

January 2019

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Had an Exam Lately?



In my Bible reading this morning I spotted one of the gems, that though I had underlined it, I had forgotten was there. It was, "Will it be well when He examines you? Or will you deceive Him as one deceives a man?" (*Job 13:9, NASB*). As you can imagine when my eyes crossed *1 Thessalonians 2:4*, "but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who *examines* (italics added) our hearts," God had my attention. It was a reminder that what matters most isn't what others think of me, or even what I think of myself, but what God thinks, and He sees into the depths of my heart.

In the preceding verse Paul writes, "For our exhortation does not *come* from error or impurity or by way of deceit" (*1 Thessalonians 2:3*). It appears that Paul is defending himself against accusations that the Gospel message he is preaching is errant, that his motive was tainted with impurity, and that he is deceitful in his methods.

How easy it is for any of us to slip in the area of message accuracy, motive purity, or method integrity, when we are speaking, or living, the Gospel of Christ. The pressure to please people, the desire for accolades, and temptation to compromise for success is always looming. How easy it is to judge other people instead of ourselves! I cringe when Christians, although well-meaning, cast judgment on the conduct of other Christians, because it is all too often in areas of personal conviction rather than a clear commandment.

The Lord has a better way, better than rule imposing on one another. Paul's, and Job's, reminder is that it is God's examination that matters, and it is a reality that we should keep in mind. A conscious awareness that He is looking at not just our external conduct, but our inner heart will help us in the face of our own fickleness and the prevalence of temptation around us. When we are open to the Holy Spirit's convicting work, heart transformation isn't far behind.

Scripture gives us a couple useful aspects of examination. One is self-examination. While it cannot hold a candle to God's examination, we are still urged to look at our lives and evaluate whether or not we are what we claim to be. For example, "Let us examine and probe our ways, And let us return to the LORD." (*Lamentations 3:40*). "But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world." (*1 Corinthians 11:31-32*). "Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?" (*2 Corinthians 13:5*). Our self-exam should go beyond our external conduct. Again, Paul gives us a good example, "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience *both* before God and before men." (*Acts 24:16*).

The other aspect is God's evaluation, as Paul alluded to in Acts 24:16 above. It is opening oneself to God's scrutiny. David writes, "Examine me, O LORD, and try me; Test my mind and my heart." (*Psalms 26:2*). "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; ²⁴ And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way." (*Psalms 139:23-24*).

In our striving against error, impurity, and deceitfulness, we will inevitably see our failures. Let's be careful to make sure each failure, as well as our motivation to "pass God's exam," takes us to the grace found in Christ. As the new year begins let's renew our commitment to honor our Lord beginning in the deepest recesses of our hearts!


Grateful for His Grace,

Pastor Dan



Pastor Dan

January '19

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Visit the Library – Each Sunday after Services!		1 Office & Library Closed 	2 No Awana	3 Good News Club at Parkside School - 4 pm Young Adults Study - 8 pm, LL #106 NA - 7 pm, LL #102	4 Youth Districts in Green Bay, WI	5 Youth Districts in Green Bay, WI No Men's Breakfast - Men will gather from 2-5 pm for cards/games & snacks, NC/K
6 Youth return from Districts Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School - 9 am Pipeline - 9 am, NC Men's Study - 12:15 pm, LL #102 Ignite Leaders Mtg. - 12:30 pm Ignite - 4-6 pm, LL #106 No Fusion Next Steps 2 (s1) - 6:30 pm, LL #102	7 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	8 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon & 1-3 pm	9 Awana Resumes - Trek/Journey - 5:30 pm Awana - 6:15 pm	10 Good News Club at Parkside School - 4 pm Young Adults Study Concludes - 8 pm, LL #106 NA - 7 pm, LL #102	11	12
13 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School - 9 am Pipeline - 9 am, NC Men's Study - 12:15 pm, LL #102 Fusion Leaders Mtg. - 12:30 pm Ignite - 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion - 6-8 pm, LL #106 Next Steps 2 (s2) - 6:30 pm, LL #102	14 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102 Elder Board Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #106	15 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon & 1-3 pm	16 Trek/Journey - 5:30 pm Awana - 6:15 pm	17 Good News Club at Parkside School - 4 pm NA - 7 pm, LL #102	18 Primetimers Pizza Hut Lunch - 11:15 am Awana T & T Boys Event - 5:30 pm	19 Awana Boys Event Ends - 9 am
20 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School - 9 am Pipeline - 9 am, NC Men's Study - 12:15 pm, LL #102 Ignite - 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion - 6-8 pm, LL #106	21 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	22 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon & 1-3 pm Board of Deacons Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #106	23 Trek/Journey - 5:30 pm Awana - 6:15 pm	24 Good News Club at Parkside School - 4 pm NA - 7 pm, LL #102	25 Awana T & T Girls Event - 5:30 pm	26 Awana Girls Event Ends - 10 am
27 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School - 9 am Pipeline - 9 am, NC Men's Study - 12:15 pm, LL #102 Ignite - 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion - 6-8 pm, LL #106	28 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	29 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon & 1-3 pm Women's Recovery Workshop begins - 7-9 pm (Location to be Announced)	30 Trek/Journey - 5:30 pm Awana - 6:15 pm	31 Good News Club at Parkside School - 4 pm NA - 7 pm, LL #102		

- 1 Victor Paske
Bernie Roidt
- 2 Jeff Wunschel
Crystal Zimmerman
- 5 Shannon Ackerman
Cheryl Hartwig
Isaac Wyss
- 6 Annie Ranum
- 7 Craig Tuttle
- 8 Margie Johnson
Elena Wyss
- 10 Kevin Geiwitz
- 11 Deb Meyer
- 12 Ronald Bernhagen
Jodi Kegebein
- 13 Tess Nafzger
- 14 Kim Heinbaugh
Carson Montgomery
- 15 Curt Wyttenbach
- 16 Shane Figi



January Birthdays!

- 18 Sarah Ragan
- 20 Julia Figi
Amy Haworth
Joram Hurlbert
Erich Krahenbuhl
- 21 Richard Thoman
Larry Young
- 23 Gene Schultz
- 24 Lynn Klitzke
Brinley Roidt
- 25 Angie Geitwitz
Avery Ostenson
- 26 Deb Hendrickson
- 27 Avery Bartelt
- 28 Tyler Hartwig
Braeleigh Schout
- 29 Mike Brandenburg
Andrew Ragan
Griffin Ragan
- 31 Kay Bloom



- 6 Tom & Jill Skoumal
- 17 John & Nicole Bartelt
- 18 Kevin & Linda Samson
- 29 Duane & Crystal Zimmerman
- 31 Ron & Joan Coppes

AWANA

Resumes January 9th

For ages 3 1/2 years—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 (325-3430) if you have any questions or if you are interested in helping.

We would like to extend our sympathy to Duane & Crystal Zimmerman. Crystal's mom, Dorothy Gessert, passed away on Sunday, December 2, 2018.

May God bless you with His peace.



Playground Project

In July 2016, Missions Ministry received approval from the Deacons to begin a long-term fundraising project in cooperation with Kids around the World (KATW). KATW is a Christian organization based out of Rockford, Illinois. They “harvest” unwanted commercial grade playgrounds in the US, refurbish, and ship them to 3rd world countries. It’s a wonderful way to bring play into children’s lives, show them God’s love, and provide churches with ministering opportunities.



We are in the 3rd year of our 4-5 year plan to raise \$15-20,000. Once the funds are raised, we hope to send a team to install the playground, under the supervision of KATW. Through community events we have raised \$13,138 (plus \$ from the recently held Papa Murphy’s Night). Since we are closing in on our goal, Oscar Chiquito has begun looking for possible playground sites with the churches he works with in Guatemala.

Our next event is a **Culvers Night on Monday, February 4.**

We need 3 volunteers for 1-hour shifts (4-8 pm) to help serve meals and clean. If you can help, please sign up at the Welcome Center for a shift. Culvers will donate 10% of profits to the playground fund from both dine-in and drive-through sales from 4-10 pm!



It’s not only fun, but delicious too.

Thanks for your support!



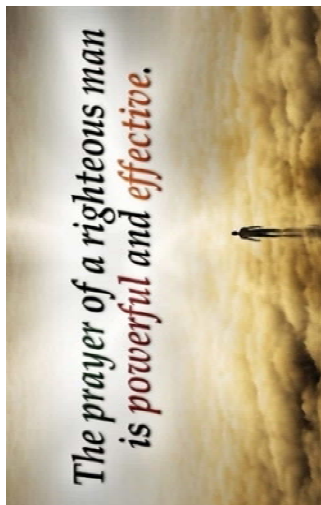
NEXT STEPS

Next Steps—Step 2 “Our Core Beliefs”
(This step is required for membership)

1st Session
Sunday, January 6th at 6:30 pm, LL #102

2nd Session
Sunday, January 13th at 6:30 pm, LL #102

Sign up at the Welcome Center!



THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER | MAY 2, 2019

Save the Date!

★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

LOVE ONE ANOTHER. JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU JOHN 13:34



Women's Recovery Workshop

Find Freedom, Hope, & New Beginnings



Have you ever wondered why you always felt "not good enough"? Are you a people pleaser?

Do you feel it's your part in relationships to hold things together?

Do you ever feel if you don't do it yourself, things will never get done?

Did you want to experience more from life, but you don't know how to access intimacy with God and others?

The Christian Codependence Recovery Workshop for women is designed to help you find who God created you to be. Codependence isn't a label, but a mindset that can be overcome. There is healing in Jesus name.

Group Workshop

Date: Tuesdays, begins January 29, 2019

Time: 7-9 pm (location TBA)

If you are interested, for more information

Contact: Tracy Signer at 214-4976 or tracysnhy7@gmail.com

**CALLING
ALL MEN!**

All men are invited to bring a friend to enjoy snacks and drinks, card/man games on Saturday, January 5th from 2 pm—5 pm in the Nehemiah Center.

There will be NO Men's Breakfast January 5th.

Questions? Contact Kyle Ohlrich
719-439-1003



Marriage Ministry Great News! Act Now!!

Registrations for any **Weekend to Remember** are

HALF PRICE from January 7-28, 2019 (\$175)

when couples register using our group discount code **monroebiblechurch**

A **Weekend to Remember** event makes a great gift too!

For more information and other event locations- www.weekendtoremember.com

Call Jeff & Marie Wunschel (214-3699) to inquire about Marriage Ministry Scholarships.

Prayer—Talking With God

Are you ready to make a commitment to make prayer a high priority in your life for 2019? Psalm 42:1-2 says, “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?”


This Scripture was in a devotional I read recently. In Africa, deer approach a river to drink knowing that lions and other predators may attack. They are willing to risk their life to get water. Do we crave drawing near to God with that much abandon? Is it worth more than anything in the world to pray and come near to the One who gave His life for you?

Prayer is a discipline requiring much attention. I need to spend much more time in prayer. The Lord wants us to cry out to Him in prayer in all circumstances. Sometimes when we pray it will be during a crisis, and other times it will be a daily communion with Him. Jesus, who drew near to us by coming as a baby, continues to hear our prayers this very day. Carve out time for Him every day! Remember, He gave His life for you.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader

Kid's Page

January 2019



PUZZLE

A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

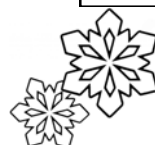
Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a _____.

Romans 6:4, NIV

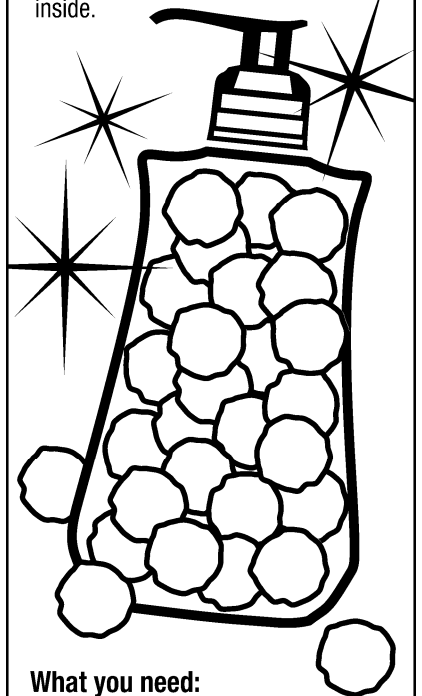
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Answer: f i e l e w n, new life



Washed Clean

Decorate a soap bottle as a reminder of how baptism cleans us on the inside.



What you need:

- Bottle of clear liquid hand soap
- Small craft pom-poms (different colors)
- Wooden skewer

What you do:

1. Remove the bottle label and unscrew the lid.
2. Using the skewer, push pom-poms down into the soap one at a time.
3. Replace the lid and put the dispenser in a bathroom or kitchen.