



*"On your walls,  
O Jerusalem I have  
set watchmen  
all the day and  
all the night."*

Isaiah 62:6



# WATCHMEN ON THE WALL



## Seeking God

Watchmen Prayer Warriors,

As I am privileged to serve the 11 members of the Pastor Search Committee, I hear from them over and over a passionate desire to "seek God's man in God's time." I can imagine that you resonate with this. There is nothing more peaceful, joyful and exciting than being in the "sweet spot" of God's perfect will. This committed group of believers prays daily to seek God and His will, above all else.

I hope that we will all make 2021 a year that, more than anything else, calls us to seek the Lord passionately. To "seek" means to search out, investigate, crave. Our hearts are made to seek something...or, rather, Someone. In the Old Testament, the hearts of the Israelites – God's chosen people – too often turned astray to seek something besides Jehovah. Sometimes it was a half-hearted seeking, looking to other things mixed in with a little "God" to satisfy their desires. Sometimes it was a full-on turning from the only One who could satisfy the cravings of their souls.

In 2 Chronicles 15, the people of Judah came to the end of themselves under King Asa. They stopped seeking anything but God to satisfy and to lead them. 2 Chronicles 15:12 says, "*Then they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their ancestors with all their heart and all their soul.*" Together they determined that they would seek the Lord. What power in this "together" decision!

Hebrews 11:6 says, "*Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek him.*" What is this reward for seeking God wholeheartedly? It is finding and living in the will of God. We desire God's man as our next Senior Pastor. But we need to go even deeper, each seeking God through diligence in prayer and in His word to hear His voice in every area of our lives.

What would happen in our individual lives if we crave to know God more intimately and to know His desires for our lives? What impact on our family and friends might we have if we walk intimately with God? What impact might the Mobberly family have on our East Texas community and our world if together we daily seek out the Lord more passionately and intensely than anything else in our lives?

May our Mobberly family together covenant to pray in 2021 from hearts that are seeking God desperately and totally as we seek God's man for Mobberly – and for every area of our lives!



Greg Martin  
Pastor of Congregational Care

## **Special Prayers for All in These Times**

2 Timothy 1:7 says, *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”* As believers, we have the authority that Christ has given us to pray about the spread of any disease and pray for healing for those who have the Coronavirus.

- Praise God for His sovereignty. He is and always will be in control of all things. Pray that we will trust Him to help us navigate this season of uncertainty.
- Ask God in His mercy to stop this pandemic and save lives, not only in our communities but also around the world, particularly in places unequipped medically to deal with the virus. (Isaiah 59:1-2)
- Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom in this moment of fear as the foundations of what we know are shaken, that others would realize how fragile life is and how real eternity is and they would see their need to turn to God. Scripture says: *“Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.”* (Psalm 90:12)
- Ask God to protect our missionaries and their families around the world, using this global crisis to advance His Good News to all nations. (Mark 16:15)
- Pray for wisdom for governmental leaders, the CDC, researchers, other medical personnel, leaders in churches and other strategic places to have the wisdom to direct us in the best courses of action for prevention and care. (Romans 13:1–4).
- Pray for the protection of doctors, nurses, crisis response teams, emergency first responders, researchers and other medical professionals who risk their lives to protect ours.
- Pray for comfort and healing for those stricken with this virus. Pray they will receive the quality health care needed to regain health and strength. Pray for healing and for a treatment to cure and eradicate this virus.
- Pray for peace, calmness, freedom from fear, anxiety and panic among individuals and communities.
- Pray for racial understanding, peace and harmony. Pray that every person, each an image-bearer of God, would experience justice and protection. Pray for an end to violent confrontations.

**Mobberly Worship Gatherings returned beginning May 24. With restrictions and guidelines in place to keep everyone as safe as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, our campus schedule looks a little different. See web links below for the most current information.**

Here are some places on our website (all accessible from our home page at mobberly.org) where you can get encouragement and information:

- View Worship Gatherings online (mobberly.org/online)
- Sign up for upcoming preschool and children’s classes – see above (mobberly.org/rsvp)
- Find information about the Pastor Search Committee and process (mobberly.org/psc)
- Prayer concerns (mobberly.org/pray)
- Give to the Lord through Mobberly (mobberly.org/give)
- Information about Mobberly and COVID-19 (mobberly.org/corona)
- Stay connected with our social media accounts at Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
- Subscribe to our email news list.

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

- God reveals Himself to those who seek Him, blessing and rewarding them.
  - **Psalm 24:3-6 (CSB):** *“<sup>3</sup>Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup>The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not appealed to what is false, and who has not sworn deceitfully. <sup>5</sup>He will receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. <sup>6</sup>Such is the generation of those who inquire of him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah”*
  - **Hosea 10:12 (CSB):** *“<sup>12</sup>Sow righteousness for yourselves and reap faithful love; break up your unplowed ground. It is time to seek the Lord until he comes and sends righteousness on you like the rain.”*
  - **Matthew 6:33 (CSB):** *“<sup>33</sup>But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.”*

**Praise the Lord:**

- Pastor Search Committee:
  - For the current Mobberly pastoral leadership, staff, and lay leadership and volunteers. Thank God for these Christ-centered men and women for their daily and weekly commitments to serving our church body.
  - For the continued unity among the Pastor Search Committee. Thank God for allowing an embracing season of fervent prayer and time and attention in the Word (Isaiah 55:3). Pray for a continuum of this desire among the committee.
- For Connect Group leaders in Marshall finding creative ways to continue ministry.
- For the Marshall worship team, who faithfully and skillfully lead each week during a worship leadership transition.
- For continuing to lead people in Marshall to make spiritual decisions.
- We have had several opportunities to visit newcomers who were open to talking about their relationship with or without Christ. We are excited God is bringing us new prospects who are unchurched and unsaved so we can share the gospel with them.
- For His bountiful provision for missions through our church’s Christmas gift to Jesus on Dec. 6.
- That we were able to worship as a church family, though in our homes, on Christmas Eve through the online services!
- For kids who have chosen to give their life to Christ and are obediently following Him through baptism.
- For His continued provision week to week in the Children’s Ministry.
- For our committed Children’s Ministry leaders who are faithfully serving on Sundays and Wednesday nights. They truly carry the love and truth of the gospel to our kids!
- We have been celebrating Jesus as the Light of the World with our 1st – 6th grade kids. Kids have been sharing the love of Jesus in specific ways with others around them at home and school.
- For salvations on the Pine Tree football team.
- For students continuing to return to church and make decisions for Christ.
- We have added additional Connect Group Leaders for our Young Adult Worship and Connect Group hour. This allows us to split the groups into smaller segments and minister to our young adults more successfully.
- For a spirit of unity within our Young Adult Ministry.

- For the ongoing ministries of love and support to our nursing homes and our special needs group homes that have brought devotionals and care packages through this season of isolation.
- For everyone who helped put together holiday cheer baskets that were delivered to members of our Widow to Widow Ministry. This group has not met since February, and many still have not gotten out because they are at-risk. Praise God for the conversations, love and joy felt by all as deliveries were made to their doorsteps.
- For the women who continued to serve in our Women's Ministry with great care, love and perseverance through the challenges of 2020. God is faithful, kind and continues to bring together leaders who have hearts to see women lead women into a life-changing, ever-growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
- For about 30 men looking to lead men's connect groups next year and who met for training on Dec. 9.
- In the midst of the storm, God is still with His people and opening doors to share his love with others.
- Existing Thrive! support groups with new lay-leadership are transitioning well.
- Our Tuesday morning Family Services benevolence ministry continues its vital ministry. Five people have put their hope in Jesus through the this team's ministry since our last Watchman report! Pray for these new believers as they grow in Christ: Samantha, Melissa, Bobby, Latoya, and Earlanda.

**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:**

- Pastor Search Committee:
  - To open hearts to be ready to receive our new pastor and quickly grow to love, trust, and respect him and his leadership (1 Thessalonians 5:12). Pray for the qualities and strengths of the pastor that God has chosen for us. Ask God to work collectively and individually in each of our hearts as we prepare for the necessary changes to embrace a new day of ministry. Ask God to help our people want what God wants for our church and lay aside personal preferences (Proverbs 3:5-6).
  - To heal any area of brokenness in the hearts of our people. Pray for a miraculous sense of love and unity among all church members (John 13:34; 17:21). Pray that we would embrace our new pastor and his family as an invitation to cast all our cares on God (1 Peter 5:7).

- To give grace and protection to the Pastor Search Committee as they trust in God. Ask His Spirit to lead them in a bond of peace, grace and clear direction while seeking God for the new pastor of Mobberly (Eph. 6:10-12, I Peter 4:12, James 4:6-8).
- To provide the Pastor Search Committee His wisdom to develop and ask all the questions and give information about our church, the congregation and the church culture that we will share with a prospective pastor. Ask God to help us be Spirit-led and thorough in these essential next steps (1 Corinthians 2:10-16).
- To provide the right worship minister for the Marshall campus.
- To give the Marshall campus open doors for ministry in our community this spring.
- To help schools in East Texas open up more for student ministers to do ministry in schools.
- That East Texans seek God and renew their passion and commitment to the local church body of Christ.
- To allow the Marshall campus to invest in young leaders and future ministers from East Texas Baptist University (ETBU) this spring.
- To work through the GO Share class this spring as we continue to share the gospel and disciple those who come to Christ.
- To encourage many new people to join the GO Share Class to learn how to follow the Great Commission.
- That more of our families will choose to return to worship in person on campus.
- For continued protection from the COVID-19 virus for our church as many traveled over the Christmas holidays.
- That the Worship and Media teams will seek God for creative ways to allow people to participate in these ministries while respecting COVID-19 concerns.
- To bless the Night of Worship & Prayer on Jan. 24 with good participation. Ask that our church will take this opportunity for focused prayer for our church, the Pastor Search Committee and our future Senior Pastor.
- To help our parents as they continue to lead their children through this unusual time in history. Pray that they would seek God's wisdom and make time to study His Word as they lead. Pray that our families' faith would be strengthened, not shaken during this time.
- To provide for the health and safety of our Children's Ministry leaders, kids and families during this season.
- To impress on the hearts of adults the need to step up and lead this generation of kids to know, love and follow Christ. We need additional leaders in Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.
- To bless Spark Weekend (Feb. 11-14) preparation (signups, volunteers, no postponements).
- To empower the start of a new semester in Youth Ministry (Connect Groups—Jan. 9 and Wednesday nights—Jan. 6).
- To protect, strengthen, guide and bless our teachers in our schools!
- To help several young adults struggling with anxiety during this season.
- To provide for several young adults who are still looking for employment.
- To bless the Senior Adult GO Share monthly outreach opportunities beginning in January of 2021.
- To encourage our members in nursing homes and memory care centers, many of which have been cut off from loved ones and friends since the COVID-19 virus began in March.
- To help our 2021 Women's Leadership Council grow to know one another and unify their hearts around the mission and vision God has given our Women's Ministry this year. Pray for unity, creativity, boldness and passion for taking our labors to the places God is guiding us.

- AW Pray that our Widow to Widow ministry and Prayer Shawl ministries would be able to gather and fellowship again soon safely. These ladies need fellowship and embrace after a year of being apart and are ready to serve His Kingdom without the limitations of a pandemic.
- To bless the women's Bible study kick-off (the first few weeks in January) to be smooth and safe for those who attend. Pray specifically for our teachers to hear from God, to lead out of the overflow of their personal time with Him and for the protection of their health and families: Wendy Pairsh, Joan Lambinus, Michelle Hill, Debbie Deason, Karen Bozeman, Emily Thornton, Bettie Bozarth, Shawna Westervelt, Alyssa Whitehurst, Paula Ellis and Nanette Smith.
- To bless the start of new Men's Ministry discipleship groups on Jan. 9th with the kick-off of the BetterMan experience.
- To guide families that are balancing health, safety and school choices.
- To help children in vulnerable situations to be safe.
- To provide for the health and safety of our area social workers.
- To allow Celebrate Recovery participants and leaders to stay focused on their recovery and not let fear and anxiety overcome them.
- To encourage people dealing with the loss of meaningful human interaction during COVID-19.
- To comfort families grieving the loss of a loved one.
- To provide for the health and safety of the leaders, participants and their families of our support groups.
- To give wisdom and flexibility to accommodate the ebb and flow of the COVID-19 crisis.
- To equip and encourage the Hope Road Counseling counselors and staff as they continue to pour into the East Texas community in these unusual days.

---

**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.

---

*"Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."*

*Hebrews 11:6 [CSB]*

---