

Regular Attendance is Very Important

“Let’s consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds, not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another.” Heb. 10:24-25

Speaker for Today

Thank you, Chuck Scull

April Birthdays

6 Susan Hudson 16 Alana Hudson
23 Shannon Hudson 25 Calvin Cree
30 Aaron McCollum. 30 Margaret Graddon

April Anniversaries

9 Bill and Kena Brown 28 Lyle & Margaret Graddon

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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*“Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and do not lean on
your own understanding.”*

Proverb 3:5

- *“Fight the good fight”*
- *“Keep the faith”*
- *“Finish the course”*

Again

By John M. Buttrey II

Again is a word used **again and again** in life and in Scripture to describe repetitive actions. Many times, those repetitive actions are not good. In terms of **again and again** repetitive actions in the Bible that were not good, consider the book of Judges.

Again and again, the word **again** is used to describe repeated mistakes by the children of Israel.

*“Now the sons of Israel **again did evil** in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Lord” (Judges 3:12 Emp. Mine).*

*“Then the sons of Israel **again did evil** in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died.” (Judges 4:1 Emp. Mine).*

*“Then it came about, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the sons of Israel **again played the harlot** with the Baals and made Baal-berith their god.” (Judges 8:33 Emp. Mine).*

*“Then the sons of Israel **again did evil** in the sight of the Lord, served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the sons of Ammon, and the*

gods of the Philistines; thus they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him.” (Judges 10:6 Emp. Mine).

“Now the sons of Israel **again did evil** in the sight of the Lord, so that the Lord gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years.” (Judges 13:1 (Emp. Mine).

What a sad picture of disobedience committed **again and again** against God. Unfortunately, this was nothing new with Israel. One Psalmist described the disobedience of their fathers with these words: “**Again and again** they tempted God and pained the Holy One of Israel.” (Psalm 78:41 Emp. Mine).

When they would finally recognize their sin, **again and again** they would turn back to God. Crying to God with thoughts like these expressed in the psalms: “*Will You not Yourself **revive us again**. That Your people may rejoice in You.*” (Psalms 85:6 Emp. Mine). “*O God of hosts, **turn again now**, we beseech You; Look down from heaven and see, and take care of this vine.*” (Psalms 80:14 Emp. Mine)

In contrast to the **again and again** sinning of the people was the **again and again** mercy of God (cf. Lamentations 3:21-23). As often as they turned back to God, He was willing to help them.

When we look at our own lives, how often could our sinning be described as **again and again**? Remember who we are! Peter reminds us: “*For you have been **born again** not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*” (1 Peter 1:23 Emp. Mine).

Again, in the same manner, Paul reminds us: “*But now, having known God, or rather having been known by God, how is it that you **turn back again** to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you want to be **enslaved all over again**?*” (Galatians 4:9 Emp. Mine).

How often have we asked God to forgive us of the same sin, **again and again**? Just like Israel of old, we too have enjoyed the mercy of God **again and again**. For this, we should praise Him **again**

and again. Paul put it like this: “*Rejoice in the Lord always; **again** I will say, rejoice!*” (Philippians 4:4 Emp. Mine).

The blessing of God’s **again and again** mercy is possible for us in Christ because of this very important “**again**”: “*But God **raised Him up again**, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.*” (Acts 2:24 Emp. Mine).

Personal Note...

It was thoughts like these about **again and again** sinning, and the mercy and grace we enjoy **again and again**, that I was prompted to write these words of poetry:

Why do I do that Lord?

I pray fervently, *I beg* Your patience,
I confess and repent, *I ask* forgiveness;
and then *I fall* and sin **again**.
Why do I do that Lord?

I read of mercy, *I tell* of Your grace,
I teach Your blessings, *I sing* of heaven;
and then *I doubt* and fret within.
Why do I do that Lord?

Again...Encouraging Scriptures

“One who conceals his wrongdoings will not prosper, but one who confesses and abandons them will find compassion.”
Proverbs 28:13

“The Lord’s acts of mercy indeed do not end, for His compassions do not fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23

“Therefore, let’s approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need.” Hebrews 4:16