

March Newsletter 2017

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

From The Pastor's Desk:

Why bother with corporate worship? Sometimes we lose sight of why corporate worship matters in our lives. One of our core values at St. Paul states "*When we participate in corporate worship, we come together as a community of broken sinners, praising God for who he is, thanking him for all he has done, and receiving encouragement and nourishment by the power of his Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament.*" Here are 10 reasons why corporate worship is vitally important:

1. Whether you realize it or not you were created to worship, and if you don't worship God you will worship something else. *Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.* Romans 1:22-23
2. We are notoriously self-centered, and worship allows us to redirect our hearts and affections from yourself and the world and refocus them on the transcendent glory and beauty of God.
3. You need good gospel centered preaching, everyone does. The believer needs to remember. The unbeliever needs to believe. *For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.* I Corinthians 1:21
4. God Centered worship transforms complaining hearts to hearts filled with gratitude. Especially as we participate in and hear earnestly dependent prayers.
5. Your children learn to value what you value. If worship is an afterthought for you they will never connect to its importance in their lives.

6. Only in worship can you participate in the sacraments of Communion and Baptism. Both were commanded and instituted by the Lord Jesus.
7. Singing the Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs of the church strengthens your faith and lifts your soul by bringing glory to God.
8. You don't worship alone. You stand with your brothers and sisters in your community and on the shoulders of millions who have worshipped down through the ages.
9. God commands that we gather to worship. *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.* Hebrew 10:25
10. Good worship reminds you that you are deeply flawed, but deeply loved in Christ.

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 Ministries for the

Lenten Season: During the Lenten Season (March 8, 15, 22, 29) the staff of St. Paul are offering some new opportunities to connect and grow. Starting at 6:00pm, we will offer a light meal (chick-fil-a sandwich, chips, fruit, cookies, and drink) for \$5/per person with a \$20max per family. We'll gather in the

fellowship hall at 6:25pm for a short time of music then separate into different age groups for a time of Bible Study. The adult class is looking at the book of Romans, the youth will be studying about discipleship, and the children are learning different stories from the Bible. Nursery is available and all the studies will end around 7:15pm. If you've considered a mid-week study, this Lenten season might be a great time to join us.

St. Paul Youth

Lenten Season Bible Study

During the Lenten season, I would like to present a study for our youth about Discipleship. I found a great book for us to look at to help define what a disciple is and how that definition plays out in our life. I've heard the term disciple many times, but what does that really mean? Here is an excerpt from an article I found from "Desiring God" on that very subject. Here is a taste of what we are going to look at in the month of March.

What is a Disciple?

Article by Jonathan Parnell Pastor,
Minneapolis, Minnesota

"When Jesus speaks we listen. That makes sense, right? Jesus is the one to whom all authority in heaven and earth has been given (Matthew 28:18). Jesus is the one of whom it will be said, forever, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" (Revelation 5:12). He's the one to whom every knee will bow (Philippians 2:10) — the one on account of whom all the tribes of the earth will wail (Revelation 1:7), and from whom the fury of God's wrath will be executed (Revelation 19:15).

Jesus has that kind of supremacy — so what he says matters. And beyond that, we've been united to Jesus by faith (Romans 6:5), made alive in him by grace (Ephesians 2:4–5), counted righteous in him because of his work (Galatians 2:16). Jesus, in all of his supremacy, is also our shepherd — so we know his voice (John 10:27). Therefore, by

virtue of his power and grace, because he is the Sovereign and our Savior, when he tells his church to make disciples of all nations, we really want to do that.

(Working)Toward a Definition -"A disciple of Jesus is a worshiper, a servant, and a witness."

Jesus commissions us to "go" — because of his authority — "and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19–20).

This raises a fundamental question, though — one that even takes priority over the how-to's of discipleship. What does it actually mean to be a "disciple" of Jesus? If we are going to make disciples, we need to know what that is. The standard definition of "disciple" (noun) is someone who adheres to the teachings of another. It is a follower or a learner. It refers to someone who takes up the ways of someone else. Applied to Jesus, a disciple is someone who learns from him to live like him — someone who, because of God's awakening grace, conforms his or her words and ways to the words and ways of Jesus. Or, you might say, as others have put it in the past, disciples of Jesus are themselves "little Christs" (Acts 26:28; 2 Corinthians 1:21).

The four Gospels give us the definitive portrait of Jesus in his life on earth, and if we really want to know what it means to be his disciple, the Gospels are likely where we start. In particular, John's Gospel shows us three complementary perspectives on what it means to follow Jesus, each patterned after Jesus himself. Building off of John's profile, we could say that a disciple of Jesus is a worshiper, a servant, and a witness."

As we dig deep in to the subject I hope we can define how we can become more of a "worshiper, servant, and witness". Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm for dinner, singing and study, or come at 6:30pm for just the study. We'd love to have you!

Stephanie

Upcoming Events

Grease and Grace ~ A Men's group, we will meet for the first time on Thursday, March 2nd at 6:30am. This is a breakfast discipleship group looking at "The Gospel Centered Life". This first meeting will be fellowship and information. The Second meeting (time and date tba) will be the first study group.

Women's Fellowship ~ Thursday, March 2nd at noon. Pot luck meal. Guest speaker Patty Groves, a volunteer from Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center, that prepares children's take home bags. For more information, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

SPEC Supper Club ~ Wednesday, March 1st at 6:00 pm.

Ladies' Book Group ~ The Ladies' book group that meets on Wednesday evenings 8pm (once a month) are starting a new book for March 8th, April 5th, and May 3rd. We'll be reading "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 ~ March 10th and 24th. For more information, contact Pastor Jason at 210-382-6596. Locations to be announced soon.

The Sewing Sisters ~ March 9th and 23rd. 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.

Community Breakfast & Bingo
Thursday, March 16th at 8:30 am.

Council Meeting ~ Monday, March 20th at 7:00 pm.

Ladies' Book Groups ~ Tuesday, March 28th at 7 pm, "Prayer." For more information, please see Stephanie Ford.

Ladies Pinterest Night ~ Thursday, March 30th from 6-8 pm. For more information, please see Stephanie Ford.

General Announcements

Sympathy ~ Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Donovan S. Mr. S entered rest on February 17, 2017.

Sympathy ~ Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Mary M. Mrs. M entered rest on February 16, 2017.

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 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.

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 ~ Plastic water bottles! 16 oz. preferred, will accept 8 oz. WATER ONLY!! / Hamburger & Tuna Helper / 2# Bags of Rice / Spaghetti Sauce / Jelly / 1# Bags of Dried Beans Tomato Products (Sauce,

Paste, Diced, Stewed etc.)

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 admin@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 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 38

103 Q. WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR US IN THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT?

A. First, that the gospel ministry and education for it be maintained, and that, especially on the festive day of rest, I regularly attend the assembly of God's people to learn what God's Word teaches, to participate in the sacraments, to pray to God publicly, and to bring Christian offerings for the poor. Second, that every day of my life I rest from my evil ways, let the Lord work in me through his Spirit, and so begin already in this life the eternal Sabbath.

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.

St. Paul Staff

Jason Ford, Pastor

Jason@stpaulcibolo.com

Stephanie Ford,

Youth Ministries Coordinator

Stephanie@stpaulcibolo.com

Elaine McIntyre, Organist

tindo@gvec.net

Brian Parks, Pianist

Brian@stpaulcibolo.com

Beth Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Bethj@stpaulcibolo.com

Robert Webb, Custodian

Webbsondra@yahoo.com

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