

April Newsletter 2017

To Know Christ,
To Make Him Known,
To Build His Kingdom.

From The Pastor's Desk:

Fake News and The Good News

There is a lot being said about "Fake News" these days. What is real, what is fake, how can we tell the difference. Sometimes we believe or disbelieve news based on if we like it's political motivations, or if it fits with our narrative of how things should go. This seems to be a new problem, but it is actually a problem that Christians have faced since the very beginning. The word gospel is the translation of the Greek noun euangelion it is used throughout the New Testament and it means- Good News." An 'evangel' was news of a great historical event, such as a victory in war or the ascension of a new king, that changed the listeners' condition and required a response from the listener" (Keller). What is this good news the bible proclaims? It is not a gospel it is THE gospel. It is referred to 130 times in the New Testament. So often when we hear the word Gospel the first thing that comes to mind is a type of music, but a faithful reading of the new testament will reveal that it is profoundly more than that. One of many Great explanations of the Gospel Comes in 1 Corinthians 15:1-5 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

The Gospel is a declaration of the glorious work of God to reach us. It tells us of our sin and brokenness and what the Lord Jesus has done to reconcile us to the father. Paul talks

about a righteousness that is ours apart from works. A righteousness that is alien to us and imputed to us in Christ. We believe the gospel and are reconciled to God the father in Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-9). John Piper describes the gospel this way "The heart of the gospel is the good news that Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead. What makes this good news is that Christ's death accomplished a perfect righteousness before God and suffered a perfect condemnation from God, both of which are counted as ours through faith alone, so that we have eternal life with God in the new heavens and the new earth."

Good News- but even in the scripture they struggled with "fake news" in Galatians Paul warns them to not be taken in to a gospel that says "yes, it is grace, but it is also works". Paul tells them "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ". Galatians 1:6-7. The Galatians had fallen under the sway of the Judaizers who distorted the Gospel by adding religious observance to it.

There are many today who distort the gospel as well. They tell you that the gospel is about being good and if you are good enough then God will bless you. Or they tell you that some of the events in Jesus' life were really myths or parables that help guide us in how we can be moral. Jesus only meant to be our example of love and sacrifice. Or they tell you that sincerity in belief is what matters, it does not matter that we have faith in Christ only that we have faith. Unfortunately, even if we do not fall victim blatant false gospels we are tempted to fall into a pattern of mis-believing the true gospel. Any time we fall back into a works righteousness pattern we are believing fake news. What does that look like? When something bad happens our first thought is why me? I go to church, I give my tithe, I pay my taxes, and we believe that God owes us for our godly behavior. Fake news.

How can we tell if we are not believing the true Gospel? The good news brings hope and comfort and rest. Fake News (false gospel) makes us manic, and even distraught in fear that we aren't doing enough. Good news

makes us love the law because it reveals to us what God most desires for us and to reveal His Holy Character. Fake News makes us down play the law and find ways to minimize its power to make it more manageable.

So how do we keep from falling victim to this. Facebook may have a fake news filter now, but our hearts do not. Tim Keller once said "all of us have either not gotten or forgotten the gospel". If we are not getting it, we are still trying to earn God's favor with our works instead of resting in the finished work of Christ. If we are forgetting it, we are still trying to cling to our self-righteousness as an excuse. The remedy is this Remember the Gospel. Jerry Bridges said in his wonderful book *The Disciplines of Grace* that we should "preach the gospel to ourselves every day". 2 Peter 2:9 tells us that if our faith and confidence is failing it is because we have "forgotten that we were cleansed from our former sins". Our hearts forget and we need to hear the gospel again and again. Are you getting it? Are you forgetting it? Are you believing the Fake News? Believe the Gospel and then believe it again. It is always Good News.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Jason Ford

Sunday Morning Schedule

Bible Studies and Sunday School at 9:30 am

THE GOSPEL PROJECT

- *Children's Sunday School ~ Infants-6th grade
In the classrooms
- *Youth Bible Study 7th-12 grade
In the youth room
- *Adult Bible Study
In the front room in the parsonage

Worship Service

10:30 - 11:30

Fellowship following service

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Bible Study does not meet on the first Wednesday of the month.

There will not be Bible Study on April 12th.

In the Sanctuary at 7:00 **A Study on the Book of Romans**. Join us for a time of prayer, singing, and bible study. Pastor Jason is teaching. Children's Ministry in the fellowship hall classrooms, they are learning from FaithWeaver.

Lenten / Easter Schedule

Maundy Thursday Breakfast and Communion
April 13th at 8:30 am. Ladies from the Women's Fellowship are asked to bring a breakfast dish. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

Maundy Thursday Worship Service
Thursday, April 13th at 6 pm.

Good Friday Worship Service
Friday, April 14th at 6 pm.

Easter Sunday Services

Sunrise service at 7 am, followed by a pancake breakfast. Worship service at 10:30 am. We will attach fresh cut flowers to the "Living Cross" at the 10:30 worship service. There will not be Sunday School or Fellowship after worship.

Eggtacular Party

You are invited to save time and avoid the mess while involving your kids with Christ. Good Friday April 14, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Bring a dozen hardboiled, undecorated eggs in a basket or container for EACH of your children. We will have lots of decorating supplies to make fabulous eggs in time for Easter Morning. Then there will be fun activities, a photo area for the little ones and games! There will also be a short lesson on how the egg tradition ties to Christ and the celebration of Easter. We will have a light lunch with sandwiches and chips. This will be quite an event, so feel free to invite friends. If you would like to help with the light lunch, please bring sandwiches and or chips to share with the group. For questions and or to help, contact the church office at 210-658-5874. HOP to see you there!

St. Paul Youth

One of the triumphs for me this past year has been finishing a book. Now for some, reading is an addiction, though I find many other activities to take its' place on my to-do list. When I started the Ladies' Book Groups, not only did I want to get to know others here at St. Paul, I wanted the accountability to read some of the great resources out there. All three books our groups have engaged with are full of encouragement and great material to improve our Christian walk, but today I thought I would pull a thread of wisdom from the book *The Best Yes* by Lysa TerKeurst. Though we have only scratched the surface, I found this "nugget" helpful already in my daily life. The main idea of this book is to improve or bring confidence in making all kinds of decisions. Decision-making is so challenging for the young and old. We are constantly faced with choices that have a variety of impact on our lives. Early in the book Mrs. TerKeurst set these guidelines when making tough decisions: physically, spiritually, emotionally and financially. These four guidelines then drive how a decision will be made. For example, when presented with a request such as, "Can I babysit this Friday?", I can use these guidelines to make the right choice. Am I physically able to keep up with a small child? Yes. Will keeping this child affect me spiritually in a negative way? No. Can I handle keeping this child emotionally? Good question, right? Yes, I'm not just physically able to do this task but emotionally I'm able to enjoy their company. Does keeping this child hurt me financially? No. Babysitting on a Friday night might not seem like a major event, but if I was asked to keep the same child every day during the week, then these questions may have a much larger meaning. My hope is that this simple system might help you in the days and weeks to come when you are faced with choices. Hopefully you can make your "Best Yes" decisions as well!

Calendar Notes:

4-5 Ladies' Book Group "The Best Yes" 8pm
4-9 Youth Outing after worship – Lunch and "Beauty and the Beast" movie

4-25 Ladies' Book Group "Prayer" 7pm
4-30 Youth Fundraiser after worship – Hamburgers and Hot Dogs

Stephanie

Upcoming Events

Grease and Grace ~ A Men's group, will meet Friday, March 7th at 7:00am, at Abel's Dinner. This is a breakfast discipleship group looking at "The Gospel Centered Life". This will be the first study group meeting.

Women's Fellowship ~ Women's Fellowship will not meet in March. They will provide the breakfast for the Maundy Thursday Breakfast. Ladies are asked to bring a breakfast dish and or dessert. For more information, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

SPEC Supper Club ~ Wednesday, April 5th at 6:00 pm.

Ladies' Book Group ~ Wednesday evenings 8pm April 5th, and May 3rd. "The Best Yes" by Lysa TerKeurst. We meet here in Cibolo and enjoy fellowship together while going through the book. If you are interested in joining us, please see Stephanie Ford for a copy of the book and details for the next meeting.

Theology on tap ~ April 21st. For more information, contact Pastor Jason at 210- 382-6596. Locations to be announced soon.

The Sewing Sisters ~ April 27th. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month in the parsonage from 9-11 am. All are welcome to come and enjoy good fellowship and ministry. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

Council Meeting ~ Monday, April 17th at 7:00 pm.

Community Breakfast & Bingo ~ Thursday, April 20th at 8:30 am.

Ladies' Book Groups ~ Tuesday, April 25th at 7 pm, "Prayer." For more information, please see Stephanie Ford.

General Announcements

Nursery Volunteers Needed ~ The church is in need of more nursery volunteers to assist in the nursery during the worship service. Please see Beth for more information.

Inquirer's Class ~ If you are interested in becoming a member or learning more about our church, we will be having an inquirers class. There is a sign-up sheet on the table by the water fountain. The date will be announced soon.

Liturgy Sign Up ~ If you would like to contribute to the worship service by reading the liturgy, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway.

Service Opportunity ~ If you are looking for a way to serve the church and like working with computers, we have the perfect spot for you. The A/V Team runs the computer and sound for the service on Sunday mornings. You would be able to serve the church and not miss worship. Please consider sitting upstairs for a Sunday or two, to find out what all is involved. For more information, please contact Beth Johnson at 210-658-5874 or by e-mail at BethJ@StPaulCibolo.com.

SPEC Supper Club ~ Community Outreach
Preparing and serving a meal for the needy of the community once a month on the first Wednesday. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated as we attempt to help our brothers and sisters that may need a helping hand. Donations as well as volunteers are always welcome. Please see Rich A, Don & Marion D, or Willie & Ann S.

Women's Fellowship Recycled Card Program
~ In Support for St. Jude's Children's Homes ~ Used greeting cards, front cover only, can be dropped off in the designated box located in the Fellowship Hall. They will then be sent to St. Jude's Children's Home, for use by Kids' Corp. The children participate in making the new cards by attaching a new back and then selling them. For information on purchasing of cards go to

http://www.stjudesranch.org/help_card.php.

For more information, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

Prayer Team ~ If you are willing to receive e-mails or phone tree messages with prayer requests, please give Willie S your e-mail address or phone number.

Ushers and Greeters ~ If you can help usher on Sunday mornings, please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

Women's Fellowship Cookbooks Available
The cookbooks are available in the church office or after church in the Fellowship Hall. They are \$15.00 each and have over 800 recipes. They would make a wonderful gift for family and friends.

GREAT NEWS!! RACAP now has a new drop off location for nonperishable food donations!! Schertz Cibolo Emergency Clinic. Donation boxes are available in the lobby. The clinic is open, 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week!! The clinic is located at 4825 FM 3009, Ste. 200 Schertz, TX 78154, On 3009 next to Bush's Chicken.

R.A.C.A.P. Pantry Needs ~ Canned Meats (chicken, turkey, Spam, Vienna Sausage) **NO TUNA** / Hamburger & Tuna Helper / Canned Pasta with Meat / Spaghetti Sauce and Spaghetti Noodles or Dry Pasta / Canned Fruits / Canned Soups

Reminder: Due to health regulations R.A.C.A.P. is not allowed to accept any donations that are not in their original container or have been opened.

<p>Notification of Events - If you would like to be notified of St. Paul events, via Google calendar alerts, please send your e-mail to admin@stpaulcibolo.com with a notation for e-mail alerts.</p>
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If your church organization needs an announcement put into the Newsletter, the cutoff date is the 23rd of the month and if you need an announcement put into the bulletin, the cutoff date is Tuesday of that week at noon.

Church Office Hours ~ Monday - Friday
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Heidelberg Catechism

LORD'S DAY 39

104 Q. WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR US IN THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT?

A. That I honor, love, and be loyal to my father and mother and all those in authority over me; that I obey and submit to them, as is proper, when they correct and punish me; and also that I be patient with their failings—for through them God chooses to rule us.

LORD'S DAY 40

105 Q. WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR US IN THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT?

A. I am not to belittle, insult, hate, or kill my neighbor— not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture, and certainly not by actual deeds— and I am not to be party to this in others; rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge. I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either. Prevention of murder is also why government is armed with the sword.

106 Q. DOES THIS COMMANDMENT REFER ONLY TO KILLING?

A. By forbidding murder God teaches us that he hates the root of murder: envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness. In God's sight all such are murder.

107 Q. IS IT ENOUGH THEN THAT WE DO NOT KILL OUR NEIGHBOR IN ANY SUCH WAY?

A. No. By condemning envy, hatred, and anger God tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves, to be patient, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, and friendly to him, to protect him from harm

as much as we can, and to do good even to our enemies.

108 Q. WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR US IN THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT?

A. God condemns all unchastity. We should therefore thoroughly detest it and, married or single, live decent and chaste lives.

Read Through the Bible in a Year program
from Tabletalk daily devotional

(Tabletalk is \$23/year and can be ordered at 1-800-435-4343)

April

Old Testament: Judges 11 – 1 Kings 1

New Testament: Luke 9 – 22:38

May

Old Testament: 1 Kings 2 – 2 Chronicles 3

New Testament: Luke 22:39 – John 12:19

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Serving the Lord since 1876

A mission-focused, kingdom-building family of Christ-followers seeking to be faithful to
Jesus' Great Commission {Go and make disciples ...} *Matthew 28:19* and
His Great Commandment {Love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself.}
Luke 10:27