

Court Is in Session *from the desk of Pastor John*

Micah 6:8 says, **“He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?”**

This verse is the counsel of the prophet to God’s people after He laid out His indictment against them and they offered to try and appease God. The kingdoms of Israel and Judah had both embraced idolatry and would be punished for it. However, Micah’s focus is not on their idolatry but on their lack of godly character. They scheme iniquity, they fall asleep planning evil things and when morning comes, they do it! They covet the fields and houses of others and take them. They take advantage of strangers and figure out ways to steal the homes of widows and kick them out into

“They were acting as if God’s demands were so difficult and unreasonable and that trying to please Him was so emotionally draining that they no longer had a will to serve Him.”

the street (2:1-9). They were only interested in hearing what they wanted to hear (2:11). Their rulers were described as butchers (3:1-4). Their prophets were greedy and told the people what they wanted to hear (3:5-12). They were brutal to one another, they lacked genuine concern for others and were completely self-focused.

In **Micah 6:1-8**, God opens a cosmic court case against His people. God will lay out His indictment

against them, they will try to offer a plea deal, and finally the prophet will tell them the only way the case can be settled. God begins by calling the mountains to be the jury

and to listen to the charges He is bringing against His people. With the nation of Israel on the stand, God asks His first question in **verse 3, “My people, what have I done to you, And how have I**

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wearied you? Answer Me.” God wants them to testify about how He has mistreated them and exhausted them. They were acting as if God’s demands were so difficult and unreasonable and that trying to please Him was so emotionally draining that they no longer had a will to serve Him. They were acting like the rebellious teenager who says, “I will never be able to please my parents so I’m not even going to try anymore.”

God doesn’t wait for their answer.

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Instead, He testifies Himself, retelling how He delivered them from slavery in Egypt and gave them leaders and spared them from their enemies and gave them the Promised Land. God reminded them of these things so they **might know the righteous acts of the LORD.**

The people of Israel know they are guilty. God has an iron clad case against them. They do not even try to justify their actions; they just want to pay the fine and move along. In **vv. 6–7** they begin to plea bargain with God by asking (**v. 6**), **“With what shall I come to the LORD And bow myself before the God on high?”** They start with the simple and make their way to the extreme. The first thing they hope will appease God is a simple sacrifice. They ask, **“Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings?”** God is unmoved. They increase the quality of their sacrifice by offering a **yearling** calf, regarded as the

best sacrificial animal. Still seeing that God is unmoved, they greatly increase the quantity (**v. 7**). **“Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil?”** The increase in quality and value are not enough to appease God. So, they offer the most extreme sacrifice they can think of. Would God be appeased with the **“fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”** No! God is not satisfied. He wants more. There is an essential element missing from their offers. God is not after bigger, better, or more costly sacrifices. He will only be satisfied with their hearts. Bruce Waltke, in his commentary on Micah said, *“False worshippers think God’s favor, like theirs, can be bought or earned. They offer the Lord everything but what He asks for: Their loving obedient hearts.”* (New American

Commentary, *Micah*, p. 112).

In verse 8, the prophet mercifully reminds the nation what will satisfy God, what He is truly after, **“He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?”** What God wants is not a secret that must be searched for and discovered, like a buried treasure. The way to please God is not a riddle that must be solved, it is not a mystery that must be unraveled; it is a command that must be obeyed.



God is looking for three characteristics from His people. First, **to do justice.** Treat people justly. Don’t just talk about it—do it! Stop seeing others as a means to your personal end. Recognize them as people whom God loves. Second, **to love kindness.** Love doing kind things for others. Exercise mercy every chance you get. This is to be a way of life, not a way of securing future favors. Third, **walk humbly with**

your God. Have a right understanding of who God is and your relationship to Him. God is not your servant, you are His. We are not God’s equal. God is not one of our peers. When we have a right understanding of who He is and who we are, we can’t help but humble ourselves before Him.

These were not new standards for God’s people—they were a reiteration of what had always been the standard for a relationship with God. Consider the following verses: **1 Samuel 15:22**, *“...Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.”* **Psalm 51:16–17**, *“For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with*

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burnt offering.¹⁷ *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.*” **Hosea 6:6**, “*For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*” Jesus addressed the problem of the heart when He chastised the scribes and Pharisees in **Matthew 23:23**, “*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.*”

Doing justly, loving mercy, walking humbly with God are not arbitrary qualities—they are qualities that reflect Jesus Christ. We are to live our lives in such a way that others see Christ in us, and we may proclaim Him to the world. Spiritual service that is not done from the heart is empty and meaningless and amounts to nothing more than an attempt to bribe God. God has shown you what is good and what He requires of you: do justice, love kindness, and walk in humility.

Building Our Faith: 3 Bible Classes Begin in August

As we continue to work through the challenges of ministering to the Eastridge congregation during this COVID-19 epidemic, we are excited to offer the following opportunities to gather and learn from God’s Word.

Children’s Church

Children’s Church will be offered *during first service* each week. This class is for kids age 4 year through second grade. Parents can drop their children off on the lower floor of Building B before the start of first service and pick them up at the end. The start date is Sunday, August 2nd.



Kids’ Bible Study

This study group is for third through sixth grade kids and will feature a Bible study and fun games! This class meets weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6:30–7:30pm on the lower floor of building B. The start date is Wednesday, August 5th.



Adult Bible Study

Pastor John will be leading an adult study beginning Wednesday, August 5th. The group will meet from 6:30–7:30pm in a location yet to be determined.

If you have any questions about the children’s programs, please contact Pastor Paul Cummings at paulc@eastridgebaptist.org. For information on the adult Bible study, contact the church office at 253-630-2327.

5 Great Reasons to Join a Small Group

One of the best ways to get connected at Eastridge is to join one of our small groups. These small groups exist to bring believers together to study God's Word, care for and encourage one another, serve others, and hold each other accountable so we can grow in our knowledge of our Lord and bring Him glory! If you're still trying to decide whether to join a small group, here are five great reasons to get involved:

1. As we study God's Word together, we grow together in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.
2. In a church our size, it is easy to get lost in the crowd. Small groups provide a way of connecting with the church body in a way that is not possible on a Sunday morning.
3. Our small groups are family. The close relationships that form between group members provide opportunities to show Christ's love to each other, and pray and care for one another as the Lord intended.
4. We are called by God to encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24-25) in our Christian walk and small groups are the perfect place to put this command into practice.
5. Small group members serve to stimulate each other to good works until Christ returns.

Eastridge offers gender-specific and co-ed small group studies for teens through seniors at the church and at leaders' homes. Some studies are weekly, while others are bi-weekly or bi-monthly. The groups typically run from September through May.

Here is what some group members have said about being part of this wonderful ministry:

"Our small group has impacted my life. It has been a wonderful way to get to know people on a deeper level and to share burdens in prayer. We have seen many answers to prayer this year."

Being in a small group helps to grow our community. Rather than existing as individuals who happen to share a building on Sunday, our increased fellowship and involvement helps us become more like a church body, interconnected to bring God glory.

"Our small group is a blessing beyond measure. It keeps me on track with my Bible study and has given me lasting friendships through fellowship and prayer."

I can't express deeply enough how important being in a small group Bible study has been for my spiritual growth. It keeps disciplining my time to be in the Word and the sharing with others broadens my understanding. The closeness of fellowship builds dear friendships of love and support.

THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT A SMALL GROUP THAT GIVES ME A SENSE OF BELONGING, FAMILY, SHARING MY HEART AND GETTING TO KNOW OTHERS AND BEING ABLE TO TRUST SHARING PRAYER REQUESTS

"In our group I am especially thankful that our 'groupies' are willing to be real about their fears and struggles, and they desire to know the Word and live it out in our lives."

"THE BIBLE STUDIES AT THE CHURCH HAVE BEEN A TREMENDOUS BLESSING TO MY LIFE. I APPRECIATE BEING ABLE TO LEARN DEEP SPIRITUAL TRUTHS WITH OTHERS, TO SHARE JOYS AND SORROWS, AND HOLD EACH OTHER UP IN PRAYER."

Watch for more information about our small groups in the bulletin and on Realm. Then, prayerfully consider signing up for one of the studies this year. If you have any questions about our small groups, contact Pastor Ryan Trzeciak at ryant@eastridgebaptist.org.

A Greater Citizenship *from the desk of Pastor Paul*

Imagine living in a land where there was no sin. Where there was no ungodliness or deception. A place where righteousness prevails, and love was as natural as breathing. Can you imagine how great that would be? Now imagine that you were rid of all sin, including those hidden sinful desires you might still be wrestling with. How pleasant life would be with no more tears, pain, or suffering. How great it would be that God would dwell physically with His people and His rule would govern all the world. That would be a wonderful kingdom to dwell in.

In Colossians 1:13, the Apostle Paul explained how it is possible that we have been qualified “to share in the inheritance of the saints in light” (v. 12). Those who have repented and trusted in Jesus have been delivered from the domain of darkness. By the grace and work of God, we have been rescued from the rule of Satan and sin. We are no longer captive to them. Naturally, we are born into this dark dominion as sinners who love sin (Eph. 2:1–3). The effects of this corruption and wickedness are seen to this day. From countries far away to even our nearest spaces of home, we see the impact of sin.

By God’s grace, He saved us from such a life that was deserving of His wrath. Yet, God did not just deliver us from evil’s rule and leave us in a neutral space. Instead, believers are placed into a kingdom that is eternally better. The Father has “transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son” (v. 13b). God the Father does the work of rescuing and relocating us.



We do not save ourselves. Rather, He has completely removed believers out of Satan’s rule and placed them into Christ’s kingdom that is characterized as light (1 Pet. 2:9). It is to a position that is ruled by the Almighty King (1 Tim. 15; Rev. 17:14). This King is described as “his beloved Son,” who is Jesus Christ (see Mark 1:11). The One who rules is the Son of God who gave His life in obedience to the Father’s will to fulfill Scripture, redeem a people, and bring all things into submission under Him. Jesus, the greater Ruler, is preeminent over all, including our lives. To be in His kingdom means to be under His authority and to belong to Him.

While we still await the full setup of the Kingdom of God when Christ returns, we enjoy the spiritual blessing of it now. We have been justified, redeemed, made children of God, and given the Holy Spirit. Today, you can praise and thank the Lord for His saving work and our delivery of citizenship to a glorious kingdom. We can rest in Jesus, the greater King, who will care for us, as well

as deal with the sin and foolishness that seems to prevail in the world. Lastly, we are to walk in obedience to our high King. Our spiritual ID cards say our true home is heaven. May we act, think, and speak as those who belong to the heavenly King.

The beauty of dwelling on the imaginary land described in the opening paragraph is that it is not imaginary. One day Jesus, the King of kings, will return, and He will reign supreme over all. For those trusting in Christ, we will dwell with Him, having all our sin and sinful desires removed. We will know God more fully and worship Him in His presence. What a great day that will be!

Kids' Corner

Awana Awards



WAKE-UP WORDS
 Play this memory game to start each day in God's Word.

What you need:

- Paint and paint brushes
- Stickers
- An empty, clean tin can
- Permanent marker
- Bible
- Wooden craft sticks

What you do:

1. Paint and decorate the outside of the can.
2. With marker, write a Bible verse on several sticks (only two or three words per stick).
3. Put the sticks in the can, and set it in a spot you'll see daily. As you eat or brush your teeth, practice unscrambling the verse and placing sticks in the correct order.
4. When you've memorized the verse, repeat with a new one.

Despite our Awana club year being shortened by a month due to COVID-19, our clubbers continued to work through their handbooks, memorizing God's Word and learning more about Jesus and how to live for Him. Our dedicated leaders continued to meet with the kids via Zoom to listen to their memory verses and love and encourage them.

We are excited to announce this year's recipients of the top award in both Sparks (K-2nd grade) and Truth & Training (3rd-6th grade) clubs:

Here are the recipients of the Sparky Plaque for completing all 3 Sparks handbooks:

Jakob Burklund
 Levi Hammett

Sarah Kearney
 Cy Latta



(left to right) Sparks leader Mike Carlton and Randy Mayes

The following Truth & Training clubbers received the Timothy Award for completing all 4 T&T handbooks:

Isaiah Kearney
 Ionatan Panfil
 Molly Small
 Aubrey Trzeciak
 Sarah Watson

Congratulations to all our clubbers for their hard work this past year. We're proud of you! Thank you, also, to all the leaders, secretaries, and van drivers who served our families and our Lord through this wonderful ministry.



(left to right) Eastridge kids Lydia, Peter, Benjamin & Timothy Kusack



(left to right) T&T leader Curt Foster and Randy Mayes



(left to right) Awana clubbers Amara, Obioma, and Olanma Ikpa

Teach Them Diligently... With Your Life

from the desk of Pastor Samuel

Over the past few months, I've been writing about family worship in general and specific aspects of it. This is an often-forgotten aspect of the Christian life these days, and it ought to be more common. In the seventeenth century, Puritan pastors would refuse to let a man partake in communion during a Sunday service if he had not spent the week leading his family in family worship (singing, reading the Word, and praying). They viewed this as a prime opportunity for this man to teach the gospel to his wife and children.

Without understanding the importance of the gospel in the home, that family may not truly understand and appreciate the significance of a corporate gathering on a Sunday. This is why consistent family worship is so crucial.

Deuteronomy 6 is an overflowing fountain of wisdom when it comes to worshipping the Lord. It begins with the most fundamental command of Scripture ("You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might," v. 5) and lays out when you should fulfill this command (in every situation, vv. 6–9). Later, Moses explains how parents ought to use this as a teaching opportunity for their kids:

When your son asks you in time to come, "What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?" then you will say to your son, "We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. ... And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this

commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us." (vv. 20–25)

This is all part of laying a foundation in your child's heart so that they will grow to trust in Christ as their Savior and walk in faithful obedience to His commands. What your kids learn in your home will have a profound effect on the rest of their lives.

But don't neglect this important fact: the example you lead in your home is what your kids will catch over time. Look back at Deuteronomy 6:6—"These words that I am giving you today are to be *in your heart*" (emphasis added). Your view of the gospel and its importance in your life will be revealed in your children. If it's nothing more than a passive

hobby to you, your children won't find it that important either. On the other hand, if the gospel is your lifeblood, the thing that fuels how you live, your kids will catch on to that and want to understand why it is so important to you.

This doesn't just apply in the context of a parent with their children. You

have a measure of influence on each person you come into contact with. That influence is strongest within a family, of course, but it is also felt within your church family. Whatever is of primary importance to you will express itself to everyone you meet. What do people see in you? What do you see in others?

True worship of God starts in your heart and expresses itself more and more to those around you. It is seen most clearly by the people closest to you—namely, your family. You have an incredible opportunity to sow seeds of faith in your children as they see you joyfully obeying the commands of Christ in worship to Him each day, whether that's through concentrated time of family worship or through faithfulness in day-to-day activities. What a glorious privilege!



Save the Date!

Men's and Women's Game Night @ Eastridge

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2020
5:30–8:30pm

Watch for more information in the bulletin and on Realm in the weeks to come.

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Ashley Small 8/1
Ryan Sheridan 8/1
Lauren Thompson 8/2
Haley Ausen 8/3
Kilian Keating 8/3
Silesh Mansukhani 8/4
Jason Ausen 8/7
Sarah Kusack 8/7
Ron Sandelius 8/12
Don Hunt 8/13
Mike Aranowski 8/13
Noah Skeith 8/14
Andrew McInnis 8/14
Cathy McMinn 8/14
Carol Iverson 8/15
Janette Goheen 8/15
Elise Trzeciak 8/17
Chrissy Mickelson 8/18
Linda Pate 8/19

Carol Buehler 8/19
Stephen Mickelson 8/19
Jonathan Skeith 8/20
Lyndee Majer 8/20
Benjamin Kusack 8/21
Ryker Elliott 8/21
Emily Goheen 8/22
Sean Kelsey 8/23
Marlene Mansukhani
8/23
Annika Mayes 8/24
Joey Willis 8/25
Clement Eng 8/26
Amy Peyton 8/27
Nicole Dudley 8/28
Kelly Tolonen 8/28
Jo Aranowski 8/28
Nazar Brichka 8/28
Brittany Keating 8/29

Ziva Freeman 8/30
Katie Teeler 8/31
Henry McArdel 8/31
Tom Noller 8/31
Lydia Dudley 8/31

Anniversaries
Aaron and Kaylea Merrill
8/2
John and Lauren
Stahlschmidt 8/3
Sal and Shannon Guevara
8/3
Jon and Stephanie Knipp
8/3
Bruce and Karen Diehl 8/8
Tom and Lisa Horne 8/11
Steve and Judy Peltekian
8/12
Samuel and Shannon
Blakey 8/15

Daniel and Raquel Turner
8/17
Dean and Pat Hazelton 8/17
David Dantzcher and Noelle
Ahlstrom 8/18
Nazar and Lily Brichka 8/23
Brian and Karen Johnson
8/24
Mike and Valerie McCafferty
8/25
Pete and Pam Emme 8/25
Stephen and KayLee Groot
7/26
Matt and Amy Hurst 8/27
Richard and Marjean
Goheen 8/28
Joe and Sarah Kusack 8/29
Don and Jane Allen 8/31
Dave and Heather Carleson
8/31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:30am & 10:30am Worship Services 8:30-9:45am Children's Church (Bldg B) 10:30 Adult Sunday School (Large Portable) 6:00pm Prayer Meeting	3 6:30-8:00pm Biblical Worldview Training (Building A Classroom)	4 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	5 6:30-7:30pm Kids' Bible Study (Bldg. B) 6:30-7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Location TBD) 6:30pm Youth Group	6 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	7	8
9 8:30am & 10:30am Worship Services 8:30-9:45am Children's Church (Bldg B) 10:30 Adult Sunday School	10	11 10:30am Missions Prayer Meeting @ Alaire Irish's 5:00-8:30pm Taekwondo 6:30pm Elder Meeting	12 6:30-7:30pm Kids' Bible Study (Bldg. B) 6:30-7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Location TBD) 6:30pm Youth Group	13 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	14	15
16 8:30am & 10:30am Worship Services 8:30-9:45am Children's Church (Bldg B) 10:30 Adult Sunday School	17 6:30-8:00pm Biblical Worldview Training (Building A Classroom)	18 5:00-8:30pm Taekwondo	19 6:30-7:30pm Kids' Bible Study (Bldg. B) 6:30-7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Location TBD) 6:30pm Youth Group	20 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	21	22
23 8:30am & 10:30am Worship Services 8:30-9:45am Children's Church (Bldg B) 10:30 Adult Sunday School	24 6:30-8:00pm Biblical Worldview Training (Building A Classroom)	25 5:00-8:30pm Taekwondo	26 6:30-7:30pm Kids' Bible Study (Bldg. B) 6:30-7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Location TBD) 6:30pm Youth Group	27 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	28	29 Men's and Women's Game Night @ EBC (5:30-8:30pm)
30 Communion 8:30am & 10:30am Worship Services 8:30-9:45am Children's Church 10:30 Adult Sunday School	31 6:30-8:00pm Biblical Worldview Training (Building A Classroom)					

Please register through your Realm account or our website (eastridgebaptist.org) for Sunday services. Contact Pastor [Ryan Trzeciak](#) to reserve a seat in the large portable for Adult Sunday school. Seating is limited.

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.

September 2020

Sunday, September 6	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, September 8	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's

* Small group Bible studies start up again in September. Watch for more information on these groups in next month's newsletter and the bulletin.

October 2020

Sunday, October 4	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, October 13	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's

November 2020

Sunday, November 1	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, November 10	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Thursday, November 26	Thanksgiving Day	



The Necessity of Repentance and Faith

from the desk of Pastor Ryan

The birth of a child is a wonderful thing. One of the first things babies do when they emerge from the womb is to take a big gulp of air, filling their lungs for the first time with oxygen as they begin the process of breathing. That process, the constant action of inhaling and exhaling, is one of the most vital activities of life, so much so that if the baby stopped, their brain would be damaged in a matter of minutes and soon after that death would come. So, it is important that the activity which began on day one remains constant to allow for the life and growth of that child.

Well, for believers, faith and repentance operate in a very similar fashion. On day one of a believer's walk with Christ, they exercise their new-found faith and are granted repentance

as they turn from sin toward righteousness for the first time. And this process of faith and repentance is not something that only happens

at the beginning—it must take place on a daily basis for growth and change in Christlikeness to occur.

We have been moving our way through a series of articles designed to help us understand the fundamentals of biblical counseling: what it is, what it seeks to accomplish, and how it works. What we found was that biblical counseling seeks to bring about change as the believer, through faith in Christ and reliance upon the Holy Spirit, puts forth the effort to follow the Lord in obedience to what the Bible instructs. Galatians 2:20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." God works, we work, and the result is growth in Christlikeness. This is the process of change in biblical counseling.

As we continue this series, we will switch gears,

changing our focus away from the fundamentals of biblical counseling to its necessary components. We begin by looking at the necessity of faith and repentance. At the moment of salvation, by grace the believer puts their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and turns from sin, the sin that has been forgiven by Christ through His death on the cross. That initial action of turning from sin in repentance and to Christ in faith is what begins the Christian's life with the Lord. Just as a newborn baby must continue to breathe in and out to continue to live, so the believer must continue to practice faith and repentance in order to grow in godliness.

Because Christians dwell in a sinful world and live in sinful bodies with sinful hearts and minds, they will continue to struggle with sin throughout their

lives. As a result, there is a constant need to turn from away sin, forsaking those things that displease the Lord. Christians must hate sin as God hates sin and stop committing

the thoughts, words, and actions for which Christ died. At the same time, they must continue to practice faith as they turn away from sin to Christ, trusting that only in Him is found forgiveness and hope for change. Faith, which includes clinging to the gospel truths of Scripture and claiming the promises of God, manifests itself in dependent obedience as the believer puts on godly attitudes and actions, believing that God's way is best.

In short, repentance keeps Christians turning from sin, and faith keeps them turning to Christ. This is the continual, daily process that every Christian must engage in, and this is a necessary component in biblical counseling in order to bring about true growth and change.





**And those who know Your name
will put their trust in You,
For You, O LORD, have not forsaken
those who seek You.**

Psalm 9:10

SusanRehberg



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