

The West End Herald

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC



Meditate on STEADFAST LOVE

by J. A. Medders

There are times when we read the Bible and a word pops. It's not unfamiliar or new, but something about it grabs the attention.

This is when it is good to meditate on the word that jumped.

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January 5, 2025

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Let's meditate on the steadfast love of God.

We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

Psalm 48:9

There's a variety of ways to translate this Hebrew word, *hesed*. The Christian Standard Bible often opts for faithful love. Strong. Helpful. The New Living Translation went with unfailing love. I like that too. If we blend these words, we can taste the dynamic flavors of the word *hesed*. I like the choice of steadfast from the ESV because it's not an ordinary, everyday word. It's perfect for describing the supernatural, every day love of God.

Steadfast means it can't deteriorate.

Divine love is not susceptible to the second law of thermodynamics. The gospel is a miracle. Physics has no authority over the steadfast love of God. God will resurrect our body chemistry because of his steadfast love.

Steadfast love can't be exhausted.

We don't use it all up. We can't overdraw the account with our sin. There is more love in God than there is sin us. God's love is undepletable. He has promised to love us now and into eternity.

Steadfast love means steady love.

God's love for his people isn't hanging in the balance. No wishy-washy commitment. The risen Christ is a dependable Savior. You can count on him.

Steadfast love is strong.

God's love cannot be overpowered, overwritten, or under-deliver. An omnipotent God doesn't possess a semi-capable love. God's love reverses the black hole of sin and the grave.

Steadfast love isn't moody.

We didn't earn his love. He loved us at our absolute worst. "But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"

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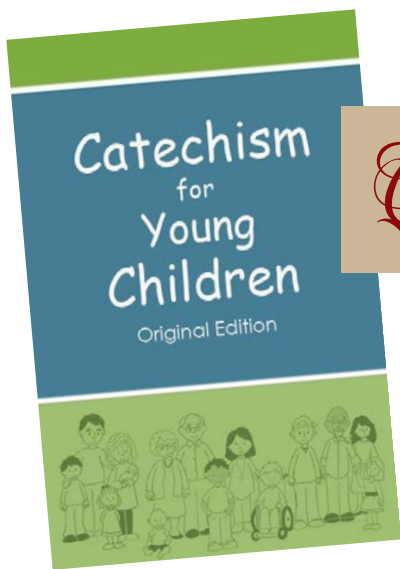
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(Romans 5:8). God's love doesn't fluctuate. It doesn't rise when we are reading the Bible, and crash when we close the book. Steadfast love depends on God's nature, not ours.

What else strikes you about the steadfast love of God? Think on it. Thank him for it. Enjoy it. ♦

J. A. Meddars is the Director of Theology and Content for Send Network, a preacher, podcaster, and author of multiple books.





Question 112:

What is the second petition?

Answer:

“Thy kingdom come.”

***The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!***

Psalm 97:1

What does *kingdom* mean? A kingdom is usually a place, like a country or a group of countries ruled by a king or queen. What do the king and queen call the people who live in their kingdom? Their subjects. The king/queen makes laws, and the subjects must obey them. Some rulers are good and some are bad. A good king/queen protects the subjects and takes care of them. People love a good ruler and want to serve him.

The kingdom of God isn't one country or a group of countries. It isn't even a place. God's kingdom is His wise and good rule over the world and the people in it. He is the best ruler ever. God loves His subjects, His people, and takes care of them. ♦

from *Kids' Quest* by Great Commission Publications



at the corner of

River & Rhett

**Please pray for these upcoming
Mission Trips in 2025:**

OKINAWA

January 3–13

COSTA RICA

January 9–15

HONDURAS

January 31–February 5

PERU

July 11–18

JANUARY

birthdays



- 2 Todd Ford
- 3 Tamara King, Sue O'Brien
- 4 Kate Taylor
- 6 Lynn Martindale, Malachi Mobley, James Schvaneveldt, Emmett Strevel
- 7 Bryant Garrison, Heather Uhall, Jeremy Weaver
- 8 Melissa Fultz, Scarlet Giusti, Margaret Holman, Susanne Kight
- 9 Elisha Bombaro, Richard Chivers, Marcia Russell, Kylie Spell
- 10 Susan Harrison, J. D. Kinnear, Henry Martin
- 11 Jim Bishop

This Week

MORNING SERMON

Dr. Richard D. Phillips

THE TOMB OF JESUS CHRIST

Mark 15:40-47

EVENING SERMON

Dr. Richard D. Phillips

FOR HE MUST REIGN

1 Corinthians 15:23-28

Sunday, January 5

- 8:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
- 9:55 A.M. Children's Chapel (*Sanctuary*)
- 10:00 A.M. Sunday School
- 11:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
- 5:30 P.M. Season of Prayer (*Chapel*)
- 6:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP
- 7:30 P.M. Reception Honoring Newly Elected Deacons (*Gym*)

Monday, January 6

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study (*Fellowship Hall*)
- 9:30 A.M. Rafiki Bible Study (*Conference Room*)

Wednesday, January 8

- 5:00 P.M. Pastoral Care Committee (*Office Work Room*)
- 5:15 P.M. WIC Council (*Fellowship Hall*)
- 5:30 P.M. Missions Committee (*Conference Room*)
- 5:30 P.M. FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER (*Gym*)
- 6:15 P.M. Hope Choir (K4-K5); Covenant Choir (Grades 1-6); Youth Choir (Grades 7-12)
- 6:45 P.M. Missions Moment (*Gym*)
- 6:45 P.M. WIC Circle 1 (*Conference Room*)
- 7:00 P.M. CAT Kids (Ages 3-Grade 4); Covenant Kids (Grades 5-8)
- 7:00 P.M. Jr. & Sr. High Bible Studies
- 7:00 P.M. Adult Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (*Gym*)
- 7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir

Friday, January 10

- 12:00 P.M. Men's Luncheon and Bible Study (*Gym*)
- 1:30 P.M. Mission to Main

Upcoming Events

spcgreenville.org/calendar

- January 3** Brenda Cumbus Memorial Service, 1:00 P.M.
- January 3** Friday Night Alive (Phillips Home)
- January 4** Mamie Riggins Memorial Service, 11:00 A.M.
- January 5** Baptism Sunday
- January 5** Deacon Installation and Ordination
- January 13** Joint Diaconate and Session Meeting
- January 19** Communion in the Morning Services
- January 24-26** Missions Conference
- January 25** Missions Conference Ladies Tea

Join with other church members each Sunday night
to pray for the needs of the church family.

Sunday Evenings

In the Chapel

5:30 P.M.



PLANTING & REVITALIZING CHURCHES



JANUARY 2025

Missions Conference

Friday 1/24

- 12:00 P.M. Men's Luncheon \$7 (*Gym*)
- 6:00 P.M. Banquet \$10/adult, children eat free (*Gym*)
(*Registration required*)
- 7:00 P.M. Rev. Ben Kappers (*Gym*)
- 7:30 P.M. Rev. Zachary Groff (*Gym*)

Saturday 1/25

- 2:00 P.M. Ladies Tea (*Fellowship Hall*)
(*Registration required*)

Sunday 1/26

- 8:30 A.M. Rev. Ben Kappers (*Sanctuary*)
- 10:00 A.M. Rev. Zachary Groff (*Gym*)
- 11:00 A.M. Rev. Ben Kappers (*Sanctuary*)
- 5:00 P.M. Missionary Prayer Band (*Chapel*)
- 6:00 P.M. Rev. Zachary Groff (*Sanctuary*)

REGISTER for the Friday Banquet and the Saturday Ladies Tea at spcgreenville.org/signup.

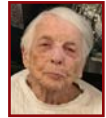
Announcements

Friday Night Alive

All singles are invited to the Phillips Home for a meal, fellowship, and teaching time on Friday, January 3, beginning at 6:00 P.M. Please contact Sharon Phillips if you need a ride or have questions.

Death of Two Church Members

Mamie Riggins passed into Glory on December 8. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 4, at 11:00 A.M. (SPC).



Brenda Cumbus died in Christ on Wednesday, December 11. Memorial Service: January 3, at 1:00 P.M. (SPC)

Deacon Installation and Ordination

Our newly elected deacons will be installed and ordained for service in the Evening Service on January 5. A reception will follow in the Gym. Ladies are asked to bring sandwiches and finger foods.

Baby Shower

All ladies are invited to a baby shower for Anna Phillips Shaw on Saturday, January 18, at 2:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Anna is registered at Babylist.

Rafiki Bible Study

Rafiki classes will resume on Monday, January 6, at 9:30 A.M. Contact Sylvia Long with any questions.

Missions Conference

Plan now to attend our annual Missions Conference, January 24–26. See page 9 of this newsletter. Be sure to sign up for the Friday Banquet and the Saturday Ladies Tea at spcgreenville.org/signup.



A DIFFERENT TYPE OF NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Galatians 5:22-25

Evidencing spiritual fruits

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Denying sinful desires

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Exercising godly graces