

Sisters and Brothers, may we love God and our neighbors unconditionally.

Covenant Life

- We will not have an All Saints Party this year due to the virus and associated restrictions. Please help spread the word.
- If you missed the Celebration of Life for Patrick Powers, we have loaded pictures and the video to our website [here](#).
- The coordinators are planning our first Gathering back and we hope that we will be able to meet in the month of November. If you are willing to help, please contact your area coordinator or reply to this email.
- Our safe environment training is available online this year. Details can be found at the Safe Environment Recertification link in the Covenant Life section.
- Please join your Area's online events and contact your Area Coordinator if you need information or assistance.
- Please donate online at www.GodsDelight.org or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Reflection - The gospel reading today is the familiar passage from Mathew (22:34-40) where the Pharisees are trying to take their turn at tricking Jesus into saying something that they could charge Him with. Jesus' reply is simple and effective, succinctly pointing them (and us) to the objective of loving God and our neighbor.

Reflecting on these two greatest commandments brought to mind our covenant. Maybe it has been awhile since your last reading of our covenant. I invite you to a prayerful reflective rereading. As I did this today, I was reminded in the first two paragraphs of God's specific calling upon us and His commitment to form us into His people. The next two paragraphs read like the gospel today calling us to wholeheartedly embrace the two greatest commandments.

As I read and reread these paragraphs the Spirit impressed on me how timeless this calling was and how urgent and relevant it is for us today. God needs our Yes.

God needs our visible witness. The darkness and uncertainty of our times begs for people who will bind together and live for Him.

We must not let this virus deter us from fully living our covenant. This is why God made a covenant with us...so that we would stick with Him and our covenant brothers and sister in good times and in bad, through clouds of darkness and whatever the evil one might throw at us.

My exhortation this week is simple, please spend prayerful, meditative time with our covenant. We have it loaded to our website [here](#). Specifically ask our Lord how is He asking you to respond. Covenant Communities such as ours do not persist without investment, effort, sacrifice, and hard work. We recall Bobbie's teaching about rebuilding the wall and the fact that everyone needs to be involved. I recall Mordecai's word to Esther (4:14) *"Even if you now remain silent, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another source; but you and your father's house will perish. Who knows—perhaps it was for a time like this that you became queen?"*

Sisters and Brothers, I am confident that despite all the pain and suffering in our world, all the division, social evils and leadership challenges...God will save His people BUT we must ask ourselves this same question. Perhaps it was for a time like this that we said Yes to God and one another and formed this covenant. Let us rise up and find a way to rebuild the wall. Let us not assume that someone else will do it. Let us each pray to God, How can I love You with all my heart, soul, and strength today? How can I rebuild the walls of covenant community and love my neighbor as myself? Let us ask Him today and act. Then let us ask Him tomorrow and act again. He is calling us for such a time as this.

Let us pray: "Heavenly Father, forgive me for too much focus on myself and my challenges. I know that You are sufficient to empower me to do Your will. Thank You for the covenant call that You have placed on my life. I choose You and say Yes. I love You with all my heart, with all my mind, and with all my strength. I choose my extended family as well...the family You called me to walk with. I take responsibility for those You have entrusted to me. Together we desire to put our

whole lives into Your hands completely and follow You as a people wherever You may lead."

God bless,
David