

“They Have Taken Idols Into Their Hearts”
Ezekiel 14:1-23

“For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools....they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.” (Romans 1:21-22,25; Jeremiah 22:8-9)

“But Jesus on His part did not entrust Himself to them, because He knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for He Himself knew what was in man” (John 2:24-25). “And the LORD said: ‘Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, while their hearts are far from Me, and their fear of Me is a commandment taught by men’” (Isaiah 29:13).

- Ezekiel 14:1-23:
 - The elders are those who hear the Word of the Lord BUT they do not do the Word of the Lord. (Ezekiel 33:30-32)
 - The message to the elders of those of Israel: *“Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations.”*
 - “Son of man, you dwell in the midst of a rebellious house, who have eyes to see, but see not, who have ears to hear, but hear not, for they are a rebellious house.” (Ezekiel 12:2)
 - *“I, the Lord, have deceived that prophet....”*
 - God at times, in condescending to mankind, eliminates all secondary causes conversationally (Isaiah 45:7; Amos 3:6).
 - Because of unrepentant disobedience, God has given the people over to false prophets....*“Now therefore behold, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the LORD has declared disaster for you.” (1 Kings 22:23)*
 - *“The punishment of the prophet and the punishment of the inquirer shall be alike.”*
 - Noah – Daniel – Job
 - Noah delivered his family from destruction (Genesis 6:18).
 - Daniel delivered his friends from being killed (Daniel 2:17-18).
 - Job delivered his friends from the consequence of their folly (Job 42:7-9).
 - *“The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.” (Ezekiel 18:20)*
 - *“But behold, some survivors will be left in it.”*
 - *“Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.” (Ezekiel 9:4)*

Announcements:

★**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MEETING:** If you currently serve in or are interested in serving in the Children's Ministry, there will be a short ministry meeting THIS Sunday, December 22nd, immediately following the worship service.

★**CONGREGATION PICTURE:** We would like to take an all congregation picture THIS Sunday, December 22nd, immediately following the worship service. We are desiring to take a picture of all the children together and then a picture of the whole congregation together with the sanctuary decorated for Christmas. Please plan to stay to participate in this!

★**CHRISTMAS SERVICES:** THIS Sunday will be our last Sunday in the Advent series. The sermon will be on God's Love, and then our Christmas Eve Service will be on Tuesday, December 24th, at 6pm. These are both great opportunities to invite your friends, your family, and your neighbors to join you for these services to hear the gospel proclaimed.

*A note to all parents: **There will be NO Children's Ministry for the Christmas Eve service.** Please know that you are welcome to use the Flex Room at the back of the sanctuary if at any point you need to remove your child from our gathering. One parent must be in the Flex Room with their child at all times.

→**We will NOT be having a worship service on Thursday, December 26th.**

★**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY:** Our annual New Year's Eve Party will be on Tuesday, December 31st, starting at 6pm, at Andy's house (1062 National Drive SE; Hebron). Please bring your favorite appetizer, snack, finger food, or dessert to share, as well as your favorite board or card game to play. EVERYONE is invited to join us for this great time of fun, food, and fellowship! There is a sign-up list on the wall in the entryway, please sign-up if you plan on attending and what food item you plan on bringing with you!

★**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** On January 5th we are going to offer a Sunday School for all people at Legacy from 9-10am each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall to see what kind of interest there might be for teaching the Scriptures before the worship service at 10:30am. We will be studying the book of Daniel, "God's Sovereignty over Nations and Israel and the Future Millennial Age." The book of Daniel is the most comprehensive prophetic revelation of the Old Testament, giving the only total view of world history from Babylon to the second coming of Christ. There is more information about this class in the November Newsletter. Please let Elder Richard know if you are interested so he can prepare notes for each one attending. There will be coffee and donuts each Sunday for class.