



## The Enemy We Didn't See

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. —*

*Ephesians 6:12*

There are “enemies” we prepare to fight. We, the church, are a lot like an athletic team. Effort is focused on those people or groups who seem to be contrary to the things we believe and want to present.

If there is an enemy to be found, that enemy is studied. From that study, defenses and offenses are prepared. Engagements are planned. When we consider our preparations to be what they need to be, and victory is a confident fact, engagement is undertaken.

Through the years there have been a great number of battles over doctrines, traditions, and issues that we deemed to be worthy of the fight. Some of the conflicts were small or even localized in nature. Other conflicts were matters of importance that would impact the whole church. Sometimes it has been hard to tell which matters were of greatest importance.

A common element of most conflicts is that where was a clear enemy. Whether that enemy could be identified in a person, group, or idea, there was still a strong sense of the who, the what, and the how. No matter how challenging the situation may be, preparation could be focused toward a determined end. Win or lose, there has been a sense of understanding in which devotion to that cause of Christ, truth, and the church was secure.

Then, sometimes there are the enemies we do not see coming our way. It is a pretty tough challenge to prepare for what you do not know. Yes, the motto of the Boy Scouts is one of preparedness for whatever may come. It is just easy to say, and really hard to do. Take personal temptations as an example. We don't always see what our

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<b>Elders</b>	<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Minister</b>
Kevin Keenan Keith McDougal Horace Phillips Bill Sherman	Joshua Dyer Brian Huff Brian Jaworsky Tres Lowrance Darrell MacDonald Randy Vance	Russell Dyer



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weakest points really are until they fail. Again, if we do not perceive a weakness, we do not work to strengthen or protect it.

The viral outbreak that has so affected the world, and each of us, was not seen as a threat before it was breaking down our door. It is easy to wonder how an unseen, and seemingly small enemy can wreak such havoc. At least a part of the answer is in the lack of observance. Again, we do not tend to prepare for an enemy that is not perceived as such.

Take courage, an attack by such an unseen enemy does not need to be destructive. There is always faith. Perhaps more than at any other time, faith becomes the pivotal resource. For, it is our driving trust in God that leads us to act with certainty and conviction. We do not have to see the enemy coming to put up a great fight. Trust in action, the providential hand of God, and there is no enemy that cannot be defeated.

— Russ

◆ **Notice:** We have all been encouraged to stay at home as much as is possible. If you think it better to stay home and not attend worship gatherings at this time, please do so. We do not want anyone to be endangered.

◆ **Also:** If you are in need of Communion Supplies for home, you may get some at the church building, or call & we will try to bring it to you.

◆ If you need any assistance in this crisis time, please call.

◆ There are no scheduled activities beyond worship until we return to a more normal schedule.

**Remember those under special care—including: Arless Murray—George Frazier—Sam Ruble—Glynita Baldwin—Wayne Haynes—Joan Keenan**

**Happy Anniversary**

3/22 - Bill & Sue Fleming

3/28 - Janet & Gerald Jaworsky

**Happy Birthday**

3/22 - Tisha Lazano

3/22 - Corry Schell

3/22 - Janet Swindle

3/24 - Sheryl Andrews

3/27 - Dale Frazier

3/27 - Erin Whitson

3/28 - Estelle Cubell

3/28 - Kevin Keenan

**Schedule of Services**

Until further notice

**Sunday**

1st Worship 9:00 AM

2nd Worship 10:15 AM

**Wednesday** No Service

**Southern Ridge**

2237 SW 134th

Oklahoma City, OK 73170

**Phone:** (405) 378-0701

**Email:** info@southernridge.org

**Daily Bible Reading**

22) Job 41-42

23) Proverbs 1-2; I Corinthians 14

24) Proverbs 3-5

25) Proverbs 6-7; I Corinthians 15

26) Proverbs 8-9; I Corinthians 16

27) Proverbs 10-12; Titus 1

28) Proverbs 13-15; Titus 2

29) Proverbs 16-18; Titus 3

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