

Peace in Midst of Chaos

from the desk of Pastor John

Jesus and His disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee after a long day of ministry. Jesus was tired and fell asleep on a cushion at the back of the boat. A storm arose and waves threatened to swamp the boat. As the disciples panicked, Jesus slept. Afraid, they woke Jesus and said, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” **Mark 4:39-41, “And He**

got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Hush, be still.’ And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. ⁴⁰ And He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid? Do you still

have no faith?’ ⁴¹ They became very much afraid and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?’” Jesus was not afraid because He has authority over all things, even the wind and the waves. It is so comforting to know that our Savior has au-

thority over everything, including the natural world!

The past week has been consumed by phone calls, emails, lengthy discussions, and tough decisions as the spread of COVID-19 has impacted virtually every area of life. Stores have been swamped; their shelves emptied as panicked shoppers try to stock up for a possible prolonged quarantine. Hand sanitizer, toilet paper, and bottled water instantly became the “holy trinity” of everyone’s shopping list.

“It is particularly heartbreaking to see many Christians living in fear since our hope is not in the things of this world. Our God is in complete control!”

With each new announcement and public declaration, the panic level of the general population seemed to increase exponentially. Many people are afraid.

Many people are fearful that they might get infected, while others are more concerned that they might inadvertently carry the infection to others. While it is understandable and even reasonable for people to be concerned about the spread of the virus, it is indeed sad to see so many people living in fear. It is par-

In this Issue

Convenient Giving: Introducing Text to Give	pp. 3, 8
Our Refuge in Times of Trouble	p. 4
Ladies’ Tea	p. 5
Women’s Morning of Prayer	p. 5
Clean Out Your House!	p. 5
Family Worship: The Most Important Thing	p. 6
Kids’ Easter Activities	p. 7
Spring Yardwork Days	p. 8
Birthdays & Anniversaries	p. 8
Family News	p. 8
Church Calendar	p. 9
Looking Ahead @ EBC	p. 10
The Heart of Biblical Counseling	p. 11
Kids’ Coloring Page	p. 12

ticularly heartbreaking to see many Christians living in fear since our hope is not in the things of this world. Our God is in complete control!

I am not suggesting that Christians don’t need to wash their hands or heed health warnings. Christians should exercise wisdom and discernment and obey the God-ordained authorities that have been placed over us (Rom 13:1); but Christians ought not fret about

Peace

continued from page 1

the future. God has promised that He will never leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5–6), and He promised that He would cause all things to work together for good for those who love Him and whom He has called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28–31). We have the blessing of being able to cast our anxieties on Him, knowing that He cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7).

I think King David gives us a truly godly response to times like this in Psalm 4. In the Psalm, David seeks God's grace, calls others to salvation, and expresses trust in God. He begins by seeking the Lord: **Psalm 4:1, "Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Be gracious to me and hear my prayer."** David understands that God is the One who grants relief from distress. God is the One who can keep us from worry and anxiety in uncertain and even dangerous times. He seeks God's grace and a response to his prayer.

At a time like this, Christians should be seeking the Lord as the One who can and does relieve our anxiety. This does not mean that those who seek the Lord will miraculously be immune to this or any other virus. It is possible in God's perfect will for some of His children to get the Coronavirus and some may even die as a result of it, but we need not be anxious even in that outcome since our lives are hidden in Christ. There is no need for the Christian to fear because our lives are in His hands. God's sovereign control means that even viruses must obey His voice.

Second, David calls others to salvation. **Psalm 4:2–5, "O sons of men, how long will my honor become a reproach? How long will you love what is worthless and aim at deception? ³ But know that the LORD has set apart the godly man for Himself; The LORD hears when I call to Him. ⁴ Tremble, and do not sin; Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still. ⁵ Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, And trust in the**

LORD." He calls on people to stop putting their hope and trust in that which is **worthless** and deceptive and instead put their hope in God and **call to Him** who hears the cries of His people. Turn from sin and turn your minds to think of Him and **trust in the LORD.**

God has granted us a prime opportunity to share the gospel with a frightened and uncertain people. While we will not be able to tell them how to avoid the Coronavirus, we can certainly tell them how they can have hope in Christ now. Let us be a people of peace and contentment in the midst of chaos. May the Lord send those who will ask us to tell the reason for the hope that is in us (1 Pet. 3:15).

Finally, David expresses his trust in God. **Psalm 4:6–8, "Many are saying, 'Who will show us any good?' Lift up the light of Your countenance upon us, O LORD! ⁷ You have put gladness in my heart, More than when their grain and new wine abound. ⁸ In peace I will both lie down and sleep, For You alone, O LORD, make me to dwell in safety."** David's confidence in the person and power of God was such that he could put his head on his pillow at night and sleep in peace. Regardless of the circumstances or the outcome, he was safe in the Lord's hands.

It is only because of the work of God that we can have the **peace** of mind to lay our heads on our pillows and **sleep**. Lest we forget, it is the **LORD** who makes us **dwell in safety**. Regardless of the calamities that befall our world or even our own lives, we can find peace in the knowledge that God is in control and He is working His plan for our good and His glory. Our future is secure, and we will one day **dwell in safety** with Him forever.

While the world hopes for an end to this crisis, even if God should grant it, it is nothing more than a temporary fix. There is a much greater crisis awaiting those who don't know Christ. The only hope for this world is faith in Jesus Christ.

Convenient Giving: Introducing Text to Give

by Kim Turnbull

Despite these challenging times, Eastridge will continue to minister to our congregants and preach God's Word—even though we're unsure of what that will look like in the near future. However, we do know that church expenses do not cease just because we are not able to gather together. EBC relies on the faithful giving of its attendees to cover these ongoing expenses.

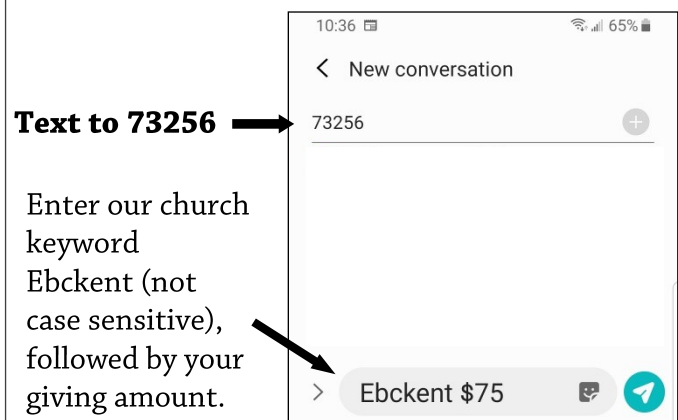
To ensure ease of giving for our congregants, we have added a convenient new feature called "Text to Give." This feature is part of our Realm church management software and is free for the church to implement. Here's how it works.

You, the donor, texts a message to the number **73256**. Your message contains the church's keyword (EBCKENT), an optional giving fund, and the amount you wish to donate. The first time you donate via text message, you will enter your payment method and complete your account set-up; it takes just a couple of minutes. Once your first text is processed, your payment method is saved for future contributions and allows for a fast and convenient giving experience. Standard online giving processing fees will apply. Visit our website at eastridgebaptist.org and click on the Give tab. There is link on that page to the processing fees associated with online (including text) giving.

As with any online giving, the donor will receive an email receipt for any donations made using text messaging.

Example #1: Give \$75 to the General Fund

You wish to donate \$75 to the General Fund. The General Fund is the default fund for giving. There's no need to specify the fund name in your text—you just need the church's keyword and the amount you want to donate.



Example #2: Give \$50 to Missions

You wish to donate \$50 to Faith Promise Missions. Enter our church keyword (Ebckent), the word "Missions" and the amount you want to donate.



At this time, you are able to donate to four funds using the Text to Give feature: General, Faith Promise Missions, Benevolence, and Missions-Greece. Here are the exact names of the funds that you'll use to designate your giving via text message:

- General (default fund)**
- Missions**
- Benev**
- Greece**

To give to multiple funds, you will have to complete a separate text transaction for each fund.

Weekly Giving for March 15 & 22 (combined)

	<u>General Fund</u>		<u>Faith Promise</u>	
	<u>Giving</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Giving</u>	<u>Budget</u>
15-Mar & 22-Mar	\$25,355	\$35,692	\$1,750	\$3,827
YTD	\$751,444	\$767,385	\$69,088	\$82,279

Our Refuge in Times of Trouble

from the pen of Silas Tuthill

It's no secret that we're living in strange and unprecedented times. People from almost every demographic are alternating between panic and denial in response to a crisis with difficulties and challenges that no one, not even the oldest among us, has ever seen. Millions of people are facing questions without any answers, and humming quietly beneath almost every conversation is a subtle undertone of frustration and fear. The only thing scarier than a monster you can see is one you can't. This emergency hints at a much bigger, invisible monster that we—especially Americans—avoid at all costs: the unknown. With everything going on, people are caught in the throes of unknown what-ifs: What if I lose my job? What if my kids get sick? What if I can't eat? What if I can't take care of the basic necessities of life? What if I lose my loved ones? What if I lose it all? These questions can haunt us because they have very real implications and demand immediate answers. Every one of us is forced to face the reality that no one knows what tomorrow holds. This uncertainty, more than even this pandemic, is what scares most of us.

In Matthew 6:25–34, Jesus, knowing the worries of His people, asked, “Why are you anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Just before those verses, Jesus uses God's care for the birds and flowers as an example of God's care for us. Even if everything we have ever known is now overshadowed by doubt, we can be still and know that our God is still God. As the hymn says, “I sing because I'm

free; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.” These truths do not make the challenges any less difficult or the fear less intense, but at the same time, the challenges and fear do not make these truths any less real. If even the small flowers and tiny birds, who are unemployed and without a Costco membership, are clothed and fed, how much more will God care for His children? Like the flowers, though we are but dust, He remembers our frame. He cares for us, and remains faithful to those whom He calls “beloved.” Even if there are no fig blossoms and grapes, toilet paper and paychecks; if everything is taken away and all is lost, we can

rejoice in the God of our salvation, our refuge and strength in times of trouble (Habakkuk 3:17–19, Ps. 46:1–3).

Instead of chasing constant needs like everyone else, God beckons us to run after something much bigger: His eternal, unending kingdom and righteousness. We are called to seek Christ's kingdom and be more like Him each day, with or without a national crisis. As God enables, be prudent and prepared, but here, in these coming days

and weeks, is an opportunity to share the daily bread we trust God to give, while inviting others to taste the Bread of Life and see that the Lord is good. What if we take the opportunities that God gives and watch Him do bigger and greater things than we could imagine?

God is not surprised by empty shelves or empty bank accounts. He knows what we need, and He has promised to provide. As Corrie Ten Boom said, “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” Seek His kingdom, and leave the rest in His steadfast care. Take heart! God knows what we need and has promised to provide. Pursue His kingdom, come what may.



Ladies' Tea

Eastridge Baptist
Church

Saturday, May 30, 2020
2:00–4:00pm

Ladies, mark your calendar for this time of fellowship and tea! Watch for more information as the event draws near.

Women's Morning of Prayer

Saturday, April 25
9:00am to Noon
Eastridge Baptist Church

Watch for a sign-up sheet in the foyer

For more information, contact Pastor Ryan at
ryant@eastridgebaptist.org

Motivation to Clean Out Your House!

The Greece Mission team is soliciting used items for their May 16th garage sale that is being held at the church. Start cleaning out those closets and the garage and donate your unwanted items to the yard sale. All proceeds from the sale will go to the team's July short-term mission trip!

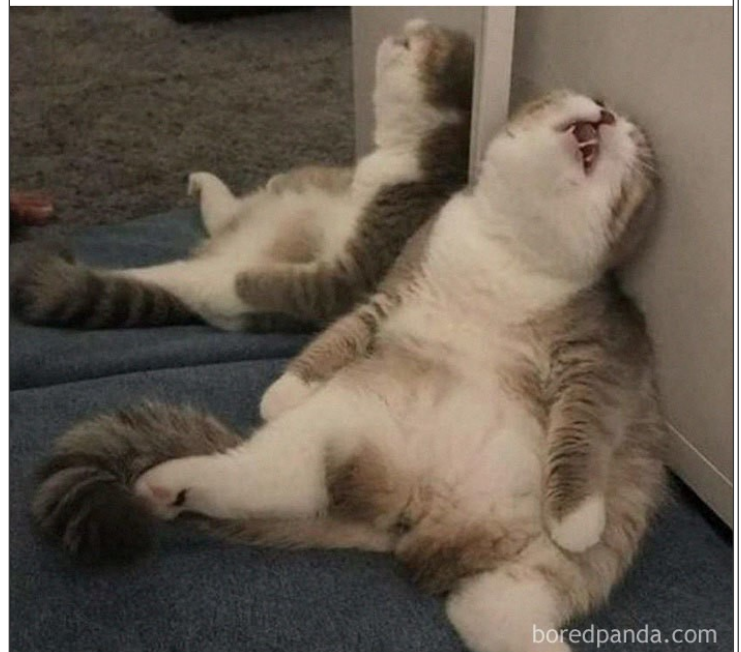
Requested items include: baby and toddler clothes, equipment and toys, children's toys, kitchen items and small appliances, sporting goods, tools and yard equipment, books, small electronics, household items, wall décor, quality jewelry, and small furniture.

They will not be taking large furniture, beds, TVs, computers or monitors, or large appliances.

Donations will be accepted at the church the week of the sale.

For more information, please contact Bill or Cathy Mickelson.

When you need to clean but have no motivation so you just sit there for a while like



Family Worship: The Most Important Thing with the Most Important People *from the desk of Pastor Samuel*

I am truly blessed and grateful for my family and the life in our home as I was growing up. My parents are both believers and shared the message of the gospel with my brother and me regularly. Sometimes this came at the spur of the moment in a discussion around the dinner table (right in between the results of the latest Red Sox game and what we were working on for school), and many times it came from us gathering as a family to read the Bible together at the end of the day.

Now that I am a husband and father, I desire to do those same things with my family. I want our house to be characteristic of what is described in Deuteronomy 6: *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise”* (vv. 4–7). The most important thing we ought to do in our lives is worship the Lord, and what better way to do that than with the most important people in your life!

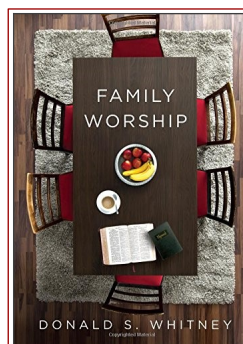
Worship within the home is critical. It teaches us that worship is not just something we do on Sunday mornings with a bunch of other people. The passage quoted above shows us directly that worship of God is to permeate every part of our lives. This is not something that happens passively; it requires thoughtful intent on your part. One way to ensure that this becomes part of your family’s routine is to establish a dedicated time of family worship each day.

There are many excellent and simple resources to help you understand what family worship is, why it’s important, and how to practice it. My favorite intro-

ductory book on the subject is succinctly titled *Family Worship* by Donald Whitney. He draws on the wealth of information from Scripture and church history to show the importance of family worship. He shows how family worship gives the family a greater literacy of the Bible, draws the family together into a closer bond, and leads the family into a grander focus on our great and glorious Lord.

There are three basic elements to family worship: *read the Bible, pray, and sing* together. Other things can be added in periodically, but these three elements need to be consistent. Each family should have a plan of what they want to *read* in the Bible and work their way through at whatever pace they want. After the reading, the family should join together in *prayer*. This can be a time to pray over what you just learned in the Bible reading, and a time to bring some specific requests before the Lord. You should also plan to close your family worship time with a *song* or two. This is important because music can take theological truths and engrain them in your mind so you continue to meditate on the things of God throughout the day. This basic routine of worship can lay a strong foundation for your family, not just for the coming day but for many days in the future. It teaches young and old alike how to keep their hearts and minds focused on the Lord in every circumstance.

At the time of this writing, the threat of COVID-19 has many families quarantined. School has been suspended and many people are being asked to work from home. Let’s use this as a great opportunity to make the best use of the extra time together by worshipping the Lord as a family!



Check out the book **“Family Worship”** by Donald S. Whitney on the Recommended Reading page of our website. This book is a guide to worshipping at home as a family.

Awana in April & May



April 1- Sports Night. Come dressed in your favorite sports team uniform and be prepared to play your favorite sports tonight during game time

April 8 - No Awana. Spring Break. Happy Easter!

April 15 - Boot Camp. Wear your best boots to club tonight for our special "boot camp."

April 22 - Hoopla Night. We'll dig out the hula hoops and play all kinds of games with the hoops.

April 28 - "I Scream" Celebration. This is our final night of Awana and we'll celebrate with ice cream!

Sunday, May 3 @ 6:00pm - Awana Awards Night. Book awards will be handed out and everyone is invited to come and celebrate our clubbers' achievements this past Awana year.

EASTER ACTIVITIES

Scripture AND NATURE

Conduct a simple experiment to illustrate Easter's meaning.

What you need:

- White carnations
- Scissors
- Vase
- Water
- Red food coloring
- Bible

What you do:


1. Cut the carnation stems (at an angle) to about 8 inches long.
2. Fill the vase halfway with water. Add 10 drops of food coloring. (More may be needed to darken the water.)
3. Add the cut flowers and observe what happens to the petals over time.
4. Discuss how this is like Jesus' work on the cross. Read 1 Peter 2:22-24 (NIV) and reflect on what his death means for us.
5. To learn more about this experiment, research capillary action.


PUZZLE


Jesus gives us life


Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers the free gift of eternal life.


Directions: Match each clue from Holy Week with the correct image. If you get stuck, look up the Bible verses.


People spread these on the road for Jesus. (Matthew 21:8) 


Mary pours this on Jesus' feet. (John 12:3) 


Jesus shares this with his disciples. (Matthew 26:26) 


This is placed on Jesus' head. (John 19:2) 


Soldiers may have used these to compete for Jesus' coat. (John 19:23-24) 


Jesus carries this himself for a while. (John 19:17) 


Marks caused by these help Thomas identify Jesus. (John 20:25) 

While on the cross, Jesus is thirsty and is given this. (John 19:28-29) 

This is rolled away from Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1) 

These are used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. (Luke 23:55-56) 

These remain in the tomb after Jesus rises. (John 20:6-7) 

Judas betrays Jesus for this. (Matthew 26:14-15) 

Answer: palm branches, perfume, bread, crown of thorns, cross, nails, vinegar on a sponge, stone, spices, linen, silver coins

Spring Yardwork Days

9:00am to 2:00pm

Volunteer to help tidy the garden beds and the church property

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Saturday, April 4 (preparation for Easter)

Saturday, May 2

Saturday, May 16

Sign-up sheets will be available in the foyer as the dates draw near

For more information, contact Cheryl Boston at crboston12@gmail.com

Text to Give

continued from pg. 3

We hope this method of giving proves quick and convenient. If you prefer, you can give online through our website's "Give" tab; or you can mail your tithe to **P.O. Box 6014, Kent, WA 98064** (please do not mail any correspondence to the church's physical address).

Questions? Contact us at 253-630-2327 or kim@eastridgebaptist.org—we'd be happy to help you!



Family News

Congratulations to Daniel and Ana Belén Emme on the birth of their first child, Derek Roger Emme! Derek was born on March 17, 2020 at 2:13am and was a healthy 7 lb. 10 oz. and 20-3/4 in. long. Mom and baby are doing great!

This sweet baby boy is also the first grandchild for Pete and Pam Emme and Anabel and Bryan Elliott.



April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Cindy Rutherford 4/1
Abygail Williams 4/1
April Dinius 4/1
Wendy Martinez 4/2
Shannon Blakey 4/2
Christian Lopez 4/3
Sam Reeves 4/3
Josiah Swenson 4/3
Laurie Tolonen 4/4
Drake Ziesing 4/4
Abby Hansen 4/4
Ryan Weller 4/4
Katie Goheen 4/5
Daná Freeland 4/5
John McDivitt 4/6
Jordan Olson 4/8
Caleb McArdel 4/9

Graham Schrock 4/9
Sandy Crawford 4/10
Angelina Elliott 4/10
Eden Hammett 4/10
Naomi Knipp 4/13
David Dudley 4/15
Brandon Elliott 4/16
Dean Peyton 4/16
Kendrick Elliott 4/17
Bill Thomas 4/18
Jacob Reeves 4/18
Karin Kerr 4/18
Brad Meeuwse 4/20
Sarah Kearney 4/20
Tim Tolonen 4/21
Bob Yates 4/22

Richard Goheen 4/22
Bret Turnbull 4/25
Cheryl Benjamin 4/29
Ezykiel Latta 4/29



Anniversaries

Max and Shanna Carlton 4/13
Ty and Susan Anderson 4/14
Aleksandr and Alena Sidorov 4/23
Michael and Megan Reisinger 4/24
Chris and Emily Reed 4/27

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs	2 9:30–11:30am Ladies' Bible Studies 5:00–6:45pm Youth Bible Quizzing 6:30pm Co-ed Adult Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	3 6:00–8:00pm Youth Fellowship Night (@ Pastor Paul's)	4 9:00am to 2:00pm Church Work Day
			5 6:00pm Monthly Prayer Meeting (Auditorium)	6 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Apologetics/Evangelism Class 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	7 9:30am Ladies' Study @ Rehberg's 5:00pm–8:30pm TaeKwonDo 6:30pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00pm Young Marrieds' Study	8 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs
12 Easter Sunday Services at 8:30am and 10:30am No Sunday School	13 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	14 10:30am Missions Prayer Meeting 9:30am Ladies' Study @ Rehberg's 5:00–8:30pm TaeKwonDo 6:30pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00pm Young Marrieds Study	15 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs	16 9:30–11:30am Ladies' Bible Studies 5:00–6:45pm Youth Bible Quizzing 6:30pm Co-ed Adult Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	17 6:30–8:00pm Youth Nerf Night @ EBC	18 5:00–8:00pm Marriage Matters (Youth Center)
19 1:00pm New Attenders' Luncheon 1:00pm College/Career Ladies' Lunch & Study (@ Mickelson's)	20 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Apologetics/Evangelism Class 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	21 9:30am Ladies' Study @ Rehberg's 5:00–8:30pm TaeKwonDo 6:30pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00pm Young Marrieds Study	22 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs	23 9:30–11:30am Ladies' Bible Studies 5:00–6:45pm Youth Bible Quizzing 6:30pm Co-ed Adult Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	24	25 9:00am–12:00pm Women's Morning of Prayer (Auditorium)
26 Communion 1:00–4:00pm Eastridge 101	27 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Apologetics/Evangelism Class 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	28 9:30am Ladies' Study @ Rehberg's 5:00–8:30pm TaeKwonDo 6:30pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00pm Young Marrieds Study	29 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs	30 9:30–11:30am Ladies' Bible Studies 5:00–6:45pm Youth Bible Quizzing 6:30pm Co-ed Adult Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	<p style="text-align: center; color: green;"> All activities are subject to change/cancelation based on the latest directives from the government. Updates to our scheduled activities will be posted on Realm as information becomes available. </p>	

All activities are subject to change/cancellation based on the latest directives from the government. Updates to our scheduled activities will be posted on Realm as information becomes available.

May 2020

Saturday, May 2	Church Work Day	9:00am–2:00pm
Sunday, May 3	Awana Awards Night	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Sunday, May 10	Mother’s Day	
Tuesday, May 12	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish’s
Saturday, May 16	Church Work Day	9:00am–2:00pm
Saturday, May 16	Greece Team Car Wash & Yard Sale	9:00am–2:00pm
Sunday, May 17	Annual Business Meeting & Potluck	5:00pm (Auditorium)
Saturday, May 30	Ladies’ Tea	2:00–4:00pm @ EBC
Sunday, May 31	Special Business Meeting	Time TBD

There will be no monthly prayer meeting in May due to schedule conflicts.

June 2020

Sunday, June 7	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, June 9	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish’s
Sunday, June 21	Father’s Day	
Sunday, June 28	Graduation & Promotion Sunday	Both services, Sunday School

July 2020

Sunday, July 5	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Monday, July 6– Friday, July 10	Youth Summer Camp	Cascade Camps



The Heart of Biblical Counseling

from the desk of Pastor Ryan

“Change is the only constant in life.” These famous words were spoken by Greek philosopher Heraclitus. We are always growing and changing. Everyday we get one day closer to the time when we depart this world, and even though we might not see the change from day to day, time takes its toll on us both mentally and physically—and there is nothing we can do to alter that.

For the Christian, there is one change we can effect: we know that we are called to grow and change into conformity with Christ (Rom 8:28-29). But how does that change happen and where does it take place?

We began the year with a series of articles that seeks to answer the who, what, and how of biblical counseling. The first article asked, “What is biblical counseling?” Next we looked at, “What is the goal of biblical counseling?” This month we will answer the question, “What is the focus of biblical counseling?”

Counseling is about change, and for genuine change to take place, it must take place in the heart. Thus, the focus of biblical counseling is the heart, which means that we must have a biblical understanding of the heart if we are going to bring about real change.

When the Bible talks about the heart, it is talking about the core of our being, the essence of who we really are. Our heart is the motivating factor in our life, our steering wheel, the focal point of why we do what we do. Proverbs 4:23 says, “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.” In other words, every aspect of our life—what we do, say, think, and feel—flows out of our heart. Why is this the case? Because God made us to be worshipers. Genesis 1:27 tells us that God created man in His image, which means that humans were made to be like God and to live for God. Our lives are to be oriented

in light of God’s authority and majesty, which means that everything about us is to be devoted to Him in a continuous act of worship.

However, because of sin, our hearts are now skilled at wandering from God and worshiping anything and everything but God, and when our hearts are attached to a god-replacement (a.k.a. idols), we sin. Jesus taught that our sinful actions find their source in our heart because of what our heart treasures (Luke 6:45). Therefore, in order for real and lasting godly change to take place, it must begin in our heart. We must recalibrate our hearts to treasure God, to place our affections and our worship upon the only One who is worthy of our love and worship.

What is the remedy for a wandering, sinful heart?



How do we recalibrate our heart that is prone to love god-replacements? The answer is a genuine and continuous faith in Christ. Paul Tripp says that the DNA of sin is selfishness. At its core, sin is all about what is best for me, which means that we are really good at worshiping our-

selves. But in the gospel, we come face to face with the sacrificial love of God, the grace and mercy that was poured out upon us by the One who gave His Son so that we might be rescued from our sin, rescued from ourselves. And as we continually remember the goodness and kindness that has been given to us, our heart grows in its affection for Christ and we begin to give that goodness and kindness to others. The Apostle Peter, in 2 Peter 1, teaches that for us to be fruitful and effective in our walk with the Lord and to continue growing in Christ-like character, we must remember the gospel, never forgetting that our sins are forgiven. For it is in the gospel we see the love God has for us, and the more we understand His love for us, the more our love for Him will grow, and the more our heart will worship Him, and the more we will grow and change.

