



Standing In The Gap With A Message of Hope

At the age of 25 Exekiel, along with 10,000 other skilled craftsmen and nobles, were carried away from Jerusalem and Judah by the forces of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon. Five years later, in exile in Babylon, Ezekiel was called by God into a prophetic ministry. In chapter 22 of his prophecy, God gave Him a message regarding the now conquered Kingdom of Judah. While the context of the message involves that ancient nation, read with me and judge for yourself if this sounds eerily familiar of the state of our culture today.

23 And the word of the Lord came to me: 24 "Son of man, say to her, You are a land that is not cleansed or rained upon in the day of indignation.

The nation was under the judgment of God. How did this happen, considering that the Jewish nation was made up of God's chosen people – a people with whom He had made an everlasting covenant? Well, the following verses catalogue the sins of the nation, and every guilty party is singled out. First, God addresses the sins of the Prophets – those who had been anointed to proclaim God's Word. Note:

25 The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured human lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst.

Not only, the prophets had failed, but God also indicts those who were anointed to serve as mediators between God and the people. Those who should have been spiritual guides and examples had failed miserably.

26 Her priests have done violence to my law and have profaned my holy things. They have made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they taught the difference between the unclean and the clean, and they have disregarded my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.

Not only are the spiritual leaders corrupt, but the political leaders are as well. And beyond that, the prophets were in league with them and loyal to the corrupt politicians rather than to God! The prophets covered up for the corrupt politicians and even proclaimed false messages to the people, claiming the messages were from God. Look at verses 27-28.

27 Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain. 28 And her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord God,' when the Lord has not spoken.

When the spiritual and the secular leaders are corrupt it is only natural that the cancer filters down to the people they lead.

29 The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery. They have oppressed the poor and needy, and have

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LABOR DAY

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extorted from the sojourner without justice.

What a pitiful scene! No wonder God had brought them to judgment. Perhaps the saddest verse in this passage is found in what follows:

*³⁰ And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none.
³¹ Therefore I have poured out my indignation upon them. I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath. I have returned their way upon their heads, declares the*

Lord God.”

How sad that the spiritual condition of the land had fallen so low. God was unable to find a man among His people who would stand in the gap for Him and make intercession for His people.

While the message we read here was directed to the Israelite people in the 5th Century BC, can the message not be applied to the condition of the present day culture in which we live? Make no mistake – America is not Israel, nor, as a nation are we God’s chosen people today – but I think most of us would agree that there are powerful parallels here today.

We have seen great apostasy in many formerly orthodox Christian bodies. False and heretical doctrines preached as true messages from God, when in fact are straight from the Enemy. Others, although claiming to remain faithful to God and His Word, have put their trust in political parties and partisan leaders rather than trusting fully in our Lord and His power. Somehow the Gospel has become secondary to “Culture Wars” and situation ethics. Remember that in Ezekiel’s day, no one was exempt. Judgment was coming to all.

Christ followers today must remain faithful to what “Thus sayeth the Lord”, rather than to fall prey to the temptation of putting our faith in people, nations, and armies. David said it this way -

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. (Psalm 20:7)

May we trust in God. May we remain faithful to Him. May we pray for another Great Awakening before God calls His people home. The Gospel is our only message today. May we be found as people who may “stand in the gap” for Him in a rotten culture, proclaiming the only Good News of Salvation from coming judgment.

<i>Lea Burton</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Bud Dingess</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Debbie Clark</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>Jean Calhoun</i>	<i>22nd</i>
<i>Joyce Beckner</i>	<i>9th</i>	<i>Randy Yoho</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Janet Brooks</i>	<i>9th</i>	<i>Delores Beller</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Margaret Madden</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>Dreama Ward</i>	<i>24th</i>
<i>Ricky Gunnell</i>	<i>16th</i>	<i>Norma Bartley</i>	<i>27th</i>
<i>Harriet Hutchinson</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>June Ashworth</i>	<i>28th</i>
<i>Rex McClave</i>	<i>18th</i>	<i>Greg Thompson</i>	<i>30th</i>
<i>Ida Wilson</i>	<i>20th</i>	<i>Richard M. Dean</i>	<i>30th</i>
<i>Keaton Datson</i>	<i>20th</i>		

Happy Birthday!



It is awesome to see how God is working with our Student Ministries here at Westmoreland Baptist. We are gradually growing in numbers, we are pleased to see several new faces in the month of August.

So, I have been asked "Ryan" how can we help by a few people in our congregation. Number one, when we have special events for the kids in the very near future please attend. I promise the programs we have will not disappoint. One of my goals as Youth Pastor is to see families and the students having worship and fellowship together. Number two, is all the kids are provided snacks on Sunday evenings. The kids would love for you to contribute to their snacks, trust me!

Number three, and most importantly is pray for not only the kids of WBC but pray for the kids in our surrounding communities. I personally would love to see our kids and adults out and about in the community of Westmoreland being good neighbors. That being said, we will be feeding the VMS Football Team on September 5th around 3 PM. Just being there in support of these kids would be great.

We have events and programs rapidly approaching us. We have Fall Festival in October and then soon after that we will be having Evaluations in November for our upcoming Hoopsters Basketball season which opening day of the season is Jan. 4. If you have never been involved or possibly attended either event, we would love to see you and have fellowship together. We had a total of around 140 kids this past season in the basketball ministry. If you would take a moment and think of the opportunity God has blessed us with in time to share his word and his love with these kids and families of our community.

August 18th we took a group of 34 with us to the Breaking Chains Festival. We all had such a wonderful time worshiping together. Like I mentioned earlier one of my main priorities and goals is to have us as body of adult Christians surround the young students and show them discipleship to the best of our abilities. We had kids as low as the age of 4 to adults the age of I don't dare to share. The one thing I know all there had one thing on their heart and one common Love in Jesus.





heartwork

shape young artists from the inside out

Summer Camp 2019

Heartwork's first summer camp was a huge success! In the past, we have done an 8 week season with a recital at the end. While all of the girls enjoyed that, it was quite difficult to work around all the kids' VBS weeks in addition to our own. We could never seem to have the whole team there at once! It was for this reason that we decided to give a summer camp a try, and we are all so happy that we did.

Camp was Monday, August 5th - Friday, August 9th, 9am - Noon. Girls were given the opportunity to try out multiple different styles of dance to see what they like. We offered Twirling (Mindi Spurgeon), Ballet (Jamie Smith), Jazz (Natasha Beckett), and Lyrical (Ashly McClave), and halfway through, kids sat down with a snack and had Bible study time with Jenny McClave.

We had 23 girls total signed up. Of those, 16 were not members of our church, but all of them do attend church somewhere. Half of them were completely new to our program, and we were so happy to have them! This camp was also very helpful to us, as it strongly influenced how we will plan Heartwork's involvement in Basketball for 2019 - 2020. Registration for that will be all month long during September, and practices will begin in October. We hope that you will pray with us for a successful season, healthy kids, and hearts that are receptive to the Lord's Word, as that is the point of it all!



Let them
praise
HIS
name
with
dancing
Psalm
149:3



Announcements

WBC Welcomes.....

Joshua and Daniel Adkins - Even though they just recently joined Westmoreland Baptist, Daniel and Josh have been attending for the last couple years and have been involved in the last two Vacation Bible Schools and the Hoopsters basketball program. So glad they have chosen us as their home church.



Daniel Adkins



Joshua Adkins



The Church Office Will Be Closed
Labor Day, September 2, 2019



Licensing Council for Ryan Smith
Wednesday, September 4th - 7:00pm



Let's Feed The Team!

September 5, 2019 - 3:00 pm
Our Church & Youth
Will Be Feeding

The Vinson Middle School Football Team

To sign up to bring dishes, drinks, etc.....
Please contact the church office or Ryan Smith



From Here To Eternity

A Study in the Doctrine of Last Things
Compiled by Dr. C.J. Adkins

Wednesday Evening Bible Study
Westmoreland Baptist Church Gymnasium

Fellowship & Dinner
5:15 pm

Bible Study
6:00 pm



Quarterly Business Meeting

Wednesday, September 18th
Please come out so we can make our quorum.



Just OK Is Not OK

You've probably seen the humorous AT&T ad campaign, "Just OK is not OK". In these commercials everyone is pretty "adequate".

In one of the better ads, a surgery patient is waiting for his doctor to come to his hospital room. A family member asks the nurse, "**Have you ever worked with Dr. Francis?**" The nurse replies, "**Oh yeah, he's ok.**" The patient asks,

"Just ok?" At this point, the doctor enters the room and as he does he shouts down the hallway, **"Guess who just got reinstated"**, he then confides to all present in the hospital room, **"Well, not officially."** The doctor then asks the patient, **"You nervous?"** The patients responds, **"Yeah"**. The doctor admits, **"Yeah, me too.....don't worry about it, we'll figure it out"** and then exits the room.

Just fills you with confidence doesn't it.

What if Jesus only resisted two of the devil's three temptations in the wilderness...would that be "Just OK?"

What if Jesus just fainted on the cross...would that be "Just OK?"

What if Jesus was nursed back to health rather than being resurrected...would that be "Just OK?"

Of course not.

Just OK is not OK. Jesus had to resist all temptations to be the perfect, spotless Lamb of God.
 Just OK is not OK. Jesus had to die and receive the punishment for our sins so that we could receive forgiveness.

Just OK is not OK. Jesus had to rise from death so we could share in the promise of eternal life.

Jesus if not just "adequate", He is the perfect, sinless Son of God.

If you are trusting in good works to secure your place in Heaven...that's "not OK". Understand today that despite your good works you are a sinner, turn from your sins, and accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Unlike the doctor in the example above, Jesus is the "great physician" and you can have complete confidence in Him.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

