



What's it Worth to You?

From the desk of Pastor Samuel Blakey

Whether we recognize it or not, we attribute worth to everything we see. It may be monetary worth (“Since when have eggs cost so much??”) or sentimental value (like a gift from someone you love that would seem worthless to anyone but you). We all have a value system like this by which we understand what is most important to us. The way you understand what is most important to you can be seen by what you are willing to give up for it.



In the world of economics, this is known as opportunity cost. By choosing to do something or purchase a product of some kind, you are giving up the opportunity to do or purchase something else. You valued the first thing over the opportunity of the other. This idea may not necessarily mean

that you *like* one thing more than the other. I would *like* to spend an afternoon reading rather than mowing the lawn. But in that moment, I know that it is *more important* to take care of the out-of-control

savanna forming in my backyard.

What you are willing to sacrifice for, or suffer for, shows what matters most to you. The New Testament authors understood this point well:

“Through him we have also ob-

tained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the

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Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”
(Rom 5:2-5)

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”
(1 Pet 1:6-7)

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Help Remove Waste from Eastridge!

We have close to 200 fluorescent light bulbs at EBC that need proper disposal! Puget Sound Fire Station #75 will soon be hosting the Wastemobile, and Eastridge could use your help to get this hazardous waste recycled!

WHEN: Friday-Sunday, March 3-5

HOURS: 10:00am-5:00pm

WHERE: Puget Sound Fire Station #75
15635 SE 272nd Street, Kent

At the event, fluorescent bulbs may be recycled in bundles of ten, with a limit of one bundle per car per day. We need volunteers to collect bundles to drop off at the fire station. Bundles of bulbs will be available for **pick up** on:
Sundays, February 26 and March 5, on the porch of Building B.

If you can minister to our church in this way, thank you in advance!
Contact Mark Yarnold for more information: mark.ebc.facilities@gmail.com



BABY SHOWER!

Honoring Amanda Olson

DATE: Saturday March, 19

TIME: 1:30-4:00pm

RSVP: Realm (Events) or
at Welcome Table

Contact Ashly Barrios for more info:
425.523.4606 • ashlybarrios@outlook.com

What's it Worth to You?

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In both of these passages, the authors have expressed an attitude of joy despite their present sufferings. Peter's reason gives us insight into the relationship between suffering and worth. Even though his audience was suffering persecution, it served to prove the integrity of their faith in God, which Peter described as the most precious thing in the world!

Faith is tested by fire in the same way that gold is. Gold is melted in a furnace so that the dirt, or dross, can float to the top and be filtered out of it. This process of refining elevates the purity of the gold. Believers in Christ Jesus have an even *greater* treasure that is tested and refined in the same way! If you have faith in the saving work of Christ, that faith is the most important thing in your life. Pure gold is valuable, no question about it, but its worth only lasts as long as this life. Faith in Christ has *eternal* value.

When trials come and life is hard, the dross of sin in our lives is brought to the surface so it can be filtered away—or to understand it in biblical terms, that sin can be recognized and put to death in our lives. Through this process of refining through trials, the Christian's faith is strengthened, made mature—and we develop endurance and perseverance for the next trials in our lives. We can joyfully encounter such trials because we know they will reveal other areas of our lives that needs refining. Through trials, we can grow in the grace and knowledge of God, and we can glorify Him even more faithfully as His beloved children.

But here is the crux of the matter: is this your attitude towards your faith in Christ? What exactly is your faith worth to you? Is your understanding of God's holiness and His plan of redemption so valuable to you that you would be *joyful* to endure the refinement of suffering? Or do you resist that kind

of refinement, turning to the well-worn habits of sin that you refuse to give up? The direction you turn when times get tough shows exactly what you value most; what is worth the most to you?

Hear this wisdom from Martin Luther: "A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing." In your life, what has stood the test of the opportunity cost? What one thing are you willing to give up everything for so you can keep it (Matt 13:44-46)? If your faith is this valuable to you, what might God be calling you to give up today so you can grow in maturity and endurance? Even along the path of suffering, joy and refinement can be found in our great God and Savior—hold fast to your faith in Him through the fire. ♣



When Bad Things Happen: Thoughtful Answers to Hard Questions by William Smith

A book review by Cathy Mickelson

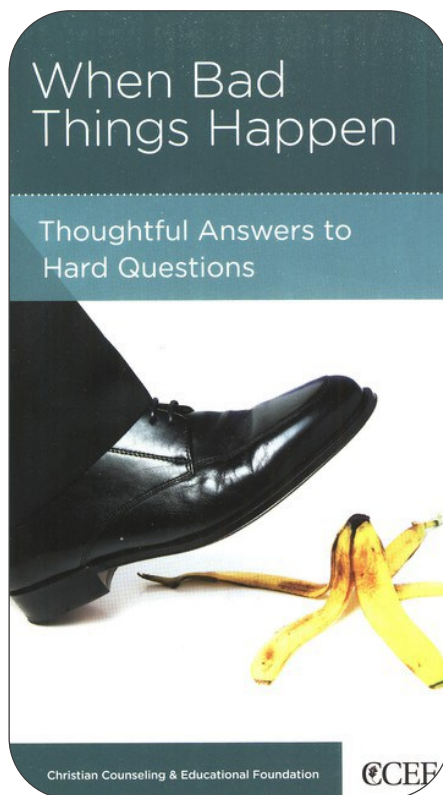
Some sobering words were spoken by Jesus when He told His disciples, “In the world you will have tribulation...” (John 16:33). I once heard a preacher say, “If you are not presently experiencing a trial, you have just come out of one or you will soon be entering one.” Trials come in all shapes and sizes, and they usually come upon us unexpectedly. Suffering is a part of life.

In his booklet, *When Bad Things Happen*, William Smith provides some thoughtful answers to hard questions that people ask when they encounter difficult times. Readers are reminded that God understands our suffering as Smith reflects on Jesus being described as a “man of sorrows” who is “acquainted with grief” (Isaiah 53).

Smith writes that suffering is an invitation to know God more intimately. Due to Adam and Eve’s rebellion against God, the human race was plunged into sin and the dreadful effects of sin such as relationship conflict, illness, and death. In our state of disobedience, God pursued us with His redemptive love. He invites us to know Him as He truly is: the almighty, holy, and yet personal God.

Suffering is also a call to become more like God. Trials reveal what is deep within our hearts. When the Israelites found themselves wandering in the desert for weeks, months, and years, they grumbled and complained. Moses explained that God had led them into the wilderness to expose what was in their hearts (Deut 8:2-3). Romans 8:28-29

states, “And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” God’s good will and desire for each one of us is that we be conformed to the character of Jesus Christ.



Suffering trains us to depend on Jesus. Through His Holy Spirit in us, we can respond faithfully when faced with suffering and temptation (John 14:26; Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:9).

Suffering develops our faith and holiness. Is our faith such that we only believe in God’s goodness when things are going well for us? When we finally come to grips with the truth that God is good all the time (even in the hard times), then we have truly grown in our faith. Growing in faith will result in growing in holiness.

Finally, suffering challenges us to be more involved in God’s kingdom. The life of Joseph shows us that through

his suffering, God’s people were provided for and preserved. Through Jesus’ agonizing sacrifice on the cross, many will come to know Him, be reconciled to God the Father, and enjoy eternity with Him. How might God use your suffering to expand His kingdom? We will not know the full impact of our life until we get to heaven.

Why does God let bad things happen to you? That you might know Him, be like Him, depend on Him, increase your faith in Him and be a part of His kingdom going forward. Jesus completed His statement with, “...But take heart, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). ♣

Spring
is coming!

With Resurrection Sunday just around the corner, it is time to start beautifying our church grounds in celebration! Join our church workday the weekend before Easter to help out! Refreshments and lunch will be provided, so please sign up at the Welcome Table or on Realm (Events).

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

Saturday, April 1
Church Workday
9:00am - 2:00pm

Resurrection Sunday Sunday, April 9

Family Services

(Children 4+ included in services. Nurseries available)

First Service @ 8:30 am

No Sunday School on Easter

Second Service @ 10:30 am



Spotlight on EBC's Men's Ministry

by Daná Freeland

In this article, you will meet the Eastridge Baptist Church Men's Ministry Team and discover their passion for ministering to the men in our church. You will learn the mission of the team, recount recent events, and preview upcoming events.

MISSION

The Men's Ministry Team at Eastridge Baptist Church is dedicated to equipping men to be leaders of faith, both in their personal lives and in their communities. With a mission to "sharpen, encourage, and inspire men to be godly leaders at home, in the church, on the job, and in the community, where they can influence the world for Christ," the Men's Ministry focuses on fostering a culture of discipleship among its members.

Discipleship is about becoming a flourishing follower of Jesus who embodies the character of Christ and teaching others to do the same. This requires a lifelong, personal pursuit of transformation and a commitment to being part of a community of faith that is similarly dedicated to making and growing disciples.

Small group study is a key component of the Men's Ministry, offering a supportive and challenging environment for men to grow in their faith. These groups provide a space for men to delve into the Bible, engage in discussions, and build relationships with other men who are committed to living out their faith.

In addition to small group study, the Men's Ministry also offers opportunities for prayer and fellowship, including regular events that provide chances for men to connect with one another and grow in their relationships with God.

MEET THE TEAM

The 2022 Men's Ministry Team was comprised of four members: Greg Goheen, Dan Young, Lance Swenson, and Tim Fulton. Since the start of 2023, the team added two additional members: Ryan Pogue and Josh Kerr. Each member has unique giftings, which complement one another and truly display the way God uses the church body to achieve His purposes.



L to R: Greg Goheen, Dan Young, Lance Swenson, Tim Fulton



Ryan Pogue



Josh Kerr

RECAP OF 2022

In 2022, the team worked to cast the vision for a renewed emphasis on ministering to men at Eastridge. The focus was on calling men to foster discipling relationships with one another in small group studies and through fellowship events. The well-known verse in Proverbs 27:17 highlights the value of these friendships: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." The theme and goal of the events in 2022 and 2023 support this mission.

Spotlight on EBC's Men's Ministry

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Men's BBQ—This event gathered over 60 men for a time to reconnect and fellowship with one another over the summer. Time was shared playing games like cornhole and pickleball, with plenty of opportunities to get to know one another better over burgers and other seasonal foods. A brief time of sharing concluded the gathering with a call to men to pursue relationships with one another for the purpose of encouraging and strengthening their faith.

Fall Kickoff Luncheon—September brought a kickoff event to launch the vision for Men's Ministry. Tom Small catered a delicious lunch after church, and the leaders of the Men's Ministry were introduced. This was a time to reinforce the purpose of Men's Ministry with a focus on supporting discipling relationships and accountability. Men were reminded of the existing small groups and the addition of two new small groups studying 1 and 2 Timothy together on either Wednesday nights or Friday mornings. During this time, some key verses were shared, highlighting the biblical characteristics of a spiritual friend and the importance of discipleship. Some of the verses discussed were:

- **A real friend shares the same truth**— “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers” (2 Cor 6:14)
- **...goes the distance**— “A friend is made for adversity.” (Prov 17:17)
- **...listens well and counsels well**— “The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.” (Prov 27:9)
- **...keeps confidences**— “...a gossip separates close friends.” (Prov 16:28)
- **...picks right up where he left off**— “...there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” (Prov 18:24)
- **...can say hard things**— “Wounds from a friend can be trusted.” (Prov 27:6)
- **...knows being there is enough**— “Two are better than one...if one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up.” (Eccl 4:9-10)
- **...celebrates rather than compares**— “Rejoice with those who rejoice.” (Rom 12:15)
- **...forgives**— “He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats a matter separates close friends.” (Prov 17:9)
- **...and makes you a better person each time you are together**— “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” (Prov 27:17)

UPCOMING EVENTS

This year started off with a fellowship game night in January. The team is planning additional events for 2023 which will be finalized soon. The plan is to have a gathering every other month, giving men the opportunity to fellowship and deepen their bonds with other guys at Eastridge. Future events include:

- **Late March/ Early April**—Men's Service Project and Lunch
- **May**—Fellowship Dinner: *Growing Discipling Relationships*
- **Summer**—Men's BBQ at the Goheen's
- **September**—Men's Fall Kickoff Luncheon
- **November**—TBD

The Men's Ministry Team at Eastridge Baptist Church is dedicated to helping men become godly leaders and shining examples of the love and grace of Jesus. By providing ample opportunities to connect—Bible studies, discipleship training, fellowship events, and service activities—the Men's Ministry Team is committed to coming alongside the guys of Eastridge and encouraging them to deepen their relationships with the Lord and build meaningful connections with each other. ♣




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Bible Quiz

Who had a staff sprout, bud, blossom and produce almonds, indicating that God had chosen him for a special reason?

- A. Moses
- B. Zechariah
- C. Aaron
- D. Nathan




Answer: C (See Numbers 17:1-11, specifically v. 8.)

Bible Quiz

Which of the following is not called a "fruit of the Spirit" — but probably could be?

- A. love
- B. faithfulness
- C. self-control
- D. gratitude
- E. gentleness



Answer: D (See Galatians 5:22-23.)

Take Your Spouse Out for a Weekend to Remember!

Invitation by Cathy Mickelson

Good marriages don't just happen. Treat your spouse to the Weekend to Remember marriage retreat coming to Bellevue **March 17-19**. Plan a special getaway for just the two of you and learn biblical relationship principles and how to apply them to your most important relationship. Topics like communication, conflict resolution, and intimacy will be addressed by qualified Bible teachers.



For questions, contact Bill or Cathy Mickelson at:
mickelson5@msn.com (Bill) OR camickelson@msn.com (Cathy)

To register online, visit:
familylife.com/weekend-to-remember

MARCH Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

Solomon Freeman 3/1
Michael Furnare 3/1
Jason McArdel 3/2
Carrie Hansen 3/2
Jeff Benjamin 3/3
Amelia Mickelson 3/3
Valerie McCafferty 3/3
Jeannette Coppess 3/4
Danielle Lege 3/4
Evelyn McArdel 3/4
Jakob Burklund 3/5
Kristen Thompson 3/5
Claire Ramos 3/6
Joshua Barrios 3/8
Yanan Gray 3/11
Rachel Wallace 3/14
Nancy Ebi 3/14
Jennifer McInnis 3/16
Doug Thompson 3/17
Jax Lilly 3/17
Joel McCafferty 3/18
Jon Rehberg 3/21

Ken Lilly 3/23

Jordan Bonn 3/23
Naseem Bilal 3/23
Bette Rutherford 3/24
Travis Schrock 3/25
Luca Furnare 3/25
Andrew Hayward 3/26
Mike Carlton 3/26
Peter Gray 3/26
Hudson Hansen 3/28
Matthew McArdel 3/29

Anniversaries

Shane & Yanan Gray
3/12
Paul & Chrissy Mickelson
3/20
Al & Pat Haylor
3/22
Paul & Megan Cummings
3/23
Dale & Jeannette Coppess
3/24
Steve & Cindy Wentworth
3/26

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Adventure Club 6:30 Men's Discipleship Group 6:30pm Youth Group	2 5:00pm Youth Bible Quizzing	3 6:00am Men's Discipleship Group 8:00am Men's Bible Study Church Lightbulb Drop-Off	4
			5 6:00pm Prayer Meeting Anchored Post-Prayer Meeting Fellowship (@ Blakeys') (Waste Event)	6 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Anchored Workshop (@ Blakeys')	7 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	8 10:00am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group
12 3:00-5:00pm Baby Shower for Christina Mickelson	13 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Anchored Workshop (@ Blakeys')	14 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo 6:30pm Elder Meeting	15 10:00am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Adventure Club 6:30 Men's Discipleship Group 6:30pm Youth Group	16 5:00pm Youth Bible Quizzing	17 ♣ 6:00am Men's Discipleship Group 8:00am Men's Bible Study	18 1:30-4:00pm Baby Shower for Amanda Olson (Time TBD) Dessert Social with Sr. Pastor Candidate
19 Preaching by Sr. Pastor Candidate	20 First Day of Spring! 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Anchored Workshop (@ Blakeys')	21 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	22 10:00am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group	23 5:00pm Youth Bible Quizzing	24 8:00am Men's Bible Study	25
26 Communion 6:30pm All-Church Business Meeting	27 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Anchored Workshop (@ Blakeys')	28 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	29 10:00am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Adventure Club 6:30 Men's Discipleship Group 6:30pm Youth Group	30 5:00pm Youth Bible Quizzing	31 6:00am Men's Discipleship Group 8:00am Men's Bible Study	

Looking Ahead at Eastridge

April 2023

Saturday, April 1	Spring Church Workday #1	9:00am (Church Grounds)
Sunday, April 2	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Sunday, April 9	Easter Sunday Services	8:30am & 10:30am (no Sunday School)
Friday, April 28	Women's Event— <i>Who is Your God?</i> <i>Salty Snacks & Sweet Conversation</i>	7:00pm (Auditorium)
Saturday, April 29	Spring Church Workday #2	9:00am (Church Grounds)

May 2023

Sunday, May 7	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Saturday, May 20	Spring Church Workday #3	9:00am (Church Grounds)

June 2023

Sunday, June 4	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Mon-Thurs, June 26-29*	Vacation Bible School	*(Dates are Tentative)

Ladies!
Save The Date

Join us on
Friday, April 28th at 7:00 PM
for an evening of
salty Snacks
and
Sweet Conversation!
We will get cozy, enjoy munchies,
and share our thoughts about
the topic
"Who is Your God?"
It promises to be a delightful evening
of growing, learning, and celebrating
Gospel truths together.
We hope to see you there!

Current Sermon Series:



Miss a week? Catch up by viewing past sermon audio/video:

eastridgebaptist.org/sermon-audio ♣ youtube.com/c/EastridgeBaptistChurchKent



EASTRIDGE
BAPTIST CHURCH