

I've Been Thinking about . . . A Person with No Name by Pastor Chris

Let's journey through time and space. We travel back to the winter of AD 57. We journey to southern Greece and arrive at the city of Corinth. There, we make our way to the home of a wealthy businessman, a hospitable Christian named Gaius (Rom 16:23; 1 Cor 1:14). Gaius smiles as he warmly welcomes us to his lavish home. We admire the glistening marble and the opulent furniture as one of Gaius's servants escorts us down a hallway and into a sunlit room.

In the room are two men. We recognize one of them immediately, for he bears on his body the marks of Jesus: a limp hinders his pacing, and his fingers are knotted in unnatural angles—telltale signs of stoning. He is none other than the Apostle Paul, both the greatest theologian and the greatest missionary of the Church.

The other man is sitting at a table, carefully and accurately writing down the gospel that streams from Paul's lips. He is Paul's secretary.

Paul and his secretary are preparing Paul's epistle to the Christians in Rome, a letter that will later be called Romans. As Paul's magnum opus, Romans will become the most influential letter ever written. It will bring the serene light of Christ to Augustine, spark a Reformation in the mind of Martin Luther, strangely warm the heart of John Wesley, and lead countless people to saving faith and Spirit-filled life.

Who is Paul's secretary, carefully writing Romans as Paul dictates? Paul gives a nod of permission to his scribe, who then lays his pen on the table as he rises to greet us. "The apostle and I welcome you," he states with an air of protocol. "I am Tertius" (Rom 16:22).

Tertius is not a name. Tertius is a number. Tertius means "third" in Latin. It is the designation for a master's third slave. Perhaps he is a runaway slave or a manumitted slave, but a slave nonetheless. Tertius is a person with no name. He is called by a number: Third.

Imagine the thrill that leaps in the heart of Third! He is assistant to the Apostle Paul! He is writing down Paul's letter to the Romans! I wonder if Third has even an inkling of the impact his secretarial ministry will have on the world.

Three people have roles in the production of Paul's letter to the Romans: Gaius, the wealthy host; Paul himself, the great apostle; and Third, the secretary so obscure that he has no name. How like God to mingle wealth, greatness, and obscurity in giving us the most influential letter ever written.

The Holy Spirit gave us Romans through the lips of Paul and the pen of Third. If God so used a person with no name, how might He use you?

“A Treasure”

Associate Pastor of Ministry Advancement & Adult Ministries

Howard Lundeen

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:11 NIV)

Have you ever dreamed or imagined yourself finding a treasure? I recall that as a child, the whole idea of finding a treasure map would sometimes run wild in my imagination. As a youth group at church, one of the most fun activities we engaged in was a treasure hunt. We were given an initial clue which we would have to decipher, and it would then eventually lead to the second clue. The second would lead to a third, and eventually to a treasure. The final reward (treasure) was great, but the clues that directed us to it were treasures in themselves. Without the instructions of the clues, we never would have discovered our final prize.

In Matthew 13, Jesus, when speaking about the kingdom of heaven, chose to speak of it in parable fashion, likening it to a valuable pearl or a hidden treasure. I would like to think of the fullness of life that God desires us to experience through his Son, Jesus Christ, as the ultimate treasure or reward that God has provided for us (a treasure we all would/should be willing to give our all to experience or possess). The unique thing is that we never could pay the price required--it was too great. However, God was willing to pay the price for us through the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. Through Jesus we can experience the fullness of life eternal by coming to know God intimately (Jn. 3:16, Jn 17:3 & 2 Pet. 1:3).

The question one logically asks is, “How can I know God intimately?” A practical answer I would suggest is to seek to discover the truth about Him. The greatest and most precious source we have for that truth is his word, the Bible. The Bible is a treasure chest of truth which, if studied, believed and obeyed, will introduce you to a relationship with God that never ceases to grow and expose the glory, majesty and wonder of a God beyond our fondest and greatest imaginations! The Bible is a treasure, similar to clues in a treasure hunt, that God has given us to teach us the truth about life and lead us to Himself. Let’s search God’s word for his clues (truth) so we can discover and experience the joy of walking a life in close relationship with Him through faith in Christ Jesus his Son.

Below is a portion of Scripture from Psalm 19 that expresses, better than I ever could, the value of God’s word. Please take time to carefully read and meditate upon the rich truth of these verses. The value of God’s word will become more evident as you do.

- ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.**
- ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.**
- ⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.
The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.**
- ¹⁰ They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.**
- ¹¹ By them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.**

Youth Update

By: Pastor Zach Marino

For the Gals

Summer Studies

For the Guys

Jr. High Girls FOCUS Group

Study: *Lies Young Women Believe and the Truth that Sets them Free*

When: Wednesday nights from 7-8:30pm
Sr. High Girls are welcome too!

Cost: \$8 for book (*not required, but recommended*)

Contact: Terry Stahl (461-1086)

Sr. High Girls FOCUS Group

Study: *Habitudes*

Start date: Thursdays at noon at CCC

Contact: Pastor Zach w/questions (521-6200)

Jr. High Guys FOCUS Group

Study: *Dangerous Devotions for Guys*

Start date: Wednesday nights - 6:30pm

Place: Christ Community Church

Leader: Jordan Prins (461-0104)

Sr. High Guys (P.O.P.) FOCUS GROUP

Study: *A Young Man after God's Own Heart*

Time/Place: 7-8:30pm - Wednesday nights

PZ's house - 517 8th Ave. NW

Leader: Pastor Zach (521-6200)

Get Ready For . . .



The 3rd Annual Amazing Race will be held Wed., September, 8th from 6-9:00pm starting at Grace Lutheran Church for students in grades 7-12.

Teams must be co-ed and have:

- ◇ 8 members (2 freshmen, 2 sophomores, 2 juniors, 2 seniors and an equal amount of Jr. High).
- ◇ Teams must provide 2 drivers who have successfully passed a background check given by the church.
- ◇ Registration fee of \$50/team is due August 25th. All monies are being donated to Kids Against Hunger.
- ◇ Register in both Jr. and Sr. High Divisions.
- ◇ Teams are encouraged to make team shirts, bandanas, etc. to identify team.
- ◇ All registrations and payments are **DUE AUGUST 25th**.

To register go online at www.amazingracewaseca.weebly.com. Please make checks payable to CCC.

Direct any questions to waynetconnect@gmail.com



“Believing is Seeing”

By: Jeff Stebbins

CCC Missionary

Resource Exchange International-Vietnam

Hunting elk, I spend most days sitting on a log near where four game trails intersect. An hour before dawn, a flashlight guides me through a mile of dark timber to that log, where I turn it off and silently wait for daylight.

Even at full moon, night in that forest is so dark I might as well be underground. But, during that hour, there are noises—worrisome crunches and rustlings whose causes remain mysterious, because I cannot see. I hear animals, and I hope that none is a bear or cougar. Last year, sunrise gradually revealed an elk who increased my family’s enjoyment of steak, stew, stroganoff, and stir-fry. He had been nearby for a while, but I didn’t know it until the darkness receded.

When someone gives up trying to save themselves and turns instead to God, the lights come on. What was mysterious becomes obvious--not immediately, and not everything, but many baffling situations do become clearer, more meaningful. Or, as Newton put it in *Amazing Grace*, “I once was blind, but now I see.”

Godly insights also grow incrementally, not instantly. Like the slow dawning of light in a forest, God’s Word gradually makes more sense. “Oh, now I see... Jesus was totally right when He said this!”

But why and how does this happen? Why can we “see” (understand) the world better after we surrender to Jesus? And how does our spiritual “sight” improve as we grow in Christ?

Before Jesus rescues people, they stumble around in darkness, foolishly hurting themselves and others, because the Enemy “has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see...” (2 Cor. 4:4, and see Rom. 1:28). Only Jesus can remedy this blindness, for He is the Light of the World (John 8:12, 9:5, and 12:46). Only by walking (trusting) in our Maker can we stop walking in darkness (1 John 1:6-7); only He can enable us to understand all that He has made.

Paul implies that *real* understanding is not a matter of eyeballs and brains, but of *hearts*. In 2 Cor. 4:6, he writes that God “made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” Two books later, Paul prays that the Holy Spirit will enable us to know God, and that the “eyes of your heart may be enlightened” to know Him more (Eph. 1:17ff.). We believe with our hearts (Rom. 10:9), and until we do so, we cannot really see. Not “seeing is believing” but “believing enables seeing.”

This is why Paul says, “We walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 3:7). If by faith we entrust ourselves to God, He gives us His Holy Spirit, who shows us what is true and what to do (John 16:13, 1 Cor. 2:6ff.). And Jesus says that we’re especially blessed when we believe in Whom we have not seen (John 20:29). Someday soon, though, we’ll see Him face to face!



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A heart for God and you

Summer Worship Schedule



*Sunday, July 4 through
Sunday, September 5th
One service from 9:30-10:45 am
No Sunday School classes
5:00 pm - Prayer Meeting*

Staffed Office Hours

	<u>Volunteer</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Monday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm
Tuesday:	=====	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm
Thursday:	=====	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm

Christ Community Church Mission Statement

As a local body of believers, we will seek to glorify God in worship, in evangelizing the unsaved and in teaching Christians to obey everything Christ commanded. To that end, prayer will be our foremost task, Scripture will be our authority, God's Holy Spirit will be our source of power and love will be our motivation.





**** Women's Ministry ****

COMING EVENTS

Karen Gibson would like to do one-on-one mentoring/prayer/Bible study in August at her home in Janesville. Please call her with any questions, 507-231-6157 or contact Janis Campagna, 507-327-9513.

August 22nd



Pick Your Pork

Following the morning service

September

To Live Is Christ

**Monday morning/Thursday evening Bible study
The Life and Ministry of Paul
Begins Sept. 9th & 13th**

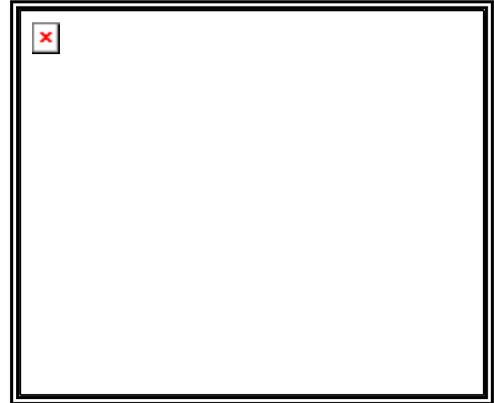
**October 1st & 2nd
Fall Retreat at Camp Victory**

**October 22nd & 23rd
Women of Faith
Excel Energy Center, St. Paul, MN
Contact Sara Stensrud if interested in attending.**

Be sure and mark these events on your calendar!!



On August 25th the Empty Nesters are planning a once-in-a-lifetime trip to view the Dead Sea Scrolls. These scrolls were found in eleven caves on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea. They are on loan to the Science Museum of St. Paul, MN from the Israel Antiquities Authority. They are considered the greatest archeological discovery of our time.



The Dead Sea Scrolls are a priceless collection of 2,000 year old documents. It is a rare occasion when they are put on public display at world class museums. These scrolls have enormous meaning to the Christian world. Artifacts are also on display from the Second Temple Period (515BC - AD70), which give you a glimpse into what life was like in Israel at that time.



Worship Notes



Our Worship Arts Director, Gloria Seifert, is always looking for people willing to share their musical talents. If you would be interested in sharing your gift through a musical instrument for special music or for an offertory, please don't hesitate to contact Gloria. *Thank you!*

AUGUST 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <u>9:30-10:45am</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	2 <u>6:30pm</u> Outreach Commission	3 <u>6:30pm</u> Women's Ministries <u>7:00pm</u> Congregational Care Comm. <u>7:00pm</u> Property Comm.	4 <u>6:30pm</u> Newcomer- Membership Class	5 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team <u>6:30pm</u> College-age Fellowship	6 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	7
8 <u>9:30-10:45am</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	9	10	11	12 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>Time TBD</u> Worship Team <u>6:30pm</u> College-age Fellowship	13 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	14
VBS - Backstage with the Bible - 6:00-8:00pm each evening - Ages 3 through grade 6						
15 <u>9:30-10:45am</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer <u>6:00pm</u> Adult Discipleship Commission Mtg.	16	17 <u>6:30pm</u> Elder Board Meeting	18	19 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team <u>6:30pm</u> College-age Fellowship	20 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	21
22 <u>9:30-10:45am</u> Worship Service <u>11:00am</u> "Pick Your Pork" <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	23	24	25	26 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team	27 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	28
29 <u>9:30-10:45am</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	30	31	<i>Starting Sept. 12th our Sunday schedule will be:</i> First service: 8:00 - 9:15am Fellowship: 9:15 - 9:30am Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:30am Second Service: 10:45am - 12pm			