

Worship, Part 3

from the desk of Pastor John

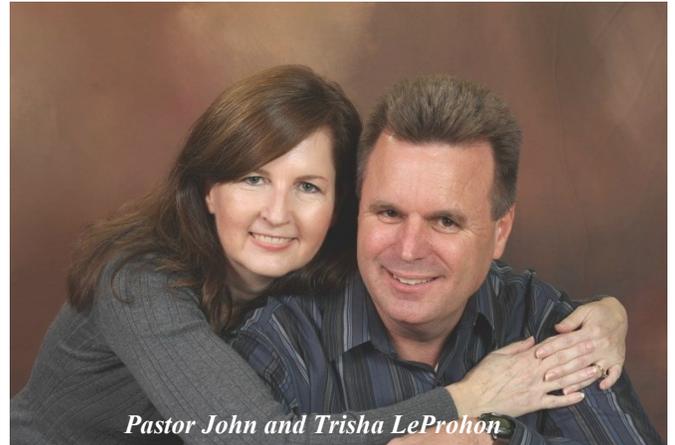
What motivates you to worship God? There are a variety of factors that seem to motivate worship.

Throughout history, many have been motivated by intimidation. We might call this “worship at the tip of a sword.” It was true during the Inquisition when the Roman Catholic Church imprisoned or killed those who didn’t confess what the Church taught. Hundreds of Christian martyrs were burned at the stake for not adhering to Catholic worship. Islamic countries today still enforce worship with threats of imprisonment or death. But this is not true worship.

For others, the motive to worship God is simply tradition. Seven hundred years before Christ, God chastised Israel saying, in **Isaiah 29:13**, “...this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*,” According to Matthew 15:8–9, worship as a tradition was still taking place during the time of Christ. Worshipping as a tradition is still practiced today, as seen in those who only attend church at Easter and Christmas. But this is not true worship.

For yet others, their worship is motivated by

“ True worship includes fearing, submitting, honoring, exalting, praising, thanking, serving, sacrificing, and more. ”



Pastor John and Trisha LeProhon

how it makes them feel. When your worship is motivated by how it makes you feel, you have ceased to worship God—or worse—you are actually worshipping your feelings. We all have personal preferences. For example, we all have styles

of music that we prefer or that we personally enjoy more than others. There may be nothing wrong with having preferences, but they should never be elevated to criteria for biblical worship. Your stylistic preferences should have no bearing on your ability to worship God. When you say that you are unable to worship God unless the music has a particular tempo (be it fast or slow) or unless you are free to be physically or verbally expressive, then your motive for worship is personal feeling, and not God’s glory. This is not true worship.

According to Romans 12:1–2, worship is much more than an activity one participates in or a feeling one has; it is something that takes place in the

continued on pg. 2

mind first, and then spills out into actions. Romans 12:1–2, “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

As we saw last month, verse one tells us that worship is achieved by presenting the body as a living sacrifice. In verse two, we see that this kind of worship requires the renewing of your mind. Only a renewed mind can prove what the will of God is. The renewed mind leads to the presentation of the body. In other words, the more your mind is renewed in the understand-

ing of who God is and what He is doing, the more you are motivated to worship Him in the sacrifice of self.

Worship, then, can be defined as all that we are responding to all that God is. True worship includes fearing, submitting, honoring, exalting, praising, thanking, serving, sacrificing, and more. Worship is the reasonable response to who God is and what He has done, which also serves as the motivation for our worship. When worship is motivated by intimidation, tradition, personal feelings, or preferences, it is no longer worship because worship isn't about what is expected of us or how we are made to feel. If our worship is to be acceptable to God, it must be motivated by who God is and what He has done.

EASTRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIR
presents
God Came Down
SUNDAY, December 16, 2018
During the 8:30am and 11:15am worship services

3 Things Evangelism Isn't

According to Alex Kocman, Director of Long-Term Mobilization at ABWE*

When I was a youth pastor, I interviewed a woman seeking to volunteer in the student ministry. As was my custom, I began with a seemingly simple question: “What is the gospel?”

Her answer took me aback. “It’s basically God’s rules for how to live your life,” she proceeded to explain. I was stunned. This kind, helpful church lady had just exchanged grace for law.

In another more recent conversation, I asked a young woman why she was interested in cross-cultural ministry. “I just feel like the Bible has a lot of great guidelines that can improve life, and I want to share those and help people,” she replied.

I have conversations like this more often than I care to admit. We’d like to assume Christians understand the gospel as the message of Christ’s death and resurrection to save sinners by faith (1 Cor. 15:1–4), but

we can’t. Definitions matter—especially when the gospel is at stake.

1. **Sharing Your Story**—Sharing your personal testimony can open doors for spiritual conversation, turning awkward monologues into friendly dialogue. But unless you explicitly unravel the nature of God, the problem of sin, the redemptive work of Christ, and the call to repent and believe, simply sharing your testimony isn’t evangelism. To evangelize is to proclaim God’s good news, not personal insights (Gal. 1:11–12).

2. **Showing Mercy**—Both testaments command God’s people to serve the poor and marginalized

(Deut. 6:5, 15:11; Matt. 22:39; James 1:27). Even the Apostle Paul—preacher, theologian, evangelist—saw this as his responsibility (Gal 2: 10). But however much we may adorn social justice and mercy ministries with spiritualized labels—“showing Christ’s love,” or Assisi’s “preach(ing) the gospel with words (only) when necessary”—meeting physical needs is not evangelism.

Compassion can open doors to gospel conversations, but acts of compassion themselves don’t “tell” the world anything. The “telling” is still our job.

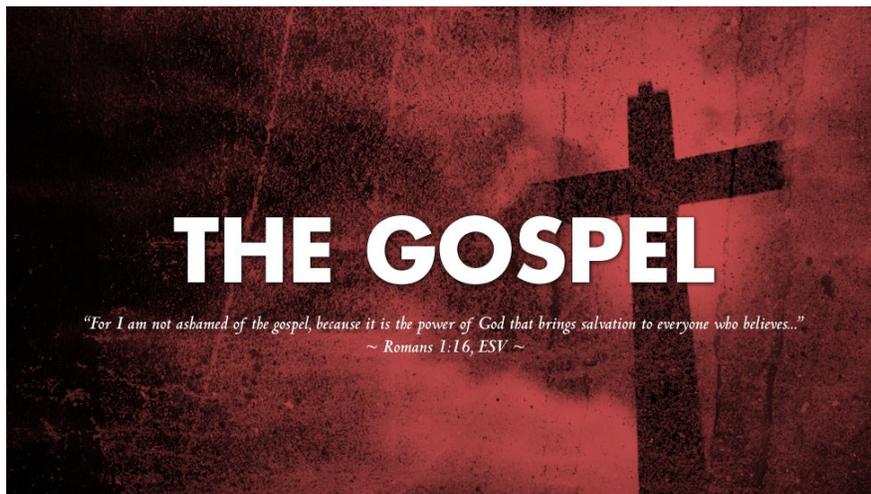
3. **Sharing the Benefits**—In our evangelical zeal,

we’re often tempted to goad our hearers into making a decision.

We risk confusing the gospel with its benefits. “Jesus can change your life,” “Jesus can save your marriage,” or “Jesus can heal your

wounds from trauma” may or may not be true statements, but they don’t tell me how to be saved. Those who profess faith after hearing claims like these often fall away when life gets hard, having never grasped Christ’s redemptive work.

We are to tell people the gospel—understandably, with words—and trust the Spirit to open hearts (1 Cor. 2:1–5). When we do this faithfully, we have obeyed our evangelistic mandate.



*ABWE is the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism. ABWE message used with permission.

Refugee Winter Clothing Drive

The cold weather is upon us, and refugees are arriving at World Relief in Kent without adequate winter clothing.

We will be collecting winter weather clothing including coats, sweaters, pants, boots, winter hats, gloves, scarves, and also umbrellas. All items must be in very good condition. Most needed is men's clothing in sizes medium and large. Women's and children's clothing will also be collected.

The collection barrel will be in the foyer during November and December for your donations. Thank you so much for showing the refugee community the love of Christ by providing them with warm clothing.

If you have questions, contact Cathy Mickelson at 253-569-3468 or camickelson@msn.com.



Congratulations to Quinn and Luke Sundvall on the birth of their first child, a baby girl named Skyler Elizabeth! Skyler was born on November 19 at 2:00am. She weighed 7 lb. 11 oz. and was 20 in. long. Mom and baby are doing great!

Congratulations, also, to grandparents, Bill and Joanne Thomas!

A simple birth.

The ultimate gift of love.

CHRISTMAS
EVE
at Eastridge

SERVICE TIME
6:00PM
December 24, 2018

Offering Nursery for
children under 2 yrs.



Isaiah the prophet had two sons, both named in Isaiah 7–8. Shear-jashub (7:3) and Maher-shalal-hash-baz (8:3). Isaiah’s wife was called a prophetess (8:3). Not necessarily because she spoke prophecy but because she gave birth to two prophecies. Both sons were messages incarnate. Their names meant something. Shear-jashub: A remnant shall return. Maher-shalal-hash-baz: Speed to the Plunder, Hurry to the Spoil. His son’s names alone spoke to the situation of the day, when Judah faced the threat of a Syria-Ephraim alliance formed in the shadow of Assyria’s march toward world conquest. The Lord would preserve a remnant who would trust Him, despite the enemy nations hurrying to plunder all in their path.

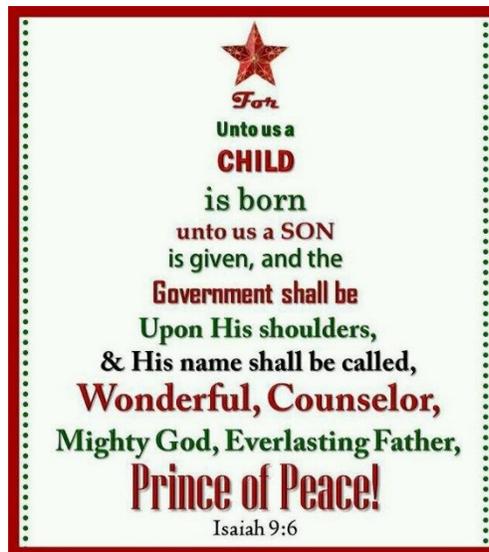
There was a third son named in Isaiah 7–8. But this was not Isaiah’s child. Nor any human father’s son for that matter. He was the son of a virgin. Isaiah 7:14 declares, “Behold, the virgin pregnant!” This son was a message as well. He was so much a message in the flesh that the Gospel of John says of Him, “the Word became flesh.” When

this incarnate message was named in Isaiah, the Judean king Ahaz had just arrogantly refused God’s offer of a sign to affirm His commitment to preserve the line of David. The Lord had offered a sign as high as heaven or as deep as sheol, but Ahaz had already made up his mind that the way he would stay safe in this time of trouble was to make his own political alliances rather than lean on the Lord. So, God moves heaven and earth anyway, and the sign is a pregnant virgin, pregnant with a son to be named, Immanuel, God-with-us. God will move heaven and earth to show His commitment to bring about His promises even in the midst of man’s rejection and unbelief.

When we find this prophecy fulfilled in the birth of the Christ, God’s strength is so great that He can

place His might in the person of a child, and His strength and wisdom still surpasses the might of men. “The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.” (Psalm 46:6) In all the raging of the nations, and they still rage, it only takes an utterance of the Lord to melt the earth. Perhaps no more softly did He speak than when He spoke through His Son, the “Word made flesh” born as a nobody to nobodies in nowhere town. But His message has shaken the nations. The Word turned Israel upside down with His teaching, love, righteousness, and sacrifice. The preaching of the Word by His disci-

ples turned the world upside down with the change His message wrought in the world. Pagans forsaking their gods; magicians leaving their books; persecutors leaving their orders; fishermen leaving their nets; tax collectors leaving their booths; missionaries leaving their homes; martyrs leaving their lives; all to follow this Word. So softly spoken to start. But the utterance of the Lord melts the earth.



This third son in Isaiah is mentioned at a time when the threats against Judah are so great that its continued existence as a nation is dubious. No one would look to a child to rescue them. It would take the strength of political alliances, military might, and negotiating shrewdness to pull through this threat. In one of the few instances of the Lord laughing, He laughs at the counsel of kings against Him (Psalm 2:4). To show the complete gap between power of man and the power of God, the Lord declares in Isaiah 9 that upon the shoulder of a child shall be the ever-increasing government of peace (9:6-7). Militaries, kings, war machines, international relations, collectively have not even an ounce of capacity to thwart the Lord’s plans to place the rule of the world into the hands of this virgin-born son.

Hymn Story: Thou Who Wast Rich *from the desk of Pastor Samuel*

*Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor
All for love's sake becamest poor
Thrones for a manger didst surrender
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor
All for love's sake becamest poor*

*Thou who art God beyond all telling
All for love's sake becamest man
Stooping so low, but sinners raising
Heavenwards by Thine eternal plan
Thou who art God beyond all telling
All for love's sake becamest man*

*Thou who art love beyond all praising
Savior and King, we worship*

*Thee
Emmanuel, within us dwelling
Make us what Thou wouldst
have us be*

*Thou who art love beyond all
praising
Savior and King, we worship
Thee*



There has never been an “easy” time to be a Christian in China. Every evangelistic wave dating back to the 7th century has been met with persecution in some form. The most recent form of persecution has come from the Communist Party of China, which began to take influence in the 1920s. During this time, a British minister named Frank Houghton joined the mission field in inland China. He saw the opposition to Christianity firsthand, as nearly half the missionaries where he served were killed or forced to return to their native lands.

In the midst of this, Houghton decided to travel throughout the country to visit missionary outposts. During his travels, his Bible study brought him to 2 Corinthians 8:9 – “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.” Houghton found such com-

fort and encouragement from this verse that he was inspired to write the hymn “Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor.”

This hymn is typically sung around Christmas in churches today, but Houghton also had another motive in his writing. It was an encouragement for those missionaries in China that Christ humbled Himself so extraordinarily in order that we might receive salvation. Additionally, this hymn is meant to spur the singer to action. If Christ was willing to give up the “sapphire-paved courts” of heaven to enter our world and take the punishment our sin deserved, then we can endure persecution in this life for the sake of the gospel.

It is rather fitting that the two lines in the very center of this hymn succinctly describe God’s intent for Christ coming to earth: “Stooping so low, but sinners raising / Heavenwards by Thine eternal plan.” This had been God’s sovereign

plan all along, that Christ would humble Himself to the point of death, so that sinful humans may be raised to new life in Him. This is more than enough reason for us to worship the Lord for what He has done (as the final verse states, “Savior and King, we worship Thee”) and willingly offer our lives in service to Him (“Make us what Thou wouldst have us be”).

Houghton lived and served with the commitment he wrote into this hymn. He remained in China as a missionary and was the general director of the China Inland Mission until the Communist Party of China forced the organization out in 1951. His life and ministry are still an example of faithful service in the midst of cruel opposition for us today. May we have the same desire expressed in this hymn: that God would mold us into the people He would have us be, and that we would gladly serve the Lord by declaring the gospel of our Savior and King.

Save the Date!



**MEN'S
Breakfast**

**Saturday, January 18
7:30am**

Eastridge Baptist Church



**Women's Half Day
OF PRAYER**

**Saturday, January 12, 2019
9:00am to Noon**

Eastridge Baptist Church

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Steve Wentworth 12/1
Steve Peltekian 12/1
Trinna Bonn 12/1
Bryan Botka 12/1
Zachary Peltekian 12/2
Shannon Kearney 12/2
Alijah Lopez 12/3
Caleb Watson 12/5
Emily Reed 12/6
Carmina Panfil 12/7
Chris Bonar 12/7
Steve Pate 12/9
Jim Hunter 12/9
Bev Heusser 12/10

Gina Robinson 12/10
Michal Tibbetts 12/10
Sandy Thomas 12/11
Sabrina Kelsey 12/12
Joey Bartlett 12/13
Robert Turnbull 12/13
Becky Maxson 12/14
Anabel Elliott 12/15
Amanda Barrios 12/17
Ashly Barrios 12/17
Ethan Tuthill 12/18
Tyler Botka 12/18
Bruce Diehl 12/19

Michaela Rutherford 12/19
Ray Emme 12/20
Joy Hafford 12/20
Savannah Wentworth
12/23
Noel Ahlstrom 12/23
Alex Borton 12/23
Danielle Jensen 12/25
Pam Emme 12/29
Larry Hughes 12/29
Emily Williams 12/29
John Stahlschmidt 12/29
Cherryl Boston 12/30
Madelyn Brichka 12/31

Anniversaries

Steve and Linda Pate 12/11
John and Susan Rehberg
12/13
Jason and Haley Ausen 12/17
Ed and Chris Pieczonka
12/17
Kenny and Karin Kerr 12/18
Larry and Jann Hughes 12/20
Bob and Jackie Cochran
12/28
Silesh and Marlene
Mansukhani 12/28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 5:00–6:00pm Adult Choir Practice (Youth Room) 6:00pm Monthly Prayer Meeting	3 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study (Large Portable) 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	4 5:00–8:30pm TaeKwonDo 6:30–8:00pm Apologetics Group 7:00pm Young Marrieds Bible Study (Youth Rm)	5 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs	6 9:30am Ladies' Bible Studies 5:00–6:45pm Youth Bible Quizzing (Youth Center) 7:00pm College/ Career Study 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	7 5:30am Watchmen Men's Discipleship (Youth Center)	8
9 5:00–7:00pm Adult Choir Practice (Youth Room) 6:00–8:00pm Pizza @ PR's	10 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study (Large Portable) 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	11 10:30am Missions Prayer Ministry 5:00–8:30pm TaeKwonDo 6:30–8:00pm Apologetics Group 7:00pm Young Marrieds Study 6:30pm Elder Mtg	12 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs	13 9:30am Ladies' Bible Studies Brunch 5:00–6:45pm Youth Bible Quizzing 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	14 5:30am Watchmen Men's Discipleship (Youth Center)	15
16 Adult Choir Special Music (both services)	17 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study Christmas Tea	18	19 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries	20 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	21	22
23	24 6:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27 7:00pm Worship Team Practice	28 5:00–9:00pm Youth/College Game Night	29
30 Communion	31 New Year's Eve	 <i>Merry Christmas</i>				

Upcoming Events at Eastridge

January 2019

Sunday, January 6	New Attenders' Luncheon	1:00pm (Auditorium)
Sunday, January 6	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm
Tuesday, January 8	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Saturday, January 12	Women's Half Day of Prayer	9:00am–noon
Friday, January 18	Men's Breakfast	7:30am
Sunday, January 20	Baby Dedications	Both Services
Sunday, January 27	Eastridge 101	1:00pm (Auditorium)

February 2019

Sunday, February 3	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm
Tuesday, February 12	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Sunday, February 17 – Tuesday, February 19	Youth Winter Camp	TBD

March 2019

Sunday, March 3	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm
Sunday, March 12	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Saturday, March 16	Men's Breakfast	7:30am

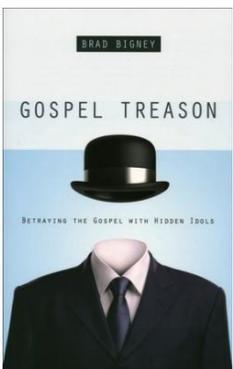
Mark your calendar...





Where has this year gone? It seems that the older one gets, the faster time passes—soon 2019 will be upon us! Many of you might be thinking about New Year’s resolutions already, and while statistics show that most people do not keep their resolutions, it is a good idea to have goals that you would like to accomplish in the new year. The most common resolutions revolve around health and finances, but might I encourage you to think about reading more next year?

First and foremost on your list must be God’s Word. As believers, it is imperative that we have a steady diet of eternal truth that comes from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In addition to that, I would like to make some recommendations that I hope will make it onto your 2019 reading list. These books will challenge you and help you to grow to be more like Christ in the coming year. They will be available for you to check out from our church library.

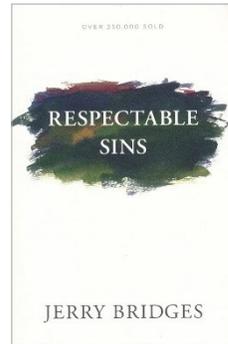


The first book I recommend is *Gospel Treason: Betraying the Gospel with Hidden Idols*, by Brad Bigney, Senior Pastor of Grace Fellowship Church in Florence, Kentucky.

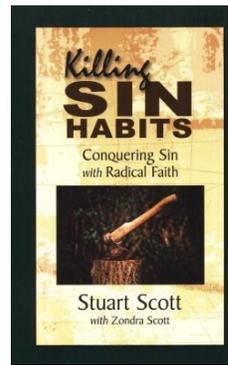
This book grew out of a series of sermons that address the issue of idolatry. No, not the bowing down to a golden image kind of idolatry,

but the kind that is rooted in our hearts which have been captivated by something or someone other than Christ. As Brad indicates, this is the sin beneath the sin, and his book will help you gain victory over sin at the heart level so that you can see lasting, godly change in your thoughts, words, and actions.

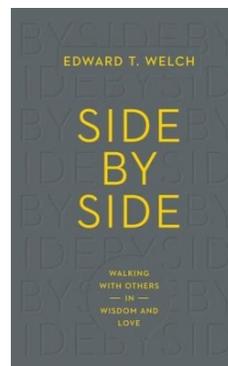
Second, I would like to recommend *Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins we Tolerate*, by Jerry Bridges. Many of you might be familiar with Bridges and have been helped by his other writings; this book is



equally impactful. This is one of those painfully good reads because it exposes how comfortable we have become with sin in our lives, sins like pride, anger, jealousy, worldliness, and ungodliness. Bridges challenges us to root out these sins through the power of the gospel and the hope that is found in walking daily with our Savior.

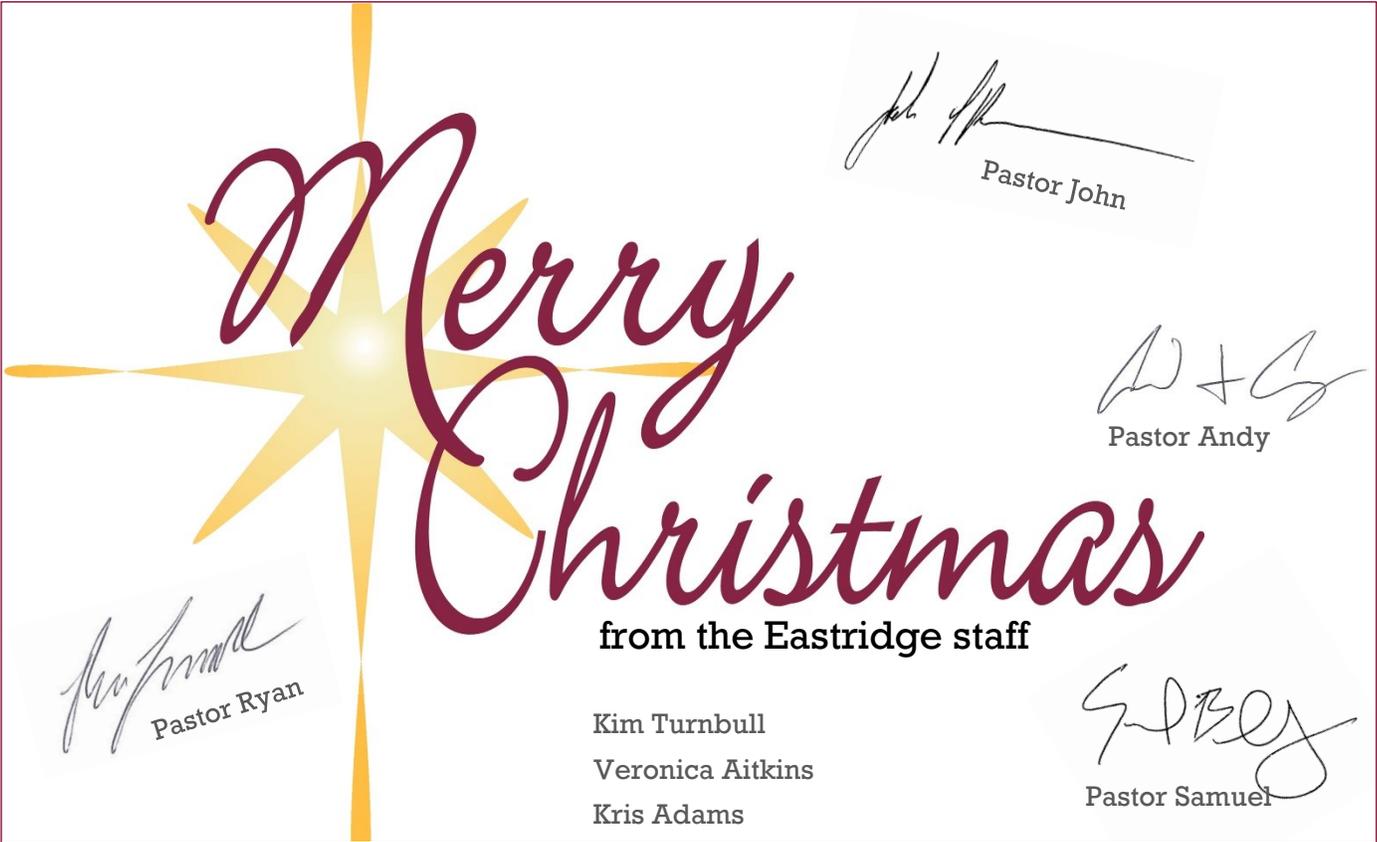


Next is a small book written by biblical counselor Stuart Scott entitled *Killing Sin Habits: Conquering Sin with Radical Faith*, but do not let its size fool you. At only 75 pages, Scott provides a powerful strategy for putting to death the deeds of the body (Rom 8:13) by making no provision to gratify the desires of the flesh (Rom 13:14) and for living a life of continual repentance and faith, turning from sin and to Christ in obedience. This is the biblical path for growth and change in the life of a believer.



Finally, might I suggest *Side-By-Side: Walking with Others in Wisdom and Love*, by Edward T. Welch, counselor and faculty member at the Christian Counseling and Education Foundation (CCEF). This book is based on the premise that we are both needy and needed.

We are needy because God made us to be dependent on Him and the body of Christ. We are needed because we have God-given gifts that are intended to help others. Welch writes, “We are meant to walk side by side, an interdependent body of weak people.” This book will help you grow in your understanding of what it means to live and serve in the body of Christ.



Merry Christmas

from the Eastridge staff

John
Pastor John

Andy
Pastor Andy

Ryan
Pastor Ryan

Kim Turnbull
Veronica Aitkins
Kris Adams

Samuel
Pastor Samuel