

November 2018

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Gospel or Religious Tradition?



This morning I heard part of a radio program in which the interviewer suggested why so many young adults who grow up in the church and Christian families are leaving their faith. He proposed that it was because they grew up hearing a moralistic code of conduct, and not the gospel. The message they heard was basically, if you follow these do's and don'ts, God will be pleased with you, and life will be good. As they were entering the world of adulthood they were finding life to be hard, and that this belief system didn't work.

I thought it was interesting because this morning I was going to write this article on a verse that stood out to me in one of my recent quiet times. The verse is Jesus telling the scribes and Pharisees, "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men." (*Mark 7:8, NASB*). I wonder if the moralistic code of conduct that Christians and the church has been teaching is just a modern version of the tradition of the elders?

The scribes and Pharisees had come from Jerusalem and saw the disciples of Jesus eating with "impure" hands. They were questioning why Jesus wasn't teaching His disciples to obey the traditions of the elders (rules about how to do certain things) like they themselves were careful to follow. Jesus said, quoting from Isaiah 29, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. ⁷ 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'" (*Mark 7:6-7*).

Jesus was telling the scribes and Pharisees that they were elevating the traditions of the elders to the level of doctrine (Scriptural teaching), with the result that their worship was of no value. He then said to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition." (*Mark 7:9*). Obviously, in this case the tradition Jesus was talking about was the prescribed ceremonial hand washing. But what's the commandment that's being neglected?

Jesus then called together the crowd and said to them, "Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man." (*Mark 7:14-15*). After the crowd left, the disciples asked Jesus what He meant and He said to them, "Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?" (*Thus He* declared all foods clean.) (*Mark 7:18-19*). Jesus makes it clear, God's concern is the heart, and that each person be clean there. Perhaps the commandment He was referring to was *Leviticus 19:2*, "Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.'"


Jesus exposed a natural tendency that easily and quickly descends away from the message of the gospel and into a moralistic code of conduct. The tendency is to polish up the outside but neglect the inside. Most people can do OK keeping within the requirements of a moral code, externally. It's the inner heart, the thoughts, the desires, and the motivations that we struggle with the most. In our fallen nature we prefer not to deal with the impurity within, and we would rather keep it secret than surrender it.

The gospel helps us to face the fact that we have sin that runs deep within us and that we cannot defeat it ourselves. The gospel reminds us that though we have this struggle with sin we are yet loved by God. The gospel declares that we are overcomers only through Christ and His substitutionary death on the cross. The gospel, when learned and embraced, displaces pride with genuine holiness. The gospel produces humility, gratitude, love, and service to the Lord. No wonder Jesus firmly confronted the scribes and Pharisees. Are you living and teaching the gospel?

Pastor Dan

November '18

THIS MONTH

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
|  <p>Visit our Library Each Sunday Between Services</p> | | | | <p>1 Ladies Bible Study, Hebrews ~ 9:30 am, NC</p> <p>Good News Club at Parkside School ~ 4 pm</p> <p>Young Adults Study ~ 7 pm, LL #106</p> <p>NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3 No Men's Breakfast</p> <p>MBC Tree Removal ~ 8 am</p> |
| <p>4 Worship Services: 9 am The Gathering & 10:30 am Café</p> <p>Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline ~ 9 am, NC</p> <p>Guatemala Informational Mtg ~ 11:50 am, LL #102</p> <p>Ignite ~ 4—6 pm, LL #106</p> <p>Fusion Rake n Run ~ 2-5 pm</p> | <p>5 Missions Mtg. ~ 5:30 pm, LL #106</p> <p>Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102</p> | <p>6 No Primetimers Games & Lunch</p> <p>Library Hours: 10 am-Noon, & 1-3 pm</p> | <p>7 Trek/Journey ~ 5:30 pm Awana ~ 6:15 pm</p> | <p>8 Ladies Bible Study, Hebrews ~ 9:30 am, NC</p> <p>Good News Club begins @ Parkside School ~ 4 pm</p> <p>Young Adults Study ~ 7 pm, LL #106</p> <p>NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102</p> | <p>9</p> | <p>10 Harvest Weekend Men's Breakfast ~ 8 am, NC Ladies Luncheon ~ 12:30 pm, NC</p> |
| <p>11 Worship Services: 9 am The Gathering & 10:30 am Café</p> <p>Sunday School ~ 9 am Missionary Speaker ~ 9 am, NC Harvest Weekend Potluck ~ 12:15 pm, NC/K</p> <p>Ignite ~ 3—6 pm, Monroe Clinic Service Project Fusion ~ 6—8 pm, LL #106</p> <p>Next Steps "Step 3" ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102</p> | <p>12 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102</p> <p>Elder Bd. Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106</p> | <p>13 Library Hours: 10 am-Noon, & 1-3 pm</p> <p>Pleasant View Birthday Party ~ 1:15 pm</p> <p>Primetimers Thanksgiving Dinner ~ 5 pm Coffee & 5:30 pm Dinner</p> | <p>14 Trek/Journey ~ 5:30 pm Awana ~ 6:15 pm</p> | <p>15 Ladies Bible Study, Hebrews ~ 9:30 am, NC</p> <p>Good News Club @ Parkside School ~ 4 pm</p> <p>Young Adults Study ~ 7 pm, LL #106</p> <p>NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102</p> | <p>16 Primetimers Pizza Hut Lunch ~ 11:15 am</p> | <p>17</p> |
| <p>18 Worship Services: 9 am The Gathering & 10:30 am Café</p> <p>Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline "Discipleship Is Relationships" ~ 9 am, NC</p> <p>Guatemala Informational Mtg ~ 10:05 am, LL #102</p> <p>Ignite ~ 4—6 pm, LL #106</p> <p>Fusion ~ 6—8 pm, LL #106</p> | <p>19 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102</p> | <p>20 Library Hours: 10 am-Noon, & 1-3 pm</p> | <p>21 Trek/Journey ~ 5:30 pm Awana ~ 6:15 pm</p> |  <p>HAPPY Thanksgiving</p> <p>NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> |
| <p>25 Worship Services: 9 am The Gathering & 10:30 am Café</p> <p>Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline ~ 9 am, NC</p> <p>No Ignite Fusion ~ 6—8 pm, LL #106</p> | <p>26 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102</p> | <p>27 Pleasant View Service ~ 9:30 am</p> <p>Library Hours: 10 am-Noon, & 1-3 pm</p> <p>Board of Deacons ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106</p> | <p>28 Trek/Journey ~ 5:30 pm Awana ~ 6:15 pm</p> | <p>29 Ladies Bible Study, Hebrews ~ 9:30 am, NC</p> <p>Good News Club @ Parkside School ~ 4 pm</p> <p>Young Adults Study ~ 7 pm, LL #106</p> <p>NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102</p> | <p>30</p> | |



Birthdays!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 1 Donna O'Connor
- 2 Oliver Brunner
- 5 Adam Brunner
- 7 Patricia Harder
- 9 Craig Roth
- 10 Ellis Holverson
Scott Turkelson
- 13 Kate Haworth
Kailyn Ringhand
- 14 Lynne Hardy
- 15 Kim Markham
- 16 Celia Keen

- 16 Colleen Ostenson
- 19 Kate Elgin
Declan Geiwitz
Drake Geiwitz
- 20 Ross Bisegger
- 21 Jesse Beernink
Mia Kelley
Connor Nafzger
- 23 Malayna Beernink
- 28 Ezekiel Beernink
- 30 Keith Geisler
Carol Larson

- 6 Randy & Gloria Ringhand
- 7 Jacob & Karen Brunner
Craig & Tracy Signer
- 10 Mark & Flamide McNett
- 22 Josh & April Kuenzi
- 26 John & Kristi Hudson

With Our Sympathy



*We would like to extend our sympathy to Bryan & Janice Payne.
Brian's mother, Sarah Anne Payne,
passed away September 27, 2018.
May God bless you and sustain you with His peace.*

New Name for the 9:00 Worship Service!

Have you been asked the question, "What's the difference between the 9:00 and the 10:30 Service?" If so, you may have struggled to give an answer. In fact, some of the leaders in Worship Ministry have been struggling to give an identity to the 9:00 Service. The 10:30 Service is widely known as *The Café*. That name suggests a relaxed atmosphere, and coffee. It only takes a few times of attending to recognize the mix of a family friendly environment with a reverent acoustic style of music.



But at 9:00 there are so many differences! And that's actually what several people have said they like! If you've attended the 9:00 Service a number of times, you've noticed a wide variety of songs sung in a variety of styles, by worship teams varying in numbers and ages, and with different instruments. Hence the name the Worship Ministry leaders have selected is, *The Gathering*. The tag line is, *Where different generations gather to worship the Lord through a variety of musical expressions.*

"All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD,
And all the families of the nations will worship before You." (*Psalm 22:27*)

Please note, the coffee serving area is called *Gathering Grounds*. It is intentionally opened after *The Gathering* Service to facilitate fellowship between those leaving *The Gathering* and those coming to *The Café* Service. We hope that whichever Service you choose you will take some time to meet and encourage your fellow worshippers.



WE WOULD LIKE TO
WELCOME
SHIRLEY REED
TO MEMBERSHIP AT MBC!



MBC Blood Drive

Dear friend,

I know it is a little ways off, but our December blood drive is all set up and on the calendar. It is scheduled for the 20th of Dec. 2018. This drive will be from 1 pm–6 pm instead of starting at 2 pm like our last one. They are also bringing additional staff. What all this means is that instead of the 26 slots we had available last time, we now have 47 slots available. This is great, as we had 34 people try to donate last time without a lot of promotion. Our appointments were 100% full last time, which I would love to see again. If not, it will be great to have time for the walk-ins, which we did not have last time.

Thank you!
Mike Olmstead

Why pray?

God command believers to pray throughout the Bible. Please pray for the United States of America. Our country has turned away from God. Please pray for the fall elections. Be informed, investigate the candidates, and Vote!

There are many good sources for information on where the candidates stand on important issues.

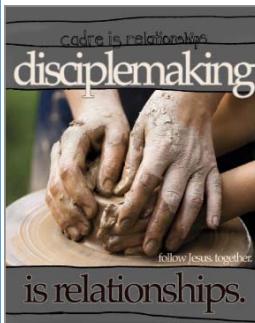
Pray the candidates elected would support Biblical values and the Constitution. Pray for all the leaders that are currently in office, they need God's wisdom. Don't let anything get in the way of your prayer life. You can't really live without prayer.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader



Beginning in January a Sunday morning Prayer Team volunteer scheduler is needed. Contact the Office if interested in volunteering.

Upcoming Pipeline Series: “Disciplmaking is Relationships”



We all know that Jesus was the perfect example of a disciple-maker. How did he disciple the 12? Did the fishermen transform overnight? Or did Jesus spend years of life together with Peter, James and John?

We invite you to join us for 4 classes, November 18th through December 9th, in Pipeline (Sundays, 9 am Nehemiah Center) to discuss Discipleship in the context of Relationships. Our time together will allow us to view and discuss Jesus' method(s) and example of discipleship.

The author writes, “This adventure is one we take with friends and family. We cooperate with God in our spiritual journeys as a way of life, not a program. This training experience guides you to ways to share life together – a life of IN-FLOW (He is your source), OVERFLOW (we spill into others lives) and MULTIPLYING (The gospel in us, our friends, our kids spills into 3 or 4 other lives). This life is the rich and satisfying one that Jesus intended.” CadreMinistries.com

This class is for every age group (post-high school) and season of life. We hope you'll join us! There will be a small fee for the Disciplmaking book. Questions? See Pastor Troy.

AWANA

AWANA for ages 3 1/2 through 12th grade.

Ages 3 1/2 through 6th grade meet from 6:15 to 7:45 pm Wednesday evenings.

7th through 12th grade is 5:30 to 6:15 pm on Wednesday evenings.

Contact Jim Hurlbert, Commander, (325-3430) if you have any questions or if you are interested in helping.



Cutting Trees at MBC—Rescheduled:

Saturday,
November 3rd
at 8:00 AM

Contact
Duane Zimmerman
with questions, 214-6793



NEXT STEPS

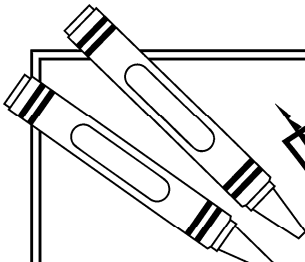
“Next Steps” Step 3
Sunday, November 11th at 6:30 pm,
LL #102
Please sign up at the Welcome Center!

NO NOVEMBER *Mens* BREAKFAST

Job Opportunity:
**Sidewalk snow removal
position available at 18 & 8th
Interested? Contact a Deacon.**



Just For Kids





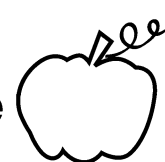
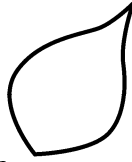
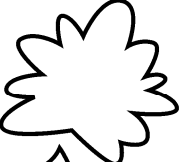





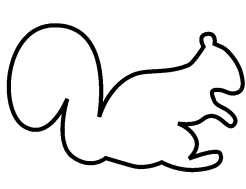
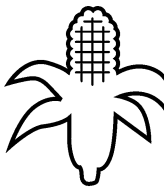
PUZZLE

HARVEST OF GOODNESS

God always provides, no matter the season.

Directions: Match the shapes in order to write the words in the correct places below.

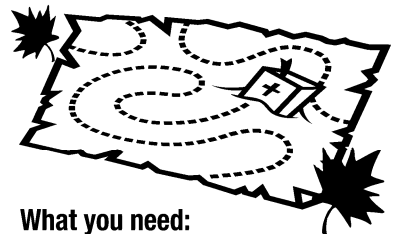



“The  will  
 what is , and 
 will  its .”
 : , NIV

Answer: “The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.” Psalm 85:12, NIV

FALL SCAVENGER Hunt

Enjoy searching for seasonal aspects of God’s creation!



What you need:

- Family members and friends, divided into groups if desired
- Maps of local areas
- Lists of fall-related items (one per person or group)
- Digital cameras or smartphones
- Prizes

What you do:

1. Hand out maps and lists of items (scarecrow, pumpkin, red leaf, squirrel, apple tree, pine cone, acorn, bug, bird, sunflower, etc.)
2. Instruct participants to walk through their assigned area, find and take photos of the items, and report back at a specific time.
3. When everyone returns, share your photos. Award prizes for the most items found, the most unusual item and so on.



Join us for Harvest Weekend Nov. 10 & 11...an opportunity to encourage and love on our Missionaries!

This year's missionary guests are Tim & Nicole Wilcox—Youth With a Mission-Madison and Kevin (via video) & Robin Warren—Glory Reins Ranch-Virginia.

Saturday, Nov. 10 in the Nehemiah Center

Men/boys Breakfast @ 8 am

Women/girls Luncheon @ 12:30 pm

Please sign up at the Welcome Center by Sun., Nov 4. All food is provided at no charge. We will be collecting non-perishable food items for donation to the Green County Food Pantry on Saturday and Sunday.



Sunday, Nov. 11 our guests will be speaking at 9 am in the Nehemiah Center. A **special offering** will be taken at each service to provide our supported missionaries with a monetary Christmas gift.

New this year – we will be having a **Harvest Pot Luck** in the Nehemiah Center following the 2nd service. Please bring 2 dishes to pass. Hot dogs, buns and beverages will be provided. This is a great opportunity to meet and support our missionaries personally!

2019 Guatemala Mission Trip

It's already time to start planning for next year's trip! If you are interested in going to Guatemala **July 6 -13**, please attend ONE of the following 20-minute meetings:

Nov. 4, 11:50 am lower level

Nov. 18, 10:05 am lower level

Dec. 9, 11:50am lower level

To be considered for the 2019 team, 4 requirements must be met:

Currently in High School or older

Attend 1 of the informational meetings listed above

Submit a completed application to the church office no later than Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018

Attend #5 Next Steps class "On Mission" which is 2 sessions in June



November 13 - Pleasant View Birthday Party

Monroe Bible Church is among 12 churches in the surrounding community that sponsor a birthday party and our month is November. We ask for volunteers to help residents with Bingo, serve food and Bingo prizes, play an instrument, sing, and/or transport residents to/from their rooms. **Children are welcome!**

Please **sign up** at the Welcome Center to provide cupcakes or help at the event at 1:15 pm. Cupcakes can be homemade but no nuts or seeds. A **box for Bingo** prize donations is located near the Welcome Center.

Donations may include: Individually wrapped fun-sized candy bars (nut-free), diabetic candy (nut-free chocolates and hard candy), individual serving sized cookies and chips (ie. Keebler, Pringles, Nabisco crackers), Life savers, Kleenex, jewelry (no earrings with posts), perfume, cologne, and word search books. Please make sure all prizes are age appropriate. Thank you for your support!

