

# Kingston Church of Christ

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*Every member a minister*

Jan 24, 2021

## ***Quote of the Week:***

“The Bible applied to the heart by the Holy Spirit, is the chief means by which men are built up and established in the faith, after their conversion.”

—J. C. Ryle

## ***Let's Keep Praying For***

- Ron H
- Kathy's friend Lindsay as she recovers
- Levi's recovery
- Alex as she faces ongoing health issues
- Ruby's health during chemo
- Anne
- Joan
- Brian as he struggles with Tinnitus
- Jerry M, Glen P
- Betty, in long term care home
- Dan's father, Tim F
- Chad's parents Marilyn and Roy. Health issues

## ***Read the New Testament in a Year:*** Jan 25-Feb 1, 2021.

Mon Matthew 27  
Tues Matthew 28  
Wed Mark 1:1-20  
Thurs Mark 1:21-45  
Fri Mark 2  
Sat Mark 3:1-19  
Sun make-up day

## ***News:***

**Alex** will be meeting with her doctors tomorrow (Monday) to determine next steps in her treatment. She

## ***In a World Filled with Chaos, What Should the Righteous Do?***

The events of the past few weeks have probably surprised, alarmed, grieved, and also shaken many of us to our core. What we have seen on our televisions has certainly surprised us. It speaks of a polarization unseen in many of our lifetimes. Over the past six months, we have now seen on both sides of the aisle rioting and bloodshed. This must sadden all people of faith and

leave us humbly asking God to forgive us as a nation. People are fed up, and they want something better, something more. But most have no idea what they want, or how to get there. They are angry and hurting, and hurt people hurt people.

If we pay close attention, what we also see is a nation polarized without a foundation on which to find common ground. The tectonic plates under our democracy are shifting, and the structures we have built that hold us together as a nation are cracking under the pressure. The building is still standing, but additional supports will be needed to hold it up for future generations. Only God's people can supply such supports. Long ago, King David saw such a seismic shift happening in his day and wrote the words of Psalm Eleven:

*"When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"* (Psa. 11: 3)

David's answer came in a reminder: God is still on his throne and his ears are attentive to our prayers. But before you approach God too quickly he warned, notice the Lord is looking for righteous people to pray to him, not those who love violence. The Lord is always on the side of right--he is righteous. He wants to see us promote justice. If we do, He promises to show up and reveal the Glory of his presence in the midst of our chaos.

*"The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD is on his heavenly throne. He observes everyone on earth; his eyes examine them. The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion. On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot. For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face."* (Psa. 11: 4-7)

Interestingly, the people best able to strengthen the foundations of our country are those most concerned about God's Kingdom--far more than country. It is those who seek first God's Kingdom who will have the resources to strengthen the foundations of our civil government. C.S. Lewis explains it this way:

*"If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot in the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you'll get the earth 'thrown in'; aim at earth and you'll get neither."*

The Lord *is* in his holy temple; the Lord *is* on his heavenly throne. He is watching the affairs of mankind and bids all those whose hearts are right, and who love justice, to pray to him. So let's set our hearts right, seek his face, and ask that we might again see the glory of the Lord in the land of the living. Let's be those who "stand in the gap" and who are "healers of the breach" both by our prayers and by our righteous lives. We have an important week ahead.

W. Scott Sager