

# May Newsletter 2016

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

### From The Pastor's Desk:

As many of you know last month I went to the "Together 4 the Gospel" conference in Louisville, KY. The theme of the conference was what it means to be Protestant. Next year marks the 500th anniversary of the events that launched the Protestant Reformation. One of the primary questions of the conference was whether or not the Reformation is over? The resounding answer was no it is not. The concerns and prescriptions of the Reformers were valid then and are just as relevant today. There is a continuing need for biblical teaching on salvation, worship, sacraments, ecclesiology, and more. Ligon Duncan in the opening lecture expounded on Concerns Calvin used to defend the Reformation. Here is an outline of what he said.

#### Five Reformation Concerns:

1. *The Bible alone is the sole authority for life and practice*

The soul of the church is worship and salvation. The body of the church is composed of the sacraments and church government. Scripture is the foundation for all of it. Two things comprise true Christianity: 1) knowledge of the mode of worship and 2) knowledge of salvation. It is in Scripture alone that we can find what God desires and commands in these two areas.

2. *Worship must be in accordance with the Scripture*

True worship must be regulated by Scripture. Anything done in an attempt or with an intent to honor God, but not found in Scripture, is idolatry. If we are going to worship biblically, it must be ordered by and filled with the Bible. **We**

**should be a people who sing the Bible, pray the Bible, read the Bible, and preach the Bible.** Preaching is God's prime, appointed instrument for building up the church. Evangelistic and expositional preaching go together. Prayer, both individual and corporate, must be filled with Scripture. Songs should be like the Psalms: full of rich, inspirational content and covering the entire range of human emotions.

3. *Salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone*

God imputes the righteousness of Christ to the saved as if it was his/her own. For the Reformers, justification was important for both salvation and assurance. The fundamental difference between Catholics and Protestants: we define justification differently. For Catholics, it is imparted and cooperative with the sacraments. For Protestants, it is imputed and operative apart from any other works or means.

4. *Proper understanding of the two sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper)*

Sacraments are signs of the promises of the Word. The means of grace don't give us anything over and above what we already have in Christ. They are meant to strengthen the faith of believers, not impart faith. They are visible words. The sacraments allow us to see, taste, touch, and smell the promises we hear in Scripture.

5. *Restoration of the pastoral office*

The preaching and teaching is central to the role and office of pastor. Church authority in the Bible is always exercised in a plurality under the authority of Scripture. There is no head of the church except for the Lord Jesus Christ.

As Christians, we must constantly be evaluating ourselves to make sure we are in line with the truth of Scripture. The central

problem facing the church is always in the people of God, not in the circumstances surrounding them.

## Grace and Peace

Pastor Jason Ford

### **Sunday Morning Schedule**

#### **Bible Studies for All Ages 9:30**

##### **"The Gospel Project"**

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

Youth Bible Study 7th – 12th grade  
In the Fellowship Hall

Adult Bible Study  
In the Youth Room of 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.**

In the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm we are studying  
**The Gospel of Mark.**

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 The Jesus Storybook Bible. Youth

#### **The "Aroma" of Christian Growth**

I love coffee. I drink it every morning. It's a major part of my routine. My family laughs because they can usually tell when I haven't had my cup yet. I get really grouchy fast! The funny thing is I didn't drink it for a long time. Matter of fact I didn't even really like it at all! I started a new exercise routine a while back and needed a pick-me-up in the mornings. Once I started, I was hooked! I think that's the way with a lot of our habits. Once we get in a

routine, we're hooked. I'd like to consider our Christian growth in the same light. Most of us probably have a routine of some sorts of prayer, study and worship. However, if you feel a little sporadic in your routine, here's some words of encouragement. First and foremost, God certainly doesn't judge us on our works, so no worries of being graded on how much we've done. However, if you're struggling to spend time in worship or study, pray about it! Talking with God creates an open relationship that encourages growth and helps us crave that time with God. Second, reach out to others in your Christian community. Meeting with friends and studying the Bible together not only helps with understanding God's word, but it's fun to hang out with others. Get creative on a meeting place or plan an outing together afterwards to give time to strengthen friendships as well. Last, invest in a Bible that you find easy to read. Pick one based on size, color, study information, etc. that you find interesting and will cherish. There are great resources online that can help you answer questions. Don't forget to ask the Pastor questions as well! He loves to help with any struggles you're facing. Hopefully, you've found encouragement and maybe we'll find ourselves craving Christian growth like I crave my coffee. Starbucks, anyone?

Stephanie

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **SPEC Supper Club**

Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

#### **Women's Fellowship**

Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am. They are going on a shopping excursion to the outlet mall in San Marcos. They will meet at the church at 9:15 am and car pool. Please let Bonnie know by May 1st if you plan to attend. For more information, please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

**Board of Christian Education Meeting**  
Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> after worship.

**SPEC Fun Day**

Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Bring your children and let them enjoy an afternoon of fun on the playground. Snacks provided. See the bulletin board for more details.

**Cibolo Bowling Club  
Annual Fund Raiser Supper**  
Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at noon.

**Leadership Seminar**  
Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

**Mother Daughter Banquet**  
Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at noon. Tickets available in the fellowship hall after worship. Please contact the church office at 210-658-5874.

**The Sewing Sisters ~ May 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**  
They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

**Community Breakfast & Bingo**  
Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am.

**Dedication Sunday**  
Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> during worship we will dedicate the memorials given within the last year.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Pot Luck Meal**  
Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> we will have a pot luck meal after worship. Please bring a dish and join us.

**Offices Closed**  
In observance of Memorial Day, the church offices will be closed Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **General Announcements**

### **Thank You**

The church would like to thank all who participated in the Youth Potato Bar fundraiser. Just over \$600 was raised. It will be used for the summer camps and other upcoming activities. A special thank you to Stephanie F.

### **Thank You**

The church would like to thank all who donated to the Gideons International, a total of \$342

was collected.

**Church Softball League**  
Men's team on Monday nights and a co-ed team on Thursday nights. They play in Schertz. For more information, call the church office at 210-658-5874.

**Free Pew Cushions**  
The old pew cushions are available, if you want them, you may take them. They are in the parsonage classroom.

**Inquirers' Class**  
If you are interested in learning more about this church, or missed the previous class, we will be holding another one soon. Please let Pastor Jason know. You are not obligated to join, but the class is a requirement for membership. Date and time to be determined later.

**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. 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 Beth Johnson at 210-658-5874 or by e-mail at [Beth@StPaulCibolo.com](mailto:Beth@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

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 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

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 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.

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

Canned Fruits / Jell-O / Dried Beans / Canned Pasta With Meat (Ravioli, Lasagna, Spaghetti & Meatballs, etc.) / Boxed Hamburger and Tuna Helpers / Peanut Butter & Jelly

**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.**

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)

**May Readings**

Old Testament: 1 Kings 7 – 2 Chronicles 3  
New Testament: Luke 22 – John 11:27

**June Readings**

Old Testament: 2 Chronicles 4 – Job 20

**Heidelberg Catechism**

**63 Q. How can you say that the good we do doesn't earn anything when God promises to reward it in this life and the next?**

A. This reward is not earned; it is a gift of grace.

**64 Q. But doesn't this teaching make people indifferent and wicked?**

A. No. It is impossible for those grafted into Christ by true faith not to produce fruits of gratitude.

**Lord's Day 25**

**65 Q. You confess that by faith alone you share in Christ and all his blessings: where does that faith come from?**

A. The Holy Spirit produces it in our hearts by the preaching of the holy gospel, and confirms it through our use of the holy sacraments.

**66 Q. What are sacraments?**

A. Sacraments are holy signs and seals for us to see. They were instituted by God so that by our use of them He might make us understand more clearly the promise of the gospel, and might put His seal on that promise. And this is God's gospel promise: to forgive our sins and give us eternal life by grace alone because of Christ's one sacrifice finished on the cross.

**67 Q. Are both the word and the sacraments then intended to focus our faith on the**

**sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross as the only ground of our salvation?**

A. Right! In the gospel the Holy Spirit teaches us and through the holy sacraments He assures us that our entire salvation rests on Christ's one sacrifice for us on the cross.

**68 Q. How many sacraments did Christ institute in the New Testament?**

A. Two: baptism and the Lord's supper.

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## **St. Paul Staff**

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