

PARK HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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A Word or Two (or three) From Wally

Last month I talked about forgiveness and freedom. This month I want to discuss how we continue to live in freedom.

Paul said in Galatians 5:1 *"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."* Obviously, from this and other parts of the Bible, this freedom is hard to walk in. Why would that be?

First, we have spent years acting and thinking the old way. Car tires easily slip back into the ruts of the dirt road and to stay out of those grooves takes work and adjustments. Our thinking is often like those ruts. We naturally go the way we have always gone. The years of practice have conditioned us.

As a boy I was told if I went to another church than the brand of Christianity I was raised in, I would go to hell. When I did go to another church after I becoming a believer, I had to deal with this and all the possible guilt. More later.

Second, what people have said to us in the past stays with us. "You'll never be any good; you're useless; can't you ever do anything right?" Then there is the self talk, "I failed again; I'm not as pretty as she is; if only I had done this; nobody loves me; etc.

If I am to live in freedom and yet have all these thoughts, how do I find it? Jesus said *"you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."* **John 8:32**

In a world where everything is taught to be relative truth, I had to decide to take God's word as absolute truth. When I did that, my whole life changed, I felt secure, saw myself as God saw me and not as everyone else did, and I felt I had worth and was a new person. Here's what I discovered that got me out of the rut of stinkin' thinkin'. *All of these are in the Bible.*

1. I realized I was created in the image of God. I was not a chance happening!
2. That the God who created me loved me and wanted to have a relationship with me.
3. That there was a barrier. A flaw in me that stopped that relationship. The Bible calls it sin. However, God wanted the issue settled and He did something about it. Jesus gave his life on the cross to pay for sin, and God would let Him break the barrier on my behalf, because there was no way for me to do that. As I accepted His payment for my sin, God cleansed me and set me free. I became God's child and a citizen of heaven.
4. The Bible teaches us that now we are His children, we are His ambassadors here on earth. We represent Him. That's where obedience comes in and leads to freedom. My favorite example of this in: When you are driving your car and obeying the speed limit, you can relax, enjoy the sights, and

have an easy trip. If you are speeding and breaking the law, you are looking out for the police, mad because you got a ticket, and you're sure not relaxed. When I obey God and His word, I relax, I know He is there and I'm not alone, and I can enjoy the journey.

5. I also realized there are many in my life who do not live in freedom. They control others to get what they want. They put others down to make themselves look better. Some are caught in addictions that keep them in prison, while others are just not happy and feel they are in prison. That's why Jesus came, to set them free.

Instead of ignoring them and wishing they would change, I've come to realize the barrier with God is still there and He can change them if they will let Him. I now pray for them and am available to help when the opportunity arises.

The guilt of going to another church was solved when I discovered there is one Kingdom of God and all who were followers of Jesus were in that kingdom. They just worship Him at different places and in different ways.

See you Sunday,
Wally



Did You Know?

- **Yvonne Lipe had surgery and there was no cancer?** Praise God, she is recovering well. Keep her in your prayers.
- **Albert de la Garza, a physician in Iraq, describes how God has been protecting his battalion in Iraq and thanks all for their prayers?** Laura described 2 miracles in church on Sunday.
- **We had a great clean-up at the church on Saturday?** Thanks to Elizabeth & Allen Miller, Evelyn Vargus, Chris Chapman, Nick Ferriola, Ron, Sue, & Rachel Eyster, Rob & Barbara Baldwin, Bill Keoho, Rhea Bullock, & Faye, Leanne, & Wally Chapman. Another work morning will be this Sat. Mar. 31, early.
- **Thurs, April 5 is our Passover Seder; the meal established when God led the children of Israel out of Egypt and through the Red Sea?** Jesus changed the meaning and fulfilled this feast. He established the communion service that night. Don't miss this. \$8 adults, \$4 children under 12, 5 and under free. Get extra tickets and bring a friend.
- **Greg Davis is keeping up our church website and adding to it each week?** If you haven't checked out our web site go to www.parkhillchurch.org. Thanks Greg.

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...Did You Know? Continued...

- **Rhea Bullock had his first single soldiers' dinner last Saturday?** A local business provided the food, 2

churches were involved. It's begun. Pray for this outreach and that the co-ordination with Ft. Bliss streamlines to reach the maximum number of troops. April will have another dinner.

> **They are installing refrigerated air and heating at Black River as well as a new building?** New experiences for the Labor Day retreat. A savings program can be set up for the retreat. See Ken Quon.

> **The "For Men Only" breakfast on Sat, April 7 will not meet due to the Easter weekend?** The group will resume April 21.

> **Fellowship Dinner for April will be moved to the 3rd Sunday, April 15, to avoid Easter Sunday?**

> **Help is needed to prepare for the Passover Seder?** If you wish to help with the preparations and set up, see Faye Chapman.

> **Cheryl Chapman attended a Missions conference in Adelaide, Australia and went to a session on Islam?** The speaker was acquainted with a prominent Muslim leader in Melbourne who stated the following information.

"The goal of Islam is to control the world by 2020. Since Muslim men can have up to 4 wives and polygamy is illegal in Australia, they will immigrate with one wife, buy a house and move in. After a time they will divorce their first wife under Australian law (which they do not recognize) and bring their second wife over, buy the house next to the first or on the street, and settle in.

The process then continues until all 4 wives are in the country. So, 3 Muslim men may own an entire block with their families." There was much more.

Allen and Wally are attending a seminar in April dealing with Islam and reaching Islamic nations. There will be more info later.

> **We are getting visitors from the Monitor ad at Ft. Bliss?** When you see someone new, welcome and befriend them. It is hard to go to a new place and not feel welcomed. Take someone home for lunch or out to lunch. Friendships grow around food.

In the following article Bob Ecklund reminds us that today's American family financial crisis in this country is not really a financial crisis but a spiritual crisis that can be traced to three spiritual issues." (Direct quote from *Page 11 Stewardship Journal Winter 97-98*).

1. **Love of things:** The Bible is filled with warnings about the danger of loving money and possessions (See I Timothy 6:10; Colossians 3:5). Christians have bought into the consumer mentality as strongly as those without Christ. We tend to measure the worth of others and ourselves by the amount of stuff we accumulate.

2. **Lack of Discipline:** Discipline is often the missing ingredient in our lives that causes us to misuse debt. We have not learned to deny ourselves. Consequently, whenever we cannot afford something we want, we simply use credit cards as a toll to satisfy our desires. Often, the lack of discipline is so acute that we will not wait even a few months to save up and pay cash for an item, choosing instead, to pay an inflated price by using credit. The credit card industry is built upon this human weakness.

3. **Loss of Values:** The values for the American family have changed from relationships, communication, time together, and loving environments. Instead, we strive for bigger houses, nicer cars, and more expensive trinkets. In order to accumulate these items we must work harder and longer, leaving no time or energy for higher family values.

a. The real problem is no longer financial in nature. It is a spiritual problem-our desires have become set on the things of the world (See Proverbs 21:17; 23:4-5).

e. God will use your giving to unleash revival in your church by strengthening the outreach potential of your church.

I pray that my love, discipline and values be those of Jesus.

Seeking the Harvest with You

Allen

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Allen's Thoughts . . .

Unfortunately, there was far too much information out there about money, and debt in America for me to include it all in my sermon March 18th.