



The Weapons of our Warfare, Part 4

from the desk of Pastor John

The most expensive sword in the world is considered to be the Boateng Saber owned by Chinese Emperor Qianlong in the mid-1700s. It sold at auction for \$7.7 million. Its legacy, its age, and the materials used (gold, silver, copper, and jade) combine to give the sword its extreme value.

As valuable as Qianlong's sword is, it pales in value to the sword that every Christian should handle daily. Of course, I am speaking of the Bible, the Word of

God. Sadly, for many Christians, the Bible is such a familiar sight that many don't even see it anymore. That is, they

don't recognize it as the divine book that it is. While we are grateful to have the Bible in our language and accessible in a variety of forms, in some ways the Bible



is treated the same way we treat a chair. We see the chair, we know its there, but we don't feel the need to sit in it. We know we can sit in it anytime we want because the chair will always be there. We don't consider sitting in the chair as something important to our way of life as much as a convenience if we get tired of standing. In a similar way, we see our Bible, perhaps every day, and we know it is there if we need it. Yet, we don't consider it important to our daily lives, as

much as it is a convenience if we grow weary or have some spare time. But the Bible is much more than a chair to rest on when life wears you down. It is a weapon that exposes our souls and performs surgery on our hearts by revealing the true nature of our thoughts and intentions.

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The author of Hebrews spoke of the discerning power of the Bible in **Hebrews 4:12** when he said, **For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.** We have previously looked at the Bible as *the Living Word* and *the Active Word*; this month we will look at it as *the Sharp Word*.

The author tells us that it is **sharper than any two-edged sword.**

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Weapons of Warfare

Continued from page 1

When it comes to a sword, sharpness is crucial. A dull sword will be of very little use in a battle against an enemy with a well-honed weapon. The author uses the superlative, **sharper**, to show that it is better than any other sword. Throughout the centuries people have opted to put their trust in counterfeit “swords,” be it the *Book of Mormon*, *The Koran*, *Watchtower*, or any number of other religious writings. None of those books can compete with the Bible. They are all man-made books that only have the influences that man allows them to have. They are all blunt instruments. They are powerless to discern a person’s heart, they are powerless to transform lives by conforming people to the image of Christ. Using anything other than the Bible to change a person’s life is like trying to perform open-heart surgery with a plastic spork! The Word of God is sharp. There are no dull books, there are no blunt verses—God uses His Word to pierce the hearts of His people.

The Word of God transforms us because it knows us so well. It knows how we think, it understands what drives us, and it exposes our carefully hidden motives and convicts us of sin so that we may confess it and turn away from it. The Word of God penetrates us like nothing else can. The Word of God is sharp enough to pierce the hardest heart. One cannot come into contact with the Word of God without it having some effect on them (Isa. 55:11). It has the ability to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable. It can cause us to bleed, and it can stop our bleeding. It can produce conviction and consolation. It can dole out judgment and forgiveness. It can tear down, and it can build up. It can judge, and it can justify. In the Bi-

ble we come face-to-face with the wrath of God and the mercy of God.

I never know how the Spirit of God will apply the Word of God to an individual’s life. I am reminded of the veteran preacher who said, “As one who preaches the Word of God, it has always amazed me how I can be, at the same time, both the most loved and the most hated man in town. When I walk into a room full of people, I never know if I should duck or pucker!” The Apostle Paul understood this dichotomy when he wrote **2 Corinthians 2:15-16**, “For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; ¹⁶ to the one an aroma from death to death, to the

“*The Word of God penetrates us like nothing else can. The Word of God is sharp enough to pierce the hardest heart. One cannot come into contact with the Word of God without it having some effect on them (Isa. 55:11).*”

other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?”

We are to wield the sharp Word of God with confidence in its divine power. God will use His Word as He sees fit. The living, active, sharp Word will pierce a person and kill only that which needs to be killed. It can kill a man’s pride,

his self-righteousness, his self-deception, and his faithless works. At the same time, it restores the soul and grants new life to those who believe it.

We have the blessing of having the Word of God readily available. We should read the Word, study the Word, and apply the Word. We should surrender to the Word and let it perform its divine surgery on our hearts! What the Word of God does for us is more valuable than anything this world could ever provide. C.H. Spurgeon said, “Oh, to be sacrificed unto God, and His Word be the sacrificial knife! Oh, that His Word were put to the throat of every sinful tendency, every sinful habit, and every sinful thought! There is no sin-killer like the Word of God.”

Declutter for a Cause!

by Cathy Mickelson

Eastridge will be sending a short-term mission team to Lautoka, Fiji July 7–17 to help our missionaries, Premend and Ashwin Choy, run a Vacation Bible School.

The team consists of:

Pastor John
Ashly Barrios
Kimberly Bonar
Samantha Goheen
Leo Guevara
Sofia Guevara
Bill & Cathy Mickelson
Emily Swenson
Silas & Val Tuthill



In support of the team's trip, they will be hosting a fundraiser at the church on **Saturday, May 14 from 9:00am to 2:00pm**. The fundraiser will include a car wash (by donation) and a garage sale (in the Youth Center).

In support of the garage sale, the team is seeking donations of items in good to excellent condition. So, declutter your house by cleaning out those closets and your overstuffed garage and donate your unwanted items to the Fiji team!

Donations of items will be accepted in the Youth Center Sunday, May 8 (after 11:15am) through Friday, May 13.

For more information about donating items or to arrange a drop-off time, please contact Cathy Mickelson at camickelson@msn.com or Bill Mickelson at mickelsons5@msn.com

WHAT WE NEED MOST



- * Baby and toddler clothes
- * Baby equipment and toys
- * Children's toys
- * Kitchen items and small appliances
- * Sporting goods
- * Tools and yard equipment
- * Books
- * Small electronics (no computers, please)
- * Household items
- * Wall décor
- * Quality jewelry
- * Small furniture

WHAT WE DON'T NEED



- * Children's or adult clothing (baby and toddler clothes only, please)
- * Large furniture such as couches, recliners, etc.
- * Beds/mattresses
- * TVs
- * Computers or monitors
- * Large appliances

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

Upcoming Events



CAR WASH & GARAGE SALE



SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022

9:00am–2:00pm

Eastridge Baptist Church

**FANTASTIC FUNDRAISER
for the Fiji Mission Team**

Bring your car to be washed, and while you wait, head on over to the Youth Center and find some treasures at the garage sale! The car wash is by donation. All proceeds from the car wash and garage sale will go to our short-term Fiji mission team.

For more information, contact Bill Mickelson at mickelsons5@msn.com or Cathy Mickelson at camickelson@msn.com.

FINAL SPRING CHURCH WORKDAY

**Saturday, May 14
9:00am to 2:00pm**

*Refreshments
and lunch will
be provided*

Help us beautify the church grounds and garden beds!

Please bring a kneeling pad and trowel, if available

Sign up for the workday in the foyer or through your Realm account (Events). For more information, contact Cheryl Boston at crboston12@gmail.com

Book Review: “The Cup and the Glory by Greg Harris

from the desk of Pastor Paul

What sort of horror did our Savior face at the cross? Throughout history, artists have tried to portray the work of our Lord Jesus in a tasteful manner. Yet, the Scriptures foretold that the Suffering Servant would be afflicted so badly that **“his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance and his form beyond that of the children of mankind”** (Isa. 52:14).

This paints a more dramatic picture. The nature of the treatment towards Jesus and the details of his crucifixion found in Scripture take suffering to a whole new level. More was going on than just the physical torment. At the cross, Jesus bore an affliction that stretches the limits of our understanding. If we are to better know our Lord and the work He accomplished for us, then we must intentionally ponder the cross.

In his book, *The Darkness and the Glory*, Greg Harris dives into the depths of the cross. He seeks to help readers attain a better understanding of what was happening in events surrounding Jesus’ crucifixion. Throughout the Gospels, we read of Jesus being given a cup to drink from His Father. In anticipation of the cross, Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane, **“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will”** (Matt. 26:39). After Peter cuts off the ear of Malchus in the tussle of Jesus’ arrest, Jesus

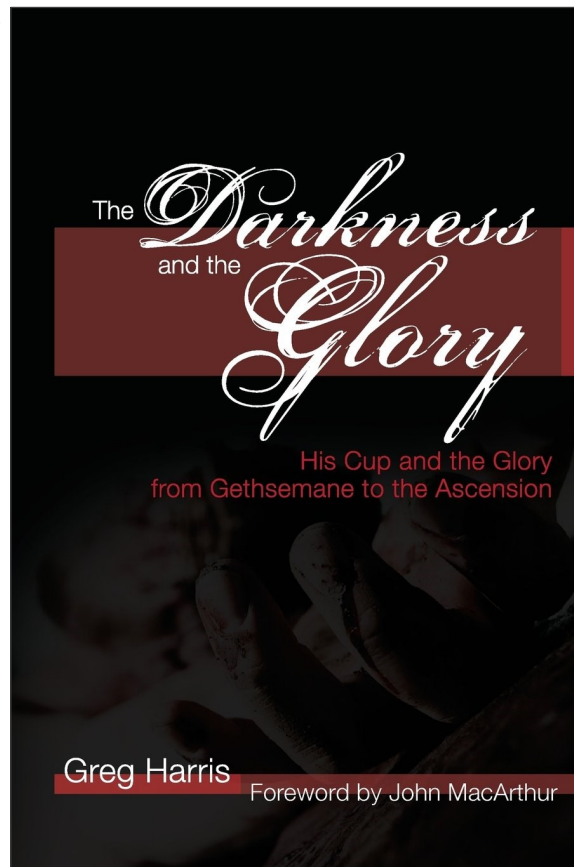
stops Peter and asks, **“shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”** (John 18:11).

Greg Harris asks the question, “Is there any way to know what the cup His Father had given Him contained” (Harris, 23)? With the presupposition that we are dependent upon Scripture alone for a proper understanding, Harris believes we can know. He writes, “The cup that Jesus drank was uniquely His, uniquely alone—and unimaginably deep. He alone is able; He alone is worthy” (Harris 18). In this

book, the reader is guided through the depth of agony Jesus faced by drinking this cup as the Lamb who was slain (Isa. 53:7; John 1:29; 1 Pet. 1:18-19). It peers into what was going on behind the scene during this hour of darkness. Yet, the story does not end at the cross. Harris walks from Gethsemane to the Ascension of Jesus. He discusses God’s great plan to conquer darkness through the crushing of the willing Servant Jesus. Harris takes the reader through the seriousness of sin and its consequences, as well as the glory of Christ who triumphed over sin

and death.

I highly encourage all to read this little, yet weighty book. Pastor John MacArthur writes, “This Christ-centered book is highly recommended to all who desire a better understanding of the glories of the cross” (Harris, 11). As we seek to know Christ more, it helps us “survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died” (Watts, Isaac). May these ponderings lead us to worship our Lord all the more.



Upcoming Events

(continued from page 4)

Annual Meeting & POTLUCK DINNER

Sunday, May 22, 2022
Eastridge Baptist Church

- ✓ Potluck begins at 5:00pm followed by the business meeting at 6:00pm
- ✓ EBC members will be voting on the 2022-2023 budget and the calling of elders to the Elder Board.
- ✓ Everyone is invited to attend, but only members may vote.



VOTE

If you plan to attend the potluck and your last name begins with **A–F**, please bring a dessert; **G–L**, bring a side dish; and **M–Z**, bring a main dish. Drinks will be supplied. Questions? Contact one of the elders or call the church office at 253-630-2327 or email info@eastridgebaptist.org.

Cooking-for-Groups Made Easy

Do you like to cook, but are unsure of what and how to cook for a group? Would you like to use your love of cooking to bless others in the church but are not sure how to get involved? If so, we have a class for you!



On Saturday, **May 28 from 10:00am to 1:00pm**, Jeannie Osterman will teach a cooking class at the church for anyone who is interested in becoming familiar with the church kitchen and learning what and how to cook for a group. The class will start out by making enchiladas (recipe provided) and Jeannie will provide other ideas for dishes you can prepare.

Do you have a good special dietary recipe (maybe gluten free, dairy free, soy free, etc.) that you'd like to share with the class? Contact Jeannie and let her know so she can incorporate your ideas into the class.

This class is open to men and women high school age and up. Space is limited to 12-15 people. For more information or to sign up for the class, please contact Jeannie Osterman at jean_osterman@yahoo.com.

Service Opportunity: Ushers Needed!

Do you like meeting new people? Do you enjoy making people feel welcome when they attend a service at Eastridge? If so, we'd love to use your gifts on the usher team!

We are looking to get this important ministry up and running again (after a Covid hiatus) and are in need of volunteers to usher at first or second service. Ushers are responsible for greeting congregants as they enter the worship center, handing out bulletins and welcome brochures, and helping people find seats when the sanctuary begins to fill. Training will be provided.

We are also looking for a **head usher**. In addition to regular usher duties, the head usher creates an

usher schedule and ensures new ushers are trained. If you would like to volunteer for either of these ministry positions, please contact the church office at info@eastridgebaptist.org or Pastor Samuel Blakey at samuelb@eastridgebaptist.org.

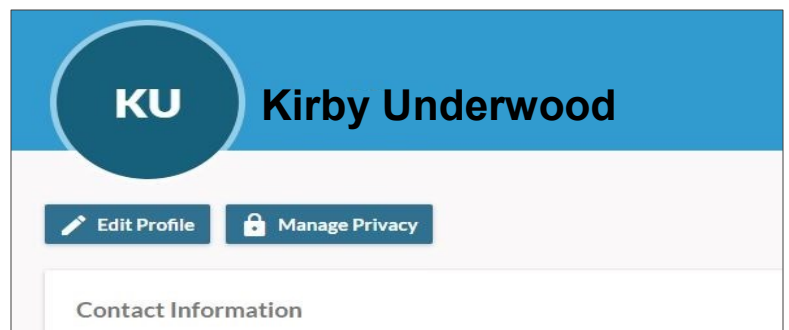


Help Us Put a Name to a Face

Eastridge is blessed to have quite a few new families attending our church and we'd love to be able to get to know everyone better! One of the ways you can help is by providing a family photo.

If you are a Realm account holder but have never added your photo to your Realm profile, we'd be grateful if you'd upload a recent photo so our elders and the other congregants can put a name to a face! Uploading your photo is easy:

1. Log in to EBC's Realm site at onrealm.org/ebc
2. Click your name in the upper-right corner, and select My Profile.
3. Point to the circle image to the left of your name (a camera icon will appear) and click it.
4. Browse to the image on your computer that you want to use and select it.
5. Adjust the image size using the slider. If your image is larger than 172 x 172 pixels, you can zoom out until it fits in the circle viewer. Anything outside of the circle is removed. If your image is smaller, you can zoom in but you might lose resolution.
6. Click **Save**. You might need to refresh the page to see your changes.



If you're not sure how to access our Realm system (our online communication tool at Eastridge), please contact the church office at 253-630-2327 or info@eastridgebaptist.org and we'd be happy to get you connected. You can also email us your family photo and we can upload it for you!



Words of appreciation

Show your love for your mother, grandmother or aunt this Mother's Day by placing words of appreciation throughout the house for her to find.

What you need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Colored pencils
- Crayons
- Tape



What you do:

1. Fold construction paper into fourths.
2. Cut paper along the folds to get four pieces.
3. On each rectangle, write words of appreciation, drawings and so on.
4. Tape the papers throughout the house. For example, a note on the refrigerator or pantry might say, "Thank you for making yummy meals for me." A note on a mirror might say, "You are beautiful inside and out!"



Mothers in the Bible

Children have always had a special place in their mother's heart.

Directions: First, cover up the second column and see if you can name some of the mothers' children from the Bible. Then write the circled letters on the correct lines below to complete Proverbs 23:25, NIV.

MOTHERS

- Eve³¹ bore
- Sarah²³ bore
- Rebekah²³ bore
- Rachel¹³ bore
- Leah¹² bore
- Zilpah⁴⁴ bore
- Bilhah³⁴ bore
- Jochebed¹⁹ bore
- Naomi⁸ bore
- Ruth¹⁴ bore
- Hannah²⁶ bore
- Bathsheba¹⁰ bore
- Elizabeth⁹ bore
- Mary³ bore
- Eunice⁶ bore

CHILDREN

- Cain, Abel and Seth¹¹
- Isaac²⁵
- Jacob and Esau¹⁵
- Benjamin and Joseph⁴¹
- Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun and Dinah³⁰
- Gad and Asher²⁴
- Dan and Naphtali³⁸
- Moses¹
- Mahlon and Kilion³²
- Obed⁵
- Samuel²¹
- Solomon⁴²
- John the Baptist³⁷
- Jesus⁹
- Timothy⁴



“ _____ ;
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
 _____ W _____
 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33
 _____ f _____ !”
 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44

PROVERBS 23:25, NIV

Answer: "May your mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful!" Proverbs 23:25, NIV



“Praying God’s Will Using Prayers in the Bible” Developing a More Meaningful Life of Prayer

Ladies, join us this summer for a Bible study that will help you develop a more meaningful prayer life!

- Gain a deeper understanding of biblical prayers through personal study and group discussions
- Draw closer to God as you learn about and use the different types of prayer in each lesson
- Enjoy fellowship with women of all ages
- Offering a morning and evening study to accommodate your schedule
- Meeting for seven Wednesdays: June 1, 8, 22 ♦ July 6, 20 ♦ August 3, 10
- Led by Anette Busick

Wednesday Mornings at 10:00am

- * Group meets in Building B, downstairs in rooms B4 and B5
- * Childcare provided by pre-registration
- * No cost to attend the study
- * Study questions provided

Wednesday Evenings at 6:30pm

- * Group meets in the large portable
- * No childcare provided
- * No cost to attend the study
- * Study questions provided

Watch for registration information on Realm; there will also be a sign-up sheet in the foyer starting May 15. For more information or to pre-register for childcare, please contact Anette Busick at anettebusick@comcast.net.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Andrew Watson 5/1
Isaac Hayward 5/1
Grace Rutherford 5/2
Keren Goheen 5/3
Alex Lége 5/3
Mark Yarnold 5/4
Gabriela Ramos 5/4
Andy Zaveruha 5/5
Sarah Watson 5/7
Gabe Nieman 5/7
Debbie Thompson 5/9
Jean Foster 5/9
Ken Botka 5/11

Kimberly Bonar 5/13
Levi Hammett 5/16
Laura Botka 5/17
Eli Yarnold 5/18
Abigail Kerr 5/18
Jenna Freeman 5/19
Olivia Benavidez 5/19
Zephaniah Skeith 5/20
Emma McArdel 5/20
Mila Kukhar 5/21
Rebecca Pogue 5/23
Diane Carlton 5/24
Ai-Lin Eng 5/25
Nathan Bonar 5/25

Mike Freeland 5/25

Erin Reed 5/25

Peaches Sandelius 5/26

Johnathan Rutherford
5/27

Timothy Kusack 5/27

Karen McArdel 5/29

Anniversaries

Chris and Tammy Jensen
5/5

Brad and Amy Meeuwse
5/12

Mark and Cathy McMinn
5/20

Jim and Peggy Sherman
5/22



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 6:00pm Prayer Meeting	2 2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:45pm Men's Bible Study	3 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo	4 10:00am–12:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group	5 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	6 8:00am Men's Bible Study	7
8 	9 2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:45pm Men's Bible Study	10 10:30am Missions Prayer Ministry (@ Alaire Irish's) 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo	11 6:30pm Youth Group	12 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	13	14 9:00am–2:00pm Missions Car Wash & Garage Sale 9:00am–2:00pm Church Workday
15 8:30am & 11:15am Baby Dedication Services	16 2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study	17 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo	18 6:30pm Youth Group	19 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	20	21 10:00am–12:00pm Ladies' Craft Morning
22 Annual Business Meeting and Potluck (5:00pm Potluck; 6:00pm Business Meeting)	23 2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study	24 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo	25 6:30pm Youth Group	26 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	27	28 10:00am–1:00pm Cooking-for-Groups Class (@ EBC)
29 Communion	30 2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study	31 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo	 MAY			

June 2022

Wednesday, June 1	Ladies' Summer Bible Studies Begin	10:00am & 6:30pm @ EBC
Sunday, June 5	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, June 14	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Sunday, June 19	Father's Day	
Sunday, June 19	Promotion and Graduation Sunday	
Wednesday, June 22	Kids' Summer Bible Study Begins	6:30pm @ EBC

July 2022

Sunday, July 3	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Thursday, July 7– Sunday, July 17	Fiji Short-term Mission	
Monday, July 11– Friday, July 15	Vacation Bible School	6:00–8:30pm Daily
Tuesday, July 12	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Monday, July 18– Friday, July 22	Youth Summer Camp	Cascades Camp (Yelm, WA)

August 2022

Sunday, August 7	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, August 9	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Friday, August 12	Ladies' Fireside Fellowship	7:00–9:00pm (Goheen's)

LOOKING AHEAD



Praying for Our Moms

Lord, today I pray a prayer of blessing for my mother. Shower her with your blessings each day as she trusts in you. Multiply her blessings, and please provide for her every need. I pray that my family and I will continue to bless her with our love and support. Amen.

Lord, I pray for mothers who are dealing with the pain of a prodigal child. Embrace them in your arms of tender care, and may they receive your comfort and strength. Help them to not give up on their children, but to patiently wait for them to return home. Remind them that you have not given up on them, and that you love their children with an everlasting love. May she lean upon you each day as she loves her children with your unconditional love. Amen.



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