

January 31st, 2020

To the elders at Oaks West,

I have received your support and I am very grateful for it, and your prayers. My family and I are mostly well. We have been dealing with sickness on and off again. Daniel was officially diagnosed with mild Autism this month by his Neurologist. I have recently recovered from strep, and am now fighting a head cold, or possibly cedar fever. Your prayers in these matters would be very much appreciated.

This month has been a little slower than I had hoped due to some of the ailments that I described above, but the congregation continues to be in good spirits. We have had better attendance and a good number of visitors. The family that had expressed thoughts of placing membership did so at the beginning of this month, and they have proved to be a great blessing. I am still hopeful, and praying, that the other family we have been seeing regularly will also do so.

Regarding the work, I have set a subject and date for continuing our Friday night bible study next month. I will not only be encouraging the members to attend but to invite people they know. I have also resumed my study with Princeton Simons. This month we concluded our study of 1st and 2nd Timothy and are beginning to study the Holy Spirit. This study is one I am eager to endeavor in, for I have recently run into a group that falsely claims that the Holy Spirit is active in ways the scripture does not support today. I have also studied this with one of our newest members, Ben, and have enjoyed learning something I'd never put together. We specifically studied why there is no gift of the Holy Spirit today by connecting the promise Jesus gives in John 14-16, with language in Acts 2, 10, 15, 20 and Ephesians 1 and 2. The specifics would warrant a separate letter if you are interested in our studies.

Additionally, I have begun to finalize our plans for another Invitation service. We will be holding this, "Come and See," on March 29th. Our topic will address the Jesus of the scripture. Again, the goal is to invite people who do not regularly attend with us specifically to evangelize. I am praying, and hopeful, that our efforts will be fruitful as they were in our first effort last Fall. I invite you all to save this date and attend if you are able.

As I mentioned in my last letter, I have resumed sending videos of encouragement to the brethren. I will be sharing the fruits of my studies on the Holy Spirit. I believe this to be a very important topic due to the false teaching that is so prevalent in the world today. This week, with material provided by Princeton, I discussed some of the basic truths about the Holy Spirit.

To conclude, though I would have liked to do more, I believe that there was much accomplished this month. I still believe that this congregation is following Christ as closely as possible, for I have not seen anything to suggest otherwise. We have many that are ready to, and are already, working. Our newest member, Ben, has been doing much in the way of door knocking, of which I hope to be joining soon. Keep us in your prayers and if there is anything, I can do to assist you all, please do not hesitate to ask. I will do my best to oblige.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Herring". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ryan Herring