



2613 8th Avenue
 Monroe, WI 53566
 608-325-3966
 office@monroebiblechurch.org
 www.monroebiblechurch.org

Newsletter—March 2023

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Sanctified by Rest?



Hebrews 4 always grabs my attention when I read through Hebrews. The exhortation to “be diligent” to enter God’s “rest” seems like an oxymoron. These two verses however, stood out this time, “So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. ¹⁰ For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.” (Hebrews 4:9–10, *NASB*). Is this “rest” a reference to working for salvation, or of working for our sanctification, or both? It’s clear that this chapter does refer to salvation, but the urging in verse 14 to, “hold fast our confession,” and in verse 16, to draw near to God to “find grace to help in time of need,” seems to indicate the author is applying this rest to both salvation and sanctification.

Sanctification is being set apart by God for God, set apart from sin as holy. It is God’s will for each of us to work this out in our current life. That would be what Paul refers to when he writes “work out your salvation” in Philippians 2:12. He is referring to the work of bringing our lives into harmony with what God has done in saving us, and that would require some diligent effort on our part. So, how can rest be a part of our sanctification? The author shows that he means cease from working in his use of the word “rest” by referencing God’s rest on the seventh day of creation. Therefore, the work to cease from in this passage would be working to establish our own righteousness in relation to our salvation and our sanctification. Since our righteousness before God is based solely on the work of Christ on our behalf, it means learning to trust in what Christ has done and not what we can do to be right before God. This all sounds great in theory, but how do we do that in everyday life?

It seems that this starts with some simple but profound knowing. 1) Know that we will never be fully righteous by our own effort. We should cease expending so much worry and effort, and beating ourselves up for our failures. There’s rest in knowing we are not expected to be able to live to an impossible standard by self-effort. 2) Know that we have been given Christ’s righteousness, so we already have a righteous standing before God. We can rest in that and should thank God for it, all the time! 3) Know that God does still want us to work toward a more holy life. It brings our lives into harmony with what He has done for us, which helps us find meaning and purpose. There’s rest in aligning with God’s truths rather than the world’s messages. 4) Know that God will help us. Since this is His will, we can ask Him and trust Him to help us do and be just what He desires. This rest in not peaceful inactivity. It’s transferred trust.

I think that most of us really do want to live that kind of life. Unfortunately, it’s easy to fall into the ditch on one side or the other. One ditch is thinking it doesn’t matter what I do since I have the righteousness of Christ. Obviously, that is not going to be a sanctified life! The other ditch is thinking we’re living a sanctified life when we aren’t. I can assume that because I’m conducting myself ethically and morally, serving God in various ways, and not committing any grievous or blatant sin, I’m good. The problem is, that’s a self-directed and self-effort life, and it isn’t living in God’s rest. A truly sanctified life would be a God-directed life. It couldn’t be done without His help.

Learning to live in God’s rest really requires daily living in a close relationship with Him. Following His direction and resting in Christ’s work, what a delicate balance, but also a sweet spot in which to live!

Striving to enter that Rest, (Heb. 4:11)
 Pastor Dan





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MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MBC Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM, & Fridays 8:00 AM—Noon			1 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	2 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC No MBC Worship Practice	3 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	4 Iglesia Biblica Women's Study—4 pm, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC Iglesia Biblica Vigil — 7pm-midnight ,all church Open AA Mtg.—6 pm, 18 & 8th
<i>Sunday, March 12th</i>						
5 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Next Steps-Step 4 (s.1) - 9:00 am, #100 Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm	6 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102	7 Primetimers Games & BYO Lunch—10 am-1 pm, NC/K Missions Meeting—5 pm, LL #106	8 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	9 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—6:30 pm, S	10 Awana Boys' T & T Overnighter begins at 6:30 pm, All church in use	11 Awana Boys' T & T Overnighter, All church in use, ends at 9 am Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC
12 Daylight Savings Begins Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Next Steps-Step 4 (s.2) - 9:00 am, #100 Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm Seder sign-up deadline	13 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102 Deacon Mtg.—6 pm, NC Elder Mtg.—6 pm, LL #106	14	15 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	16 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S	17 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S 	18 Iglesia Biblica Women's Study—4 pm, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC Men's Outdoor Pursuit—6 pm, Park Hills Church
19 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm	20 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102 	21	22 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC No Awana - Spring Break	23 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—6:30 pm, S	24 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	25 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC
26 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm	27 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102	28 Messiah in the Pass-over Seder, 6:30 pm, NC	29 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	30 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7pm, S	31 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	



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1 Harper Polhill

5 Ruth Joy Tuttle

7 Carol Botteron

9 Kate Baer

John Jordan

Roger Krauss

Mike Newberg

Joshua Skoumal

11 Roxanne Geisler

12 Gabrielle Ils

12 Oliver Kuenzi

13 Kadin Paske

Duane Zimmerman

14 Karena Figi

23 Heidi Rische

Luca Wilcox

24 Dorothy Jensen

Cora Polhill

25 Marissa Hurlbert

26 Regan Bartelt

26 Erik Haworth

Craig Signer

27 Natalie Reed

Austin Zettle

28 Libby Thoman

29 Dale Kliztke

30 Eloise Ackerman

Joan Coppes

Amanda Ohlrich



6 Doug & Nancy Larson

8 Ron & Sharon Kubly

11 Joe & Libby Thoman

23 Adam & Grace Anderson

23 Ray & Pauline Wyss

24 James & Debra Hurlbert



It's a Boy!

Congratulations to Jesse & Gracie Petersen on the arrival of their new baby boy! Luca Forrest Petersen was born on Wednesday, February 8th, weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz. & was 21" long. He joins his big brother Ari.



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With Sympathy

We would like to offer our sympathy to Tony & Cynthia Kitchell and their family. Tony's mom passed away Thursday, January 26th. May God comfort you and bless you with His peace.

Next Steps at MBC

Next Steps are ways to learn more about and become involved at Monroe Bible Church. Sign up for all Next Steps classes on our website, contact the office, or use the Chromebook at the Welcome Center.



Step 4 "Our Equipping" (2 parts)

Ever wonder what spiritual gifts are and how they work in the church? In these two sessions you will learn about serving together in the church, spiritual gifts, and explore how God has gifted you to serve! Sunday, March 5th & 12th at 9:00 AM, LL Room #100.

What is the MBC Waldo Challenge?



Background: *Where's Waldo?* is the title of the first Waldo book. Released in 1987, the book was the result of more than two-years of detailed work by English illustrator Martin Handford. *Where's Wally* (Waldo in North America) introduces readers to Wally, a distinctively dressed man, as he sets off on "a world-wide hike".

Waldo travels to everyday places – such as the beach, the ski slopes, and the zoo. The book features 12 detailed two-page illustrated spreads of the different locations.

Somewhere amid the crowded scene is Waldo and readers are asked to scour the detailed illustrations to locate the lost traveler. Each scene is accompanied by a postcard to the reader from Waldo, who introduces the scene and comments on his travels.

Waldo sets out on his journey equipped with 12 items to help him on his travels. He carries a **walking stick, kettle, mallet, cup, backpack, sleeping bag, binoculars, camera, snorkel, belt, bag, and shovel**. As Waldo journeys from location to location he loses one of these items, and asks the reader to locate the object left behind.

At the end of the book there is a collection of check-lists of other things to find. Readers are asked to go back to the beginning and re-explore each scene to locate them.

MBC Waldo Challenge: to read your bulletin and newsletter and **1)** find the item(s) Waldo has lost hidden somewhere in the bulletin or newsletter (items pictured below), and **2)** complete all of the checklist items for that week.

As soon as you complete all parts of that week's challenge, email the church office at office@monroebiblechurch.org with your answers. The first person who emails the office with everything completed and correct, within that week's stated parameters, will be awarded a prize the next Sunday, have your photo taken, and recognized both in our bulletin and on our bulletin board behind the Welcome Center as the **Waldo Challenge Winner** for the week! **EVERY** entry, even if you don't win that week's challenge, will go into the **Grand Prize** drawing coming up. The more times you enter, the better your chances of winning the Grand Prize!





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Weekend to Remember

Weekend to Remember is a getaway with a goal: Oneness.

No marriage is static. Each day, each choice — you're either moving closer together, toward oneness ... or coasting farther apart.

At the intersection of a faith-based marriage conference and romantic retreat from everyday life, Weekend to Remember helps couples do just that — choose oneness. Whether you're sending up an SOS for marital rescue or looking to foster an already flourishing connection, Weekend to Remember is your best next step toward being, and staying, one.

Family Life is offering a \$50 discount for couples who sign up before March 21st. Find much more information online by searching - "**family life weekend to remember**"

Be sure to use our group name - MonroeBibleChurch

The Madison event is at - **Madison Marriott West**

Dates - **Friday evening-Sunday, April 21 - 23rd**

Questions? Contact - **Jeff (214-3699) or Marie (214-7845) Wunschel**



New Pipeline Study begins March 26th "One at a Time"

Nobody grows up dreaming of waking up, going to work, heading home, watching Netflix, scrolling through social media, only to do it again the next day, and the next, and the next...until we breathe our last breath. Most of you want to see our neighborhoods transformed, our families healthy, our local marketplace trustworthy to their word. For the majority of us we don't want to spend our lives watching the hands of the clock move from number to number, serving only as space-takers, binge-watchers, game-players, or even book-readers. We want to be difference-makers. Yet, as the weeks and months go by, many of us are asking the question: ***Am I making a difference in this world?***

MBC had a special speaker, Casey Johnson, from the EFCA a couple weeks ago. His message on discipleship stirred in many of us when he reminded us that each individual person in the church has a role in making disciple-makers. Yet, discipleship seems to have taken a back seat to a plethora of other activities. A few of you have told me that you believe we need to take steps to revive our disciple-making efforts and help people reach others with the gospel of Jesus. Here is the next step.

How did Jesus make such a difference in this world? When we study the story of his life as recorded in the gospels, there are a number of answers we might highlight, but there's one particular phrase that captures how Jesus impacted His world, ***"one at a time"***. For example, Jesus went out of his way to meet the woman at the well. Her life was changed. Her community saw the change in her and ran to Jesus. The community was then changed as well.

In another account, Jesus took a boat across the lake to meet a Gerasene man who was possessed by a legion of demons. Jesus simply asked him his name. Legion was the name he was given. The demons knowing of Jesus' authority asked to be sent into a sounder of pigs. The next thing we read is that the man is in his right mind and asking to travel with Jesus. The community took notice. Making a difference isn't measured by a social media post, or a name on a building, or how many people come to your Bible Study. It isn't determined by a following or a fan base. Jesus often met with people, ***One messy circumstance at a time***. Join us for this video series and be willing to make application from the gospels in your family, community, and marketplace.

This 7-week Pipeline study begins March 26th at 9:00 AM in the Nehemiah Center. Questions? See Pastor Troy.



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Chosen People Ministries Coming to MBC

MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER, a vivid and exciting demonstration showing how Jesus fulfilled the ancient feast of Passover, will be held at Monroe Bible Church on **Tuesday, March 28th at 6:30 PM** in the Nehemiah Center. This visual presentation will include congregation participation in the Seder elements, and will be conducted by Dr. Richard Flashman of Chosen People Ministries. Everyone is invited to attend! Feel free to invite family and friends. A love offering will be received that evening. **Sign-up by March 12th** at the Welcome Center or on our website www.monroebiblechurch.org so we know how many people to plan for the Seder elements.

We would like to have a family from our congregation host Dr. Flashman overnight after the presentation Tuesday. He needs a place to stay for just the one night. If you are interested in providing Dr. Flashman a place to spend the night, please contact the church office and let us know, 608-325-3966 or office@monroebiblechurch.org

What is Messiah in the Passover?

MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER begins with the traditional Passover Seder table—complete with all the articles of this important Jewish celebration. The speaker will explain the symbolic meanings of the various items of the Passover feast and highlight their relationship to the Last Supper that Messiah celebrated with the disciples, giving special emphasis on the redemptive significance of the crucifixion. **MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER** gives the Christian community insight into Jewish traditions so that the Jewish roots of Christianity can be better understood. The experience also helps both Jewish and Christian communities understand their common heritage.

Chosen People Ministries is over 128 years old, an evangelical mission that was founded in 1894 by Leopold Cohn, a Hungarian rabbi who came to believe that Jesus is the Messiah promised by the Hebrew Scriptures. From humble beginnings in Brooklyn, New York, Chosen People Ministries has grown into a worldwide ministry to “the Jew first and to the Gentile.” More information is online at chosenpeople.com.



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Missions Ministry

We are excited to announce this year's mission team to Guatemala. It is a large team and a great mix of men and women, teen and adult, both experienced and first timers! Here is the 2023 Guatemala team: Jason, Andrea, Kaitlyn and Jady Elgin, Wade, Braden, and Lily Williams, Todd and Tanner IIs, Brinley Roidt, Kimberly Wheeler, Aleigh Zettle, Daniel Skoumal, Kim Markham, Jake Watson, and Jim Hurlbert. Please start praying for each one and for the mission to be and do what God has planned for us! We all have a part to play in this.

We recently received a letter from Andy and Megan Thoman, our InterVarsity staff in Oshkosh, saying that God is leading them into a new season in their lives. Andy is taking a full time job outside of InterVarsity, but will still be involved in the digital ministry as a volunteer. Andy wishes to express the joy and appreciation they feel for all who have partnered with them during their years with IV and to thank us for being a part of their work. Kim and Yvonne Heinbaugh, serving with Tundra Wings Ministry in Alaska, switched from a faith based support system to a tentmaking ministry this year. Because of a policy MBC has that support to missionaries must go through a mission board, we have been unable to continue financial support to their ongoing work. Both these couples have received both financial and prayer support from MBC for many years. Please continue to pray for them as they continue to be servants for our Lord.

Thank you to the individuals who have expressed interest in the Forest Lakes District Crisis Response team. As the idea develops, more information will be shared as it is not too late to consider this ministry opportunity.

Lastly, we are praising God for His protection of Andrew and Elizabeth and their family. Continue to pray for them in their current situation.

Crystal Zimmerman, Missions Ministry Leader

Library Ministry

In preparation for Easter and the Seder presentation the church is hosting on March 28th, the library is having a reading contest! For each book you read about Easter, the Passover, Lent, or the Cross, you will be entered into a drawing to win a Seder set (Seder Plate, Matzah Tosh, Kiddush Cup, Messianic Haggadah and a Leader's Manual (as pictured), and second prize is the "Gospel in the Passover". Books can be from any section in the library (personal growth, culture, fiction, parenting, theology, etc). After you've completed a book, fill out a slip with your name, phone number or email, and the book you read, and place it in the fish bowl. Contest ends April 1st and the winner will be announced Sunday, April 2nd.



Just for Kids



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THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

Color the Picture

1 Corinthians 15:3

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.



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JESUS IS BETRAYED

Discover the hidden words.

J	E	S	I	R	A	B	A	T	H	E	R	U	T	H	E	V	O	K	Z	J	H	Q	P	L	O	P
D	I	S	J	F	A	T	H	E	R	U	T	H	E	V	O	K	Z	J	H	Q	P	L	O	P	R	O
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U	S	I	M	V	J	N	E	R	N	W	I	P	N	E	C	W	Z									

Word Bank

- JESUS
- FATHER
- SAVE
- PROPHETS
- SWORDS
- CLUBS
- DISCIPLES
- TWELVE
- KISS
- RABI
- JUDAS
- PRIEST



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