

I've Been Thinking about . . . a Passion for the Gospel
by Pastor Chris

I am a debtor to both Greeks and barbarians, to both the wise and the unlearned. Thus, for my part, **I am eager to preach the gospel** also to you who are in Rome. For **I am not ashamed of the gospel**, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written, "The righteous by faith shall live."

—Romans 1:14-17 (my translation)

Paul spread the gospel with passion. The peripatetic and indefatigable apostle traveled throughout the Roman Empire preaching the gospel. He expresses his passion by three "I am" declarations in Romans 1:14-17.

"I am a debtor. . ." The word "debtor" brings monetary debt to mind, but Paul is alluding to another kind of debt. If someone entrusted you with money to deliver to someone else, you would be a debtor to the intended recipient; you would owe the money to that person until you delivered it. Paul is saying, "Christ Jesus has entrusted me with the gospel, so I am a debtor with a debt to pay—I am obligated to deliver the good news to the intended recipients, both Greeks and barbarians."

"Greeks" were the cultured inhabitants of the Roman Empire, all of whom spoke Greek. "Barbarians" were not brutes, but people living on the empire's frontier, who were not yet cultured in the Roman ways. Thus, in calling himself a debtor "to both Greeks and barbarians," Paul stresses that his indebtedness extends to the whole world of his day.

Likewise, you and I are indebted to the whole world of our day. God has entrusted us with the gospel to deliver to world. So we are debtors with a debt to pay to the educated and the ignorant, the sophisticated and the simple, the religious and the rebellious, the cultured and the uncouth. That's our away game! Let's play it with passion!

"I am eager to preach the gospel. . ." Like someone who has found the fire escape in a burning building, Paul shouts, "Come this way! This way now!" Even after two decades of hunger, thirst, exposure, shipwreck, beating, imprisonment, flogging, and stoning, Paul is *eager* to preach the gospel.

If we comprehend the truth, goodness and beauty of the gospel, if we grasp its priceless worth, if we have compassion for lost people, then we will be *eager* to deliver the gospel to them. Let us play our away game with the passion of a team that can't wait to take the field!

"I am not ashamed of the gospel. . ." Perhaps fear is our greatest hindrance to sharing the gospel. Fear makes us ashamed by what others might think of us. But Paul remains unashamed of the gospel for two reasons. First, Paul is not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. Paul is not deterred by the opinions of others because he knows the power of the gospel to save. Second, Paul is not ashamed of the gospel because in it the righteousness of God is revealed—the righteousness that is by faith from beginning to end, the righteousness by faith that brings life!

The gospel appears foolish to the sophisticated, superfluous to the proud, and intolerant to the pluralist. Yet despite the opinions of others, we must not be ashamed to share the gospel, for we hold in our hands the power of God for salvation and the provision of God for righteousness. Let's play the away game with unashamed passion!

“A Promise & Warning to God’s People”

Associate Pastor of Ministry Advancement & Adult Ministries
Howard Lundeen

As I reflect upon the Easter Sunday dedication of our new building, I can’t help but think about the counsel the Lord gave to Solomon when the building of the temple was completed. I am printing below the passage from 2 Chronicles that records God’s words to Solomon. Please read them carefully, meditate upon each verse, and see if you don’t believe the counsel of God to Solomon isn’t extremely appropriate and pertinent for us in the times in which we live. May the Spirit of God guide your thoughts and understanding.

II Chronicles 7:12-22

“I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices.

¹³ “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, ¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. ¹⁶ I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

¹⁷ “As for you, if you walk before me as David your father did, and do all I command, and observe my decrees and laws, ¹⁸ I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father when I said, ‘You shall never fail to have a man to rule over Israel.’

¹⁹ “But if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, ²⁰ then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. ²¹ And though this temple is now so imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and say, ‘Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?’ ²² People will answer, ‘Because they have forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—that is why he brought all this disaster on them.’”

I believe there are many parallels between how the nation of Israel responded to God and how we as a nation are responding to God. I am praying that God’s presence will be amazingly evident as we minister through the facilities He has provided for us, and that His kingdom will be extended in marvelous, God glorifying ways. May we, by God’s grace, walk humbly and obediently before our Lord, lest we forsake our Lord and embrace the values and gods of the post-modern world in which we live.

Seeking to know Him & make Him known,
Pastor Howard

the Pulse: Thoughts from the Heart.

by: Pastor Zach Marino

I trust that the previous Cornerstone articles have been encouraging and challenging as God speaks through His Word! This month I want to share a little snippet of my journey through the book of Isaiah. This is actually a journal entry, so it's up close and personal. Trusting God uses it to bring glory to him and grace to you!

February 16, 2012

Isaiah 43: "God in action."

In 28 verses, I saw that 32 times God uses some sort of action "I Statement" to describe what he has done, is doing, or will do, for the nation of Israel. For example, here are three statements that explain my observations of the text.

Past action:

v1 *"But now says the LORD - the one who has created you Jacob, the one formed you, Israel: Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."*

Present action:

v5a *"Don't fear, for I am with you."*

Future action:

v5b *"From the east I'll bring your children; from the west I'll gather you. I'll say to the north, 'Give them back!' and to the south, 'Don't detain them!'"*

My favorite one though is this one found in vv 11-13

"I, I am the Lord, and there is no Savior besides me. I announced, I saved, I proclaimed, not some stranger among you. You are my witnesses, says the LORD, and I am God. From the dawn of time, I am the One. No one can escape my power. I act, and who can undo it?"

Reading passages like this just fills me up because I am humbled that God allows me to hear Him proclaim His sovereignty and power over all. This is the God I bear witness to. I bear witness by not just showing what He has done in my past but also what He is doing now in my life.

vv18-19 says

"Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up, don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness."

The Israelites needed a reminder of God's complete control throughout their whole existence as a nation. He called them not to just reflect on the past, because by doing so they would miss what he was doing right now for them!

"Lord, help me recognize and embrace what you are doing in my life today! May I praise you because 'I am your witness, your servant, whom you have chosen, so that I would know and believe you.' Thank you Lord!"

The Reality is...Reflect on how God has worked in your past; but with excitement, look forward to what He is doing right now in front of you!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

DISCIPLE MAKING PATHWAY TRAINING

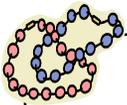
Saturday, May 5th

**Speaker: Andrea Tyson from
New Hope Church**

Cost \$25.00 per person

Sign-up sheet at Information Booth

MAKS *(Moms And Kids)*



May 1st

"Jewelry Making"

Join us for MAKS as we learn how to make jewelry! This will be a fun time of crafting. You'll be able to take home your creation to give as a great Mother's Day gift or keep for yourself!



May 15th

"End of Year Grill Out"

This will be our last MAKS meeting of the year. Bring a dish to share and we'll provide the burgers and buns! Come for a time of delicious food and conversation!

Come prepared to relax, laugh & meet other moms.

Our leaders this year will be Stacy Dufault, Aimee Miller & Stacy Anazagasty. Please contact any one of us with questions.

MAKS is a moms & kids group that meets the **1st & 3rd Tuesday** of each month in the Fireside Room from **10am to noon**. There is no cost to attend. Meetings are geared toward mothers with small children at home; but all are welcomed and encouraged to attend. It is a blessed time to relax, unwind and enjoy spending time working and learning together as mothers. Then, we have the benefit of a meal together while our children are well cared for and having fun.

Whether you have come in the past or are new to MAKS, be sure to put us on your calendar and relax with a little "mom time."

Current Military – Active, Guard & Reserve



AIR FORCE --- ARMY --- COAST GUARD --- MARINES --- NAVY

In honor of Armed Forces Day (May 19th) we recognize the following individuals from our congregational family who are currently serving in the military.
Freedom is not free. We thank each one for his/her service to our country.

Ethan Vought (grandson of Earl & Barb Bosshardt) – Army National Guard (E-2)

Kyle Davis (son of Pat & Peggy Davis) – Air Force Reserve (E-5)

Tom Hagen – Army National Guard (Lt. Col.)

Ben Howe (son of Larry & Charlene Howe) – Army National Guard (Capt.)

David Reinsbach (son-in-law of Jeff & Deb Krause) – Army National Guard (Capt.)

Jason Belinski (son-in-law of Audrey Meyer) – Army National Guard (Maj.)

Marian Belinski (daughter of Audrey Meyer) – Army National Guard (Maj.)

Seth Mickelson – Army Reserves (ROTC Cadet)

Patrick Moen (son of Joe & Jonna Moen) – Army (Specialist)

Jeff Salsbury (son of Fred & Dottie Salsbury) – Air Force Reserves (Lt. Col.)

Tom Salsbury (son of Fred & Dottie Salsbury) – Air Force (Maj.)

Cody Shakal (son of Bernie & Joyce Shakal) – Air Force (rank not known)

Chris Mann (future son-in-law of Jeff & Merilee Watts) – Air National Guard (Sr. Airman)

If we have made any errors, or if we have inadvertently omitted anyone, please contact Dottie Salsbury with the corrections/updates. It is our desire that the list be accurate and complete.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<h1>May</h1>		1 <u>10:00am</u> MAKS <u>6:30pm</u> Children's <u>7:00pm</u> Property <u>7:00pm</u> Cong Care	2 <u>6:00-7:30pm</u> AWANA Awards Night	3 <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team	4 <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	5 <u>9:00am</u> Disciplemaking Training	
	6 <u>8:00am</u> Worship <u>9:30am</u> Sunday School <u>10:45am</u> Worship <u>12:30pm</u> Women's Ministries Meeting <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	7 <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Precepts	8 <u>7:00pm</u> Ensemble Practice	9 <u>7:00pm</u> Joint Commissioner Meeting	10 <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team	11 <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group <u>7:00pm</u> Celebration of the Arts	12 <u>6:00am</u> Journey Men <u>7:30am</u> Next Man Up <u>4:00pm</u> Zach & Celeste Reception
	13 <u>8:00am</u> Worship <u>9:30am</u> Sunday School <u>10:45am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer <u>6:00pm</u> 21 Laws	14 <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Precepts <u>6:30pm</u> Outreach	15 <u>10:00am</u> MAKS <u>6:30pm</u> Elder Board Meeting	16	17 <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team <u>7:00pm</u> Ensemble Prac	18 <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	19 <u>8:00am</u> Leadership Summit
	20 <u>8:00am</u> Worship <u>9:30am</u> Sunday School <u>10:45am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	21 <u>1:00pm</u> Quilt Group	22 <u>7:00pm</u> Adult Discipleship	23	24 <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team	25 <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	26
	27 <u>9:30am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	28 The church office will be closed	29	30	31 <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team		

Summer Worship Schedule
Beginning Sunday, May 27th & continuing through September 2nd,
we will be on our summer schedule with
one Sunday worship service starting at 9:30am.

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.

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PRAYER REQUESTS:

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