

# Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

December, 2019

## We Must Watch...

When I started thinking about the December topic of the month, "watchfulness," I did a word search for it in the KJV Bible. Guess what? I didn't find it. However, I did find the word "watch." Did you know the word "watch" is used 114 times in the Bible: 73 times in the Old Testament, and 43 times in the New Testament? (Just a side note for you trivia players.)

After discovering the fact that the actual word, "watchfulness," wasn't in the KJV, my curiosity left me wanting to know the difference between the two words; so I went to the good old Merriam-Webster to find out. **Watchfulness** means *watchful, vigilant, wide-awake, alert, meaning being on the lookout especially for danger or opportunity.* **Watch** means *look at, or observe, attentively over a period of time, exercise care, caution, or restraint about.* At this point, several thoughts about the definitions, and two Scripture passages I have read over the years, came to my mind that I want to share with you at the beginning and the end. In the meantime, let's look at five areas where we all must keep watch in our own lives, along with what the Word has to say about it.

The very first Scripture that came to my mind when I starting thinking about this topic was **1 Peter 5:8 (KJV)**, *"<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. As Christians, we must be vigilant about watching our daily walk here on earth in several areas of our lives."*

We must **WATCH what we think about.** **Philippians 4:8 (KJV)** said, *"<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be*

*any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."* If we fail to bring our thoughts into the captivity of the Lord, we can be dominated by negative, and even evil thoughts, which influence our attitude. **Proverbs 23:7a (KJV)**, *"<sup>7</sup> For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."* In other words, where your heart is, your thoughts will be also.

We must **WATCH what we see and hear.** Millions of people are being brainwashed daily by scenes of immorality and violence in TV shows, and what they hear in the TV shows, movies and through the commercials & ads that run. Don't get me wrong here, I'm not saying you shouldn't watch TV. I watch TV and movies to this day. However, what I am saying, and what I have learned over time, is that we need to exercise more care and caution in this area of our lives, being more watchful in what we allow our eyes to see and ears to hear through television, movies, and music, even on the various social media apps that are out there. You know that old term "WWJD" (What Would Jesus Do). What would Jesus want us to see or hear? Surely not what the world offers, but that which aids our spiritual growth and strengthens our faith. Our prayer and desire should be as written in **Psalm 119:18 (KJV)**, *"<sup>18</sup> Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."*

We must **WATCH what we say.** My entire life when my mom was alive, and even now 24 years after she went home to the Lord, I'm reminded of a couple sayings that she would tell us kids from childhood through adulthood. "If you don't have anything nice to say about someone, don't say anything at all", the other being, "We have two ears and one mouth so we can listen twice as much as we speak." Scripture tells us in **Matthew 12:36-37 (KJV)**, *"<sup>36</sup> But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. <sup>37</sup> For by*

(Continued on next page)

WATCHFULNESS

thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” Also in Colossians 4:6 (KJV), <sup>6</sup>“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

We must **WATCH what we do.** *Ephesians 2:10 (KJV):* <sup>10</sup>“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” No matter how often we say and profess our Christianity, people still want to see the difference. They are watching. They will observe us and see that difference when we walk like Christ walked when He was on this earth. Truly, actions speak louder than words! Lets be a peculiar people as it is said in *Titus 2:14 (KJV)*, <sup>14</sup>“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

We must **WATCH where we go.** Things have changed so much since my childhood days, in all areas, including the church front. In the early days, my parents would get us up very early on a Sunday morning, making breakfast and then we would all get ready to head off to church for Sunday school and worship service. The reason we would have to get up so early was because we didn't have a car and had to take 2-3 buses to church. After church we might stay for a dinner and hang out till evening service. Sometimes, we would go to someone's house, or have folks over at our house and spend the afternoon together. Then around 5pm that evening, we would get ready and head back to church for Sunday night service. After getting a car, we started attending Wednesday night Bible study in addition to Sundays. My parents' lives were centered on serving the Lord, fellowshiping with God's family, and raising us to love the Lord with all our heart.

It is a tragedy to me that there are more people across the world letting other things become a priority in their lives over gathering together for worshiping, fellowship, breaking bread and prayer, as referred to in *Acts 2:42 (KJV)*, <sup>42</sup>“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles'

doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

In closing, the second Scripture passage that came to my mind, when thinking about watchfulness, was the parable of the 10 virgins, found in *Matthew 25:1-13 (KJV)*: <sup>1</sup>“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. <sup>3</sup>They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: <sup>4</sup>But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. <sup>6</sup>And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. <sup>7</sup>Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. <sup>9</sup>But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. <sup>12</sup>But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. <sup>13</sup>Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”

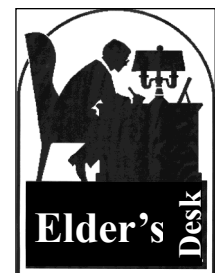
Be Watchful! Be Alert!



With this in mind each one of us must ask ourselves, “Am I ready if the Lord was to come back right now?”

Therefore, my prayer for Sunny Place is found in *Hebrews 10:23-25 (KJV)*: <sup>23</sup>“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) <sup>24</sup>And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: <sup>25</sup>Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Blessings,  
Phyllis



Connect

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# TLC

Together Loving Christ

**A**re you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

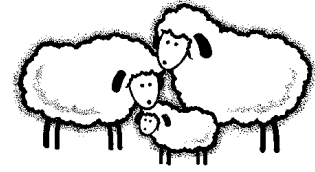
**J**oin with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

***Grow in the Word!***

## Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

*Kid's Rock* available  
for children ages five to nine

*Nursery Services Provided*



### **2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon**

Saturday, December 14th  
11:30 a.m.

At Sunny Place Church

Come be our guest for food,  
great speakers and activities.

Free event for Seniors 55 & up.  
Register now at 630/398-2314

Visit us at: [www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org](http://www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org)



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

***Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ***

# Elders Minutes of Meeting held November 6, 2019

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Sam Jacob, Tim Kasza, Ted Gehman and Nona Koivula

**Prayer and Devotion:** "Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."  
*Ephesians 5:15 - 21*

## **Ministry Reports**

**Treasurer:** Budgeted Bank Balance \$985.56 Giving for Oct \$10,970 Expenses for Oct. \$15,509.08

**Worship & Prayer:** The Hymn Night in October was spiritually uplifting and the fellowship after the service was warm and encouraging. There will be a ministry meeting on Sunday Nov. 24 after worship service. The ministry is preparing special Christmas music for Sunday Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Christian Education & Fellowship:** The Sunday morning Adult Bible study on the Peacemaker is led by Pastor Pete. On Thursday evening the Bible Study, "the Lessons of the Kings," continues. There is discussion about a Young Adult class. There will be an outing after worship service on Sunday, Dec 1. All are invited to have lunch together at a local restaurant.

**Outreach & Missions:** The Second Saturday Senior luncheons continue and are a well attended outreach to the elder citizens in our community. On Sunday Nov. 17 we welcome our missionaries, on leave from Cote d' Ivoire, West Africa; LeAnn and Larry Sellers who will join us for adult bible study and the worship service.

**Stewardship & Support Services:** There was a workday at our church on Saturday Oct. 26. This is the time our church gets needed repairs and maintenance for the winter. There was an inspection by the Addison fire department. We learned some equipment needs to be tested annually and documented.

## **New and Old Business**

- Ministry reminders – The 2020 budget numbers are due, please send to Glenda.
- On Saturday, Nov. 30 at 9am there will be a 2020 calendar meeting. Ministry leaders are asked to please prepare a list of events planned for next year.
- The ministry annual reports for the business meeting are due Dec.1.  
Please comply with these requests.

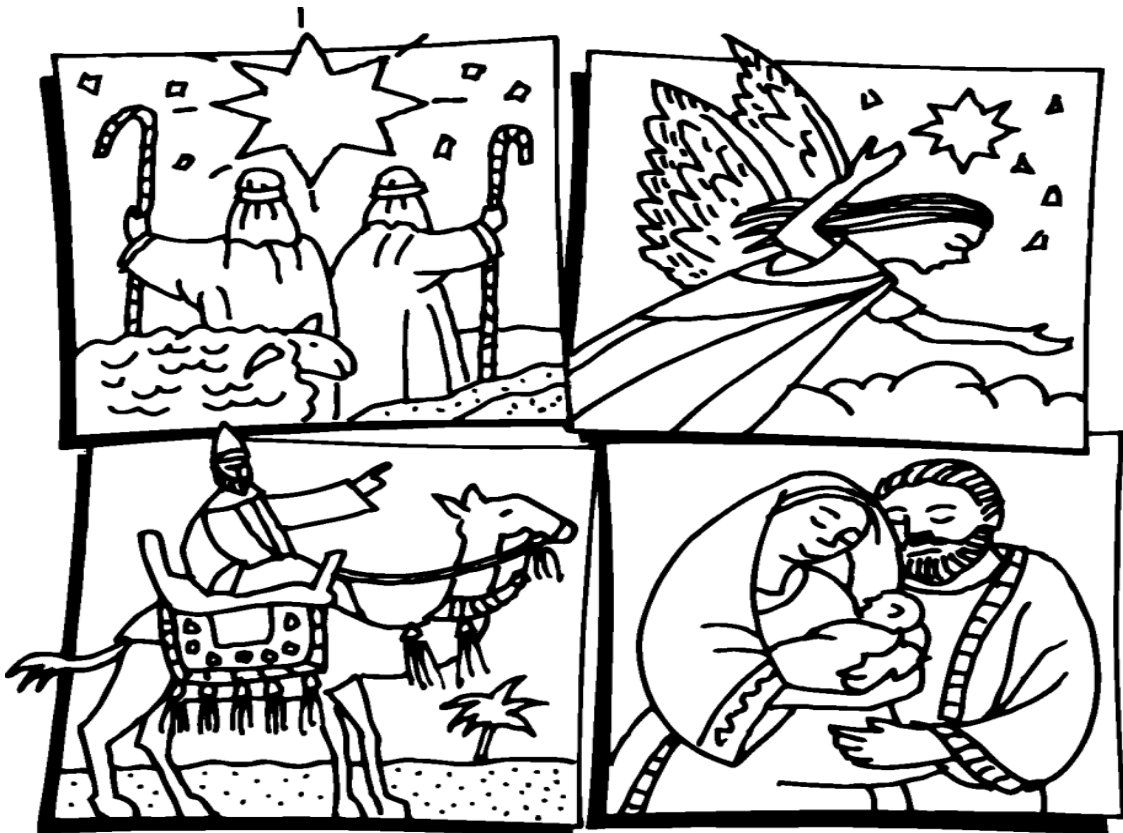
Next Elders meeting Dec 4, 2019



Kid's

# Connection

## Watchfulness



THE  
**CHRISTMAS**  
*Story*

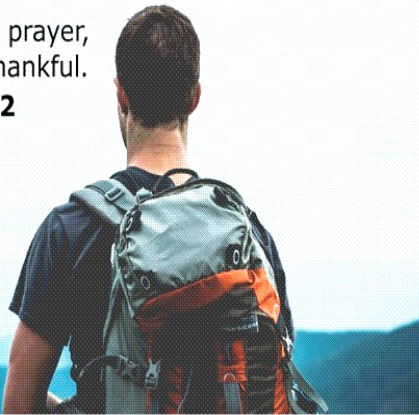
O COME LET US ADORE HIM  
*Christ the Lord*



**This Christmas  
remember the Child,  
who brought us salvation!**

Devote yourselves to prayer,  
being watchful and thankful.

**Colossians 4:2**



## Afternoon of Prayer

Sunday

December 22nd

after Worship Service,  
a light lunch following

## Sunday School Line-Up

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

### **“The Peacemaker”**



Learn to apply the  
peacemaking principles  
of God's Word.

Led by  
Pastor Pete



### Children's Classes

Led by Carla Weber

***Nursery services are provided***

## Ladies Christmas Party

Saturday,  
December 7th  
4:00 pm  
at the Parsonage

Join your sisters in Christ  
for a fun afternoon.  
Invite friends and family.

Please bring a dessert or  
appetizer to share and if  
you wish, a wrapped gift  
exchange (\$10).

Please contact Nona or Carla  
if you have any questions.



## Thursday Evenings

7:00 p.m.  
at Sunny Place



### **“The Lessons of the Kings”**

A Study of the four books of  
the Kings.

*Led by Pastor Pete*

Joy TO THE  
World  
THE LORD IS  
Come



# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	5 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	6	7  Ladies Christmas Party 4:00 p.m. at the Parsonage
8  After Worship Service	9	10	11 Christian Education & Fellowship Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	12 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	13	14  2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. at Sunny Place
15	16	17	18	19 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	20	21 
22 Afternoon of Prayer, light lunch following after Worship Service	23	24	25 	26 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	27	28
29	30	31				