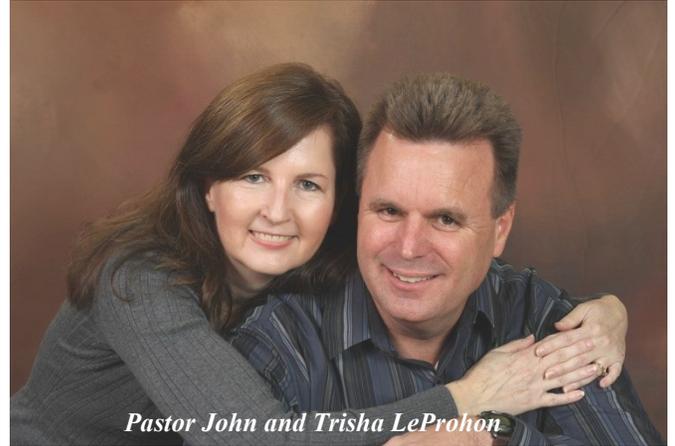


## Doing Church

from the desk of Pastor John

With the advent of electronic media and the proliferation of streaming church services, there are a growing number of people who are having “church” at home. They gather their family in the living room, sing a couple of songs, read a passage of Scripture, pray, and then sit in front of the computer and stream the sermon from a church service a thousand miles away. They pacify their conscience that they *did* church. In reality, they really didn’t *do* church. They may have sung hymns and spiritual songs, they may have prayed, they may have listened to a good sermon, and they may even have taken an offering that they intend to use for missions, but they did not *do* church. For that matter, many people who attend an actual church service, sing the same songs, and hear the same sermon as the family in their living room can do so without *doing* church.

Being part of God’s church is much more than going to a building on Sunday, sitting in a chair, and listening to a sermon. Being part of God’s church involves much more than what takes place at a Sunday service. Being part of God’s church is about being part of a local body and fulfilling the relational commands He has given you. You cannot effectively live out your Christian faith apart from interaction and involvement with your Christian brothers and sisters. Your Christian faith was never intended to be lived in seclusion. You



Pastor John and Trisha LeProhon

cannot fulfill the “one another” commands apart from involvement in a local church.

Most Christians are fully aware that we are to love one another. Jesus made it abundantly clear in John 13:34 and 15:12 that loving one another was His commandment to us. Throughout the letter of I John we are told that we are to love one another, not only as an act of obedience, but as the natural consequence of being a Christian. In other words, our Christian faith manifests itself in having and expressing love for one another.

“You cannot bear one another’s burdens, nor comfort, admonish, or edify one another without being involved in each other’s lives.”

As we read through the New Testament we are given a more complete understanding of what it means to love one another. Among the things we discover is that we cannot practice Christian brotherly love in isolation. Love is more than warm feelings, kind thoughts, or even deep emotions. Christlike love can only be revealed through our interactions with others. For that reason, you must engage in the lives of others if

you are to obey the command of Christ to love them.

Several passages of Scripture reveal how truly loving one another manifests itself. Consider the following:

Gal. 6:2 – bear one another’s burdens.

Gal. 6:10 – do good to all people, especially those of the household of faith.

Phil. 2:2 – have the mind of Christ toward each other.

Col. 3:16 – admonish one another.

1 Thess. 4:18 – comfort one another.

1 Thess. 5:11 – edify one another.

Heb. 10:24 – stir up one another to love and good works.

Jam. 5:16 – confess your sins to one another.

In addition, you have been given spiritual gifts that are intended by God to be used for the building up of the body. When speaking of the gifts given to the individual Christian, Paul said in **1 Corinthians 12:7**, “**But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**” It is important that you understand what Paul is saying: the Holy Spirit is at work in you, and manifests Himself in you for the good of the local body of Christ.

These and other commands cannot be fulfilled apart for intentional interaction with your Christian brothers and sisters. In order to live out your faith the way God intends, you must be involved in a local church. You cannot bear one another’s burdens, nor comfort, admonish, or edify one another without being involved in each other’s lives. Nor can you help others become loving people, confess your sins, or use your spiritual gifts for the benefit of one another without being involved with one another.

This is more than God’s way of making sure that there is no shortage of labor in the church. This is God’s way of conforming you to the im-

age of Jesus Christ. Your regular interaction with God’s people in God’s church will make you more like Christ.

On the evening of the last supper, after they had eaten, Jesus got up and wrapped a towel around His waist and took a pan of water and a rag and washed the feet of each disciple. When He was finished, he asked them the question “Do you know what I have done to you?” Then, in John 13:13–17, He said, “You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.” Jesus was telling His followers to follow His example and be a servant to one another.

In order to serve one another the way Jesus commands, we must be involved with each other. You cannot live out your Christian faith the way God commands apart from regular involvement with Christian brothers and sisters.

It is great to live in a day and age when you are able to download sermons from many great preachers or live stream a church service, but those things can never be a substitute for having an active part in a local body of Christ. God intends Christians to worship together, serve together, and help each other become more like Christ. As we begin the new year, let God use you in His church and in doing so, conform you to the image of Christ.

The Women's Half Day of Prayer is a wonderful opportunity to have an extended time alone with God and to renew your perspective for the new year. This is a dedicated alone time with God with few distractions. In the peace and quiet you can prayerfully consider your own life by taking a personal inventory and evaluating your Christian walk.

Please bring whatever you need that day. Here are some suggestions: a Bible, prayer lists, extra paper to take notes, a devotional book, missionary prayer lists, memory verse cards, a list of objectives or goals, a bag lunch and beverage. We will pray during the morning then join together to eat lunch.

## Women's Half Day of Prayer

Saturday, January 13, 2018  
9:00am to 12:30pm  
Eastridge Baptist Church

**Sign up in the foyer**

Questions? Contact Chris Pieczonka at 253-630-0401 or  
eandcpie@hotmail.com

## NEW STUDY BEGINS JANUARY 11

Ladies, you are invited to join the Thursday morning Bible study group, led by Pat Haylor, as they start a study of Ephesians on January 11, 2018. They will be using the LifeChange series study guide and a book fee will apply.

The group meets weekly from 9:30-11:30am.  
**Please sign up in the foyer** so we know how many books to order.

If you have any questions, contact Pat Haylor at 253-631-8637 or pghaylor@gmail.com.



A life-changing encounter  
with God's Word from the book of

# EPHESIANS

A NavPress Bible Study Emphasizing:

- Personal discovery of God's Word
- Application of Scripture to your daily life
- Scene-setting historical insights
- Leader's guides for small groups
- Helpful word origins and definitions
- Stimulating discussion questions
- Challenging optional projects

## AS I STUDY YOUR WORD

Lord,  
as i study Your word,  
teach me . . .  
open my eyes  
that i might see You.  
open my ears  
that i might hear You.  
open my heart  
that i might love You.  
open my mind  
that i might understand You.  
open my mouth  
that i might praise You.  
open my arms  
that i might serve You.  
direct my feet  
that i might follow You.  
for You are my God  
whom i long to please,  
and i am Your child  
who needs You.

Teach me good discernment and knowledge,  
For I believe in Your commandments.  
Psalm 119:66

Susan Rehberg

# The Problem of Death

*from the desk of Pastor Andrew*

My uncle passed away in New Jersey last month. His name was William Richardson. I remember him as my crazy uncle Bill. He was the kind of uncle who was scary in a good way. As a kid, I didn't want to be too close to him because I wasn't sure if I would be able to get away from him with all of my fingers intact—he might eat some. But I didn't want to stay too far away either because then I wouldn't have any fun.

I had the privilege of speaking at my uncle's graveside service. A northeaster had hit New Jersey that Saturday morning, so the cemetery was covered with fresh snow while we stood

under a small tent next to his burial plot. My aunt, cousins, parents, and siblings were all gathered there. The finality of the moment was enormous. Every family member I had grown up spending much time around was there, except my uncle. And no number of platitudes could

sugar-coat the moment for my family. The dawning reality for me was that in the face of a problem like death, especially the death of a believer as my uncle was, the only solution to such a dreadful problem is something as preposterous as a resurrection.

The idea of a resurrection was the laughing stock of the ancient world. People mocked when they heard Paul preach a resurrection from the dead at Athens (Acts 17:32). The absurdity of a resurrection had infiltrated the church at Corinth, as there were some who apparently believed that there is no resurrection from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:12). The mockery continues to this day. Materialism, not the kind that tries to get more stuff, but the kind that says matter is all that there is, dictates that the only thing that happens at death is the body decays and returns to dust. Now, that our bodies return to the dust at death is,

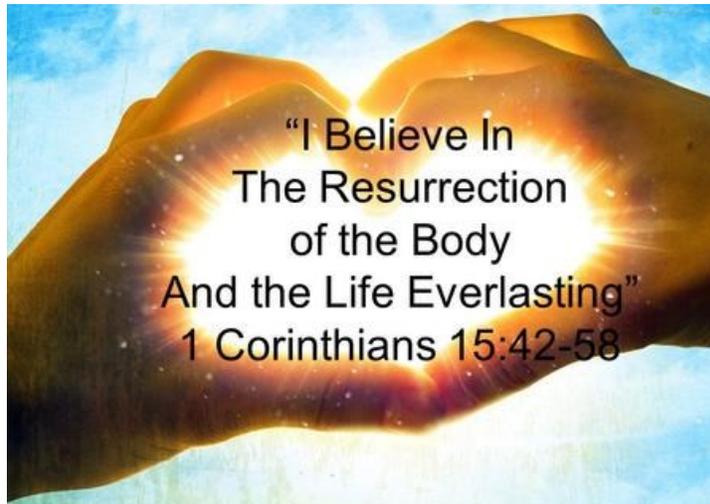
of course, true (Genesis 3:19). But that is not all that is true. Jesus Christ was a thorn in the side of tradition during His life. And in His death He clobbered the tradition that death is the end. For, as it has been said, His death was the death of death.

The only thing that really fixes a problem as enormous as death is a supernatural act as enormous as the resurrection. This is the direct approach that Paul takes in 1 Thessalonians to comfort believers who were grieving the loss of other believers: "The dead in Christ will rise first" (4:16). He goes on, "so we will

always be with the Lord" (4:17). Who is the "we"? It is believers who are alive at Christ's coming and believers who have died but are raised at Christ's coming. The hope is physical reunion brought about by the resurrection. But not reunion for the sake of only seeing other believers who have

died. It is union with them and with Christ!

This promise is in the Bible for more than information about the end times. It informs life lived now. Believers in Christ should not grieve as those who have no hope for the staggering reason that we have hope in a real solution to the problem of death. It's not the empty platitude of someone living on in our heart, nor the mystical and hapless eastern reincarnation. It is the real hope of a physical reunion. This is guaranteed by the historic and defensible resurrection of Jesus Christ. If He has risen, then the dead in Christ will rise too. So for now, grief exists, but so does hope. They exist together. Real grief need not be hopeless. And real hope need not be griefless. But grief without hope is always Christless. And that is something, at least for the death of a believer in Jesus Christ, that need not be.



## GETTING TO THE HEART OF PARENTING

An adult Sunday school class  
10:00–11:00am  
Main Building Classroom

10 Sundays beginning January 14, 2018

**Who will benefit?** Parents/grandparents/soon-to-be parents

**What is the format?** These are DVD-based sessions featuring Paul Tripp. The sessions will be facilitated by Pastor Andy.

Session Topics Include:

- What is a family?
- Getting to the Heart of Behavior
- Ages 0–5
- Ages 6–12
- Ages 13–?

**Please sign up in the foyer or through the Events link in your Realm account**

Parenting is more than using your power to get children to behave in certain ways. Parenting is all about the exposure and change of the child's heart. When the heart of a child changes, the behavioral change that is needed will last. Learn how to be an instrument of heart changing grace in the little moments of life that God will give you with your children, whether they are toddlers or teens.

**If you have any questions about this class, please contact Pastor Andy at 253-880-2938 or [andrewc@eastridgebaptist.org](mailto:andrewc@eastridgebaptist.org)**

## Spring Marriage Conference

Family Life Ministries is offering spring Weekend to Remember marriage conferences in the Pacific Northwest. Depending on the location of the conference (standard or destination),



registration rates **per couple** range from \$300 to \$350. If you register for a spring conference between January 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> using the group code **KentWTR**, you can take advantage of the BOGO offer and save 50% on those rates.

Upcoming spring conferences in the Pacific Northwest include:

Bellevue: April 6–8, 2018 (standard rate)

Sunriver: March 2–4, 2018 (destination rate)

Conference brochures are available in the foyer on the Welcome Table and the biblical counseling book table. For more information, you can also go to the Family Life Ministries' website at:

<http://familylifeministries.org/weekend-to-remember>

If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Bill or Cathy Mickelson at 253-569-3468 (Cathy) or 253-508-2953 (Bill).

Eastridge Baptist Church's  
Men's Ministry



MEN'S  
**Breakfast**

**Saturday, January 20, 2018**

7:30am at the church

With guest speaker Mark Wilson

## Hymn Story: “And Can It Be?” *from the desk of Pastor Samuel*

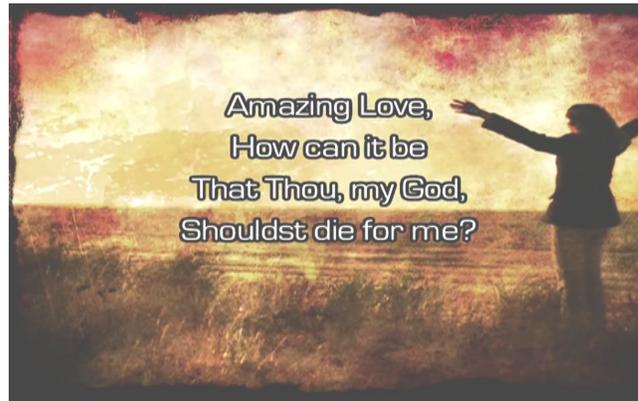
*Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night  
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light  
My chains fell off, my heart was free  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee*

If Charles Wesley were alive today and giving his testimony, he could have easily begun by saying that he “grew up in a Christian home.” His father was a clergyman in the Anglican church at the turn of the 18th century, he studied at the school associated with Westminster Abbey, and he was ordained by Christ Church, Oxford in 1735. Shortly after his ordination, Charles and his brother, John, traveled to Georgia, where Charles was appointed the chaplain of Fort Frederica near the southern edge of the colony. Sadly, the colonists quickly rejected him, and Charles sailed back to England only five months after he had originally taken the post.

All this time, Charles had professed belief in Christ and knew much about Christianity and Scripture, but he was not truly saved. During his time in Oxford, Charles had been part of a prayer group that focused on rather mechanical rules and methods for living out Christian faith. Eventually that group and its methodology formed the Methodist denomination. It was a theology of works-righteousness, thinking that rules and rituals performed in a certain way could be their assurance of salvation. Charles had held to this theology, and had preached thus while in Georgia. Less than two years after his return to England, on May 21, 1738, Charles Wesley came to true saving faith in Christ. His brother, John, came to faith three days later. In joyous celebration of his true conversion, Charles wrote the hymn “And Can It Be?” From that point on, hymns

seemed to flow seamlessly from his pen: he is credited with writing at least 6500 hymns!

In the text of “And Can It Be?” you can see the wonder with which Charles saw his salvation. In the first verse, he marvels that his sin was the reason Christ came to die, and yet he is able to reap the rewards of that sacrifice. Verse 2 details how Christ “emptied Himself,” becoming a man and being humbled to the point of death (Philippians 2:8), and all this was motivated by His love and mercy given to us, that we might come to saving faith. The third verse becomes very biographical for Charles, but we can all sing the words as true for ourselves. We all were once bound in sin, blind to the truth of the gospel. Then the Holy



Spirit opened our eyes to “the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:4), and we came to trust in His saving work. We are no longer bound by sin, but are free to walk in obedience to all that Christ commands. The final verse celebrates that “There is therefore now no

condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1), and we are able “with confidence [to] draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). Each verse ends with a refrain rich in wonder and praise: “Amazing love! How can it be / That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?”

As a new year begins, it’s good to be reminded of the foundation of our faith: that Christ Jesus died as the perfect sacrifice for our sin, He was raised to life to show that the power of sin is broken, and now we may live in freedom from the power of sin by coming to faith in Christ and His sacrifice. May our lives in 2018 declare the grace and mercy bestowed on us, and may we remember with wonder the extent of Christ’s love shown to us!

# Awana in January

**January 3, 2018 – I Can't See.** Game time will be a bit more challenging tonight as we play games... blindfolded.

**January 10, 2018 – Lights Shine Bright Night.** Bring a battery-operated light source with you tonight and let your light shine!

**January 17, 2018 – It's Snow Fun!** We bring the outside inside tonight as we play games with... snow??

**January 24, 2018 – Plushy Night.** Bring a favorite stuffed animal tonight and you'll earn extra points for your team.

**January 27, 2018 – Grand Prix Pit Party.** Bring your ideas and pine car kit to our Pit Party and our experts will help you shape your wooden block into a racing machine! 10:00am–12:00pm. Location TBD.

**January 31, 2018 – Action Traction.** Tonight we get geared up for the Awana Grand Prix with games that are all about wheels!



## A NEW CREATION

The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.

*Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.*

T H I E R O E F Q O R X E I D F A M N Y A O N  
S E I L S I T N C V H R K I S D T T B H E W N E  
Q W C D R E Y A T M I O C N H F A S W C O R  
M E G T H W E O F L D X H A S S G Z O N L  
E T J H E W N E Q W I D S H R E R O E

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----- ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

*Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV*



# GRAND PRIX RACE DAY

**Saturday, February 3, 2018 @ EBC**  
**Check-in and weigh-in begins at 11:30am.**  
**Racing starts at 12:00pm.**

## Service Opportunities

### *Audio/Visual Team Members*

Each Sunday, members of our Audio/Visual team handle the sound, slides, lighting, and sermon audio recordings for each service. This ministry is in need of volunteers to help with this vital work. Scheduling is based on your availability—as little as once per month. No experience is necessary, and training is provided!

Please contact Pastor Samuel at [samuelb@eastridgebaptist.org](mailto:samuelb@eastridgebaptist.org) or 253-263-6003 if you would like to serve in this ministry!



### *Thursday Church Cooks*



Eastridge offers a unique opportunity for those with mental and physical handicaps to attend Thursday Church each week. Thursday Church consists of a worship service at 5:00pm followed by a simple meal at 6:00pm.

We are in need of volunteers to prepare and serve a meal for about 20–25 people on a Thursday evening. Get a group together to share the duties—it's more fun that way, too! You have full use of the church kitchen to prepare the meal or you can prepare the food at home and bring it to

the church to serve. You can volunteer just once in a year or multiple times—it's your choice. Training is provided and you can be reimbursed for the food you purchase.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Mark Yarnold at [mark.g.yarnold@gmail.com](mailto:mark.g.yarnold@gmail.com) or 253-569-3544.

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Lydia Kusack 1/1  
Ray Steward 1/3  
Asher Elliott 1/4  
Lynnette Emme 1/5  
Randy Mayes 1/7  
Obadiah Diehl 1/8  
Lisa Horne 1/9  
Sara Hansen 1/9  
Ron Heusser 1/10  
Samuel Watson 1/11  
Carl Moore 1/12  
Molly Small 1/15

Aiden Carlton 1/16  
Isaiah Kearney 1/16  
Mike McCafferty 1/17  
Barbara Bonar 1/18  
Kris Adams 1/20  
Paul Mickelson 1/21  
Jen Trzeciak 1/21  
Daniel Emme 1/21  
Jon Watson 1/22  
Heidi Guthrie 1/22  
Archie Tibbetts 1/23  
Ana Belén Elliott 1/23

Tony Teeler 1/24  
Veronica Aitkins 1/28  
Jon Knipp 1/30  
Reese Goheen 1/31

### Anniversaries

Mike and Amanda Miranda 1/4  
Andrew and Sara Hayward 1/9  
Jim and Alice Hunter 1/9

Curtis and Anna Blake 1/12  
Johnathan and Michaela Rutherford 1/16  
Bill and Cherryl Boston 1/26  
Jim and Arlene Deavel 1/28



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 5:00–8:30pm Tae Kwon Do	3 9:30am Apologetics Group 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs 6:30pm Financial Peace University	4 5:00–7:00pm Thursday Church 5:00pm Bible Quiz 7:00pm College/ Career Study 7:00pm Youth Boys' Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team	5 5:30am Men's Discipleship Class	6
7 <b>6:00pm Prayer Meeting</b>	8 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	9 <b>10:30am– 12:00pm Missions Prayer Ministry @ Alaire Irish's</b> 5:00–8:30pm Tae Kwon Do <b>6:30pm Elder Meeting</b>	10 9:30am Apologetics Group 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs 6:30pm Financial Peace University	11 9:30am Ladies' Bible Studies 5:00–7:00pm Thursday Church 5:00pm Bible Quiz 7:00pm College/ Career Study 7:00pm Youth Girls' Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team	12 5:30am Men's Discipleship Class	13 9:00am–10:30am Sunday School Teachers' Meeting (bldg. B) <b>9:00am– 12:30pm Women's Half Day of Prayer</b>
14 6:00–8:00 Youth Bratwurst & Broccoli at Brock's	15 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	16 5:00–8:30pm Tae Kwon Do	17 9:30am Apologetics Group 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs 6:30pm Financial Peace University	18 9:30am Ladies' Bible Studies 5:00–7:00pm Thursday Church 5:00pm Bible Quiz 7:00pm College/ Career Study 7:00pm Youth Boys' Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team	19 5:30am Men's Discipleship Class	20 <b>7:30am Men's Breakfast (auditorium)</b>
21	22 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	23 5:00–8:30pm Tae Kwon Do	24 9:30am Apologetics Group 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs 6:30pm Financial Peace University	25 9:30am Ladies' Bible Studies 5:00–7:00pm Thursday Church 5:00pm Bible Quiz 7:00pm College/ Career Study 7:00pm Youth Girls' Bible Study 7:00pm Worship Team	26 5:30am Men's Discipleship Class	27 <b>5:00–9:00pm Youth Progressive Dinner</b>
28 <b>Communion</b>	29 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	30 5:00–8:30pm Tae Kwon Do	31 9:30am Apologetics Group 6:30pm 128 Student Ministries 6:30pm Awana Clubs 6:30pm Financial Peace University	 <b>January</b>		

# Upcoming Events at Eastridge

## February 2018

Sunday, February 11*	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm
Tuesday, February 13	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Sunday, February 18– Tuesday, February 20	Youth Winter Camp	Double K Retreat

\*Note the date change from the 1st Sunday of the month

## March 2018

Sunday, March 4	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm
Friday, March 9	Youth to Tim Hawkins' Concert	TBD
Sunday, March 11	Youth Pizza @ Borton's	6:00–8:00pm
Tuesday, March 13	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Saturday, March 17	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting	9:00am–10:30am
Saturday, March 24	Church Work Day (Easter prep)	9:00am–2:00pm
Friday, March 30	Good Friday	

## April 2018

Sunday, April 1	Easter Sunday	Services @ 8:30 & 10:30am
Sunday, April 8	Youth Pizza @ PR's	6:00–8:00pm
Tuesday, April 10	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Friday, April 20	Men's Dinner	6:00pm @ EBC
Friday, April 20 – Saturday, April 21	Youth Secret Church	TBD
Saturday, April 28	Church Work Day	9:00am–2:00pm
Sunday, April 29**	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm

\*\* This will be the only prayer meeting in April and May

**Mark your calendar...**





Will you follow God's plan? This is the main question we have been asking for the last few months in 128SM. There is no greater decision that people will ever make. It

confronts us first and foremost when it comes to salvation. God's desire is that none should perish but that all should reach repentance (2 Pet 3:9). Therefore, the primary way to follow God's plan is through trusting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Yet, for the believer, this question confronts us every day, multiple times a day. We are all faced with many decisions that fundamentally come down to whether we will serve God or will we serve ourselves. It is a difficult process. Thankfully, God has not left us to our own devices. He has given us some amazing resources in order to live the life worthy of the calling to which we have been called (Eph 4:1). Our responsibility is learning to trust in those resources (Prov 3:5-6).



The first resource given to us is God Himself in the person of the Holy Spirit. He is the third member of the Trinity, equal in all divine attributes with God the Father and God the Son. He was involved in creation (Gen 1:1-2), He brought about the resurrection of Christ (Rom 8:11), and He justifies the believer (1 Cor 6:11). His current work includes giving life and strength to the followers of Christ (Rom 8:11). Jesus promised His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to dwell in us always and be our Helper and Teacher (John 14:16-17, 26). It is by the Holy Spirit that the believer is able to produce the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). In other words, God has given us Himself in order for us to live godly lives.

The second resource God gives us is His All-Sufficient Word. The Bible is God's truth (John 17:17) that stands forever (Is 40:8), and it always

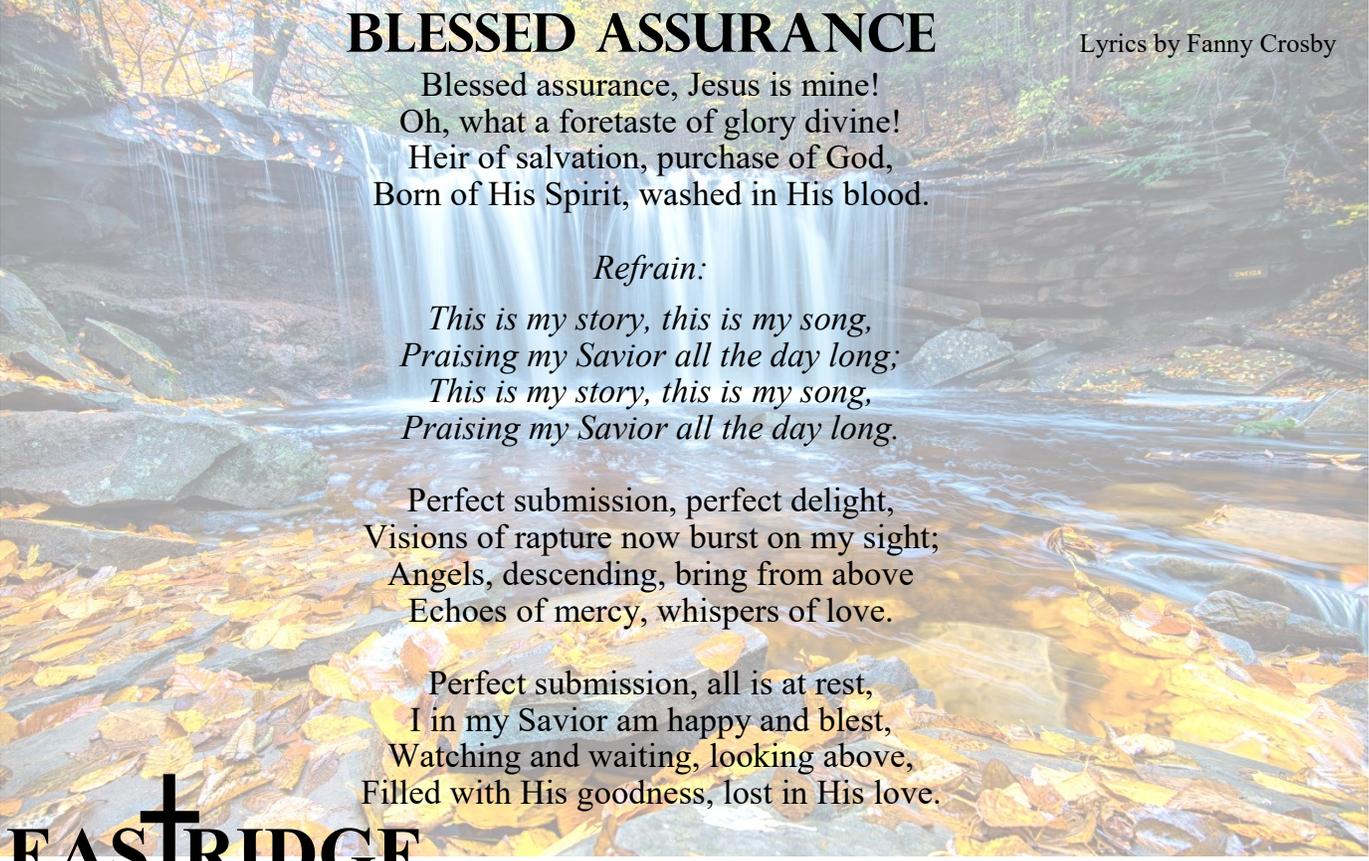
accomplishes God's purposes (Is 55:11). Second Peter 1:3-4 tells us that in the Bible we have all we need for life and godliness, and Psalm 19:7-10 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17 are two key passages that identify the Bible's perfection and its ability to completely equip us for every good work. Not only that, but the Bible provides guidance (Ps 119:105), it has the power to keep our lives pure and free from sin (Ps 119:9), and it gives us the strengthening grace necessary to live holy and pleasing to the Lord (Acts 20:32).

The third resource is God's people, the church. There are a number of metaphors used in Scripture to describe the church. However, the one metaphor that is key for the growth of the believer is the

church identified as the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27). This picture displays the support we are to provide to one another. As Paul speaks about the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12, he explains how each individual part needs all the other parts. Just as

your physical body needs your hands, feet, eyes, ears, and everything else to function properly, so the individual parts of the body of Christ need each other. Then, in Ephesians 4, Paul teaches that each believer is responsible for ministering to others so that the body of Christ is built up and strengthened as each member grows more and more into the fullness of Christ (4:12-15). This image teaches us that we all need each other in order to grow as God desires us to grow.

God's Spirit, God's Word, and God's people. These are the resources you need to live the Christian life. Without them, we have no power, no direction, and no support. With them, we have all that we need for an effective and fruitful life of godliness (2 Pet 1:3-8). Will you follow God's plan? May we do so by trusting in His grace-filled resources.



# BLESSED ASSURANCE

Lyrics by Fanny Crosby

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*Refrain:*

*This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels, descending, bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

**EASTRIDGE**  
Baptist Church