

ON YOUR WALLS, O JERUSALEM,
I HAVE SET WATCHMEN;
ALL THE DAY & ALL THE NIGHT.

ISAIAH 62:6 [ESV]

WATCHMAN ON THE WALL

The Gospel Compels Us

Dear Watchman,

These days we are obsessed with power. Political power. Economic power. Physical power. We seek power and are impressed with those who wield it. Yet all these powers are earthly powers. They impact for a day or a lifetime. But the force of this power fades away. History shows that rulers and the rich are powerful for a time and a place – but ultimately disappear from history’s stage.

In God’s Word, we find out about real power. Romans 1:16 says, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.” The Greek word for “power” is derived from the phrase *dunamai*, from which we get the word “dynamite.” It is explosive power, the power that has a genuine impact, a power that forever alters the landscape of that which it affects, miraculous power beyond the scope of earthly resources.

This gospel – this good news – is that Jesus has pursued each person with passionate love and has provided the gift of salvation. It is the chance for Heaven’s rule in our lives here on earth and eternity with the King of Kings. It is the power that makes us new creations, full of hope and joy and peace. Power to go from darkness to light, from death to life, from slavery in sin to freedom in Christ.

This good news compels us to share with others. It must drive us to share our story with people that we meet, people who (in Isaiah’s words) “walk in great darkness.” More so than anything else about which we are passionate, our passion for Jesus should irresistibly cause us to tell people how they can experience the power of Jesus in their own lives just as we have.

We have some fantastic opportunities to share the power of the gospel this month, so please:

- Pray that the launch of the Billy Moore Campus (Billy Moore Correctional Center in Overton) will help Mobberly to take the gospel to all people.
- Pray that God will lay on the heart of every Mobberly member and attendee the name of one person with whom to share the gospel in 2020.
- Pray that God will impress upon our hearts the urgency of the gospel as we consider the eternal separation from God of those who do not accept Jesus Christ.
- Pray that the Spirit of God and the gospel will move mightily in the hearts and lives of our students as they gather for SPARK weekend Thursday-Sunday (Jan. 30 – Feb. 2).

Pastor D. Lynn

Praise: Praising God for who He is and for what He is doing.

- God is salvation.
 - **Exodus 15:2 (CSB):** *“The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. This is my God, and I will praise Him, my father’s God, and I will exalt Him.”*
 - **Psalms 68:19 (CSB):** *“Blessed be the Lord! Day after day, He bears our burdens; God is our salvation.”*
 - **Revelation 7:9-10 (CSB):** *“After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, Who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*

Praise the Lord:

- For His abundant provision as our people gave sacrificially to begin the Billy Moore Campus. We more than met the initial start-up cost for this campus and God continues to bring in the harvest.
- For the leaders in our church. God has called a group of people to this church to lead us well into gospel advancement.
- That 24 children were baptized on December 8 as a result of the completion of their New Christian Class. Pray for them as they begin to grow in Christ.
- For the new Connect Groups that have started.
- For the new excitement around our “Love and Logic” Parenting class.
- That students that have come to Christ at Elevation.
- For our beautiful facilities and resources that we have to share love, truth, and hope to our kids and families.
- For the Children’s Ministry leaders that are committed to caring for kids and sharing truth with them every week.
- For how God moves in the hearts of kids to bring them to salvation. Thank God for His gift of forgiveness and love for us all.
- For a great month in Preschool, learning each week about the events leading up to baby Jesus being born and that this is the reason we celebrate Christmas. We thank God for faithful leaders who serve every week to share the love of Jesus. We look forward to the new year of serving preschoolers and laying foundations of faith in their lives!
- That we are continuing to see revival in Elevation. Students are coming to Christ and, in turn, bringing their friends who are coming to Christ.
- He has been sending us college students and young singles that are looking for a church home.
- We have seen several younger couples rededicating their lives and marriages to the Lord.
- For the team that served at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center, preparing the shipment of shoeboxes that will go to children in Panama. Pray that children will receive these boxes, hear the gospel, and be involved in a discipleship ministry.
- For the gospel proclaimed and the women who attended our final Better Together event for 2019. We ushered in this Advent season with worship and wonder.
- For our newest Women’s Ministry core team members: Karen Bozeman (leading the Entrusted ministry that encourages women in ministry and our staff wives) and Renee Robertson (leading our Connections ministry endeavors, such as Better Together).
- For nine baptisms during the fourth quarter at the Marshall campus.
- For good attendance and success with our Marshall campus December Family Night.
- For a positive response to our first two Travis Elementary School (Marshall ISD) Reward Parties this school year.
- That Marshall women were generous in providing homemade cookies and assembling treat bags and notes of prayer and encouragement for Travis Elementary Faculty Staff.
- For the spiritual decisions that were made at the Sounds of the Season performances.

- For all the people who were a part of the Sounds of the Season performances, the hours spent rehearsing and preparing. We are so grateful to God for so many who give selflessly and work tirelessly to make those performances happen.
- For over 100 people in our community who are finding connection and hope through GriefShare, DivorceCare, Adoptive Moms, Calming Chaos (foster families) and Celebrate Recovery groups each Monday night.
- He has strategically placed new leaders with diverse skillsets on our Thrive! team to support the growth of our programs.
- Several Mobberly families are exploring their roles in caring for foster children and families in our community and abroad.
- The power of the gospel has provided salvation to five people through Mobberly's Tuesday morning Family Services Ministry team since our last Watchman report! Pray for these new believers as they grow in Christ: Romero, James, Mary, Veronica, and Gina.

Repent: Of sins committed and commands neglected.

Our ongoing sins disrupt our fellowship with our heavenly Father. This is why we need to repent of our sins and confess them to God. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9, CSB)

As you pray, take time to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal your sins. Think through various areas of your life: sins of thought, sins of attitude, sins of omission, sins of commission, sins of self-rule, sins of self-reliance, or sins of relationships. Ask God for the grace to repent and to restore your fellowship. Then thank God your sins have already been paid for by Christ. Rest in His unfailing love.

Ask: When our hearts are God-oriented in praise and purified through repentance, then we are ready to "Ask." God encourages us to come boldly to Him and ask. *"Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need."* (Hebrews 4:16, CSB)

Ask God:

- To continue to minister through our Mobberly en Español folks to reach all Spanish-speaking East Texans and specifically to lead us to the person He desires to provide leadership for Mobberly en Español.
- For His continued favor over the Billy Moore Campus.
- To move in our church in such a way that we would experience a full-fledged Holy Spirit revival.
- To bless Storyline Oakland (church plant) and Akeem Smith (the pastor) as he seeks to share the gospel with some unbelievers that have been visiting his church.
- To encourage our church planting partners across the western US as they keep fighting the good fight, running the race, and keeping the faith.
- To increase our "Engage: Who's Your One?" class numbers in the spring so that more people are equipped to lead their "one" to Christ.
- To empower Friend Day on February 2, helping each of us to pray and invite our lost and unchurched friends.
- To bless our outreach efforts for "Who's Your One?" so that 2020 will be a year of us identifying people who need Jesus and sharing Christ with them.
- To bless the upcoming Upward Soccer season. Please pray for more coaches to step up and for new families to participate.
- That we would continue to see leadership development in our Connect Groups.
- That we would see a deepening of relationships and community in our Connect Groups.
- To begin even now to stir in our hearts and prepare us for what He wants to teach us in Romans in 2020.
- That more people would get connected to Connect Groups who are not currently associated with one.

- To keep our kids and families healthy and strong during this winter season.
- Pray for our families to set aside time daily in 2020 to help them focus on Jesus.
- To help families to see the value of giving gifts of love, joy, and time this season as an expression of thankfulness for what God has given us.
- That our leaders in Preschool and Children's Ministry will remain healthy and committed to leading during this winter season. Pray that as they are with kids they will be able to express the truth of God's Word to our kids and families.
- To provide His protection and provision each time we gather with kids in our facilities – that they will be safe from harm physically, spiritually, and emotionally.
- To provide for and bless the discipleship of students who are new believers (baptism, Connect Groups, and learning to grow spiritually on their own).
- To provide for Spark Weekend. Sign-up began Dec. 18. We still need about 20 host homes. We are praying for our students to not only sign up and be a part of this weekend but to invite their friends.
- To provide more adult volunteers on Wednesday nights for student ministry at Elevation.
- To raise up additional Connect Group leaders for Young Adult Connect Groups.
- To provide additional leaders to serve as part of the Adult Special Ministries Connect Group ministry team.
- To help our Women's Ministry Core Team to bond further around His purposes and glory as they meet mid-January to plan for ministry in 2020.
- To help our Women's Ministry Spring Bible Studies to ignite a passion for the gospel message in the Bible like never before. Pray that each woman would consider her next step in her walk with Christ and the local church.
- To bless the upcoming Open Door Living event for women on Saturday, Feb. 22 in The Crossing. Pray that women would be inspired and walk away with tools in hand to live out a life of gospel hospitality.
- To draw men to the Men's Ministry Dinner on Sunday, January 19. Pray that the importance of God's Word will be implanted in their hearts and lives.
- To bring forward a new Connect Group leader for the Marshall campus to start a Sunday morning group.
- That those who attend the Marshall campus will be consumed with a desire for their friends and family to know Jesus personally.
- To help the college freshmen in Marshall to be connected to Mobberly this spring.
- To encourage many of our Marshall Campus regular attenders to take the next step of membership and plug into a Connect Group or serving role.
- To guide those who made spiritual decisions at the Sounds of the Season performances to take the next steps through baptism and discipleship.
- To encourage Choir and Orchestra members to come back after their Christmas break refreshed, renewed, and motivated to lead in worship.
- To encourage the Hope Road Counseling team as we stay in the front lines fighting for people's hearts.
- To help the Hope Road team to stay well with all the sickness going on.
- To provide for the many requests for financial assistance at Hope Road.
- To bless the Marriage Moments events in 2020. Pray for participants and for each speaker to be used mightily to enrich and encourage marriages in Longview and Marshall.
- To encourage ongoing Foundation groups to continue to build and enrich newlywed couples.
- That those struggling with loss will find peace and comfort through this holiday season.
- That those feeling marginalized will encounter and embrace the love of Jesus and the hope that only He can provide.
- That the foster families in our community will find strength in their ministry, encouragement on their path, and be surrounded by a circle of care to meet the needs of their families.

- That He will protect the hearts and minds of our Thrive! support group leaders and provide strength and encouragement in their ministry.
- To guide the 2020 Marriage Event planning committee and development team.
- To provide our spring Thrive! for Kids and Thrive! for Students with volunteers – that the Lord will guide their steps and prepare their hearts for the journey.

Yield: To what God says to me. Yield my will to the will of God. Yield my agenda to the plan God has for my life. We must be willing to yield our desires and our thoughts to God's sovereign wisdom. As Jesus faced the cross, He prayed in Matthew 26:39 (CSB), *"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will."* We must pray with that same spirit, humbly yielding our will to God's will. To close our prayer by "yielding" to God is a way where we submit our desires to Him. In the end, it is our way of acknowledging His will, which is what will truly satisfy us anyway. God's will and plan is better than ours. He knows the end from the beginning, and He loves us more than we can ever imagine.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek."

Romans 1:16 [CSB]
