

MARCH 2021

CHRISTIAN CENTER

EQUIP ~ ENGAGE ~ EDIFY

for the equipping of the saints
for the work of ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ
Ephesians 4:12

Psalm 136:1 "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."

I have really enjoyed our time studying God's dealings with the nation of Israel. There have been many lessons learned as we have observed both good kings and bad kings. There have been some really good examples to follow and some really bad examples to avoid.

I am particularly refreshed by the patience and goodness of God through it all. When God's people repent of their sin and turn back to Him, He is always there to forgive and restore them. It is clear that God will always forgive the repentant sinner. There is no sin that is so great that God's grace is not greater still.

"...Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more." Romans 5:20

As we have come to a full year of this pandemic I look back and see how God has blessed us in so many ways. He has given us a wonderful facility, both indoors and outdoors, to be able to continue meeting in a very comfortable way. Who would have thought we could go through the entire summer and winter meeting outdoors! But even more than a wonderful facility, He has given us wonderful relationships. I have been blessed by the gracious attitudes each one has had toward each other in respecting each one's personal feelings concerning this virus. It has had a unifying effect in a potentially divisive situation.

I am reminded of Joseph when he said to his brothers, ***"But as for you, you meant evil against***

me; but God meant it for good..." Genesis 50:20

Many could have looked at the closing of indoor church services as a victory for the enemy but there have been so many more people reached through online church than ever before. So many churches have started or enhanced their online ministries at a time when so many people are searching for answers.

Thank you to all who fellowship here at the Christian Center. May you continue to let your light shine in such a way that it brings glory to our Father in heaven.

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." Psalm 136:1

God Bless You,

Pastor Steve



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12, 5:30 pm Men's Dinner

March 14, 2:00 am Daylight Savings Begins

March 14, 10:00 am Church Breakfast

BY PAUL PALAZEWSKI

Romans 5:5 "...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Jesus begins his end times Olivet Discourse with a series of prophetic warnings of what His future church can expect as the time of the end draws near. One of these warnings is that **"because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."** (Matthew 24:12) My prayer for us as a body of men, for us as a church, is that we do not let our love grow cold; our love for God, our love for each other, and our love for a lost world.

Our Men's Ministry, which is now meeting 7am every Saturday for hot breakfast in the fellowship hall, takes to heart the truth of our headline verse that the source of this sacrificial, determined, agape love is God Himself, now poured out in us by the Holy Spirit. Our ministry seeks to cultivate this most important fruit of the Spirit by encouraging in each man a deep, intimate, abiding relationship with Christ. As we prayerfully open our Bibles together each week an almost palpable air of humble submission pervades the room, and we allow the words from the Gospel of Matthew to supernaturally work in our hearts and deepen our love for our Savior.

Our men also take to heart the exhortation of the writer of Hebrews to "stir up" this love in one another by assembling ourselves together, **"so much the more"**, he adds, **"as we see the Day approaching."** (Hebrews 10:24-25) To that end we are having a special Men's Prime Rib Fellowship Dinner at 5:30 pm Friday March 12th, followed by a time in the Word with more sentiments of love coming from 1 Corinthians 13.

Don't let your love grow cold. Let's make the most of these days granted us. Come join us as we draw close to Jesus and close to each other in His divine love.

Paul



CHURCH BREAKFAST FOLLOWING SUNDAY SERVICE



WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

BY DEBIE DILLAHUNT

We are now meeting in person (and on Zoom) for our morning Bible study. What a joy it is to gather and study God's Word together! We are currently reading the Book of Luke in a study by Elizabeth George. How wonderful it is to focus on Luke's account of the life and ministry of Jesus as we encourage each other in our walk with our Savior!

We will soon be observing Palm Sunday - a perfect time to reflect on the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and His impending sacrifice for us. As Jesus entered the city on a donkey, people cried out, "Hosanna!" which is an expression of adoration, praise, and joy. It's also translated to mean "Please save us!" I wonder if some of the oppressed people at that time realized that Jesus could truly save them eternally. Looking back at this event as believers, we can imagine ourselves being in that crowd and shouting, "Hosanna!" Even better, we can say this today with new meaning as we call out, "Hosanna! Glory to God in the Highest!"

The climate at that time is so similar to our world today. Our nation (and the world) is desperate for a savior. In these challenging times, we as believers need to be diligent in standing strong in God's Word and to be a light for others as we represent our wonderful Savior who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Soon we'll be celebrating the most joyous of occasions - the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus! As Christians, may we give hope to our needy world by sharing with others the assurance of heaven and the abundant life that is possible as a believer in Jesus.

Let's keep a song in our hearts as we keep our eyes on Jesus! We can sing with confidence the words of this beautiful hymn: "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives all fear is gone, because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living just because He lives."

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

Love and Blessings,

Debie



WOMEN'S RETREAT WORSHIP

WOMEN'S MONDAY EVENING HOME FELLOWSHIP

BY HELIA MCFALLS

Colossians 4:5-6 "Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

The Women's Evening Bible Study is moving right along in our Lessons with Elizabeth George. In our recent study, "Walking In Wisdom and Grace," Paul speaks clearly about how we should speak to others from a place of grace. While people are hanging in the balance of whether they will believe or not believe, our responses and our love or lack thereof, could influence their decision. It is important that we know the great impact we have on every person we come in contact with. We are influencing eternal decisions by our response.

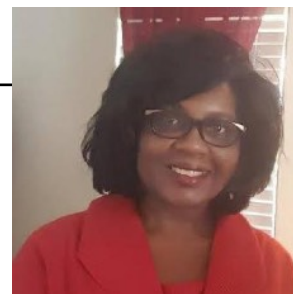
Have you ever found yourself out and about and meeting a stranger and wanting to talk to them about the Lord? We have the power to enrich those around us and to improve the quality of their lives. Even when our emotions are high, we have the ability to tell ourselves, "This is the opportunity to use what God has given me to share." We must choose carefully the words we speak and always be ready to answer with God's grace and wisdom anyone who asks. What we say about Christ and about the Christian life should be made as appetizing as possible.

Mark 9:50 says, "Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another." When food is not salted, its taste is bland, it's unappetizing and people don't want to eat it. Our speech is not supposed to be like that. Every day, when we read our Bible, we find reasons why knowing Christ is the greatest thing in the world. We as followers of Christ have not only tasted but feasted on the goodness of Jesus and we rejoice in His provisions and care for us. We thank God that we can come to Him in prayer and know that He will hear us and will answer us with what is best for our lives and eternal good.

So, the next time you find yourself in a position to speak to someone about Christ, remember your words should be like salt that adds flavor and shows forth His grace and mercy to the listener. **Psalms 34:8 "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!"** Let us encourage those who do not believe to take the time to taste today what the Lord has prepared and let it nourish their soul.

Love & Blessings,

Helia



WOMEN'S RETREAT TEACHING



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY MARIAN MELLOR

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:23-25

I am wholeheartedly looking forward to Heaven. But this week a very dear friend of mine encouraged me to wait patiently for Heaven and to recognize that the time I am here on earth can be used to encourage others to trust in Jesus as their Savior so that they can ultimately be in Heaven, too. It was a ***Proverbs 25:11 kind of word: "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver."***

I am very thankful that we have the opportunity to use our time in this world to grow in our love for God, and to share His love and His truths with people. I am especially grateful that we have started up Junior Church on Sunday mornings once again, which allows us to pour God's love into the lives of the children in our fellowship! If you love Jesus and want to share Him with young souls, the Children's Ministry is a great place to do just that. Please touch base with me if you are interested in teaching or helping with the children.

"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" Psalm 34:8

On a Women's Ministry note, I would love to thank John Bitner, Jim Dillahunt, Bob McFalls, Dennis Williams, and Joe Wind for graciously serving the ladies at our mini-retreat on February 27th. John's meal and dessert were amazing, of course! Jackie Williams wholeheartedly led us in worship, Betty Clain shared her God-glorifying testimony, Lisa Voetberg transparently shared beautiful words of hope, and I reminded the ladies of what it is to be "rooted" in Jesus, who is our hope. I am super grateful for Debie Dillahunt, Susie Jones, Susie Simpson, and my family, who served behind-the-scenes. The working of the Body of Christ is a beautiful life to behold!

Marian



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