

# THE GRAPEVINE CW CHURCH 147 GLADYS ROAD

SEPTEMBER 2021



## ALASKA



*I was asked to write an article for the newsletter about Bud's, Dawn's, Rob's and my trip to Alaska. I'm really not sure what to say. There are no words strong enough to describe the beauty and magnificence that we experienced. Alaska is without a doubt the most beautiful place I have ever been! I was overwhelmed by the magnitude of that beauty. For the first three days, I was so overwhelmed by the beauty of what I was seeing that I would just start crying. This is the best way I can describe Alaska--When God was almost done with creation, He looked around and saw all that He had made. He said, " Okay, I've put some mountains there, an ocean over there, a desert there, a forest there. But now, I am going to unleash all my power, all my glory, all my majesty and all my creativity." Then He rolled up His sleeves....and created Alaska! I have never been any place that can come close to what I experienced in Alaska. Everywhere you go, except for the coastal towns, you are surrounded on all sides by mountains, glaciers, wilderness, or a combination of those things. I spent the whole two weeks in awe of what I was seeing, what I was experiencing, and of the fact that I was even there! I cannot thank God enough for giving us the gift of going to Alaska. He fulfilled a dream I have had for 40 years, ever since I saw the pictures that a coworker brought back from her trip there. And to be able to experience it with Bud, and with Rob and Dawn, just made it that much more special! I can't wait to go back!*

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study starts September 9th at 10:00 am. We will be meeting at Karen Watts home, 2363 Alton Darby Creek Rd. We are starting a study of the Book of Romans.

## Family Retreat

Family Retreat is coming! We will be meeting at Lake Hope State Park September 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day Weekend. Meals are provided Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday brunch. Pam Cornell is in charge of the cabin keys.

## Trick or Treat on Inah

Children, come dressed up in your favorite costume and Trick or Treat in a safe community. "Family Friendly" Beggar's night fun from 6-8 pm, Thurs., October 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact Dawn Watts, 614-971-0505 for details or with questions.

## Fall Revival

Mark your Calendars for the Fall Revival, October 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm. We will be publishing the details soon, but mark out the time so you are available for this uplifting, stretching and encouraging time with our "Five Guys Pastors."

## Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Community Thanksgiving Dinner:  
Friday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm

# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

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What constitutes greatness? In a world dominated by materialism we tend to equate greatness with possessions, wealth, and power. In the Old Testament a man's importance was measured by how many cattle, sheep and other animals he owned. Today we count the cars in the driveway, the number of suits hanging in the closets and the accumulation of electronic gadgets scattered around the house.

When we think of "great" people, we think of international leaders, super jocks, movie idols, rock singers who dress funny and those who have made it to the top position in the company.

It is not strange that the world would measure success this way, but let's don't allow that kind of mindset to invade the Church! If we do, we will think the "great" pastors are the ones who pastor the largest congregations or have TV programs or speak to packed auditoriums. We will think that the big churches are the "great" churches. We will assume that those who wrote the best sellers and the hit songs and have their own film series are the "successful" people in the Kingdom.

Some are going to be blessed of God in the ways mentioned above, but the truth is we can pastor large churches, minister to huge audiences, sell a million books.. and be failures! All of that power and attention can make us self-centered and self-reliant.

Jesus measured greatness in terms of servanthood. In Matthew 23:11 He said, "..he that is the greatest among you shall be your servant." He demonstrated that principle in John 13. Spiritual greatness could further be described in terms of faithfulness, obedience to the Word, and many other qualities we tend to overlook.

Let's not buy into the mindset of the world. Let's be great in God's eyes according to our example, Jesus Christ.

*Pastor Watts*

# Love the Lord

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Things are rough in our world today. We see it in the news, we see it in social media, we see it all over the internet. Things are rough in our world today. In a lot of ways our country is not much different than the nation of Israel in Scripture. We have a lot of "Knowledge" but it isn't the correct knowledge.

As we've seen in our study of our goals, as a congregation, Israel was ignorant of God's righteousness. America has become ignorant of God's righteousness. They failed to understand God's true nature. His holiness and perfection. The utter necessity to be perfect in order to be acceptable to Him and given the right to live in His presence. How many times in Scripture do we read, "Be Holy for I am Holy?"

As we've seen, they had knowledge about God, knew a great deal about Him, knew some things about Him, but their knowledge was only partial. What they knew was incomplete. It was not enough. As a result, their knowledge was incorrect. As a result, they did not know God personally. The question arises, "Why did Israel have incomplete and incorrect knowledge of God?"

I'm glad you asked. They failed to understand God's true nature. They failed to understand His holiness. They failed to understand His perfection. The utter necessity to be perfect in order to be acceptable to Him. There is a perfection that we have to have in order to be in His presence. That comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ. We're given the right to live in His presence, through the blood of Jesus and a relationship with Him.

What Israel did was fail to understand that man's true nature is sinful, and in desperate need for perfect righteousness in order to be acceptable to God and given the right to live in God's presence. We can't do it on our own. It doesn't work. No matter how hard we try. No matter how many promises we make. By the end of the day, by the end of writing them down, most of the time by the end of saying the promise, we've broken them. Our human nature takes over and makes us unacceptable to God.

However, the Blood of Christ covers all of that. And that is what we'll get into next time.

Pastor Rob

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# CAUTIOUSNESS

Cautiousness is living within the protection of my God-given resources.

## **How is the protection of living within God-given resources illustrated in Scripture?**

**The difference between blind fear and wise caution is spiritual perception. Who increased his faith and spiritual perception and was able to make a bold decision while those around him hesitated in fear?**

William Tyndale, one of England's leading reformers, was approached one day by a sincere-looking young man who offered to help him. In reality, the young man was a spy employed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Tyndale, one of the first men to translate the Bible into English, was arrested, tried for heresy, and on October 6, 1536, was strangled and burned at the stake.

In A.D. 37, one of the early Church leaders was approached by a sincere-looking man who offered to help him and the other Christians. Most of the Christians, however, were in hiding from this very man!

Burning with hatred, he had dedicated himself to one cause—the destruction of anyone who followed Christ. He regarded them as politically and spiritually dangerous. His unrelenting persecution had already resulted in the murder of one Christian and the imprisonment of many others.

Armed with new authority from the religious leaders of his day, he traveled from city to city to broaden his attack against the followers of Christ.

This was the background of the man who now offered to help the people he had so recently persecuted. Little wonder all the Church leaders had fled from him. All, except one man.

This leader was a man of Godly reputation. He had been a wealthy landowner on the island of Cyprus, who after believing had totally dedicated himself and all his possessions to the Lord. That complete dedication included selling his land and giving the money to the Apostles to sustain the needy Christians. In return God gave him a greater faith which increased his ability to discern the motives of others.

The leader cautiously listened as the man who had so oppressed the believers told how God had struck him and his companions to the ground with a brilliant light. The man also revealed that he had heard the voice of Christ from heaven asking him why he was persecuting Him. This experience, claimed the man, had brought him to repentance. He himself was now a follower of Christ.

As the respected leader listened, he perceived a spirit like his own, the spirit of one totally dedicated to the Lord. With confidence he brought the man to the Apostles and introduced him as a new brother in Christ.

Because God had provided Barnabas with special wisdom and insight, he was able to open the door of fellowship to a new convert. He later helped open the Mediterranean world to the Gospel during missionary journeys with this same man—the Apostle Paul.

When Barnabas kindly received Paul as a brother in the Lord, he demonstrated his confidence in the Lord to protect him from a possible trap. This spiritual discernment was a God-given resource that would continue to benefit him and Paul throughout their missionary journeys.

From Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-31

## Taste and See Home Church

*Begins: October 14 @ 6:30 pm*

2706 Alton Darby Creek Rd.

October 14  
October 21

November 4  
November 11  
November 18

December 2  
December 9  
December 16

January 13  
January 20  
January 27

Let's Taste and See what  
God is cooking up for us!

Please contact Dawn O'Keefe or Dawn Watts  
for interest of questions.



### Christian One-Liners

- Don't let the worries got the best of you. Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- Moses was leading his people through the desert for 40 years. It seems, even in Biblical times men avoided asking the way.