

## “Greeting Team”

### For Sunday, December 17th

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go “welcome” people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

### Greeters this week:

#### Randy Ehlers Monday Night

- 1st— Odin Dart Thursday Night; Ladies Group Thursday Night
- 2nd— Justin Taylor Sunday Night;
- 3rd—Randy Ehlers Monday Night;
- 4th—Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon; Tackett Sunday Night

### Small Groups @ MBC

*Are Gatherings of 6-12 People That Meet With The Goal of Knowing & Experiencing God in Community, at a Deeper & More intimate Level Than Can Be Accomplished Alone*

## Announcements

1. On The Church Calendar:  
Our Annual  
“Christmas Eve Service”  
December 24th 6-7:00 PM
2. Also On The Church Calendar: A new  
“Servant Equipped” class  
begins Wednesday, Jan 10th

## Daniel: Treasured By God

(Note: This continues a series of posts on Daniel’s life) In the 10th chapter of the Old Testament book of Daniel, there’s an incredibly encouraging word, spoken by an angel, to Daniel: “*He said to me, ‘Daniel, you are a man treasured by God...’*” (v.11). God treasured Daniel; and, because God “...*does not show favoritism...*” we can be assured that we, also, are treasured by Him (Romans 2:11). He places great value on each one of us! As believers, we’ve been purchased by the precious blood of His Son, Jesus; and, we’ve been adopted into God’s family. We are actually said to be “...*heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ...*” to all the eternal riches of heaven (Romans 8:17). He longs to communicate with us; just, as all parents enjoy talking with their children! He takes time to listen to our prayers! But, this chapter, in Daniel, sheds light on the fact that sometimes the answers to prayer are delayed by unseen spiritual forces! By way of personal application, don’t assume that God isn’t listening to your prayers! Remember, that the text says that God heard Daniel’s prayer from the 1st day he prayed it! Starting in v.13, the angel told Daniel that “...*the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for 21 days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me after I had been left there with the kings of Persia...*” Because Michael is also known to be an angel, in Scripture, it’s best understood that “spiritual warfare” was taking place here! The angel tells Daniel that Michael assisted him when a “...*prince of the kingdom of Persia...*” opposed him— this “prince” is best understood to be part of a demonic force opposing God’s work, at this time, in this place. Have you ever considered that the reason you’ve not yet received an answer, to a certain prayer, is because of spiritual warfare? It could be! God hasn’t ignored you! There’s a delay, which God has allowed, for the ultimate purposes of His Sovereign plan. Pastor Geoff Thomas put it like this: “*Wherever there is a flock of Christ’s sheep there are wolves that want to destroy them. Whenever the Church advances, dark principalities are at work against it.*” Daniel’s story may give us insight into delayed answers to our prayers. It’s been said that God does, in fact, answer every prayer. He does so in 1 of 3 possible ways; He says “yes”, He says “no”, or He tells us to wait! In God’s eternal wisdom, He answers each prayer appropriately.



## It May Take Years

And when God does answer “no” it’s because He has counseled Himself to answer that way. He “... *works all things according to the counsel of his will*” Eph 1:11. We can never offer God wiser counsel than He gives Himself. Don’t quit praying for God to work! Don’t give up on revival just because God hasn’t answered your prayers thus far! God, in His eternal wisdom, may have very good reasons for allowing the spiritual warfare to take place all around us! This 10th chapter, of Daniel, gives us a rare peek behind the curtain dividing our realm from the spiritual realm. Daniel was given a rare insight into the battle & the warfare that’s normally invisible to us! Don’t obsess over the spiritual aspect of this text. Rather, be aware of what happens in the realm, of the supernatural; but, only in as much as the Word of God reveals it to us! Everything else is speculation! Scripture gives us all we need to know to know about the spiritual realm.