

Christian Church of God

801 Quail Creek Drive
Amarillo, Texas 79124



Christian Church of God Newsletter



Hello Friends,

As March roared in like a lion here in the Texas Panhandle, wild fires raced through our area, fanned by 40 mph winds with gusts as high as 65 mph, the firefighters were helpless to stop the searing flames. Some 30 homes were burned to the ground and 10's of thousands of acres left scorched and blackened. Only when the raging winds subsided were the fires quenched. It was two days before many of the evacuated families could return to see if their homes were still standing. But, thanks be to God, no lives were lost. Things can be replaced....people cannot.

We have lost too many precious loved ones this past year: Larry Lyles, Ron Vorheis, Janet Voss, Laura Stephens (Shannon Se-

horn Stephens' mother-in-law), Jeanne Vincent (C.B. & Darrell Sehorn's sister), and Helen Shaklee (Linda's mother). This month is the 2nd anniversary of my own mother's death, so I find myself, as so many of you rather melancholy as the Lord's Passover nears. Something I wish we would all incorporate into our relationships is to share our love, admiration and gratitude to those who have touched our lives while we still can. In reality no one can preach our funeral; we preach our own funerals while we live.

"God hath given to man a short time here upon earth, and yet upon this short time eternity depends."

— Jeremy Taylor

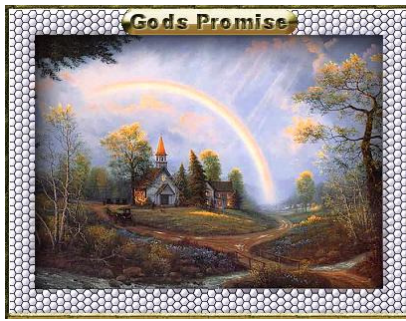
When we gather for funerals and memorial services, praise and gratitude for our lost loved ones gushes forth from our lips and hearts. Too bad these folks —*cont. pg.5*

The Pastor's Pen

Then the LORD said to me,
"Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a
runner can carry the correct message to others."

Hab 2:2 (NLT)





Then Came the Morning

Let us go into His tabernacle; Let us worship at His footstool (Psalms 132:7, NKJV). / Behold, bless the LORD, All *you* servants of the LORD, Who by night stand in the house of the LORD! ² Lift up your hands *in* the sanctuary, And bless the LORD. ³ The LORD who made heaven and earth Bless you from Zion! (Psalms 134:1-3, NKJV) /Praise the name of the LORD. Praise him, you servants of the LORD ² who are standing in the house of the LORD, in the courtyards of the house of our God. ³ Praise the LORD because he is good. Make music to praise his name because his name is beautiful (Psalms 135:1-3, GW).

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CHECK THIS MEDIA

Email:
CCofGod@suddenlink.net

Our sermons broadcast on
KGRO Radio 9:05 AM
Sunday.

www.pan-tex.net

Our Home Page:



HE LIVES!

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

~Gal 2:20 (NKJV)

When the Sabbath was over, just as the first day of the week was dawning Mary from Magdala and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. At that moment there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from Heaven, went forward and rolled back the stone and took his seat upon it. His appearance was dazzling like lightning and his clothes were white as snow. The guards shook with terror at the sight of him and collapsed like dead men. But the angel spoke to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here - he is risen, just as he said he would. Come and look at the place where he was lying. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead. And, listen, he goes before you into Galilee! You will see him there! Now I have told you my message." ~Matt 28:1-7 (Phillips NT)



DoorOpeners

In the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples had met together with the doors locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood right in the middle of them and said, "Peace be with you!" ~John 20:19 (Phillips NT)

"The doors locked for fear . . ." The first post-Passover with the real Lamb of God having been sacrificed, and the fear was as real and terrifying as that first Passover trek from Egypt after the blood was sprinkled on the Israelite's doors.

"For fear." A fear so powerful in the Lord's apostles that it blocked out the joy and peace of their redemption and freedom. For once again, blood was sprinkled, redemption was given, freedom was available . . . and history repeated itself in the New Israel: the doors were locked "for fear."

Are we living the Christian life in crippling fear? In constant trepidation? In daily dread?

There is One who steps through closed, locked doors and stands in our midst. He has conquered death, and fulfilled the words of Hebrews 2:14, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might

destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their life-time subject to bondage."

No longer do we need to lock our doors "for fear." No longer dread the future, be afraid of our failures, or be anxious about our circumstances.

Because He lives!

Because He said, "Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me" (Matt. 28:10).

Because the shadow of the Cross is dispelled by the glorious light of the Empty Tomb!

"Because I live, you shall also live" (John 14:19).

That's all the reason we need to leave the doors of fear unlocked and open. Let the Son-shine in. Let the Lamb of God become the Living Shepherd of your life. Face each day knowing "He lives, He lives within my heart." ~JDM

~Reprinted from the April 2009 newsletter.

Prayer Requests



" . . . The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed." — James 5:15-16.

Amber & Dylan Clark: Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.

Vickie Crevoi: Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS. She is losing mobility.

Mary Jo Flatt: James Bailey's sister, is dealing with bladder cancer. She is doing well having undergone bladder reconstruction surgery.

Paul Flatt: James Bailey's brother-in-law, suffered a heart attack. He is undergoing alternative treatments and is improved.

Joe Kirkpatrick: has completed six chemo treatments for stage three bladder cancer. He will have follow-up tests in March.

Anna Law: In need of a kidney transplant; she has dialysis three times a week.

Dollie Meil: She suffers with cerebral palsy and lung problems.

Ted Rankin: MS; he is somewhat improved.

Jane Shaffer: Sister of Joe Kirkpatrick, malignant bone tumors. Recent tests show tumors are shrinking.

IF YOU HAVE UPDATES OR NEW REQUESTS PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR.

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He gives power to the weak, And to *those who have* no might He increases strength.
³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, ³¹ But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

~Isaiah 40:29-31 (NKJV)



Celebrations

MARCH

Birthdays:

Linda Booth	03-11
Dollie Meil	03-12
Jerry McClenagan	03-23
Betty Clark	03-25
Lydia Salazar	03-25
Weldon McAlister	03-27
Martha McClenagan	03-31

Anniversaries:

Manuel & Lydia Salazar 03-17

APRIL

Birthdays:

Bonnie Cryer	4/9
J. R. Hamilton	4/18
James Vines	4/26
Damaris Green	4/29

Anniversaries:

Glennis & Weldon McAlister 4/24

Condolences

... To all those who have lost their homes and animals in the devastating inferno that struck the Golden Spread of West Texas this past Sunday, February 27th.

Brush Arbor Revivals

Reprinted from, the Amarillo Globe News Opinion column, 'It's All Trew' by Delbert Trew, one of my writing peers from Alanreed, Texas. He is a retired rancher who spins a fine yarn about those nostalgic years. My recollection of them was from a modernized version of brush arbor meetings. ~ the Editor



Although this column topic happened a bit before my time, I've heard many stories about the old-time brush-arbor revivals held before rural churches were built in outlying areas.

Early frontier communities had no gathering place large enough to hold a good revival. Some communities had rural schoolhouses, but they were too small for a meeting of any size. Many communities held Sunday school, singing and prayer meetings each Sunday, but had regular church with sermons only when the circuit preacher made his rounds.

At least once a year, special efforts were made to hold a communitywide, nondenominational revival.

On the Great Plains, finding a gathering place was a problem. A large group needed shade and firewood for cooking and camping and, hopefully, enough water nearby in which to baptize those who came to the Lord.

As a result, most revivals were held on a creek with other provisions built as needed. A brush arbor was easy and cheap to build. The congregation sat on logs, stumps, rocks, chairs brought from home and benches hauled from the nearest schoolhouse. Light was provided by lanterns, torches made from gunny sacks soaked in coal oil, or just by a campfire. The podium was a wooden barrel, and donations were gathered in skillets.

All who came camped out, some sleeping in tents or wagons and the rest on the ground. A local ranch furnished a beef and everyone brought what food they had to contribute to the cause. The days were spent visiting, catching up on gossip, singing hymns and praying.

Children played swing games together and the young adults courted. Single cowboys came for the company and being poor was all right, as donations were optional. Just give what you could afford.

The brush arbor revivals were successful mainly because the setting was neutral ground with no one belief dominating the others. The continual, round-the-clock exposure to praying, preaching and testimonials seemed to break down the resistance of the most hardened sinners. The last sermon had many crying, praying and gathered around known sinners, pleading with them to accept the Lord. By the meeting's end, there were a goodly number of the congregation ready for baptism.

The brush revivals not only brought many people to the Lord, they were also the best entertainment of the year in the remote settlements. Everyone waited for the dramatic ending when the preacher led his flock down to the water's edge for the final act. Unlike today, where water is heated, creek water was cold and sometimes muddy. This led to some humorous incidents.

The preacher shouted, "Praise the Lord" as he lowered the crusty old rancher down into the water. The rancher came up sputtering and allowed, "Damn, that water's cold." The preacher never batted an eye. He just ducked the man again, holding him under an extra moment making sure the baptism took the second time.

The pioneers and early settlers took their religion seriously, generating good morals and character among their descendants. God bless them all for their efforts. ■

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. ~Acts 2:44-47 (NKJV)



Heartbeats

Editorial
Jerry McClenagan

Guard your heart more than anything else, because the source of your life flows from it. ~Proverbs 4:23 (GW)

WE HAVE THIS MOMENT TODAY !

With every event of my life, especially the scary, traumatic ones, I am reminded of the uncertainty and brevity of life. "Like a vapor," the Apostle James tells us,, : "that appears for a little time then vanishes away" (James 4:14).

Without faith in God this would be a hopeless life. The Apostle Paul, in that famous Resurrection chapter (1 Corinthians 15), reminded his readers that without this hope, even as Christians, we would be "miserable" (v. 19). Here's how Phillips puts it: "Truly, if our hope in Christ were limited to this life only we should, of all mankind be the most to be pitied!" But Paul went on to say, "But the glorious fact is that Christ did rise from the dead: he has become the very first to rise of all who sleep the sleep of death" (Phillips).

In this issue we have focused on what has been dubbed Passion Week, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The past year has been one of overwhelming loss, even within our small church. Over and over again we have faced death,

which Paul personalizes as our "enemy." And in the midst of it all we "see through a glass darkly," holding to our hope of the Resurrection at Christ's glorious return. A time when the dead, according to the Gospel account (John 5:25), shall hear his voice. A time when that great "meeting in the air" (1 Thesalonians 4) will take place.

"Until then," the song goes, "my heart shall go on singing; until then with joy I'll travel on; until the day my eyes behold that City; until the day God calls me home."

The Bill and Gloria Gaither song (below) is one of my favorites. It sends waves of nostalgia and sadness over my spirit, but brings me down to earth with words both sobering and inspiring: "But we have this moment today." And once again I'm reminded of the small plaque hanging on the wall of my childhood home: "Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last!" ■

Hold tight to the sound of the music of living, Happy songs from the laughter of children at play; Hold my hand as we run through the sweet fragrant meadows, Making mem'ries of what was today.

Chorus: We have this moment to hold in our hands and to touch as it slips through our fingers like sand; Yesterday's gone and tomorrow may never come, But we have this moment today.

Tiny voice that I hear is my little girl calling, For Daddy to hear just what she has to say; And my little son running there by the hillside, May never be quite like today.

Tender words, gentle touch and a good cup of coffee, And someone who loves me and wants me to stay; Hold them near while they're here and don't wait for tomorrow, To look back and wish for today.

Take the blue of the sky and the green of the forest, And the gold and the brown of the freshly mown hay; Add the pale shades of spring and the circus of autumn, And weave you a lovely today.

The Pastor's Pen

5



don't get to hear how much they meant to us. What if we each resolved to let all who have touched our lives know how much they mean to us while they are here to hear it instead of waiting to tell others how much they meant to us after they are gone? Let's not wait until then to speak of our love and appreciation for how much they meant to us. Gratitude is such a Godly trait.

As we approach the New Testament Passover, why don't we focus upon our heartfelt gratitude and love for our Savior and His Father? Jesus Christ put his own life on the line, so that death would not have the last word for us. When the God of Creation who had the first word, walked out of that stony tomb he showed to all, that He has the last word...He died that we might live. How much does that mean to you? Paul tells us in his letter to the Church at Colossae in chapter 1 of the hope laid up for us in

heaven, *Giving thanks unto the Father...Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself.... to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which you have heard...*

Oh, and by the way, have I told you lately how much you mean to me?

Thanking God for each and every one of you,

Jeff Booth

I'd rather have flowers while I'm still alive.

—Overheard after a funeral; spoken by Bud McClenagan (Jerry's & Glennis' father), who died at age 44.



Hymns for Him

Hymns for Him



Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ. ~ Ephesians 5:19-20, Msg.

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!
3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

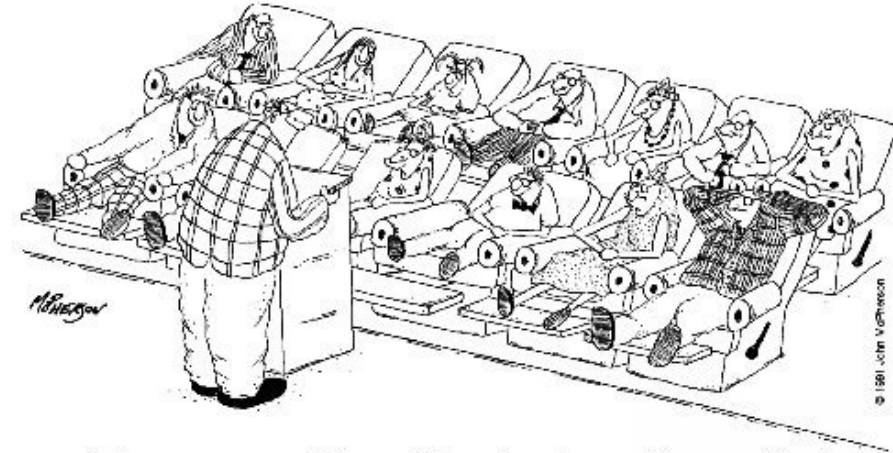
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!
6. King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, *act* like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Col 3:1 (MSG)

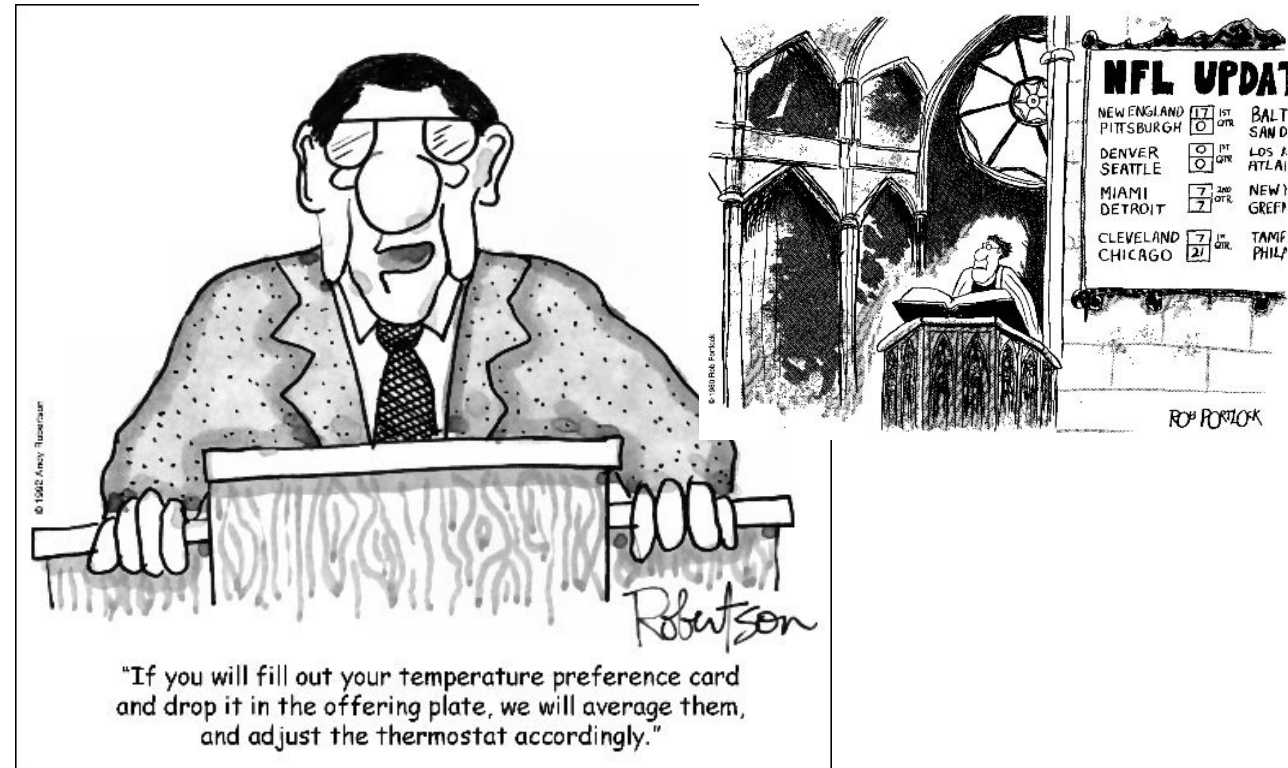
Chuckles

11

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength.
~ Prov 17:22 (NLT)



The recommendation of the church growth consultant to get rid of hard wooden pews was quickly accepted at Eastside Church.



Curtis Shelburne

NICE PHARISEES CAN BE THE MOST DANEROUS OF ALL (Copyright 2010 by Curtis K. Shelburne)

We need to ponder long and often the particularly fascinating truth that our Lord Jesus was the sinless “friend of sinners.”

“Sinners in denial,” Pharisees past and present, are seriously bothered by that. “Confessed sinners,” past and present, who know they fall terribly short, love him deeply for it.

Only two types of people exist: confessed sinners and sinners in denial. The former know they need mercy and thus react to others with mercy; the latter, the opposite.

Not all Pharisees mean to be bad people. That does not change the fact that even the nicest ones are a constant danger to themselves and others. Far too nice to ever put it this way, they are beset by two foundational beliefs: 1) I fall short in lots of ways, but the ways I fall short are better than the ways you fall short; 2) If you would just try a little harder, you could be almost as successful as I am in meeting God’s standards.

Looking around, they see in our world an appalling lack of regard for God’s (and their own) standards. What makes their view so tempting is the fact that our society does indeed exhibit a flagrant disregard for God’s standards. What they have a harder time seeing is that so do we all, some in ways not as obvious as others. The best of us needs God’s grace as badly as the worst.

It’s one thing to be one of those moral chameleons this world has in plenty who don’t see anything as right or wrong and can rationalize any attitude or action. It’s another—at least as bad and hurtful—to be so unable to sympathize with human weakness that we paint the whole world as black and white with little gray at all, and, by the way, almost no warmth or

color. Law is always cold as stone; only hearts hold real warmth.

Into our world comes the only perfect person who ever lived, and how does he deal with terribly fallen humanity?

At a well in Samaria he holds out hope for a gal who is a five-time marital “loser” and “shacked up” with a guy at the time.

He saves a woman “caught in adultery” lying in the dust at the feet of Pharisees.

He brings new life to a sawed-off lying cheat of a tax collector named Zacchaeus.

How would nice “righteous” folks deal with such people today? Not like Jesus did. Penance or probation would likely be involved. Head-shaking would abound. We’d call a meeting and opine, “As much as we’d like to show mercy, and as much as we believe in grace, if we’re too loose, too lenient, we’ll be sending a message we just can’t afford to send.” What makes such unfailingly black and white folks so dangerous is that, not having suffered enough, failed enough, themselves, they honestly don’t see how they can follow any other course. Such brittle “grace” is no grace at all.

With good intentions, they forget how precious a price was paid for sin, that they didn’t pay it, and that they’re as spiritually needy as the neediest person they ever met. And “they: is, all too often, “we.” And me.

Christ’s suffering paid the price for sin. Until we’ve been broken enough to see our own deep need, we’ll neither fully accept his sacrifice for ourselves or be willing to share the gift of the sinless “friend of sinners” with others. ■



For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.
~James 1:23-25 (NKJV)

Charles H. Spurgeon

"Therefore, to you who believe, *He is precious*; . . ." ~1 Peter 2:7 (NKJV)

As all the rivers run into the sea, so all delights centre in our Beloved. The glances of His eyes outshine the sun: the beauties of His face are fairer than the choicest flowers: no fragrance is like the breath of His mouth. Gems of the mine, and pearls from the sea, are worthless things when measured by His preciousness. Peter tells us that Jesus is precious, but he did not and could not tell us *how* precious, nor could any of us compute the value of God’s unspeakable gift. Words cannot set forth the preciousness of the Lord Jesus to His people, nor fully tell how essential He is to their satisfaction and happiness. Believer, have you not found in the midst of plenty a sore famine if your Lord has been absent? The sun was shining, but Christ had hidden Himself, and all the world was black to you; or it was night, and since the bright and morning star was gone, no other star could yield you so much as a ray of light. What a howling wilderness is this world without our Lord! If once He hides Himself from us, withered are the flowers of our garden; our pleasant fruits decay; the birds suspend their songs, and a tempest overturns our hopes. All earth’s candles cannot make daylight if the Sun of Righteousness be eclipsed. He is the soul of our soul, the light of our light, the life of our life. Dear reader, what would you do in the world without Him, when you wake up and look forward to the day’s battle? What would you do at night, when you come home jaded and weary, if there were no door of fellowship between you and Christ? Blessed be His name, He will not suffer us to try our lot without Him, for Jesus never forsakes His own. Yet, let the thought of *what life would be without Him*; enhance His preciousness.

—Morning and Evening (revised)

A MORAL COMPASS

Directional Principles for Right Living

Give me your lantern and compass, give me a map, so I can find my way to the sacred mountain. (Psalm 43:3, MSG) O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8, NLT)



The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: ² To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding, ³ To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; ⁴ To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion-- ⁵ A wise *man* will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, ⁶ To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles. ⁷ The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge, *But* fools despise wisdom and instruction. ⁸ My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; ⁹ For they *will be* a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck. ~Prov 1:1-9 (NKJV).

Herein lies the mother lode of directional principles for right living.

I. Wisdom for young people (1:1-9:18)

A. Prologue: purpose and theme (1:1-7)

B. Exhortations to embrace wisdom (1:8-9:18)

1. Warning against enticement (1:8-19)

2. Warning against rejecting wisdom (1:20-33)
 3. Moral benefits of wisdom (2:1-22)
 4. Further benefits of wisdom (3:1-35)
 5. Wisdom is supreme (4:1-27)
 6. Warning against adultery (5:1-23)
 7. Warnings against folly (6:1-19)
 8. Warning against adultery (6:20-35)
 9. Warning against the adulteress (7:1-27)
 10. Wisdom's call (8:1-36)
 11. Invitations of wisdom and of folly (9:1-18)
 - II. Wisdom for all people (10:1-24:34)
 - A. Proverbs of Solomon (10:1-22:16)
 - B. Sayings of the wise (22:17-24:22)
 - C. Further sayings of the wise (24:23-34)
 - III. Wisdom for the leaders (25:1-31:31)
 - A. More proverbs of Solomon (25:1-29:27)
 - B. Sayings of Agur (30:1-33)
 - C. Sayings of King Lemuel (31:1-9)
 - D. Epilogue: the wife of noble character (31:10-31)
- Life Application Outlines

Learn the **unforced rhythms of grace**. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." ~ Jesus. Matt 11:28-30 (MSG) / Indeed, every one of us has shared in his riches - there is a grace in our lives because of his grace. John 1:14 (Phillips NT)

GraceRhythms
GraceRhythms

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ~Eph 2:4-9 (NKJV)

Christian Passover/ Lord's Supper

SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH

FOOTWASHING CEREMONY ~ 7:30 P.M.

SACRAMENT SERVICE ~ 8:00 P.M.

FIRST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

TUESDAY, APRIL 19TH

NO C.E.P. BIBLE CLASS . . .

HOLYDAY WORSHIP SERVICE~11:45A.M.

LAST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

MONDAY, APRIL 25TH

NO C.E.P. BIBLE CLASS . . .

HOLYDAY WORSHIP SERVICE~11:45A.M.

