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July 2026



TAKEHEED

COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CHURCH



ON THE COVER

Congregants Matt & Kristen Beauford radiate infectious joy and "son"shine during their photoshoot on September 13, 2006.

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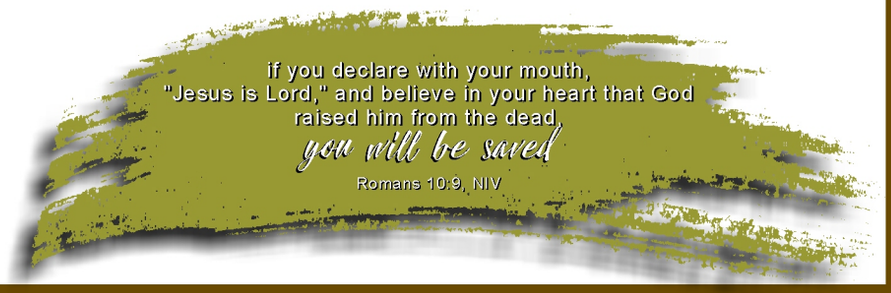
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A WORD FROM THE WORD

PASTOR REGINALD L. ELLIOTT



Wherefore let him
that thinketh
he standeth

take heed

lest he fall.

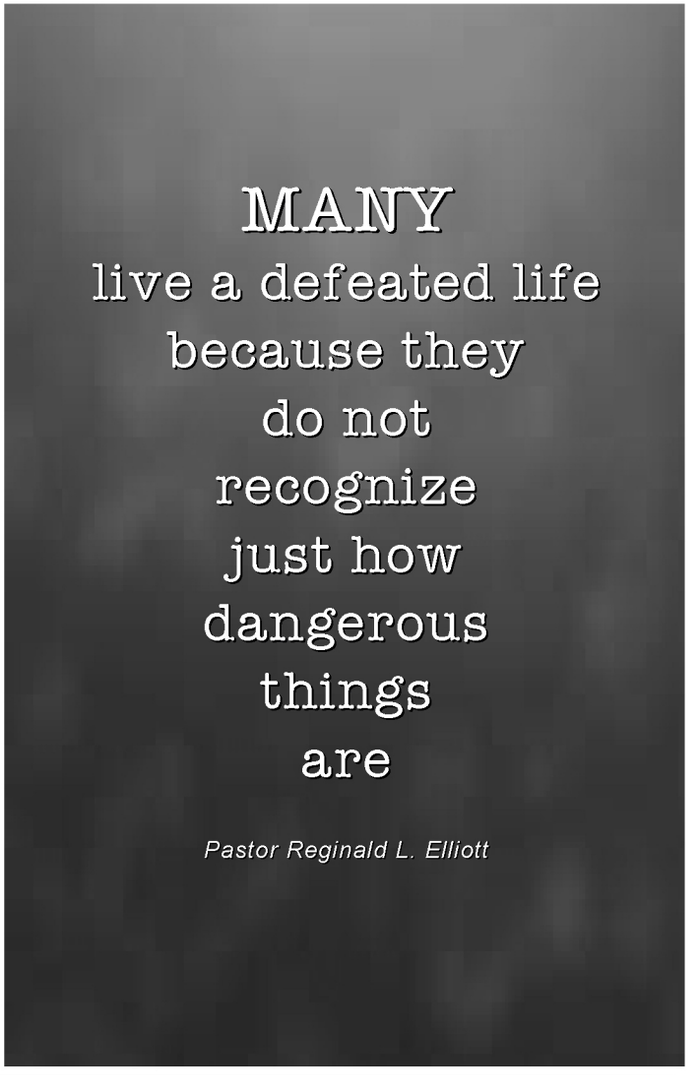
1 Corinthians, 10:12, KJV

TAKEHEED

The Bible is a book about life, it explains the origin of life as we know it, it provides insight into the difficulties of life and most importantly it tells us how to overcome those difficulties and have a meaningful life. Every time we read it, it is speaking to us about how to live. The words used therein are from God and are there to instruct us about the realities of life. That's why the phrase "take heed" is used a number of times in describing how we should live.

Life is like a journey through a danger filled land. David in Psalm 23 spoke of it as walking through a valley laden with the shadow of death. Many live a defeated life because they do not recognize just how dangerous things are and how much we have to walk close with the Lord. The phrase "take heed", which appears in both the Old and New Testament, speaks to the child of God to pay careful attention to how he lives lest he fall victim to spiritual attacks or deception from the devil. It speaks to all, to those in positions of leadership as well as to all who seek to follow Jesus. These two simple words convey a powerful message to all.

Consider the implications of 1 Corinthians 10:12- "wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." This passage warns against self-confidence and encourages self-examination because the devil is on constant prowl seeking whom he can destroy. The phrase "take heed" reminds us of the need to pray always, to guard our hearts, to walk in the light that has been revealed to us, and to live in a state of constant obedience to the Word. These are the truths that cause us to experience abundant life, so let us "take heed" so we can walk in the blessings of God.





BE ONGUARD

CAROLYNFLEMING, RN

The theme of this issue is "Take Heed," which means being watchful, attentive, and cautious. With that in mind, I thought it beneficial to review a few medical conditions that are particularly prevalent in our community and warning signs to watch for. All information is consistent with American Heart Association and Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

Unfortunately, too many people ignore signs that could lead to impending health problems.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD)

There are many conditions that fall into this category and often occur when the flow of blood to the heart is severely reduced or blocked. Blockage is usually due to a buildup of fat and cholesterol in the arteries leading to the heart.

Some early signs of heart trouble may include:

*Dizziness or lightheadedness
*Nausea/ lack of appetite
*Shortness of breath
*Chest pain
*Swelling in legs, ankles, or feet
*Irregular or rapid heartbeat

This is only a partial list of possible symptoms

Call 911 immediately if chest pain, fullness, or heaviness suddenly starts in the center of the chest, especially if it is accompanied by pain in the arms, neck, or jaw; shortness of breath; cold sweats; nausea; lightheadedness; or sudden dizziness.

Stroke

Stroke is a medical emergency in which blood supply to the brain is blocked or a blood vessel bleeds in the brain.

The following acronym can help you identify and get help quickly.

B alance loss
E yesight changes

F ace drooping (ask someone to smile)
A rm weakness (have them raise arms)
S peech (will be slow or garbled)
T IME TO CALL 911!

Getting a stroke patient to the stroke medical team quickly can limit the loss of brain tissue and expand options for treatment. Some treatments must be given within hours.



Diabetes

Diabetes refers to a group of diseases that affect how the body uses blood sugar (glucose). No matter what type of diabetes you have, it can lead to excess sugar in the blood. Too much sugar in the blood can lead to serious health problems.

Type 1 onset usually comes on more quickly and more severely. It often occurs during childhood or teen years.

Type 2 is increasing in children but is more common in people over 40.

Some of the symptoms of Type 1 and Type 2 are:

*Increased thirst
*Urinating often
*Losing weight without trying
*Ketones in urine (byproduct of the breakdown of muscle and fat)
*Tired and weak
*Mood changes
*Blurry vision
*Slow healing sores
*Increased infections in gums and skin

Take Heed: Recognizing Important Health Warning Signs

It is important to remain attentive to warning signs that may indicate a developing health concern. Symptoms that are unusual, persistent, sudden, or worsening should not be overlooked.

Ask questions when symptoms or changes are unclear.

Consult a medical professional promptly rather than waiting for symptoms to progress.

Monitor patterns, changes, and warning signs that may require further evaluation.

Recognizing potential concerns early and seeking timely guidance can help support better health outcomes.



Take Heed What You Hear: WHO HAS YOUR EAR?

LET US PRAY
ANGELA HUNT BONITTO

Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear" (Mark 4:24, NKJV)

Every voice you keep letting in shapes who you are. It shapes what you believe, what you expect, what you fear, and eventually what you obey. I don't believe that is poetic language, that's just how influence works. Whatever gets repeated airtime in your mind starts running the show.



I experienced this firsthand over nine devastating months. I had to tune out the noise completely. No television. No social media. I spent my days and nights in prayer, and God talked to me constantly during that season through His word, through people speaking a word over me, even audibly at times. But the moment I turned on the TV or scrolled online, I'd get messages that conflicted with everything God was telling me. I had to cut it off immediately. If I didn't, what God was speaking would have gotten choked out by the noise.

Prayer is what clears the static. It's not decoration, it's function. It builds the quiet and the spiritual attentiveness you need to actually tell God's voice apart from the noise competing for your trust. And here's what I found out in that season: you can't half do this. You can't keep one foot in the noise and expect to hear clearly. I had to make a choice and that choice protected what God was building in me.

In a world where everyone has something to say, my question to you is, "Who has your ear?"
In Mark Chapter 4, Jesus did not merely tell His followers to listen. He warned them to pay attention to what they were hearing.

Not every voice we encounter is the voice of truth. We see this played out in politics every day. People put their own spin on a story and sell it as truth. If we're not careful to study and examine what's being said, we can become double-minded, tossed by the wind like James 1:6-8 describes. When we let conflicting voices in, we start doubting what God already told us, which is exactly the double-mindedness James warns against.



As Christians we have to remember Romans 10:17 (NKJV), "…faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Our faith grows through hearing God's truth, but the reverse principle also deserves attention. Continually listening to fear can strengthen fear. Continually rehearsing offense can deepen resentment. Continually consuming confusion can make confusion feel normal. Our entire Christian existence is based on faith. If we cannot believe God's Word, we fall prey to every competing voice around us. Understand this: the same law that builds faith can build fear, if we let it.

We can win at this thing called life if we learn the voice of our Shepherd. John 10:27 (NKJV) says, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

That's it, right there. When you know the Father's voice, you take heed in what we hear and follow His voice. You can begin to recognize God's voice by developing your own relationship with Him. Start by spending time in His presence and becoming familiar with His character and Word. God's voice will never contradict Scripture. Therefore, it is essential that you study to show yourself approved.

Let me give you an example of that type of relationship in the Bible. In 1 Samuel 3, God called Samuel by name, but because Samuel had not yet learned to recognize His voice, he assumed the prophet Eli was calling him. Three times Samuel ran to Eli, until Eli realized that it was the Lord speaking and told Samuel to respond, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears" (1 Samuel 3:9, NKJV). From that point, Samuel began learning God's voice through relationship, attentiveness, and obedience. It started as a voice he couldn't recognize and developed into a voice he became so familiar with that he grew into a prophet who could easily discern when God was speaking.

God wants each of us to grow to a level where we can easily discern when He is speaking. Prayer is where that will happen. Prayer is where you become familiar with the Shepherd-, and not just a place to present our requests. Prayer clears the noise. It is a place where you become still and acknowledge God's presence. It is where you can be transparent, and open up about what you feel, instead of covering up those feelings. Prayer will allow you to pause when you are under pressure. I would often get people trying to tell me what I should or shouldn't do during my difficult season, but I learned to lean on God and wait for His direction because I know God knows everything and had my back. So, I waited on God and He delivered.

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Don't get me wrong, prayer is not a tool for persuading God to approve our preferences. It is the place where our preferences are surrendered so we can hear Him clearly.

Taking heed means remaining teachable enough to let God correct what we thought we heard. This requires some humility and discerning spirits. You don't want to misinterpret desire, fear, or habit as God's leading. Test the Word first. Ask yourself:

*Does it line up with Scripture?

*Does it reflect God's character?

*Is it drawing me towards obedience?

*Is fear rushing me?

*What fruit is the voice producing in me?

If all is good, then you are on your way to a blossoming relationship with God. But don't let your guard down. You must continue to watch what you consume. Proverbs 4:23 instructs us to guard our heart, for everything we do flows from it.

Finally, always give God the final word. Which brings me back to the question…Who has your ear?

You cannot silence the world, but you can determine which voice deserves your trust. I challenge you today to step away from the noise and ask the Lord, "What have I been hearing that did not come from You?" Then make room for what He shows you.

Let Us Pray...

Father, in a world filled with competing voices, teach me to recognize Yours. Show me where fear, pressure, culture, personal desire, or the opinions of others have influenced what I believe. Quiet the noise within me and bring my thoughts into agreement with Your Word. Give me discernment to reject what is false and courage to obey what You say. Guard my ears, renew my mind, and keep my heart attentive to You. Let Your voice carry greater authority in my life than every other voice competing for my trust. In Jesus' name, **Amen!**





CHRISTIAN COMEDY CORNER

CHRISTELLA JACKSON

REMEMBER
"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine"
Proverbs 17:22 (KJV)

Who is the best DJ in the Bible?
Jesus! He turned tables & He's got a big book of records.

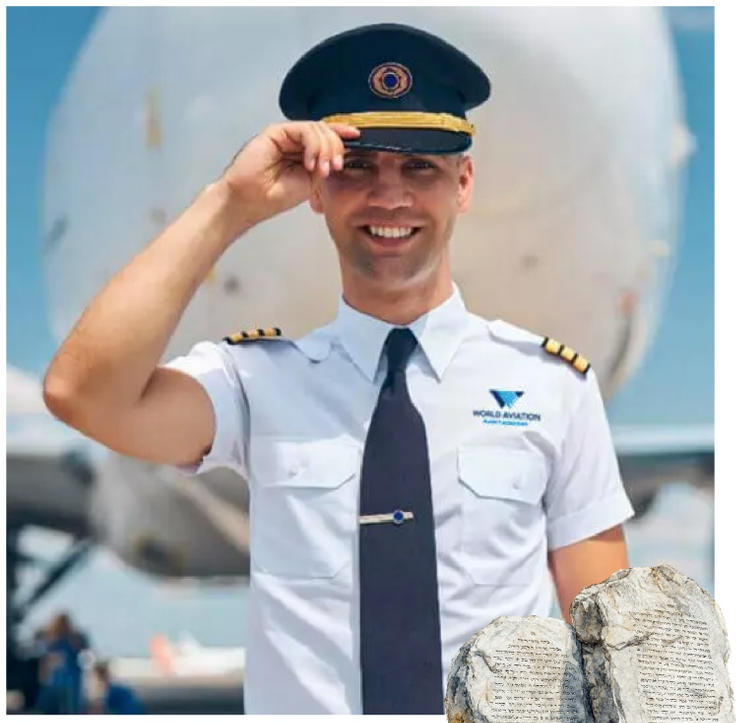


Why couldn't they go fishing on the Ark?
Because they only had two worms.

What type of lights did Noah have on the ark?
Flood lights.

The Pharisees believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the Sadducees don't.
That's why they're sad, you see.

The Sunday School teacher asks the children to draw Christmas pictures.
She goes over to one student and sees he's drawn a picture of four people on an airplane.
"What is this?" she asked.
"Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus on a flight to Egypt," he says.
"Well… who's the fourth person?"
"That's Pontius, the pilot."



Some people don't realize
that the Ten Commandments aren't multiple choice!



MATT & KRISTEN Beauford

GETTING TO KNOW

ASSISTANT PASTOR LINWOOD CHILDS



In many areas of life, warnings and cautions are repeated to help ensure favorable results. The Bible is full of people and situations in which "take heed" is more than kindness and encouragement; it transforms lives. It was a pleasure to speak with and listen to Matt and Kristen Beauford on this topic.

Linwood Childs (LC): What is something that we don't know about you? Or what are some areas of focus for you right now?

Kristen Beauford (KB): Other than being in Little Matt Land, which we are happy to be in, we do like to go fishing. We were just talking about finding a time to go out and put some lines in the water.

LC: How interesting; I didn't know that about you. Where do you go fishing?

Matthew Beauford (MB): Cox Point and Geresbeck. Right around the house.

KB: We live up in Baltimore County, in Middle River. We have a lot of fishing places close by, and one of the places we were frequenting is less than 10 minutes away. So, we go out to the water and put some lines in. Typically, things are a lot better when I'm out there with him.

LC: So, the fish keep coming when you're around?

KB: They do! (LOL.)

MB:: Every time I take one fish off her line and put another worm on, she's caught another fish!

KB: Yeah, he turns into the Worm Boy when I'm around.

LC: (Matt mentioned that he and Kristen sometimes go fishing on her father's boat, while Kristen has been fishing since she was quite young)

MB: There's less fishing on my part, and more fishing on her part. I'm just there to get the fish off the line!

LC: What type of fish do you catch?

MB: We've done everything from perch, catfish, spot. Yeah, pretty much anything that bites on the line if it's big enough.

LC: So, are you an early fisher, or do you fish midday/afternoon?

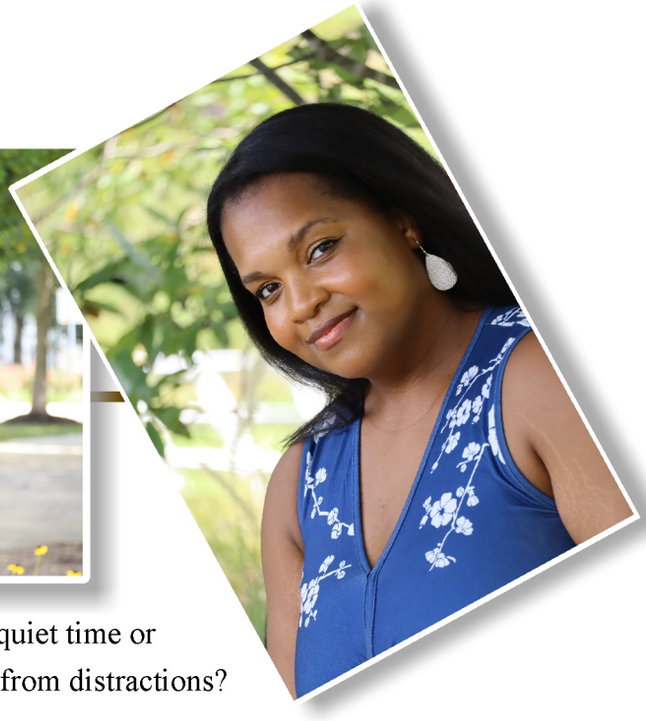
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You have to stop and say **GOD I'M GIVING YOU** this time

Matt Beauford







KB: Definitely early if possible (LOL) because I don't like to be out when it's super-hot.

MB: Also, there is a difference in timeframe when it comes to using the word "early" I will go at 4am, and she likes 7am. I'm up at 4 am and out the door by 4:30am.

LC: What is your favorite bait?

MB & KB: Mostly bloodworms.

KB: Matt actually just bought some stuff this week that we have not tried out yet.

MB: I try a lot of different rigs because of how the water is. We have rocks and I try to combat that but still end up catching other people's lines that get caught in the rock, it's challenging. Sometimes you think you've got a large catch, and you think you're in your Jonah moment. But it ends up that you're just caught up in another person's line that's stuck on a rock.

LC: In regard to our focus of *take heed*, we know that it can be easy to be distracted in life, especially with various pressing priorities, the world, politics, and the culture around you. How do you handle distractions? What do you do that intentionally protects your quiet time or personal time from distractions?

KB: I think for us, we definitely prioritize being together. The way life is now, I am working until 5:30 p.m. every day and Little Matt goes to bed at 8 o'clock. And in between those times we have to walk the dog, make the dinner, and all those things. So, just making sure that we are getting all those things done, we don't have time to waste. I think that's the biggest thing; to really stay focused on the family.

LC: So, do you find yourself asking yourself, "How am I going to get it done?"

KB: Every day, every day.

MB: I think for me, it is not necessarily *how* am I going to get things done, but what are the most important things to get knocked out. I'm out of the house in the morning at 4:30am at the latest, and that's not going fishing, that's work every day. I am finished work about nine hours later and arrive home about 2:40-ish. Then I take Little Matt from her, until she's off work. In that time, I see what needs to be done. Balancing things to make sure we have time together - time, to ensure we're communicating.



LC: How do you two make sure, with all that you're doing and have to do, that you don't leave God out?

MB: For me, on my way to work, I will listen to the Bible. I will also have some time at work, about half an hour, before someone else comes in. So, that's when I spend my time getting ready for work. I'm sitting there and going back through what I just read and listened to on my drive into work and then praying just kind of helps set the expectations for the day. I have a coworker who comes in every day. As soon as he steps in, I know he's there. He starts cursing or he's going off into something he's annoyed with. I don't know. I don't understand how they all can come into work and just be that stressed out. They are already expecting a negative day. The day is just started, and they are already at a high point of stress. I'm like - God's got this. This is not the end-all and be-all of life, like they feel it is. So, having that mindset gets me through the day.

LC: Kristen, sometimes, not always, I hear that wives can feel as though others don't understand how overwhelming it all can be. Do you have advice for those who feel that way?

KB: You have to know how to pick them. Last year I was asked to speak on Mother's Day. I was pregnant with Matt at that time, but nobody knew. I spoke on the topic Ministry of Motherhood, as that was to stay at the focus of my mind, because he's not going to be this little kid but for so long. So, my advice is to savor and value those moments. I think that is what helped me from being overwhelmed. There are moments when things are overwhelming and you don't feel great. My husband Matt might need to finish something up, while Little Matt is screaming or wants to be held. Know that this time is sacred and temporary, and at some point, down the timeline, you'll miss it. Try to keep that at the forefront of your mind.

LC: Kids are wonderful, but sometimes you want to know where the manual is! You learn to support your partner to ensure their well-being.

KB: It really makes me feel for single parents, for if Matt was not here - I just don't know!!

LC: It's tough. And our theme, take heed lest you fall, often means listening to warning signs and to other people's advice. As I looked up that phrase, take heed, in the Old and New Testaments it was always telling the person to pay attention. On a scale from 1 to 10, 10 being the highest, how good

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are you at listening when you don't want to listen?

KB: Hmmm? I will put myself at maybe a seven, because I *will* listen. But that doesn't mean that I'm going to apply it at that second, especially if I don't feel like listening. Like, I hear what you're saying, but it will take me a while to digest.

LC: Do you think you have the same response level when the Lord is dealing with you as opposed to when you're talking to a human being?

KB: I know that I would *like to believe* that I am a nine when the Lord is dealing with me. However, I realize that if I'm in a particular mood and I'll ask the Lord to let me stay in that mood for a while longer. It's like a lot of things the Lord is reminding me of, things I already know, but need to apply.

LC: LOL. Amen.

KB: Sometimes that leads to that tantrum feeling, but I don't want to do better right now. But that's where you need to put that faith into play and take a second to regroup.

LC: When I hear the words take heed, I now think: make a plan, understanding the totality of who I am. I recognize there are parts of me that still need work. Active listening is difficult, especially when you do not want to listen.

A lot of things the Lord is reminding me of, things I already know, but need to apply

Kristen Beauford





MB: Amen.

LC: In what you practice, what do you do that makes you a good listener?

MB: For me it is turning off the problem-solving. A lot of what I'm hearing prompts me to only want you to get to the essential information I'll need to fix it. Being married, that is not the way to a happy relationship: just looking for a problem so you can fix it. Be able to actually stop what you're doing even though you may have ten other things on your plate to do, you should be able to stop and listen. And the reason I mention this is because it also has to impact what you do with God. You need to be able to stop your concerns about what you're eating, where you're going, what you're planning in order to hear God. You have to stop and say God I'm giving you this time. This is also how I feel about church. When I'm the service, then I need to be in the songs, in the worship, listening for the voice of God. If it's only an hour, I want to experience You, Lord, every second of that hour. For me, good listening means, I'm not trying to solve a problem, but I'm listening to what they're trying to say.

Kristen will tell you I have not been the best at receiving critique, but she has really helped me to get better at it. But it all comes back to God who is saying to me that there is a reason He is telling this person to tell me this or that. Letting me know that I need to heed it and implement it into my life.

LC: Dealing with God means being honest about who we are. There are times I am much more willing to do than to listen; times I'm more willing to listen than to do. Other times, I just want to be *left* alone. This is the person that God is dealing with and loves. It makes a world of difference when we talk about God's love: God is *patient* with us! He knows all our flaws and the rest, but He still does not change His promises. That's unspeakable, amazing.

What about the marginalized? How does God help us to pay attention to those others would ignore but He wants us to pay attention to?

KB:: Jesus was firm and always told the truth, He could not lie. Yet He showed compassion for people in their situation. I think about the immigration crisis in the US, where a man is snatched up from off the street. Now their children are traumatized not knowing where their father is and what has become of him. How is the family going to provide for themselves when that person is no longer working? And you have the homeless

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veteran, who fought for our freedom. Where's the compassion?

LC: I fully agree. What can the average Christian actually do?

MB: Honestly, the easiest thing that Christians can start off doing is simply saying, "Hi". Recognize people are there and they matter.

LC: As I typically ask at a closing, what is a favorite Psalm or Bible text for you?

KB: You can't go wrong with Psalms 91 "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High, shall rest under the shadow of the Almighty…"

MB: For me, II Timothy 4:12 --- Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity! Let our behavior speak about who you are and who you follow. When you do that, you're honoring God in your whole life.

LC: Amen, thank you both.





"For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb."

PSALM 139:13, NIV

BEWARE!

CONSIDER CAREFULLY & TAKE ACTION

FEATURED ARTICLE

KIM ODOMS-BOLDEN



In 2 Kings 5:1-18, NIV, the Bible tells the story of Naaman the "commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy" (vs. 1) Naaman's wife had a servant who told of a prophet, Elisha, in Samaria who could cure Naaman of his leprosy. When Elisha was told about Naaman he stated, "Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel" (vs. 8). When Naaman arrived at Elisha's residence the prophet sent a messenger to tell Naaman, "Go wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed" (vs. 10). Hearing this from someone other than the prophet, and told to wash himself in a river that he deemed was filthy, and believing all the prophet had to do was "wave his hand over the spot and cure" (vs. 11) his leprosy "Naaman went away angry…and went off in a rage" (vs. 11-12). Naaman's servants encouraged him to heed the advice of the prophet. "So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God" (vs. 14-15). This time Elisha met him face-to-face and Naaman said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel" (vs. 15).

In 2 Kings 13:14-19 tells the story about Jehoash, King of Israel who went to see Elisha about being threatened to be attacked (again) by the Arameans. Surely, Jehoash had more faith in seeking the advice of the man of God than the Israeli army. "Elisha said, 'Get a bow and some arrows,' and he did so. 'Take the bow in your hands,' he said to the king of Israel.



When he had taken it, Elisha put his hands on the king's hands (vs. 15-16). Then "Elisha declared. 'You will completely destroy the Arameans at Aphek'" (vs. 17). Elisha then gave him additional instructions saying, this time without Elisha's hands on the king's hands, "'Take the arrows'…'Strike the ground.' He struck it three times and stopped. The man of God was angry with him and said, 'You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you would have defeated Aram and completely destroyed it. But now you will defeat it only three times"" (vs. 18-19).

When given advice by the men and women of God, or by hearing the Word of God preached, or by reading the Word of God, and even in times God sends strangers to speak His Word, we ought to carefully consider applying the advice given to avoid pitfalls and, in some cases, to receive the BLESSINGS of the LORD.

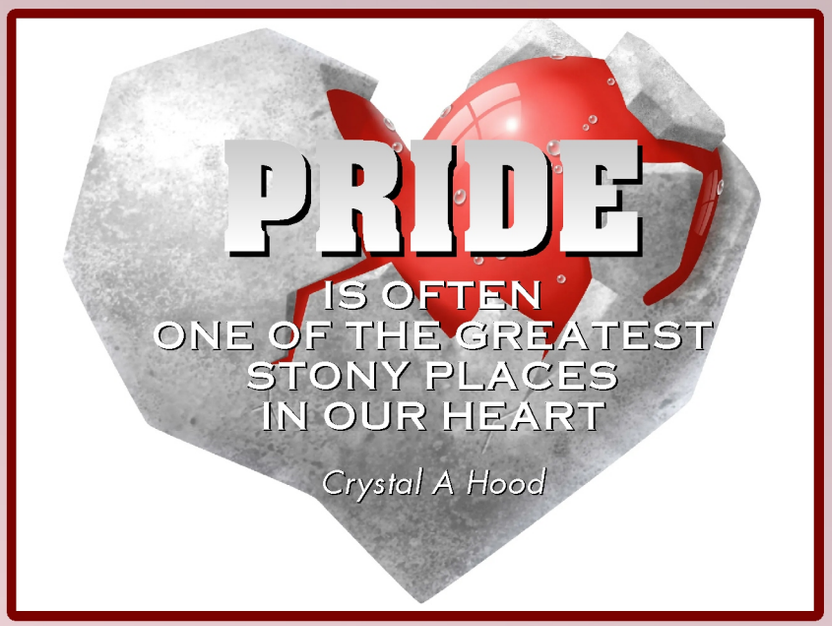
Heeding is not just taking note, or listening, its serious consideration and taking action. Our healing, our protection, our defense, our offense, our peace, and all the things are engulfed, and seemingly hidden in the shadow of the Most High God. When given God's instruction the Bible tells us to surround ourselves with Godly advisers, and when taking action we should not strike the ground moderately but do it adamantly and with a fervency.

tend to your HEART

FAMILY FOCUS

CRYSTAL A. HOOD

The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 13, records that Jesus told the people a parable about a farmer planting seed. In this parable, the seed is God's Word, and the ground where the seed falls reflects the condition of our hearts in accepting God's Word regarding salvation. It also warns believers that, although we are saved, the condition of our hearts can hinder the reception of God's Word and stall our spiritual growth if we do not take heed.



Our heart can have stony places (Matthew 13:20-21)**:** Thankfully, God is faithful and assures us that He will take away our stony heart. He will give us a new heart of flesh and a new spirit – His Spirit! "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances" (Ezekiel 36:26, BSB). When we are unrepentant of our sins, the hard places of our heart do not change to flesh. A heart of flesh is a heart sensitive to the Spirit of God. A heart of stone is not, which keeps His Word from taking root in us. So, when we are challenged in our faith, it becomes difficult to stand. The result is that our sinful human nature, along with Satan, influences us toward turning away from God. Pride is often one of the greatest stony places in our heart. It stops us from repenting of our sins, yielding to the Holy Spirit, and trusting God. It often underlies many discords, including being unloving and unforgiving. Pride divides families, churches, and societies.

Our heart can have thorns (Matthew 13:22)**:** The Holy Spirit, through Paul, tells us, "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Romans 8:5-8, KJV). Carnally minded means focusing solely on the things that relate to our physical needs, wants, and desires, and allowing those things to direct our lives; it is the opposite of a mind aligned with God's Spirit and His guidance.



Many scenarios play out in our lives every day, ranging from the challenges of daily living and family relationships to financial burdens and sudden health needs. These scenarios can create stress, fear, and worry that may affect our belief in God and His Word; they can direct our life choices rather than God's Word, making the Word of God unproductive in our lives. Some residual outcomes of living carnally include working long hours, obsessing over purchases, seeking bigger and better things, or becoming engrossed in digital activities. Carnal mindedness for believers can also lead to various addictions as a means of coping and escape from these worries or burdens. We take care of our hearts when we spend time in His presence and allow Him to weed out its thorns.

The Holy Spirit had Peter write: "Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander.Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,now that you have tasted that the Lord is good" (1 Peter 2:1-3, BSB). The Holy Spirit is present in us to lead us into all truth, but we must yield to the Spirit's urging. When we stop the Spirit from working on our hearts, we give Satan a pathway to deceive us. This prevents our sinful human nature from being replaced with God's nature.

The Holy Spirit urges us to "Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from itflowthe springs of life" (Proverbs 4:23, BSB). He also reminds us through Paul that "God is faithful [to His word—He is compassionate and trustworthy], and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability [to resist], but along with the temptation He [has in the past and is now and] will [always] provide the way out as well, so that you will be able to endure it [without yielding, and will overcome temptation with joy]" (1 Corinthians 10:13, AMP). Also refer to: *Aligning Yourself with God: Love God Style* by Crystal A. Hood.

SPEND TIME LISTENING

TAYLOR LANDRUM



The Bible is clear that from the beginning of time God's Word is His divine expression of His Will. The Bible explicitly tells us that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1, KJV). God uses His Word not only to affect the physical world, but to express to us the proper way to live.

Starting in Genesis, God has used his voice – his Word – as the catalyst for enacting His Will on the universe. The Bible doesn't say that God formed the heavens and the earth with his hands as one might think, but rather God literally spoke the universe into existence. "Let there be light…" God says, "…and there was light" (Genesis 1:3, KJV). Everything we have ever seen or heard or known is a byproduct of the voice of God.

Moreover, the voice of God is not just powerful unto creation, but it is also our singular guide in life. While we may not hear God's voice literally thundering down from the heavens in our own daily lives, we hear and see His presence all the time. "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17, NIV).

Every single good thing that has ever happened to you has been the direct will of the everlasting God towards you, and when you think about the fact that the God of the entire universe knows and cares about you personally, it gives you a level of comfort that you could never find anywhere else.

As Christians, the voice and Word of God should be our North Star – our only guide to everlasting life. When we are exhorted to take heed, it is a reminder of our need to block out the excess noise that the world and Satan buffets us with in an attempt to disconnect us from God, and to instead spend time listening for the only voice of the One who will always have our best interest at heart.

Jesus Himself – whose life and ministry are our entire hope and salvation – spent time in prayer daily. Jesus Himself took supreme heed of the Will of the Father, and above all things was careful to make the Will of God his first and ultimate priority. As we attempt to live our lives as little versions of Christ – to the best of our ability – we must also make sure to keep God's Will at the front.

That might seem like a monumental task, but the Bible assures us that God will help us every step of the way, and that the rewards for truly 'taking heed' of God's Will are worth every trial we may face.

> ...it is a reminder to block out the excess noise...
>
> TAYLOR LANDRUM

Our Lord and Savior not only tells us that His yoke is easy and His burden is light (Matthew 11:30), but He also promises that all of those who believe in Him will join Him in Heaven.



LIBRARY HOURS
Every 1st & 3rd Sunday
after service until 1pm

Location:
At the rear exit of
of the Old Sanctuary

THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK

DESIREE COLLINS

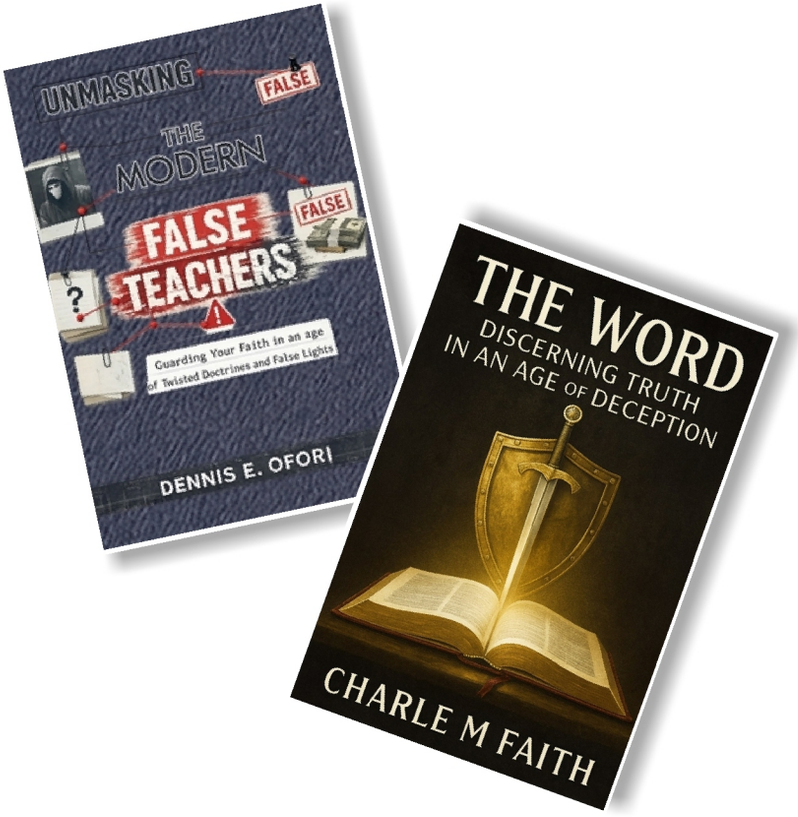
Welcome To The COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CHURCH LIBRARY

As we move closer to the End of the Era…we are more than reminded, we are admonished to indeed "Take Heed". "Take heed, watch and pray for you do not know when the time is"- Mark 13:33

As many of you know that attend our church or listen to our noon day bible study and teachings by Rev Elliott, Israel is a constant foundational theme, he also often references articles from "Harbinger's Daily in addition to speaking of the relationship between Artificial Intelligence (A I) and current End times events.

If you would like additional material to enhance your knowledge and better understanding of what is happening in this sometimes confusing and crazy world we live in, please consider using the CCC Library as a source and resource.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:



SPECIAL NOTICE:

Just so you know **the Library is currently available online only** as we are in the process of organizing our books, subscriptions and reference material into appropriate digital categories. So, if you do not see what you are looking for online, please let us know, and we will do our best to acquire it for you.

Feel Free to connect with the CCC Library Ministry Staff

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Sister Keisha Brown, Sister Breia Cummings
Sister Lisa Jenkins, and Sister Tonia Powell



ON THE INSIDE COVERS

Inside Front: **The beautiful, regal and stylish woman of God, congregant Dr. Betty King, humbly smiles as one of the honorees during a special service for our** senior congregants who are in "CLUB 90" (90-years young and beyond) held at Columbia Community Church on Saturday, May 23, 2026

Photography By: Michael R. Spry © 2023

Inside Back: Precious little Nina, granddaughter of Prayer Warrior and congregant Angela Hunt-Bonitto, rests her angelic face on her mother's shoulder during Sunday Service on April 5, 2026

Photography By: Michael R. Spry © 2026

COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CHURCH
8516 Thomas Williams Way
P.O. Box 2292
Columbia, MD 21045

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY:

10:00 AM Church School (All Ages)
11:00 AM Meditation & Prayer
11:15 AM Morning Worship

COMMUNION SERVICE:

1st Sunday of Every Month

EVERY WEDNESDAY:

Noon-Day Bible Study 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

MONDAY - FRIDAY:

Prayer Line 05:00 AM - 06:00 AM
1-727-731-1713 (No Access Code Needed)

1st & 3rd WEDNESDAYS:

Youth Bible Study 07:00 PM - 08:00 PM

GENERAL INFORMATION

CARE & COMFORT MINISTRY

Sis. Linda M. Byrd: 410-313-9673 / Sis. Donna Givhan / 410-997-3276
columbiamdcareandcomfort@gmail.com

CHURCH CONTACTS

Phone: 410-465-7040 / Fax: 410-465-0943
Church Website: www.columbiaccmd.org

CHURCH LIBRARY

Open every 1st & 3rd Sunday after service until 1:00 PM
Library Website: https://columbiacommunity.library.site