

# A Mighty Redwood – Supplemental Notes for Introduction, Lesson 1 Sunday, August 30, 2015

## Why a Redwood?

<u>Qualities</u>	<u>Questions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tallest living species on earth (sequoia sempervirens); some exceed 360 feet in height.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How tall are you standing spiritually? <i>Eph. 4:13</i>, "...to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ"</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Always green; creates lush groves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do others look to you for counsel during a crisis? <i>Job 4:4</i>, "Your words have helped the tottering to stand, and you have strengthened feeble knees." <i>Isa. 35:3-4</i>, <sup>3</sup>Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. <sup>4</sup>Say to those with anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of God will come, but He will save you." <i>Isa. 50:4</i>, "The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word..."</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inhabits sheltered, well-watered places of rich soil.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where do you find your nourishment; what <b>values are you cultivating</b>? <i>Ps. 1:2</i>, "But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night." <i>2 Peter 3:18</i>, "but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity."</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long-lasting; oldest tree is at least 2,200 years of age.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is your life marked by <b>perseverance and endurance</b>? <i>Matt. 24:13</i> "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved." <i>Rom. 5:3</i>, "...we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; <sup>4</sup>and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope" <i>Rom. 15:5</i>, "...the God who gives perseverance and encouragement..."</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can grow very rapidly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are you <b>quick to respond</b> to God's prompting? <i>Col. 2:19</i>, "...holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God" <i>James 1:25</i>, "But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but <sup>[a]</sup>an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does." <i>James 4:17</i>, "Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin."</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses sunlight very efficiently; can grow even in deep shade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you apply <b>God's word</b> often? Is His word handy to use when you're tested? <i>2 Tim. 2:15</i>, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can siphon water upward to great heights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are you able to <b>buck Satan's</b> downward forces and keep your focus on God?</li> </ul> <p><i>James 4:7, "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains natural decay-resisting resins.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is God's Spirit free to preserve you?</li> </ul> <p><i>Ps. 12:7-8, "You, O LORD, will keep them; You will preserve him from this generation forever. <sup>8</sup>The wicked strut about on every side when vileness is exalted among the sons of men."</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Thick bark</b> provides excellent fire-resistant quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is your '<b>shield of faith</b>' intact?</li> </ul> <p><i>Eph. 6:16, "in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capable of sprouting from the roots of parent trees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you learn from the Godly example of others? Are you a good spiritual "parent" to others?</li> </ul> <p><i>Phil. 3:17, "Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us."</i></p>

### **Storms are Brewing**

Jude vs. 4

*"For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."*

### **Only Hope is Jesus Christ**

Acts 4:12

*"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."*

Heb. 6:19

*"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,"*

### **Diluted by False Teaching**

Col. 2:8

*"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."*

### **What Good Roots Will Enable You to Do**

Isa. 37:31

*"The surviving remnant of the house of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward."*

Prov. 2:21-22

*<sup>21</sup> For the upright will live in the land*

*And the blameless will remain in it;*

*<sup>22</sup> But the wicked will be cut off from the land*

*And the treacherous will be uprooted from it.*