Helen Norris. Their sister-in-law, Wilma Howell, passed away last week.

We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Adam Ricke. Adam passed away Sunday, September 20. His services were Saturday. Keep Adam's family in your prayers.

We express our deepest sympathy to the family of LeRoy Murphey. LeRoy passed away last week. All of his daughters were there with him.

Word was received that Lloyd Deal passed away Lloyd served this congregation as minister in the 1960's. He was currently living in Edmond, Oklahoma.

## MEALS FOR THE PIERCES

Wade and Emily Pierce are scheduled for an induction on Wednesday, September 23. Please keep them in your prayers. If anyone would like to sign up for a meal delivery after they arrive home, please see Kendall.

## LADIES CLASS RESUMES

Ladies, we are resuming Wednesday Morning Ladies Class this Wednesday, September 30 at 9:30 a.m.

## BIRTHLINE YARD SALE

Birthline, our local pregnancy crisis center, is having a "yard" sale at the Knights of Columbus building on October 9th & 10th. Funds raised at the sale help with basic monthly expenses at the center. If you have items to donate for the sale or would like to help, please contact me or stop by Birthline Monday thru Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Linda Wartick—27th                      Jennifer Hines—28th  
Darlene Cooney—30th                      Leroy Lewis—30th

*When sadness fills your heart.  
When tears flow in your eyes.  
Always remember three things;  
God is with you. Still with you. Always with you.*

**Draw The Line: Part II, Characteristics of a Line Drawer**

Daniel 1:8-21

8 But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself. 9 Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials, 10 and the commander of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has appointed your food and your drink; for why should he see your faces looking more haggard than the youths who are your own age? Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king." 11 But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, 12 "Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then let our appearance be observed in your presence and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see." 14 So he listened to them in this matter and tested them for ten days. 15 At the end of ten days their appearance seemed better and they were fatter than all the youths who had been eating the king's choice food. 16 So the overseer continued to withhold their choice food and the wine they were to drink, and kept giving them vegetables. 17 As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams. 18 Then at the end of the days which the king had specified for presenting them, the commander of the officials presented them before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them, and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's personal service. 20 As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm. 21 And Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus the king.

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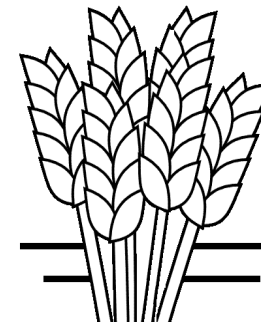
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**THOSE WHO SERVE**

<u>SUNDAY, 10:30 AM</u>	<u>September 27</u>	<u>October 4</u>
ELDER IN CHARGE	Rex Harris	Marvin Kline
OPENING PRAYER	David Pierce	Levi Turney
SONG LEADER	Wade Pierce	
COMMUNION PRAYERS	Tom Norris	Rex Harris
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER & COLLECTION	Alan Shields Parker Dodds	Kevin Dodds Mike Neal
USHERS	Larry Helton Joe Church	Jim Wilson Nathan Bradbury
CLOSING PRAYER	Rex Harris	Marvin Kline
DEACON IN CHARGE	Leroy Lewis	Mike Neal

**Note concerning COVID-19:** During this month we are asking all public non-speaking participants to wear a face covering while performing their duties. This applies to ushers and to the men collecting our contribution. If you are unable to fulfill your assignment for any reason, please call the Deacon in Charge.

<b>ELDERS</b>		<b>DEACONS</b>	
Rex Harris	Marvin Kline	Kevin Dodds	Aaron Hines
Ed Newberry	Tom Norris	Leroy Lewis	Mike Neal
<b>MINISTER</b>		David Pierce	Alan Shields
Wes LeFlore			



"Reaching Inward, Outward  
Upward, Downward"

# Wellington Church of Christ

217 W. 13th St. Wellington, KS 67152 620-326-7511

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

September 27, 2020

Call to Worship

Prayer

Song #557 "Rise Up, O Men of God"

Song #100 "Holy Ground"

Song #101 "Holy Ground"

Communion Prayers

Contribution Prayer

Contribution Collection

Lesson

Song #944 "What Will You Do with Jesus?"

Closing Prayer

Every Sunday during the sermon we offer Children's Church to boys and girls ages 3 years through 2nd grade. They will meet in the study for stories, crafts and learning about Jesus.