

THE NEW PORT REPORT

November, 2011

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up... (James 5:13-15a)

These are some of the greatest words in Scripture for anyone going through difficulties, sickness, or trials: God hears us when we are suffering; God heals us when we pray!

These are also some of the more perplexing words in Scripture: what does it mean when it says the elders are supposed to anoint a sick person with oil; are we really supposed to be doing that?

The good news is that God is not trying to confuse us here; he's giving us a clearer picture of exactly what he does when a sufferer comes to him, or when others pour out their prayers to him on behalf of someone going through difficulty.

Think about it a minute. What does God's anointing picture throughout Scripture?

First, it means that God is setting that person apart for a particular purpose. In the Old Testament, God anointed kings, priests, prophets, altars, etc. for special purposes he had in mind. Jesus, at his baptism, and the apostles, at Pentecost, were anointed by the Holy Spirit to be set apart for the work that God had established for them, the witness of the gospel to all people. To anoint a sick person with oil, then, means that God has set that person apart for a special purpose. What would that be? His special purpose is to show the power of his grace, love and sustaining care to anyone going through sickness or difficulty. Those going through trials experience God's grace in a way they could not without the trial.

But anointing means more than being set apart,

for throughout Scripture, anyone God anointed and set apart was also given the ability to fulfill the purpose God had set them apart for: David was given strength to be a mighty king for God's people, prophets were given the very words of God, the apostles were given power to perform miracles and signs to corroborate the testimony of the gospel. So also, anyone anointed by God to undergo trial is given strength by God to stand up under the trial: he always provides the ability to do what he asks us to do. God anoints those who suffer, setting them apart to experience his grace in a special way, giving them strength to gain the victory even in the midst of the difficulty.

God's anointing is a picture of his promise to provide strength for what he calls us to undergo, but not everyone anointed in Scripture fulfilled the purpose God set them apart for. It wasn't because God's promise failed, however; it was because they did not respond in faith to the promise God made to them in his anointing. Kings, priests, and prophets failed because they decided they could not trust God and placed their trust in something else. So, will we trust God to see us through our trials and sickness? Will his promises be dear to us even when the day seems dark? Only those who walk by faith and not by sight experience the fulfillment of God's promises in his anointing.

Still, does it mean that we're literally supposed to anoint each other with oil? It was something the disciples did when Jesus gave them the power to preach the good news of the kingdom and heal all sorts of diseases (Mark 6:13). And I think it is something we are free to do as a sign of our faith that God will provide for us in difficulty. But it is not something we should view as a religious ritual with magic-like powers.

In the passage itself, the focus is on the Lord, not the act. We anoint the person "in the name of the Lord". In Scripture, to do something "in

the name of” someone is to do something by the authority and the power of that person. The promise and the power are not in the anointing, but in the Lord, and we receive them by faith in him, not through a religious ritual.

Not only that, but the way the passage is written shows that the “anointing” need not be literal, for the preceding phrase describes what that anointing actually is: “*let them pray over him*, anointing him with oil.” The prayers are the anointing.

Think about what that means. When we pray for someone who is undergoing sickness or

difficulty, God says we are doing something similar to the anointing of the Old Testament: we are saying that God has set that person aside to receive his special grace, and our prayers are anointing him with the promise and power of God to stand up under the trial (1 Cor 10:13). So pray for each other; anoint each other with the promises and power of God.

You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23:5-6)

November Worship Notes

*Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son!*

In November our study in 1 Corinthians will confront the way we deal with sin in our own lives and in the life of the church. Since some of the passages are particularly challenging, it will be especially helpful to read through them

before worship on Sunday.

We’ll take a break from 1 Corinthians for the week of Thanksgiving as we focus on God’s goodness to us throughout the year.

Remember, as an aid in preparing for worship, each week’s bulletin is posted on the church’s website (www.newportpca.org) by Thursday or Friday.

Audio files of past sermons and the current monthly newsletter are also available there.

<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Sermon Series: 1 Corinthians</u>	<u>Date</u>
1 Corinthians 4:8-21	<i>Servants of God: Scum to be Imitated by God’s Children</i>	Nov 6
1 Corinthians 5:1-13	<i>Responding to Immorality in the Church and in the World</i>	Nov 13
1 Corinthians 6:1-8	<i>Lawsuits Among Brothers (Lord’s Supper)</i>	Nov 20
Psalms 65	<i>God’s Wagon Tracks (Thanksgiving Eve)</i>	Nov 23
Luke 18:9-14	<i>Be Careful What You’re Thankful For</i>	Nov 27

Please Note:

Christmas Schedule

No Christmas Eve Service

No Sunday School on Christmas morning, December 25

Morning Worship on Sunday, December 25, 10:30 a.m.

Ladies'
Bible Study



The next New Port Ladies Bible Study meeting will be on Wednesday, November 16th, at 7:00 p.m. here at the church. We will be discussing study # 2, *Seeking God's Priorities*.

You do not need to have a book to participate—just read Mark 1:21-39. Marilyn Goggan will be our hostess for the evening. We invite all our church women to join us.

See you on the 16th!

COLLEGE CARE
PACKAGES

The ladies of new Port will again be assembling care packages for our 4 college students at our November Bible Study meeting.

If you would like to contribute, please bring your items to church by next Sunday, November 13th. You may write notes of encouragement if you desire, and we will include them in the packages.

New Port Ladies:

A Christmas gathering is being planned for ALL the ladies of the church sometime in December. We would love to have your suggestions for a fun-filled time of sharing and celebrating the Christmas season.

Please contact Kathy Brockmann or Joan Schmidt with your holiday suggestions.

Watch for date and details!

Fall into Fun at the
Fall Family Night!!

Pull out your favorite chili or pot luck recipe, and bring a lawn chair for a seat to watch the fun unfold and enjoy the fire! On November 12th, we will have loads of fun for kids of all ages with a bounce house, a puppet show, fun fall games and prizes—including apple bobbing, potato sack races, a chili cook off, washers, bonfire and s'mores, and MORE! Bring friends, and we'll invite Good News Club and other friends, too!

Operation
Christmas Child

THE POWER OF
A Simple Gift

Reminder:

We are collecting gift items for *Operation Christmas Child* again this year.

Please bring filled shoe boxes to the church by November 12. If you need an empty shoe box to fill, or if you want any information concerning this ministry, please see Betsy Allyn.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

By Scott Wesemann

Lord, so often times, as any other day
When we sit down to our meal and pray
We hurry along and make fast the blessing
Thanks, amen.
Now please pass the dressing
We're slaves to the olfactory overload
We must rush our prayer before the food gets cold
But Lord, I'd like to take a few minute more
To really give thanks to what I'm thankful for
For my family, my health, a nice soft bed
My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head
I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those
Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly know
Thankful Lord, that You've blessed me beyond measure
Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure
That You, dear Jesus, reside in that place
And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace
So please, heavenly Father, bless this food You've provided
And bless each and every person invited

Amen!

- 1 Good News Club at Campbellton, 2:40 p.m.
- 5 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.
- 6 Daylight Savings Time Ends (Fall Back), 2:00 a.m.
- 8 Good News Club at Campbellton, 2:40 p.m.
- 9 Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Fall Family Night, 5:00 p.m.
- 13 Worship at New Haven Care Center, 2:30 p.m.
- 15 Good News Club at Campbellton, 2:40 p.m.
- 16 Women's Monthly Study, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Lord's Supper at Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- 23 Thanksgiving Eve Service, 6:30 p.m.
- 29 Good News Club at Campbellton, 2:40 p.m.

December 3 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.

November Calendar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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| 1 | Gary Barrett | 16 | Paul Steinhoff |
| 5 | Lena Kackley | 18 | Tom Kuhlmann |
| 7 | Mary Steinhoff | 19 | Tom Shearman |
| 8 | Amy Duckworth | 21 | Rachel Kackley |
| 10 | Dave Arnold | 24 | Nathan Allgaier |