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The Pastor's Corner

A new year is upon us. During the month of January, I am speaking on the subject of, "Getting your house in order" based on the text of 2 Kings 20:1.

I will be addressing the importance of identifying, evaluating and implementing a strategy to address the different areas of our life, so as, to become more effective in our walk with God.

The first and foremost will be our walk with God. I will then address our physical health and move towards our financial wellbeing.

I am not an expert in any of these fields, but the bible has definite things to say about the wellness and wholeness of our entire being and how they fit into the big picture of fulfilling God's purpose for our lives.

So, spend some time at the beginning of this new year and ask yourselves if you need adjustments to your, spiritual walk with God, your physical health, your mental and emotional wellbeing, your relationships with others, and your financial wellbeing.

If so, (I know you do, because we all do!) then spend some time, early 2012 and get your act together, so we can serve God as best as possible!

Sunday School Lessons Theme: God Establishes a Faithful People Unit 2: God's Protection

- Jan 1, 2012: "God watches over Joseph" Gen. Jan 8, 2012: "Joseph finds favor." Gen. 41:37-46; 50-52 Jan 15, 2012: "God Preserves a Remnant" Gen. 45:3-15 Jan 22, 2012: "Facing Life Without Worry" Gen. 50:15-26 Jan 29, 2012: "Out of Egypt" Exodus 15:1-3, 19, 22-26

Planning for the Future

Wednesday, January 4, 2012 @ 6:00 p.m. Quarterly Business Meeting of the Church.

Saturday, January 7, 2012 @ 6:00 p.m. Annual Bethany Chili Cook Off at the Center.

Sunday, January 22, 2012 following the morning worship service, there will be a short called meeting of the church to grant approval to the Youth Committee established in the last business meeting to begin advertising as to anyone interested in serving the Bethany Church as the Youth Minister/Leader.

Sunday, January 29, 2012 @ 2:00 p.m. Campbell General Baptist Nursing Home Ministry.

Sunday, February 5, 2012 @ 10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday

Sunday, February 5, 2012 after evening worship is the Annual Youth Box Supper Fund Raiser at the Center.

SPRING REVIVAL: March 7-9 (Wednesday – Friday) @ 7:00 p.m. nightly. Dr. James Murray will be preaching with special singing each night! Get the world out and let's enjoy a great time of spiritual refreshing.

Happy Birthday

January Birthdays

Table listing January birthdays: Leah King, Kevin Loafman, Byron Loafman Sr., Rick King, Christyn Schaffer, Amber King, Terri Hampton, Junior Harvey, Amy Green, Dale Green, Taylor Wethington, Hanna Farmer, Kenny Loafman.

Bible Reading

(Reading the Old Testament once and New Testament 2x)

There are 1,189 chapters in the Bible. There are 929 chapters in the Old Testament and 260 chapters in the New Testament.

You can work out your own bible reading plan, but, just for instance, if you wanted to read through the entire bible once and go through the New Testament twice, you would need to average just below five (5) chapters a day (based on a 365 day year ... this year, you have an extra day).

Needless to say, we all need to make reading our bibles a habit, so why not start in 2012 and go through it at least once and you'll be glad you did.

By the way, if you would rather change it up some. Just reading through the bible one time requires you to just read, on average, 3.26 chapters each day (I'd round up to 4 chapters).

So you can see, just by adding 1 more chapter per day, you can read the New Testament two times through.

I hope several of you will walk up and tell me in 2013, "I read my bible all the way through in 2012."

Creation

As mentioned in the side column, we are starting a brand new study on the subject of Creation. We are looking at the Genesis account as pass down to us from God to Moses to Us. The issue of how we began and your belief system in terms of that, has much to say about your confidence in the Word of God as a whole.

Do we believe the Bible or Not? Some want to hold to the Evolutionist View as depicted by Charles Darwin and widely taught in the public school system today, but does that really jive with what the bible teaches?

Why do we feel that we must "twist" the interpretation of Scripture in support of what the Evolutionist (also called Naturalist) describe to us as "fact", when it is but an unproven evolutionary "theory".

Some websites to consider in your research, if you choose to do so are listed below. However, in our Wednesday Evening Bible Study, we will be looking at it from more of a theological view, rather than scientific, though, from time to time, I will allude to the "science" that supports the Scripture and the lack of "genuine science" that is used to support evolution.

Come and join us. www.AnswersInGenesis.org www.CreationResearch.org www.ICR.org

Great Book to Read

During the month of December 2012, Brother Andy Borders recommended to me the book written by Dr. Billy Graham, titled, "Nearing Home: Life, Faith, and Finishing Well."

If you have not read it as yet, I encourage you to check it out. If you have a computer, Smart Phone or a Kindle Device, you can purchase it rather inexpensively at www.Amazon.com and download it to your device. (Make sure it's the electronic version). You can also find the book at Walmart and other local book stores. It's a great read.

During the month of February, the Pastor is planning on preaching on "Bible Passages that are Difficult to Understand" and if you have a particular verse or passage that you've wondered what it meant, that drop a note or send an email and maybe, I can add it the sermon selections. If too many come in, I will try to respond to you personally by email.

New Christians Lesson

Becoming a brand new Christian is exciting!!

However, getting off on the right foot is essential. In this first lesson of several throughout the year, I want to remind you of what has happened to you and the Next Steps you need to take in the growing process.

What Happened?

There are a few things that I hope will be a reminder to you about the decision you made when you accepted Christ.

- 1. You recognized your personal need for God in your life and you saw sorry for what it is, disobedience to God. You were repentant, (to have a change of mind) about them. You then made a conscientious decision to Ask God for forgiveness and Invite Jesus Christ to take over your life as Savior and as Lord. We call that being "born again" or being born of the Spirit, or being born from above. 2. Because of your decision, God has forgiven you as He has promised and the bible tells us that Jesus has come into your life and has given you the Holy Spirit to teach you and help you to deal with life's situations as a new Christian. 3. Like a newborn baby, you need help to grow and God has given you all the tools necessary for you to become a spiritual giant! So, what should you do now? 4. Recognize the new relationship you have with God through Jesus Christ. You are God's child now and you need to seek to please you. You are accepted into God's family (the Christian Church) and you need to trust in what Jesus has done to you. You need to maintain the confidence we have in Jesus Christ to keep us in this new found relationship. He has given you the Holy Spirit to help you, the Bible for you to learn more about Him and how we are to live in this world. He has given you a "fellowship" of believers, called the Church, that you need to worship with every week and you have the ability to Pray to God and know He hears you. 5. So, start out simple. Read your bible every day, Pray every day and go to church every Sunday. 6. Don't be afraid to tell others what Jesus has done in your life either. The bible says, "If you confess me (Jesus) before men, I will confess you before my Father which is in heaven." Just tell others your story. 7. Next month, I go on to lesson Two. If you have any questions in the mean time, email me at: bethanygbc@gmail.com

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Romans Road to Salvation

What separates you from God and His love? SIN Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." What is the result of sin? DEATH Romans 6:23a "For the wages of sin is death..." What does God desire for you? LIFE Romans 6:23b "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." What did Jesus do for you? DIED in YOUR place Romans 5:8 "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." What must you do to be saved? BELIEVE & CONFESS Romans 10:9 "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Who can be saved? EVERYONE who believes in Jesus Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." What does faith in Jesus give you? PEACE Romans 5:1 "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Wednesday Night Bible Study & Youth Night

We have started a brand new study on Creation as we examine the biblical basis of "Origins."

Notes will be available online as we progress through the study and you can still download the notes from our previous study on the Book of Acts for a little while longer. I will take them down after a period of time.

During the Winter months, we will start the Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m.

Also, next door at the Center, during the months of January and February, also at 6:00 p.m., we are offering self-defense classes in helping people to protect themselves in case it is necessary.

If interested, come & join us.

SELF DEFENSE CLASSES

Starting in the Month of January, we will be offering Self Defense Classes at the Center. It will be limited in number allowed per class and the day and time will be announced next month. If interested, contact the Pastor and we will pass along the details

SPRING REVIVAL

March 7-9 @ 7:00 p.m. Nightly Wednesday—Friday Dr. James Murray

Dr. Murray was the President of Oakland City University (Our denominational college) for over 30 years and is the present Executive Director of General Baptist with offices located in Poplar Bluff, MO.

He will preach the word and bring both conviction and blessings to all who are willing to respond to the Holy Spirit's leadership.

Come and join us as we celebrate God's blessings.

Pray for Dr. Murray and for the Bethany Church that we will experience God in these days set aside for revival.

