

# August Newsletter 2015

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

## Pastor's Article

What is the Gospel? That is a question I have asked hundreds of times to different groups in my role as pastor, preacher, and teacher. I have asked so often because how you answer it is very telling about your understanding of who you are in Christ. Tim Keller gives a wonderful explanation of what the Gospel is.

The Greek term “gospel” (ev-angelion) distinguished the Christian message from that of other religions. An ‘ev-angel’ was news of a great historical event, such as a victory in war or the ascension of a new king. It was news that historically would change the condition of the hearer and require a response from them. So what then is this News that the bible proclaims to us, the apostle died to share, and requires a response from us?

God has entered the world in Jesus Christ to achieve a salvation that we could not achieve for ourselves which now 1) converts and transforms individuals, forming them into a new humanity, and eventually 2) will renew the whole world and all creation. This is the ‘good news’—the gospel. It is good news to us in at least three ways.

**1. The gospel is the good news of gracious acceptance.** Jesus lived the life we should live. He also paid the penalty we owe for the rebellious life we do live. He did this in our place (Isaiah 53:4-10; 2 Cor 5:21; Mark 10:45). We are not reconciled to God through our efforts and record, as in all other religions, but through his efforts and record. Christians who trust in Christ for their acceptance with God, rather than in their own moral character, commitment, or performance, are what Luther called simul iustus et peccator- simultaneously sinful yet accepted. We are more flawed and sinful than we ever dared believe, yet we are more loved and accepted than we ever dared hope at the same time.

**2. The gospel is the good news of changed lives.** Paul says to Christians, ‘your life is hid with “Christ in God’ (Col 3:3), and in numerous places he explains what that means on the one hand, that the Father accepts us in Christ and treats us as if we had done all that Jesus has done (cf. Col 3:2a). But this is also means Christ’s life comes into us by the Spirit and shapes us into a new kind of person. The gospel is not just a truth about us that we affirm with our minds, it is also a reality we must experience in our hearts and souls.

**3. The gospel is the good news of the new world coming.** The plot-line of the Bible is:

- 1) God created the world,
- 2) The world and humanity fell into sin and decay,
- 3) But God sends his Son to redeem the world and create a new humanity, and
- 4) Eventually the whole world will be renewed. Death, decay, injustice, and suffering will be all removed.

The gospel then is not just about individual happiness and fulfillment. It is not just a wonderful plan for ‘my life’ but a wonderful plan for the world. It is about the coming of God’s kingdom to renew everything. Gospel-centered churches do not only urge individuals to be converted, but also to seek peace and justice in our cities and in our world.

St. Paul Church should seek to always be about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul says in Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.* There is power in the Gospel. Power for acceptance by God, Power for changed lives, and power for future hope.

*Jason Ford*  
*Pastor*

## Sunday Morning Schedule

Bible Studies for All Ages 9:30

**All Sunday School/Bible Study will resume September 13th**

Children's Sunday School ~ Infants - 6th grade  
In the Fellowship Hall classrooms

Youth Bible Study 7th – 12th grade  
In the Youth Room of the Parsonage

Adult Bible Study  
In the parsonage classroom

## Worship Service

10:30 - 11:30

Fellowship following service

## Weekday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall  
Pastor Jason will be facilitating a discussion on **The Book of James.**

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

Resumes August 12th in the Sanctuary at 7:00pm we will begin a study on **The Gospel of Mark.**  
Join us for a time of prayer, singing, and bible study. Pastor Jason will be teaching.

## Upcoming Events

Installation of Council and Committee Persons  
Sunday, August 2nd during worship.

## New Directory Photos

Save the Dates ~ August 5th - 8th

The Committee has begun contacting everyone to set appointments for photo settings. If you have questions please see Shari B, Edna S, or Sylvia S.

**SPEC Supper Club**  
Wednesday, August 5th at 6:00 pm.

**Women's Fellowship**  
Thursday, August 6th pot luck at noon. Program by Beth Johnson. For more information please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

**5th Sunday Pot Luck Meal**  
Sunday August 30th. Please bring a side dish and or dessert and enjoy fellowship.

**Board of Christian Education Meeting**  
Sunday, August 9th after worship.

**The Sewing Sisters ~ August 13th & 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, August 17th at 7:00 pm

**Community Breakfast and Bingo**  
August 20th at 8:30 am.

## General Announcements

### Thank You

The church would like to thank all who participated in our Vacation Bible School this past week. A special thank you to Rosalie L and her family.

### Thank You

I, along with my family, want to thank the church for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits, during Jack's long illness. I am comforted to know that Jack is in the loving arms of his Lord and Savior. We would also like to thank the ladies of the church and anyone else for the nice luncheon after the service on Monday. We will always remember the kindness and generosity you have shown us during this difficult time. Family of Jack R.

### Congratulations

The church would like to congratulate John & Emily C on the baptism of their daughter, Amy Elizabeth. Grandparents: John & Beth J.

### Nursery Need

The Nursery during the church service is in need of volunteers.  
The church's insurance company requires two adult attendants in our nursery situation. This applies to the Nursery during the church service, not to the Sunday School Nursery Class. Please contact the church office at 210-658-5874 to volunteer if it is at all possible.

## **Back to School Shoe Program**

RACAP will be doing their Back to School Shoe program again this year. Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

## **Volunteers Needed**

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. The computer part is a simple program to use and the sound board is basic as well. Please consider sitting upstairs for a Sunday or two in order to find out what all is involved. For more information please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

## **Volunteers Needed ~ 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 really needed for this endeavor as we attempt to help our brothers and sisters that may need a helping hand. We are seeking donations toward this cause as well as volunteers. Several members have already expressed an interest in helping.

Please see Mr. Rich A, Mr. Tom C, Mr. & Mrs. Don & Marion D, Mrs. Beth J, or Pastor & Mrs. Willie & Ann Stratemann.

## **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., a program of the children at St. Jude's Ranch to learn entrepreneurship skills. 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](http://www.stjudesranch.org/help_card.php). For more information please contact Mrs 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 Pastor Willie Stratemann 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.

## **Cradle Roll Program**

If you have a child under the age of three, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874 in order to enroll in our Cradle Roll Program. The Cradle Roll is an outreach program that provides biblical items and resources to parents of children three and under.

## R.A.C.A.P. Pantry Needs:

Hamburger Helper / Tuna Helper / Jelly / Canned Tomato Products  
Canned Fruits / Canned Mixed Vegetables / Laundry Detergent

**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.**

Notification of Events - If you would like to be notified of St. Paul events, via Google calendar alerts, please send your e-mail to [Beth@stpaulcibolo.com](mailto:Beth@stpaulcibolo.com), with a notation for e-mail alerts.

If your church organization needs an announcement put into the Newsletter, the cutoff date is the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

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)

### August Readings

Old Testament: Psalms 68-148  
New Testament: Romans 5 - 1 Corinthians 12

### September Readings

Old Testament: Psalms 149 - Isaiah 23  
New Testament: 1 Corinthians 13 - Ephesians 5

## Heidelberg Catechism

### Lord's Day 8

#### 24 Q. How are these articles divided?

A. Into three parts: God the Father and our creation; God the Son and our deliverance; God the Holy Spirit and our sanctification.

#### 25 Q. Since there is but one God, why do you speak of three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

A. Because that is how God has revealed Himself in his Word: these three distinct persons are one, true, eternal God.

### Lord's Day 9

#### 26 Q. What do you believe when you say: "I believe in God the Father, almighty, maker of heaven and earth"?

A. That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by His eternal counsel and providence,

is my God and Father because of Christ His Son. I trust Him so much that I do not doubt He will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and He will turn to my good whatever adversity He sends me in this sad world. He is able to do this because He is almighty God; He desires to do this because He is a faithful Father.

**Lord's Day 10**

**27 Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?**

A. Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God by which He upholds, as with His hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty – all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but from His fatherly hand.

**28 Q. How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?**

A. We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing will separate us from His love. All creatures are so completely in His hand that without His will they can neither move nor be moved.

**Attendance for July 5 - July 26**

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Exodus 20:8  
As His custom was, Jesus worshipped on the Sabbath day. Luke 4:16

<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Total</b>
July 5	73	5	78
July 12	72	4	76
July 19	86	7	93
July 26	101	5	106

**Giving Report for July 5 - July 26**

*“Bring the whole tithe into...My house, and test Me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” Malachi 3:10*

<b>Undesignated (env/checks/loose plate)</b>	<b>12,881.62</b>
Communion	27.00
Building Use	400.00
New Building Fund	200.00
Prakash India Mission	255.00
EA National Minister	75.00
R.A.C.A.P.	565.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,403.62</b>

**Weekly undesignated giving average for this time period was: \$3,220.**

**Weekly undesignated giving needed to meet budget is \$3,488.**

# St. Paul Staff

Jason Ford, Pastor ~ Jason@stpaulcibolo.com

Elaine McIntyre, Organist ~ Elaine@tindomorgans.com

Beth Johnson, Secretary ~ Beth@stpaulcibolo.com

Robert Webb, Custodian ~ Webbsondra@yahoo.com

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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