

It's Good To Be Reminded

from the desk of Pastor John

The past few months have been challenging. At the beginning we were in a desperate search for toilet paper and that quickly changed into a desperate search for answers—Who? Where? When? How long? These past months have been described as “unprecedented,” “life-altering,” “extraordinary,” and “weird!” In the desire for the return to some sense of normalcy, the anger and dissatisfaction of people has spread throughout the country like a...well, like a virus. Christians have not been immune to either the Coronavirus or the Dissatisfisvirus.

“We could consider how badly the prophets were treated—and the apostles centuries later—and the warnings issued to all believers that we will experience trouble in this world.”

As days turned into weeks and then months, frustration over the inability to gather as a church had many Christians believing it was time for the church to engage in civil disobedience and gather anyway. Passions and opinions raged. As we look to the Scripture for

answers, we are reminded that we are not the only ones who experienced extraordinary and stress-laden times. What must it have been like for Jacob and his children when the famine in Canaan was so severe that they had to travel for several days just to buy food? What must it have been like when the descendants of Jacob were forced into slavery? Imagine the disappointment of escaping slavery only to be a prisoner of the Sinai wilderness for forty years, never having a

permanent home and eating the same meal every day for decades.

After centuries of fighting to hold onto their own land, the children of Israel were overcome and taken

en captive, and many were forced into exile and slavery. Do not forget that Israel was God’s chosen people, selected by Him to be the instruments of His hand and the objects of His favor. We could consider how badly the prophets were treated—and the apostles

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centuries later—and the warnings issued to all believers that we will experience trouble in this world.

Now, this is not an article to say that we should rejoice since we don’t have it as bad as the above examples. But **James 1:2-4** does say, **“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”** It is,

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admittedly, challenging to consider the current testing of our faith as all joy, probably because we don't really consider it a testing of our faith as much as we consider it an attack on our faith with intent to destroy God's church. But Jesus is both the author and perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:2). He promised to complete the work He began in us (Phil. 1:6) and He also promised that even the gates of Hell would not prevent Him from building His church (Matt. 16:18). So, we really must consider all this to be a test of our individual faith.

While it is impossible for anyone to know the specific ways the Spirit of God is working in the life of every individual Christian, there are a few general truths that the present situation should bring to mind.

First, life can change in the blink of an eye. Scripture reminds us that our life is brief. Job 7:7, and Psalm 39:5 and 144:4, all describe man's lifespan as a mere breath. James follows suit in 4:14, where he calls man's life a vapor that appears for little time and then vanishes away. Psalm 90:10 states that, in general, man lives into his seventies or eighties, which is a proverbial drop in the bucket of time. Added to that is the fact that accidents, illnesses, and assorted tragedies can shorten our lives.

Since we are not guaranteed a specific number of days, we must make the most of the days we have. In John 9:4, Jesus said that He must work while it was day because the night was coming when no one can work. In Ephesians 5:16, we are told to make the most of our time because the days are evil. In Matthew 5:13–17, Jesus told us that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world and our lives are to make a gospel impact on our world. Since life is brief and can change in a moment, we need to take every opportunity to make Christ known. We cannot choose

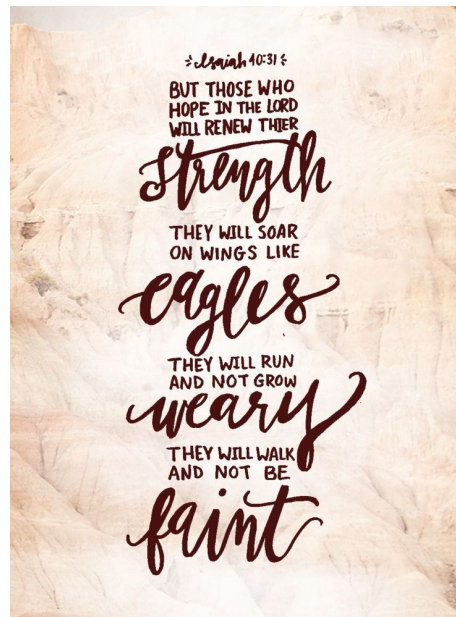
to wait, thinking that we will have time later.

Second, Scripture is authoritative and sufficient. The inspired Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16) is profitable for teaching and correcting us. In recent weeks, some Christians have had to come face-to-face with their interpretive method and whether they were accurately handling the Word (2 Tim 2:15). In their zeal to fight for the freedom to worship, some well-meaning Christians mishandled the Bible, while others attempted to interpret it through the lens of

the U.S. Constitution. We must always remember that the Bible is authoritative even when it gives commands we wish it did not. While we may wish that the Bible told us that we are free to disobey a government that is oppressive or unfair, it does not. In fact, both Paul and Peter told Christians living under the oppressive rule of the wicked emperor Nero to obey the governing authorities as a way of honoring God (Rom. 13:1–7; 1 Pet. 2:11–17).

While we live in the greatest country on earth and we hold the U.S. Constitution in high regard, the Bible is sufficient without it. In other words, as Christians, we hold to the Scripture first and foremost. The Bible must govern our thoughts, desires, and actions. No other document—however good, wise, or beneficial—is to usurp the authority of God's Word.

Third, our hope must always be in the Lord. Many Christians were caught off guard in the past few months. While acknowledging that our hope is in Christ and that we are to have joy in Him regardless of the circumstances, many Christians came to realize that their joy was tied more closely to the circumstances than they realized. They were suffering with worry and fear rather than being sustained by faith and hope. While waiting for the Babylonians



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to violently invade Judah, kill many, and take many more hostage, Habakkuk the prophet wrote in 3:17–19, **“Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my**

high places.”

I wish I could say that the worst is behind us and nothing quite this bad will ever happen again. That remains to be seen. But our hope must be in the Lord no matter what happens. Our hope is not in medical science or a reasonable government because neither of those things is certain. What is certain is the plan, power, and person of our Lord Jesus Christ. In an uncertain world it is good to be reminded that we can be certain God's Word is true and He is in control.

Family News

Eastridge is excited to welcome the following people into church membership:

Paul Morales

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.



Ladies' Tea

Eastridge Baptist



**Saturday, July 18
1:00–4:00pm**

Ladies, join us at the church for an afternoon of tea, fellowship, and prayer

Contact Pastor Ryan for more information

MEN'S BARBECUE

Friday, July 24

6:00–8:00pm

Eastridge Baptist Church

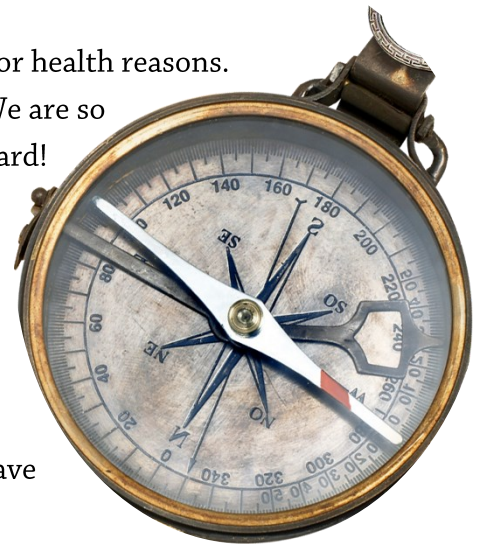
\$3 per person, payable at the event
Sign up in the foyer or email
Mike Osterman at
michael@ostermanresearch.com

Elders' Ministry Responsibilities

At the end of May, three elders termed off EBC's elder board and one left for health reasons. They were Hal Busick, Dean Hazelton, Derek Iverson, and Bill Mickelson. We are so grateful to each of them for their years of dedicated service on the elder board!

We are excited to welcome new elders Ken Lilly, Mark McMinn, Lance Swenson, and Jon Watson. Please pray for these men and the returning elders as they oversee various ministries in the church. We are grateful to God that they have humbly agreed to take on these responsibilities in service to our Lord and His Church.

Please don't hesitate to contact the elders with questions that you might have regarding their assigned ministries.



Elder Name	Area(s) of Responsibility	Email Address
Pastor Samuel Blakey	Music & Worship; Children's Ministry (co-elder with Pastor Paul Cummings)	samuelb@eastridgebaptist.org
Max Carlton	Assimilation (visitor follow-up, membership applications)	carlton.max@gmail.com
Pastor Paul Cummings	Youth, Children's Ministry (co-elder with Pastor Samuel Blakey)	paulc@eastridgebaptist.org
Pastor John LeProhon	Senior Pastor, Adult Sunday school	johnL@eastridgebaptist.org
Ken Lilly	Missions	kwLilly@gmail.com
Randy Mayes	Vice-chairman of the Elder Board, Awana, Special Events, Hospitality, Benevolence	ranmayes@outlook.com
Mark McMinn	Board Treasurer, Finances	msmcminn@comcast.net
Chuck Stockton	Chairman of the Elder Board	chstockton1@yahoo.com
Lance Swenson	Secretary of the Elder Board	swen4son@gmail.com
Ryan Trzeciak	Biblical Counseling, Adult Ministries (Men, Women, College, Career, Primetimers), Small Groups	ryant@eastridgebaptist.org
Jon Watson	Facilities	oncenterconstruction@outlook.com

In addition to ministry oversight, our non-pastoral elders are called to shepherd the church family. We would love to get to know you and your family, and appreciate knowing specific ways in which we may pray for you. Our hope is that through regular contact with you we will be growing together in our relationships with the Lord and with one another, and that the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, will be glorified.

Every member and regular attender of Eastridge should have received an email or letter from the church indicating who their shepherding elder is. If you did not receive an email or letter, and feel that you should have, please contact the church office at 253-630-2327 and we'd love to help you out!

An Astonishing Delivery from the desk of Pastor Paul

If you have watched any news or perused social media, you might find yourself wondering what is wrong with this world. Have you found yourself thinking, “I would never do that!” after watching someone act foolishly? We can subtly slip into the mindset that we are better than others because we would never behave in such a way as we are seeing unfold. However, we must be on guard against prideful thinking. Remembering what God has done for us can cultivate a heart of humility, as well as an expression of praise and thanksgiving.

In the beginning of Colossians 1:13, Paul writes, “*He has delivered us from the domain of darkness.*” The “*He*” is referring to God the Father (v. 12); it is the Father who is doing the rescuing, not us. We do not deliver ourselves. Instead, it is the work of the sovereign God (Eph. 2:4–9). The term “*delivered*” refers to being rescued from danger. We were once captive to something and the Father has brought about our freedom. We did not earn or deserve salvation; yet, God graciously acts for our good. This ought to cultivate humility within us.

But what danger have we been rescued from? Our deliverance is from the “*domain of darkness.*” What does this mean? Domain refers to an area where power is exercised. This is the same word that is often translated as authority. Darkness here refers to spiritual and moral ungodliness. This domain that is characterized by sin and rebellion is ruled by Satan (Eph. 2:2). He is the scheming mastermind behind the wickedness we see. The power, thinking, and alliance that arrested and crucified Jesus was ruled by

this evil (Luke 22:53). Without God’s saving work, a person is enslaved to this darkness, loving it instead of God (John 3:19).

This captivity has devastating effects. It stands in hatred towards God (Rom. 8:7). It further cultivates a love of sin and self over God, which magnifies the heart’s natural desire to sin (James 1:14–15). The one enslaved to darkness is in bondage to sin (see Rom. 6). People without Christ will think and act in accordance with this reign of darkness so we ought not be surprised when we see unbelievers acting like unbelievers. They are captives to the realm of ungodliness, guided by their evil heart. The one who is living for the domain of darkness is even deserving of

wrath (Rom. 6:23). What a terrifying position to be in!

It can be easy for Christians to look in shock at the world and wonder how sinners can live so sinfully. However, we must remember the perspective the Scriptures give of the unbeliever’s captivity to sin. This can help us think more clearly about what we see in the media (remember Eph. 6:12). We also must

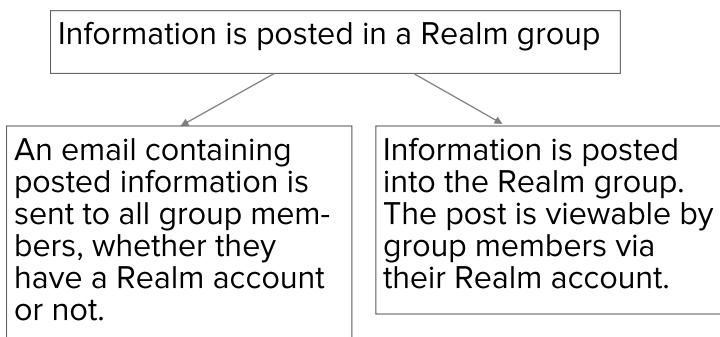
not forget that we too needed to be rescued. As we ponder the above descriptions of our own previous peril, it ought to stir us to praise and thank God that He would save us when we repented and trusted in Jesus. We could not free ourselves. Yet, by the grace of God, through the work of Jesus Christ, we were rescued from the reign of evil. Let this truth fill your heart with praise and thanksgiving, as well as drive you to cast off sin as you pursue a life of holiness (Rom. 13:12–14). We are to have nothing to do with the deeds of darkness (Eph. 5:11). Instead, we are to walk in the light, keeping our minds fixed on the truth, while we proclaim the gospel message to the lost world.



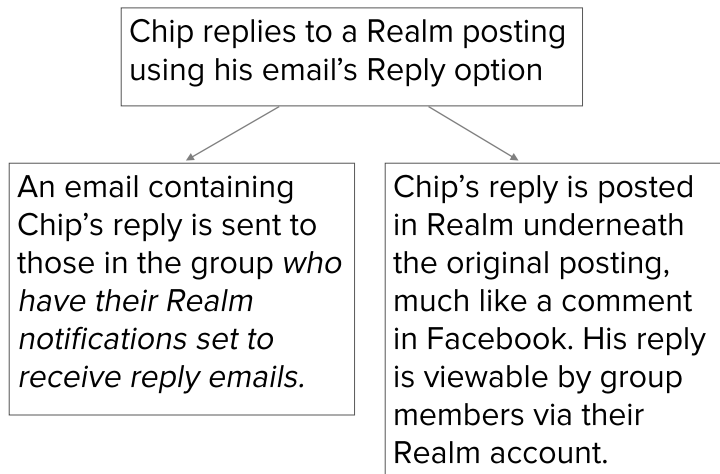
Who Sees Those Replies?

by Kim Turnbull

Last month, we took a look at emails that are generated out of our Realm system and what happens when you reply to them. To recap, when someone posts information in a Realm group (e.g All-church Communication, Classified, Prayer Wall, etc) here is what happens:



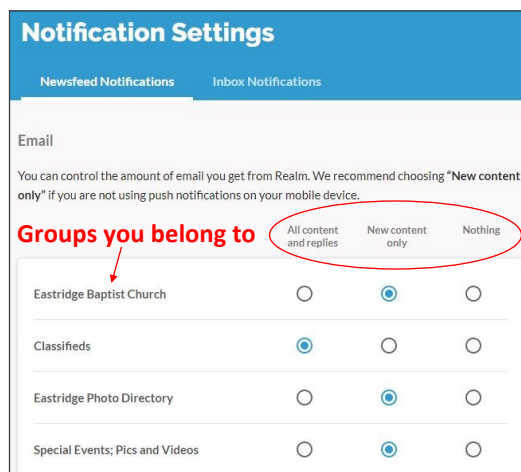
As you may recall from last month’s article, congregant Chip replied to a posting in the All-church Communications group asking Pastor John to join him for a round of golf. In this article we’ll look at who **actually** saw Chip’s reply.



To illustrate, let’s say you log into your Realm account and post an item for sale in the Classifieds group. Realm will send out an email containing your “for sale” ad to all members of the Classified group and post the ad in the Classifieds group. One of the congregants then decides they’d like to purchase your item, so they reply to your posting through the email. Now, the only way you are going to know that someone replied to your ad is:

- a. if you log into your Realm account and view the Classified group to see if there is a reply attached to your posting
 - b. if you receive an email containing the reply.
- Option b is the most effective way since you don’t have to log into your account to see the reply. However, to ensure you receive these reply emails, you will need to change your Realm notification settings:

1. Log into your Realm account
2. Click on the down arrow beside your name in the top right-hand corner of the screen.
3. Select **Notification Settings**



4. You have three choices to control the volume of email you receive from Realm. Click the radio button in the appropriate column to choose:
 - a. **All content and replies.** You will receive an email when both the original posting *and* replies are posted in the Realm group. *This is the best setting for the classified ad example above.*
 - b. **New content only.** You will only receive an email when the original posting is posted in Realm. *This is the default option.*
 - c. **Nothing.** You will receive **no** emails at all if someone posts something in the group.

If you have any questions about replying to Realm postings or notification settings, please contact the office at 253-630-2327 or email kim@eastridgebaptist.org. We’d love to help you!

Teach Them Diligently... Through Music

from the desk of Pastor Samuel

Last month I wrote about the importance of music in the Christian home and gave a few of the many ways you can fill your home with song. This month I want to look at what it actually looks like to *fill* your home with song and why it is so important.

The best place to start is in Deuteronomy 6, particularly verses 4–7:

“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.”

This is a critical passage in Scripture because it gives us the greatest commandment in Scripture and it teaches us how to pass that command on to the next generation.

Moses told the Israelites to teach their children to love the Lord over and over, in every sort of situation. This was not something that they were to teach only during big events. In fact, Moses lists a multitude of mundane moments as the perfect opportunities to teach your kids what it looks like to love the Lord wholeheartedly. We need to give proper value to the mundane everyday moments that make up our lives. Paul Tripp describes it this way: “We are all the same; the character and quality of our life is forged in little moments. Every day we lay little bricks on

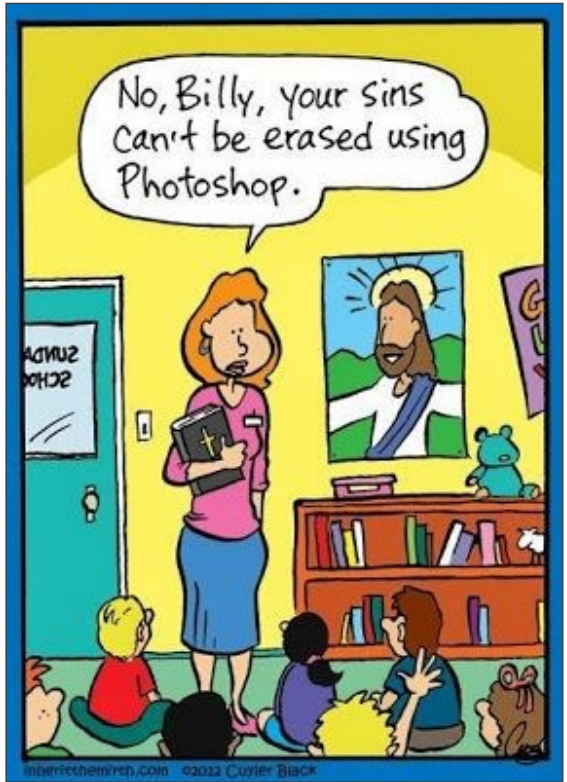
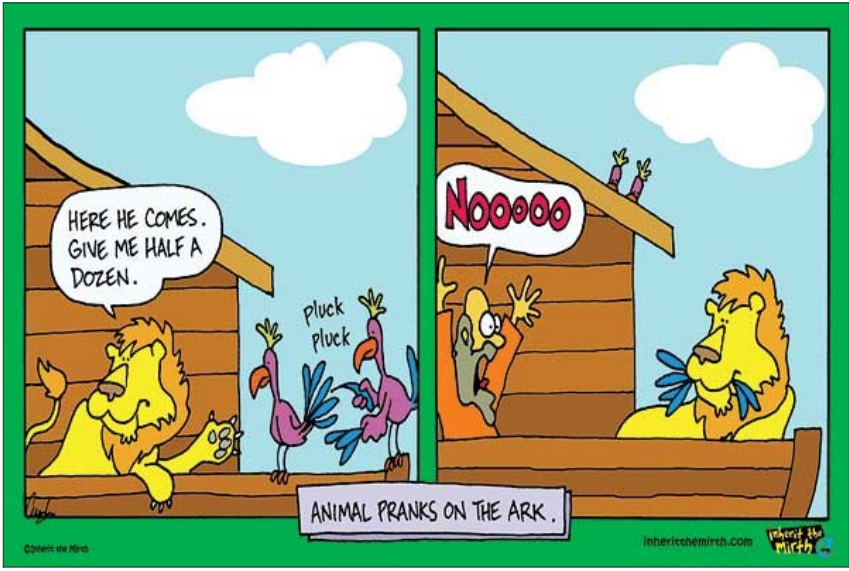
the foundation of what our life will be” (*What Did You Expect?*, p. 58). When we describe our lives, we tend to focus on major life events. Yet our action in those big events is rooted in our conduct in the little moments.

You have opportunities in all the little spaces where life happens to teach your children the important things about God and the gospel, and singing facilitates that so effectively. Music makes things memorable and ingrains words into our heads. Music that is faithful to the teachings of Scripture can lock truths of Christianity in the minds of your children. If you take advantage of a car ride, or playtime, or cleaning around the house as opportunities to fill your home with faithful Christian music, you may be surprised what your children will catch from that. Then when Sunday comes and we gather as a church family, your family is spiritually prepared for the feast of worship music and the teaching of the Word. They have already practiced it throughout the week.

Music is an effective tool in teaching Scripture to your family, but you must actively use it. It can be helpful to have music playing in the background throughout your day, but you need to stay on the alert for those teachable moments that can come from it. If you take time to do family worship together each day, you can explain a part of the song you sing to your kids so that they begin to understand the faith more and more. The same thing is true of music in the car or around the house. You can act as a curator for the music your family consumes. Use music as a tool, whenever you can, to teach your children the most important thing they ought to know: the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Just for Laughs



July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Wyatt Meeuwse 7/3
 Samuel Blakey 7/3
 Ryan Reeves 7/4
 Jolyn Barber 7/6
 Annalise Burlando 7/8
 Rachel Roach 7/8
 Loraine Keith 7/8
 Eric Olson 7/10
 Austin Meeuwse 7/10
 Donica Tibbetts 7/12
 Garrett Anderson 7/12
 Logan Keating 7/13
 Shelly Barrios 7/14
 Peter Kusack 7/16
 Michael Miranda 7/17
 Dorie Peyton 7/17
 Lance Swenson 7/18
 Evangeline Kerr 7/19

Wanda Renick 7/21
 Alysha Majer 7/22
 Ana Panfil 7/23
 Stephen Groot 7/23
 Sara Hayward 7/24
 Titus Skeith 7/25
 Ezra Skeith 7/26
 Derek Iverson 7/27
 Warren Trzeciak 7/28
 Sarah Kelsey 7/29
 Kevin McArdel 7/30
 Ella Martinez 7/31

Anniversaries

Drew and Alysha Majer 7/2
 Derek and Carol Iverson 7/2

John and Anne McDivitt 7/2
 Dan and Heather Young 7/6
 Andrew and Jennifer McInnis 7/9
 Bill and Mary Bennett 7/10
 Greg and Keren Goheen 7/12
 Tom and Jennifer Small 7/15
 Jon and Kari Watson 7/15
 Daniel and Katie Teeler 7/16
 Brock and Sarah Burlando 7/19
 Tim and Laurie Tolonen 7/20

Jack and Mavis Gaines 7/20
 Doug and Debbie Thompson 7/21
 Dean and Wanda Renick 7/21
 Jonathan and Kimberly Skeith 7/24
 Sean and Sarah Kelsey 7/24
 Christian and Kelly Lopez 7/27
 Ray and Maxine Emme 7/27
 John and Trina Bonn 7/28
 Ryan and Jen Trzeciak 7/28
 Tim and Sandy Thomas 7/28
 Nate and Emily Williams 7/28
 Ken and Diana Lilly 7/29
 Robert and Kim Turnbull 7/30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries (Youth Center)	2	3	4 
5 8:30am Worship Service 10:30 Adult Sunday School (Large Portable) 10:30am Worship Service 6:00pm Monthly Prayer Meeting	6 6:30–8:00pm Biblical Worldview Training (Building A Classroom)	7 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo	8 6:30pm Night of Worship (Auditorium)	9 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	10	11
12 8:30am Worship Service 10:30 Adult Sunday School (Large Portable) 10:30am Worship Service	13	14 10:30am Missions Prayer Meeting @ Alaire Irish's 5:00–8:30pm Taekwondo 6:30pm Elder Meeting	15 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries (Youth Center)	16 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	17	18 7:00am Men of the Book 1:00–4:00pm Ladies' Tea @ EBC
19 8:30am Worship Service 10:30 Adult Sunday School (Large Portable) 10:30am Worship Service	20 6:30–8:00pm Biblical Worldview Training (Building A Classroom)	21 5:00–8:30pm Taekwondo	22 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries (Youth Center)	23 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	24 6:00–8:00pm Men's Barbecue @ EBC	25
26 Communion 8:30am Worship Service 10:30 Adult Sunday School (Large Portable) 10:30am Worship Service	27 6:30–8:00pm Biblical Worldview Training (Building A Classroom)	28 5:00–8:30pm Taekwondo	29 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries (Youth Center)	30 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	31	

*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/cancelation based on the latest directives from the government. Updates to our scheduled activities will be posted on Realm as information becomes available.

August 2020

Sunday, August 2	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, August 11	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Saturday, August 29	Men's & Women's Event	5:30-8:30pm @ EBC

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



Who Does the Work of Biblical Change?

from the desk of Pastor Ryan

The Bible is full of paradoxes; things that on the surface seem contradictory, but when fully understood are shown to be true and complimentary. Here are a couple of examples: the Bible was written by men and is considered the written Word of God. Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. In regard to biblical counseling, we come to another interesting paradox: Who does the work of change in the Christian? Is it God, or is it the believer? The answer is YES!

This brings us to the next addition to the 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.

Last month we tackled the question of how growth and change happens. Now let's look at the "who" by asking this question: Who does this work of change? We know that Christians have a part to play as we

work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12) and train ourselves for godliness (1 Tim 4:7). Yet that is only part of the story. There is another and more important person at work in the process of change, namely the Holy Spirit. In the life of a believer, the Holy Spirit performs two great works. The first is salvation, and the second is sanctification. Salvation is solely a work of the Holy Spirit as He alone brings about regeneration in the heart of a lost sinner (Titus 3:4-7). Sanctification is also a work of the Spirit, but it is a work done in joint effort with the believer who exercises faith through obedience.

Jesus, in preparing His disciples for His departure, tells them, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth" (John 14:15-17). In Galatians 2:20, Paul wrote, "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." Elsewhere he says, "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God...But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness" (Rom 8:8, 10). Then, to the Corinthians he writes, "we all...are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit" (2 Cor 3:18). What Jesus and Paul want us to see is that the ability to live the Christian life is empowered by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us for the purpose of conforming us to Christ. However, it is not just the Holy Spirit who works. It is also the follower of Christ who keeps the commandments, who lives by faith. It is the Holy Spirit who

supplies the power, and the believer engages with that power by stepping out in faith to obey what God commands and live the way God requires. This is how the Spirit conforms the believer to Christ.

As an example, this dynamic is clearly seen in the spiritual disciplines of Bible reading and prayer. We are called to meditate on God's Word (Ps 1:2) and spend time with Him in prayer (1 Thess 5:17). But because we are responsible moral agents, not mindless robots, God does not force us to obey Him. He wants our obedience to flow out of our love for Him. Thus, these actions will not happen unless we make conscious efforts to take time out of our days, sit down to read our Bible, and say words of thanksgiving and supplication to the Lord. But as we choose to act in obedience, it is the Holy Spirit who enables us. The combination of our action and divine enablement feeds our soul and strengthens our walk as the Holy Spirit does the work of conforming us to Christ through the actions of reading and prayer. God works and we work, all for His glory and for our good in conforming us to Christ.



Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor

Christ the sure and steady anchor
In the fury of the storm
When the winds of doubt blow through me
And my sails have all been torn
In the suffering, in the sorrow
When my sinking hopes are few
I will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor
While the tempest rages on
When temptation claims the battle
And it seems the night has won
Deeper still, then, goes the anchor
Though I justly stand accused
I will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor
Through the floods of unbelief
Hopeless, somehow, O my soul, now
Lift your eyes to Calvary
This my ballast of assurance
See His love forever proved
I will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor
As we face the wave of death
When these trials give way to glory
And we draw our final breath
We will cross that great horizon
Clouds behind and life secured
And the calm will be the better
For the storms that we endured

Christ the shore of our salvation
Ever faithful, ever true
We will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed

Matt Boswell, Matt Papa
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EASTRIDGE
BAPTIST CHURCH