

From the Pastor's Pen...

May 22, 2019

This week I want to ask and answer a question. The question is this: *Is one sermon a week enough?* To answer that question I must first ask another question. Enough for what? How do you define enough? Is one sermon a week enough for God to be satisfied? To even ask that question is to misunderstand the Christian faith. God is satisfied with us only because of Christ and what he has done. Our actions could never satisfy God. We don't worship to earn points with God. We worship because we are commanded to, because He is worthy, and for our own benefit. Listening to a sermon on Sunday does not keep you in God's good graces. Jesus does.

The better question is: How many sermons a week do I need to reach my fullest potential to glorify and enjoy God? Answer: As many as you can get! You should sit under the preaching of God's word every time you have the opportunity. If it's only possible to attend preaching once a week, then attend once a week. If you can attend twice each week, attend twice. If you can manage all three, then by all means do so. The goal of preaching is not to satisfy God. The goal is to be saved and transformed into the image of Christ for the glory of God. When that is your goal, no amount of sermons is enough. You just take advantage of every opportunity that is afforded to you.

For the Gospel and the Glory of God!

Bro. Paul

Caleb's Connections...

Acts 12:6

"Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison."

I absolutely love these verses for the simple fact that while Peter was in prison, most likely getting ready to face a death sentence, he was sleeping. If any of us knew that we were more than likely going to die tomorrow, it would naturally lead to a lack of sleep tonight. But Peter was sound asleep between these two guards. Peter's faith in the Lord was so great that he could find rest even in a jail cell. He had no absolute guarantee that God would free him that night, but he knew that his soul was secure. I can't help but think that in that moment, Peter was thinking back to when Jesus calmed the storm. In the midst of this great storm that was about to sink the boat, Jesus was fast asleep (Luke 8:23). I hope and pray that we can go everyday with the faith of Peter, knowing that although our life may not appear to be going well on the outside, we know that God is in control.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that you will have faith like Peter and find comfort and security in God, even in the hardest times
- Pray that our students will use their schools as the mission field that God has given them

From what's on my heart,

Caleb

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🎵 Cory's Column...

²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is the circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

Romans 2:28-29 - NASB

I am not a Jew, but I am a Christian. Paul's lesson here at the end of Romans 2 is addressed to his fellow Jews, but its teaching and implication are most certainly applicable to all of us as God's children.

Circumcision in the Jewish faith was the physical sign, required and prescribed in the Law of Moses, which demonstrated holiness and separation from the world. When a male child was circumcised, he was consecrated – wholly dedicated to God. Through the years, the Israelites began to put their trust and security in the literal, physical, fleshly symbol and not in the spiritual purpose for which it was given. All that mattered to them was that they were physically circumcised as required by the Law. The consecration, holiness, and dedication to the LORD that it symbolized became of such less importance that it wasn't even a real consideration most of the time.

How often, as God's redeemed child, do I put my faith in the tangible – in the flesh – instead of focusing on my heart, soul, and mind – my "inner" man? God's teaching in this passage through Paul's writing is that my attention should be on my inward, spiritual health. Is my heart dedicated to God? Is my mind consecrated for Him and to Him? Does my soul thirst for God as in a dry and weary land? And is my focus on the praise of men or the praise of my Father in Heaven?

May we all take a moment to evaluate, and by God's help and strength, course-correct if necessary.

Always Singing His Praises!

Bro. Cory

Katey's Korner...

Family Bible Challenge
52 Verses Every Christian Should Know

May 5-11 Ephesians 4:32
May 12-18 John 12:46
May 19-25 Psalm 150:6
May 26-June 1 Colossians 3:20

OCC May Donations:

Hair Stuff (combs, brushes, ponytail holders, barrettes)
(A donation container is in the glass hallway.)

Vacation Bible School Work Night (decorate)

Wednesday, May 29
VBS is Sunday - Wednesday, June 2-5
Volunteer sign up is in the glass hallway as well as child registration.

We need VBS Volunteers for the following spots:

- 1st-6th grade Games
- 1st-6th grade Bible study
- PreK/K Guides
- PreK/K Snacks
- Nursery workers

If you want to get a VBS t-shirt, please sign up on the VBS table in the glass hallway. All children will be getting a yellow one along with a tubular headband for \$5 (please register your child to ensure they get the correct size). Volunteers can order the yellow or gray and the cost is \$7 for the shirt and \$1 for the headband.

Camp Reminder

Parents, please make sure you register your child for camp (and yourself if you are a chaperone). Also, please make sure your child's balance of \$125 is paid by the end of June.

Love in Christ,

Katey

The Record Speaks

May 19, 2019

Sunday School Attendance	106
Guests	6
April Sunday School Avg. Attendance	110
April Income	\$32,736.24
April Expense	\$24,659.32

The Lord's Additions

September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019

By Letter	8
By Baptism	3
By Statement	
Total	11

Church Office Closed

Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day

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Food Pantry Needs

Individual Fruit Juice, Granola Bars, Fruit Bars, Nabs, Individual Grits,  
Individual Cereal, Individual Oatmeal, Microwave Meals, Laundry  
Detergent, Dishwashing Liquid, Plastic Grocery Bags

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VBS Work Night

Wednesday, May 29th

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Vacation Bible School

June 2-5

Ages 3 years-6<sup>th</sup> grade

Please fill out a registration sheet in the glass hallway as soon as possible so that t-shirts can be ordered.

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4th Sunday Ushers

Chris Witt, Andy Soper, Stephen Buzzell,
Jeff Mansell, Jerry Thompson, Andrew Soper

<u>Staff Contact Information</u>		
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