

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

1136 Baseline Road
Grand Island, New York
www.bfcgi.org

716-773-3748

THE LORD'S DAY

March 20, 2016 8:30 & 10:15 AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude Carol Dammann
Piano Wendy Baldwin
Announcements Ron Mock

MEDITATION

Ephesians 3:1 "Paul as the Prisoner of Jesus Christ" (opposite page)

Doxology		
Scripture Reading and Prayer		Psalm 42
Hymn 301	"We Will Glorify"	
Pastoral Prayer		
Hymns 707, 708	"He Giveth More Grace"	
Message	"Preparing for God's Visit"	
	John 12:12-15	Pastor Cal VanderMey
Hymn 297	"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"	Benediction

THE MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Youth Group Monday 6:30-8pm. Ages 8 and up
Prayer Meeting and Bible study Tuesday at 6:30pm - Ernie Beck
No Precept class on Tuesday with Wendy Baldwin at 6:30pm
Men's Bible study Wednesday at 9:30am – Jim O'Rourke
Choir practice Wednesday at 7pm
No Precept study Thursday at 9:15am. – The book of "Amos"- Margaret Was
Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell leading
Saturday Men's Breakfast at 10am

Please note service times and changes on the back of the bulletin

Thanks for joining us at the BFC this Palm Sunday Morning!

Sunday messages are available online, CD or e-mail. See Bill Schultz
The offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary

Palm Sunday Memorial booklets available today. Please include
Kenvin Moreau, Paul & Martha Moreau, Andrew & Arlene Guntrum

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles.

When Paul says "For this reason" he is referring back to the truths about the unity of believers that Paul had just discussed. He now introduces a motive for that prayer that Paul gave in chapter 2. Ephesians is one of the Prison Epistles, named because Paul writes from a prison in Rome. Acts 28 chronicles the scene as Paul arrives in Rome as a prisoner who has appealed to have his case decided by Caesar. Tradition says that Paul was eventually beheaded in Rome, although that does not appear in Scripture.

In chapter 3:1, Paul considers himself a prisoner of Jesus Christ. He does not consider his imprisonment in Caesarea for two years and now his imprisonment in Rome that will also last at least two years to be at the power of the state. It is God's will, and every aspect of his life was charted out by Jesus Christ, who told Paul on the Damascus road that he would suffer for the sake of Christ and the Gospel. A resume of Paul's life shows that he went from one form of suffering to the next. The imprisonment in Caesarea and now in Rome was probably not as bad as the treatment that he received in Asia Minor where he was stoned, beaten, and humiliated over and over.

Elisabeth Elliot entered the Gates of Splendor after a life of suffering and celebrity rolled into one. A devout believer whose father had been a missionary in Belgium (and later headed The Sunday School Times in Germantown, PA), she and her husband Jim Elliot graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois and then went to preach as missionaries in Ecuador to unreached groups. Before a positive witness could take place with the Auca tribe known for killing all intruders, Jim and four other missionaries were speared by the tribesmen that they were trying to reach. Elisabeth stayed with her infant daughter until 1963 and the entire tribe was won to Christ. Years later, she remarried only to see the second husband die four years later of cancer. A marriage in her old age ended recently with her death. What a powerful testimony she had. She claimed the same verse given to the Apostle Paul regarding suffering for the Name of Christ. Truly, Elisabeth was a prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ.