

J U N E 2 0 1 6

the

Grapevine

CW COLUMBUS WEST
CHURCH

Drive In

There is a HUGE event coming in August that you will WANT to be a part of. We are having a community Block Party, Saturday, August 27th. There is going to be all kinds of games, good food, and we are showing a movie outside on the grounds. Don't miss this awesome event!!!!



Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Josh Neff, Alex Haney and Katie Ritter as they graduate from High School this year. Josh is starting this Fall at fall at Campbellsville University in Kentucky and has a couple of large scholarships for Music. Alex is also going to school for music here in town. He is going to Capital in Music Education with the hopes of teaching High School Music. Katie has been accepted at OSU majoring in pre-vet and will be attending the Newark campus. The most exciting news for Katie is that the day she graduated she also got engaged. We are proud of all three of our graduates and will be praying with them and for them as they move into the next phase of their life.

Resourcefulness

Resourcefulness is using my time, money, and possessions to extend the work of God. ***“Do not hold back anything good from those who are entitled to it when you have the power to do so.” Proverbs 3:27***

Two kings ruled the same nation at different times in history. Each king had the benefit of the same resources. One used them to promote freedom and the other to promote bondage. Who was the first king?

A powerful army arrived and began taking up positions around three sides of the city. The soldiers were greeted with walls one hundred and fifty feet high. The invaders were prepared for a long and difficult siege.

Inside the city, the proud citizens remained confident. This was not the first time in their long history that invading armies had surrounded them.

They continued trading their silver coins which pictured an eagle with a palm branch and the inscription “Under divine guidance and impregnable.” Up to this point that inscription was accurate—not because of them but because of the wisdom of a previous king.

Many years earlier, a wise king surveyed the magnificent cedar forests surrounding his kingdom. He decided to send lumber from them as a special gift to a neighboring king. This act of generosity established a significant relationship between the two nations and God.

This king and his nation became world famous as a trade center. Their power and prestige was remarkable since they were a small country.

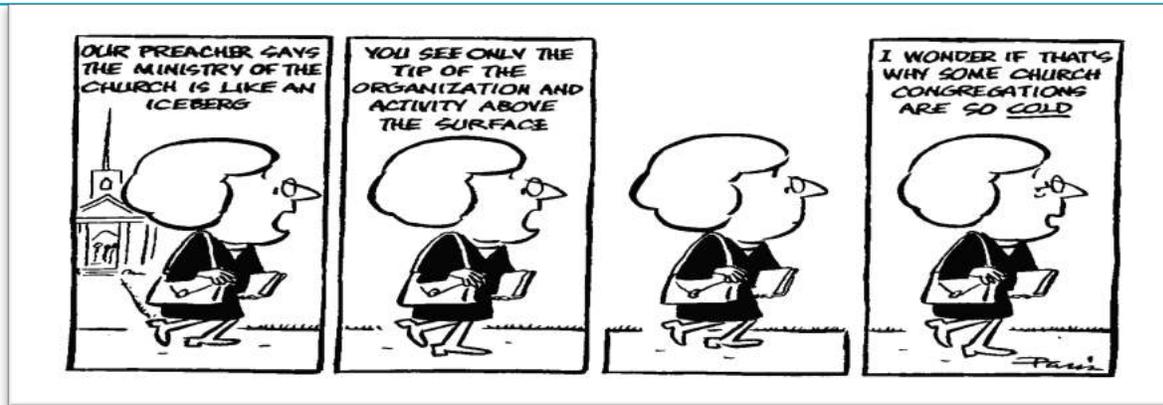
But under a later king, their lust for gain caused their trading to expand to that which brought God’s judgment. Godly prophets had warned, *“By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence.”* The bills of lading included iron, tin, lead, slaves, emeralds, wheat, oil, wine, spices, gold, and rich apparel.

Among their slaves were the people of God whom they sold to other nations. These were the very people whom that earlier king had benefited.

God promised that those who blessed His people would be blessed and those who cursed His people would be cursed. The present siege was a fulfillment of God’s judgment. After thirteen years, the great city of Tyre fell to the Babylonian army. The city and people were destroyed.

The king who was judged had used the cedars of Lebanon to build ships which carried the people of God into slavery. This was a striking contrast to King Hiram, who years earlier had used the same cedar tree forests to furnish lumber for the temple of God.

--From 2 Samuel 5:11-12, 1 Kings 5:10-11 and Ezekiel 27-28:19



My Dog Has Fleas

About 7 years ago, I adopted a puppy from a friend's cocker spaniel litter. I took him to the vet for his first checkup after washing him thoroughly with a flea and tick shampoo that cost a lot. When the vet put him on the exam table, he looked so good and clean. Then he dug through his fur looking for fleas and ticks. But he didn't find any, 'cause I'd just washed him with expensive flea and tick shampoo. I was so proud, till he reached for a spray bottle and pumped the spray trigger twice, and about 137 fleas dropped off my pup and fell dead on the exam table! How embarrassing!

Thinking about Busters fleas, I let my thoughts wander to church. Not that I believe churches have fleas, though I guess that could happen.

Pretty big jump, huh? Not really. My thought of churches after thinking about fleas is because of all those hypocrites in churches that keep people from becoming involved with God's people. Just like fleas tend to cause people to avoid dogs.

"I won't go to church because it's full of hypocrites!" You know, I can't think of a better place for them to be than in church. And it seems to imply that those involved in church tend to actually be Christians. So is this a good excuse for non-believers or "wounded Christians" to avoid church? Don't you think it's a general rule that the world is full of hypocrites?

If the definition of a hypocrite is a person who acts one way on one day and in a contradictory way on the next day, isn't that pretty much human? It may not even be in an attempt to deceive others, it's

just human nature. Not good. Just human. Isn't that why Jesus walked the earth? So He could connect in a better way with regular humans and demonstrate God's love by giving Himself for us? So the church is infected with hypocrites...people. What a wonderful place to find how to be less of a...er...hypocrite, and live more genuine consistent lives.

"Got 'fleas' in the church?" (Figuratively speaking, of course because I'm keeping the building clean.) Pray for them. Take them out to lunch. Help them if there is something you can do for them. "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.'" (Romans 12:18, 20) Easy? Not at all. But it's what helps us keep from being "fleas" in the Church.

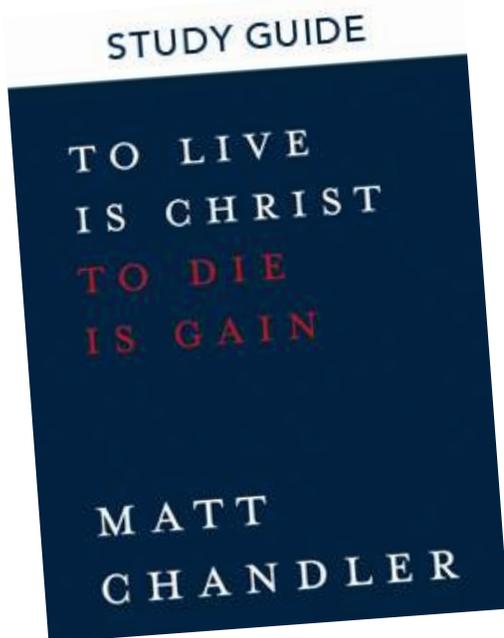
Whatcha think? I think I stepped on my own toes a bit...

Well, until next time,

Andrew Watts



Wednesday Study



We invite you to join us on Wednesday nights for “Happy Half Hour” and a new summer study. We will be joining Matt Chandler, Teaching Pastor of The Village Church in Dallas, TX, as he walks us through this most intimate of all Paul's letters and paints a beautiful picture of what it is to be a mature Christian. The story begins in Philippi where Paul introduces three individuals that were all enslaved by the kind of things that we often choose over the gospel: Lydia, the Business Executive, The Little Slave Girl, and The Hard Working Jailer. Their lives portray dysfunction and emptiness, but are totally transformed by the Gospel. True joy and Christ's love begin to live within them, giving them a life of purpose. In fact, Paul himself was enslaved and then by God's grace and mercy he could pen these popular and profound words: To Live is Christ and to Die is Gain. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. For more information, feel free to contact the church office. See you Wednesday at 6:30.

Sit with me Sunday!!!

Do you have someone you would like to see in church? More importantly do you know someone that you would like to see in the Kingdom of Heaven? Starting the first Sunday in July we are going to have Sit with me Sunday! Think of three people that you would like to invite to church and hear the Gospel. Each month on the first Sunday is going to be Sit with me Sunday and you invite those friends to come and sit with you. Now you won't be doing this all alone. Send those names to Pastor Rob and he is going to be joining you through prayer each day as you share with your friends and family. we are believing that the Lord will answer prayers and He will add to His Church as we do our part. So, let's get out there and invite people to come and “Sit with you on Sunday!”





Did you ever have something so exciting happen to you that you just couldn't wait to tell someone? Growing up I was richly blessed with the relationship that I had with my parents. They were very interested in what was going on in my life. So when I had something exciting take place I wanted to rush home and tell them before I told anyone else.

That was true when I met Dawn and decided to ask her to marry me. Dawn and I had been dating for some time and I knew that she was the one that the Lord had brought into my life. I loved her and that she loved me. When I finally decided to take that leap and ask her, I wanted to do it right. I talked with her father first and asked his permission, which he gave. Then I asked her and she said **YES!!!** The first person that I told was my Mother and then my Father. I was so excited I had to tell someone. I couldn't keep it in. Dawn and I then excitedly told everyone that we knew and spread the word that we were getting married.

As exciting as that event was in my life, and it was very exciting, there was another event in my life that was even more exciting. That was the day that I gave my heart to Jesus. On that day He came and washed my sins away. On that day I became a child of God. I was adopted into the Family. I became a joint heir with Jesus Christ. That was an exciting day and one day I will walk the streets of heaven and see Jesus face to face.

Now I know that many of you reading this can give that same testimony. I want to tell you something, **“YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL THIS WORLD!!! IT'S EXCITING**

Gotta Tell Somebody

NEWS!!! Jesus tells us in Matthew 28:18 *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So wherever you go, make disciple of all nations: Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do everything I have commanded you.”* Think about those words for a moment. He's telling us that He has all authority. That means He's the ruler. He's has the final Word. Did you see where He has authority? In Heaven and on Earth! I don't know about you, but I think that covers just about everywhere, don't you?

So then if He is living in us, if He is sitting on the throne of our hearts, and all authority is given to Him, all power is given to Him, He has defeated the enemy, why are we afraid to share the good news? Why are we afraid to go out and share the exciting news that Jesus saves? That death has lost its sting. The grave has lost its power. Satan is a defeated foe. **WE GOTTA TELL SOMEBODY!!!**

I would challenge you this month to find three people that you would like to see come to know Jesus as Savior. Start developing a relationship with them, if you haven't already. Invite them to church. Share your story. Be intentional in talking with them about how Jesus can change their life by telling them how He has changed yours. I would like to join you in this by praying for those folk, if you would like that you can email me their names and I'll pray for you and them every day, my email is: pastorrob@columbuswestchurch.com. Love all of you,

Until next month, *Pastor Rob*

At the Threshold of Temptation

The grace of God has appeared instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age (Titus 2:11,12)

Yielding to temptation is another step toward a stronghold being established in your mind. Whenever you are stimulated to conform to Plan B instead of God's Plan A for your life, you are experiencing temptation. The essence of all temptation is the invitation to live independently of God and fulfill legitimate needs in the world, the flesh or the devil instead of in Christ. That's the great contest. And Satan knows just which buttons to push to tempt you away from dependency on Christ.

The moment you are tempted to get your need met in the world instead of in Christ, you are at the threshold of a decision. If you don't immediately choose to take that thought "captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5), you will begin to consider it as an option. And if you begin to mull it over in your mind, immediately your emotions will be affected and the likelihood of yielding to that temptation is increased.

The Scriptures teach us that God has provided a way of escape from every temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13). But the escape is right at the threshold of the temptation. If you don't control the temptation at the threshold, you run the risk of allowing the temptation to control you. Rare is the Christian who can turn around after directing his will toward Plan B.

For example, a man sees a pornographic picture and is tempted toward lust. He has the opportunity to respond by saying something like, "My relationship with sin has ended. I choose to take this thought captive to the obedience of Christ. I'm not going to look at it or think about it." And he separates himself from the picture immediately and escapes the lust.

But if he hesitates at the threshold, stares at the picture, and begins to fantasize about it, he will trigger an emotional landslide producing a physical response that will be difficult to stop. He must capture the tempting through in the threshold or it will probably capture him.

"Dear God,

I want to be obedient to Your perfect plan for my life today. I don't want to give in to Plan B thinking. Strengthen my will to obey. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

Dr. Neil Anderson

It is my prayer that you live in the freedom that Christ has for you this month.

Pastor Watts