

CW Church
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THE GRAPEVINE

June, 2021

Under Construction

Something exciting is coming to our website!!! "Beyond Sunday," is a new blog page for Pastor Rob. He will be posting on this page each week on a topic, Scripture lesson, or some random thoughts. Check in each week and see what is on his mind. We're also in the process of updating all the information on our website, so check it out periodically to see what else is new. There's a lot of new exciting new opportunities, new activities, and great new articles coming to www.columbuswestchurch.com. Check it out today and see what is new.

Helping Friends Through Hard Times

Sometimes It can be difficult to know how to be helpful when a friend is struggling. Being there and listening to them is very important. Praying for their needs and searching the scriptures for words of encouragement are also helpful. Empathise with your friend but don't tell them how to feel. Everyone feels and reacts to situations differently. Ask your friend what they need and most importantly just be their friend.

Thoughts from an article by, Monica Chestnut from Wycliffe Bible Translators

Live Stream opportunities on FB @ www.facebook.com/columbuswestcog
Church us out daily at 12 p.m., each
Wednesday at 7 p.m. and every Sunday
at 10:30 a.m.

*Every good and perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of the heavenly
lights, who does not change like the shifting
shadows. James 1:17*

Fresh Start

We've been talking since January about having a "Fresh Start," looking at Paul in Philippians. I don't know about you, but when I look back over my life, I see a life that has quite a bit of sin in it. Things I've done that I now regret. People I've hurt, things I've said, done, and wish I could change. Now, I know that we all say that and wish we could go back and do things differently, but that's just not possible. However, I thank the Lord that He gives us a "Fresh Start."

We talked last time about the righteousness which God gives. You see, in order for us to be clean, in order for us to have this "Fresh Start," we have to have a righteousness that isn't ours. It's not a righteousness that we can earn by keeping God's laws, or being good enough, even though that's something that I've tried. It's a righteousness that comes from God as a gift. God alone is perfectly holy and entirely righteous. If you have His righteousness, you are as sinless as God Himself! Let me repeat that for the people in the back; If you have His righteousness, **YOU ARE AS SINLESS AS GOD HIMSELF.**

That's the only way anyone can be saved—we must have God's righteousness. Christ died on the cross for your sins, and when He did, He bore your sins on the cross, but what is not often understood is that when you trust in Jesus for salvation, **YOU RECEIVE HIS PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS.** It is an exchange.

Let me show you a verse that proves it: ***"For He (God) has made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."*** 2 Corinthians 5:21. Wait, did you catch that??? God made Jesus sin for us, so that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. He took my penalty, so I could take His destiny. WoooHooo, that's some shouting stuff right there. We traded places. That's what happens when you put your trust in Jesus. That's what happens when you accept Christ as Savior. That's what happens when you follow Him. The old is gone and the new is come. You take off the old man and put on the new man. So, how about it today, are you ready for a "Fresh Start?" There's a new coat, some new clothes, a new life, waiting just for you. God bless!

Pastor Rob



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HOME CHURCHES

Are you involved in a Home Church? We have three that have started up being led by Courtney Come, Pastor Watts and Ken Neff. Two meet weekly and one meets once a month at this time. They are studying the same passages that Pastor Rob is preaching on Sunday morning. Come let's grow together!!!

Goals

In life we set all kinds of goals. Goals to lose weight, have that job that will get me to my first million by 30, own my own house by 25, be married by 23, have three kids by 35, and so on. Goals are good to have in life and will drive us in life.

Just like we have physical goals, emotional goals, we should set Spiritual goals as well. Some set goals of reading the whole Bible in a year, praying for a half hour each day, going to church every Sunday, etc. We'd like to share some goals with you over the next several months in the Grapevine to help with your Spiritual life. These are goals that we have here at CW Church and what we have based our ministry on here at the church.

We strive to guide each individual to put their full faith and trust in Jesus and to love Him with all their heart, soul, mind and strength (Romans 10:9).

Look at this verse in the God's Word Translation, "***If you declare that Jesus is Lord, and believe that God brought Him back to life, you will be saved.***" Isn't that good news? We think so!!! However, what does that mean? What does it mean to *trust* the Lord? What does it mean to *declare* that Jesus is Lord? What does it mean to be *saved*? These are some questions that we want to address over the next several issues of the Grapevine.

In order to get the context of what we're talking about you have to go back to the beginning of this chapter and look at what Paul is talking about. When you do...you start to see Paul's passion and Paul's heart. In verse 1 he *declares* that his *desire*, his *longing*, *yearning*, *craving*, is that all of his people would come to know Jesus as Savior. Paul prayed that all of Israel would get saved. They could be saved; their rejection of Christ was not hopeless. The

door of salvation is open to everyone, the Jew as well as the Gentile.

The fact that Paul prayed for the salvation of the Jews is a lesson to all of us. We, too, need to be praying for the salvation of everyone. Just like Israel, we seek to know God in our own way. They sought to find the Lord in their rituals, being as religious as they could, feeling that God would never reject them because they were God's chosen people. Sound like anyone else? We think we are a chosen nation, a chosen people because we're Americans, special because we're part of a "Christian" nation. Well, we have to realize the same that they did, Zeal and sincerity are not enough in seeking God. No one or a group of people could be more zealous or sincere in seeking God than the Jews. But something else is always needed; zeal and sincerity always require one other ingredient: accurate, and complete knowledge. Zeal and sincerity by themselves cannot reach a destination. We can be zealous and sincere as possible and still be on the wrong road and never reach the destination. To reach our destination, we have to know the right road. Once we know the right road, we have to get on the right road.

As we continue this study in this goal, take a look into verses 4-9 of Romans 10. We'll be talking more about being on the "*right road*." Until next time....

The Leadership Team



Contentment

Contentment is realizing that I am indestructible until my work is done. *“But I trusted in thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my God. My times are in thy hand...” Psalm 31:14-15.*

In 445 B.C. captains and soldiers, mounted on well-trained horses, left the splendor of the capital city of Persia and headed west. In this official delegation was a high-ranking adviser of the most powerful ruler in the world.

The adviser was on a mission that would go down in history as the most important event of his day. He knew that the task that lay before him was urgent, but he did not know the danger that he was to encounter in attempting to carry it out.

When the delegation passed over the Jordan River and entered into a provincial city, a meeting was held with several governors. The adviser gave each one an official letter. The governors were startled by the contents. They were surprised to learn that such a high-ranking official would want to help the despised remnant in the city of Jerusalem.

Two evil men learned about the adviser’s plans and purposed to do all they could to stop him. As soon as the delegation left town, these evil men held an emergency meeting and laid out their strategy.

Meanwhile, the official and his party traveled on to Jerusalem. Several days later, a special meeting was held in Jerusalem with all the rulers, priests, and nobles. The king’s adviser reminded his listeners that the rubble and ashes of the once towering city walls were a stark testimony of the judgment of the former days. Then he told them about the king’s desire to have the walls rebuilt.

The people were excited to begin the task. No sooner had they begun, however, than the opposition unleashed its continuous attacks. They began with mocking and then made false accusations and requests for meaningless conferences. When these failed, they prepared to come upon the builders with armed force, but the builders anticipated their move and doubled their protection.

One evening the king’s adviser was informed that a man of Shemaiah had a special revelation to give him. The adviser went to Shemaiah’s house and listened to the message. *“God has warned me that there is a plot against your life. Your enemies will come in by night and will slay you. Come, let us flee to the temple and lock ourselves inside. That is the only way to save your life.”*

The adviser studied the fearful eyes of the “prophet,” and without hesitation responded, *“Who am I, that I should flee to the temple to save my life. No, I will not do it.”*

That prophet had been hired by those two wicked men to trick the king’s adviser into violating God’s Law by going into the temple. What those wicked men did not realize was that a death threat would have little effect.

The adviser was accustomed to death threats. One of his duties had been to drink of the king’s cup in order to test it for poison. In addition to this, he knew that his present work was ordained by God, and that meant that he was indestructible until his work was done. Under Nehemiah’s leadership, the walls were rebuilt in the remarkably short time of 52 days!!!

--taken from Nehemiah 1-6

