

DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Some Things to Consider

Some years back, when I was pastoring at Glenwood Springs First Assembly, I came across an article that impressed me enough to carry the outline in my pocket on a laminated index card.

Subject: GODLY PRINCIPLES

1. The quality of your life is dictated by the quality of your relationships.
2. All your relationships revolve around your personal relationship with God.
3. Cultivate a healthy Godly perspective of yourself.
4. Love people starting with your spouse and family.
5. Live to create vacancies in hell and bringing Heaven on earth.
6. Your assignment is not to go to heaven. Going to Heaven is your destination. Bringing Heaven to earth is your assignment.

The Purpose of These GODLY PRINCIPLES

1. To protect your Inner Thought Life
2. To protect your family and Fellow Christian Relationships
3. To protect your Communication and Speech
4. To protect your Anointing for Ministry to whoever needs to be ministered to
5. To protect your Effectiveness to reach and live the Gospel

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Galatians 5:24

(KJV) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lust.

(NIV) Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passion and desires.

(AMP) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh – the Godless human nature – with its passions and appetites and desires.

(NAS) Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Beloved, we must arm ourselves with the weapons of our warfare. The enemy would love to mislead and corrupt us from the truth. But greater is He that is within us than he who is in the world. I shared this information in September of 2008, and I felt we needed to consider it again. The warfare is never going to cease, so we must remain ever ready to take on, in the power of the Holy Spirit, the forces of evil.

My prayer for you is that you will have a very blessed time of Thanksgiving.

Pastor Jerry Boschen

RYAN'S REALM

Sometimes we go through times of testing. If you're going through a time of testing right now, I want to encourage you to keep this in mind:

The way you respond to **this** test determines what you get to do **next**.

If you fail the test, you must repeat the grade level. Or, you can pick up the credit hours in summer school. Either way, wouldn't you rather just do it right the first time around?

You can't dodge your way out of any of the courses in God's divine degree program.

Whatever you're going through today is a prerequisite for the next level of His plan for your life.

Show up early. Stay late. Get a tutor. Do your homework. Sharpen your #2 pencils. And hang in there through your test.

Graduation day is closer than you think, and the rewards are near.

Hang in there!

Pastor Ryan Cook

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 16

A PLACE OF HOPE

NOVEMBER 1, 2009

A LETTER FROM PASTOR TED



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Nursery Care is provided for ALL services, including choir and band.
- MOPS, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
- WM Bible Study, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
- Prime Timers, 2nd Tuesday
- Corporate Prayer— Check this newsletter and the calendar for scheduled times of Prayer in the Sanctuary.
- Christian Singles Connection, Fridays, 7:00 PM

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: Be thankful unto him, and bless his name. Psalm 100:4

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

November, the month of Thanksgiving, has arrived. I am usually amazed by this point of a year in how that time simply keeps marching on regardless of any person or circumstance. As life moves along it is easy to forget the humbling act of thanksgiving and praise. The difference between the two is this: Thanksgiving is being thankful for what has been done, and praise is praising for who someone is. The two work hand in hand to establish a blessed life.

Thanksgiving

Right now, at the first of this month, make a choice to live in thankfulness. We are too easily programmed to want more no matter how much we have. However, the first step to having an audience with God is being thankful. Think of the gates as being the entrance to someone's yard or property. In order to avoid trespassing, you have to know the code. The code into God's gates is thanksgiving. Tami and I were invited to dinner at a new member's home several years ago. Once we were given the address we knew that it was an exclusive neighborhood, but knowing and experiencing were two different things. When we arrived at their estate, there were large gates before us. After a few seconds of waiting, the gates automatically opened, granting us access. We were granted access because we had been invited. As we got out of our car, our host opened their massive front doors to welcome us into their home.

Each of us who have trusted in Jesus as a Savior can have wonderful access as well, but the code at the outer gates is T-H-A-N-K-S!

Praise

Praise is one of those very "churchy" sounding words. But it is the 2nd step to drawing closer to our Lord! We enter his gates with thanksgiving, but now into his courts with praise. As Tami and I entered the front doors of this mansion, we were greeted by our host. In these situations,

most of us will give a complement to the host. "Your home is beautiful"... "You look wonderful"... "The food smells fantastic". This situation was not any different. However, after a few pleasant exchanges, we were taken on a tour of the home. We were moving past the initial gates and into the courts. There were 2 grand staircases, the first of several large gathering areas, a television the size of some drive-in theatres, a courtyard with an Olympic sized pool, but then a hallway. The hallway was important because hallways are transition points. This hallway was lined with pictures on one side, and built in bookcases on the other side. The pictures on one side included pictures with, and documents from, several U.S. Presidents, celebrating this couple's achievements. The bookcases included more awards, but it also included several family heirlooms. This was the transition place where we moved from thanking them for the invitation to praising them for who they were. In this hallway we discovered we were in the presence of some very well-known and influential people in State and National government.

The Bible uses the word praise many times, but the Hebrew or Greek translation uses many different words. Here are a few of my favorite to apply to our lives:

Yadah – to hold out the hand; to throw a stone. This meaning is for when you praise in advance of your miracle. You are throwing a stone or sending some praise ahead of you to clear and prepare the way. More simply – You praise before the miracle!

Tehilah – to shout; to shine. Tehilah is used for when your praise is actually doing warfare on your behalf.

Halal – to give in marriage. Your praise actually unites you to who or whom you are praising.

The Blood of Christ

As Tami and I continued our tour, apparently our praise was satisfactory, because we were eventually shown the entire home - including the bedrooms, and then when the time to eat arrived we were seated at a "normal" table in the corner of the 2500 sq.ft. kitchen. We were now being treated like friends.

(Continued on Page 2)

MUSIC MINISTRY

What a wonderful time of year this is! We have been blessed by beautiful colors and sights as the trees have given their autumnal display, the weather is crisp and clean, and we have so many things to look forward to in the coming months.

Our nation has set aside this time of year to reflect on the blessings that have been bestowed upon us, and to be aware of all the things we have to be thankful for. Let us, as individuals, also look into our lives, and give thanks for all that the Lord has blessed us with.

Psalm 95:2 says: *“Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving: Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.”* The definition of psalm is “a sacred song, or hymn,” and if we shout joyfully we are celebrating. So we need to come before His presence with a celebration of songs, thanking Him for what He has given to us, and what He has done for us.

We are blessed to live in a country where we can celebrate the Lord without fear of retribution and persecution. We can take advantage of this freedom, and live our life in celebration of what the Lord has blessed us with. When those around us see our celebration of thanksgiving, they will be encouraged to also look to the Lord, and give Him thanks for blessings in their own lives.

Let each of our days be lived in celebration of thanksgiving to the Lord!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 1—Baptismal Service
- November 1—Chris Summers, Missionary
- November 8—Plugged-In Prayer
- November 10—Prime Timers Potluck
- November 15&22—New Members' Class
- November 21—OK Fellowship
- November 22—MOPS Bake Sale
- November 24—Widows' Night Out
- November 26—**Thanksgiving**

Prayer for our Building

We need to cover our building program in prayer. We are asking for the next 12 months, that somebody is praying and fasting lunch everyday for this project. Please log onto www.gifa.org, click on the prayer calendar link, and sign up for a time to pray.



Happy Thanksgiving!

(Continued from Page 1)

We are invited through the gates with thanksgiving, into the courts with praise, and into the Most Holy Place only with the Blood that Jesus has shed for us (Hebrews 10:19). We are saved only by grace, and not by works, less any man should boast.

Conclusion

Let's take this month of November to start to enter into a deeper relationship with our Lord than ever before. We are at the starting line, and the race is before us. The first step is being thankful. Look around and count your blessings...name them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God has done.

PRAYER SCHEDULE

- Mondays 12:00-1:00pm—Sanctuary
- Tuesdays 8:45-9:45am—Sanctuary
- Thursdays 6:30-7:30am—Sanctuary



Parents, If you've spent any amount of time talking with me about ministry, you know how important I think you are. You are way, (and I mean way), more important to the spiritual development of your child than I am. Now, I'm not looking to write myself out of a job, but when you look at how many hours a year I'll spend with your child, (40 at best) and how many you spend with your child, (2500+), it's very easy to see where the primary influence is going to come from. You! You, the parent, are positioned by God to be the primary spiritual influence in your child's life. It's a big responsibility, and we are here to help. In fact, that's what I see as the main role of all of our children's ministry volunteers and team members; to come alongside the parents and partner with you in seeing your kids live out a lifelong relationship with Jesus. If there is ever anything that any of our volunteers or I can do for you, please don't hesitate to ask. We'd love to help!

Have a great day

Brian Steele

MISSIONS

Missions Committee

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: “God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day, right up to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20, The Message

This is what Jesus said and this is what we are doing. Through our dedicated missionaries and missions' organizations, Grand Junction First Assembly is represented throughout the world, spreading the word, reaching and teaching children and adults, feeding the hungry, and healing the hurt and the sick. The needs are huge but through your faithful Missions giving, many are being met.

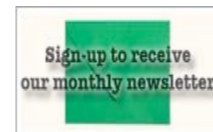
In November, GJFA will again be focusing on Missions. Please watch your bulletins for information on Convoy of Hope, Templo Cristiano Ebenezer – Mexico, and other amazing opportunities to support the AGM 2009-2010 theme “EveryWay” from 1 Corinthians 9:22.



In last month's newsletter, I shared about how God had put it on my heart to get on our high school campuses and start Christian clubs. So, I started StudentLink. Well, we have been active at Palisade and Grand Junction High Schools, and I'm proud to announce we are reaching over 50 students a week between the two campuses, 30+ at Palisade and about 20 at Junction. This is a great success in my eyes, considering it's only been four weeks! This is only the beginning of how God is going to reveal Himself to this Generation. Also this month, we will be graduating 21 students out of our Set Apart purity course. We will be honoring them on a Sunday morning, so please be ready to encourage the achievement of these students. Once again, thank you for your prayers and support.

God Bless,

Pastor Mike Wallis



If you have not signed up to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please go to www.gifa.org and

click on the icon to sign up, or call the church office with your e-mail address. There will also be copies of the newsletter in the information racks in the foyer.

PRIME TIMERS

I HAVE NEWS FOR YOU!!!! The first 80 years are the hardest! The second 80 are a succession of birthday parties. Everyone wants to carry your luggage and help you up the steps. If you forget your name, or anybody else's name, what day it is, or an appointment, or promise to be in two places at the same time, spell words wrong --- you need only to explain that you are 80!

If you spill soup on your necktie or dress, fail to shave on one side of your face, forget to zip up your dress, if your shoes don't match, or you carry a letter around for a week before mailing it, that's all right because you are 80.

At 80, you can relax without any misgivings. You have a special alibi for everything. Nobody expects much of you. It is a great deal better than 65 or 70. At that time they expect you to retire to a little house in Florida or Arizona and become a discontented, grumbling, limping has-been.

BUT – if you survive until you're 80, everybody is surprised that you are alive, surprised that you can walk, surprised that you can reveal lucid intervals.

At “70”, people are mad at you for everything. At 80, they forgive you anything. If you ask me, LIFE BEGINS AT 80.

Maxine Elliott