

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 5:00 Prayer	2 9:30 Women's study 6:30 Precepts	3 10:00 MAKS 6:30 Student Ministries 7:00 Property 7:00 Congr Care	4 6:00 AWANA 7:00 Jr & Sr High	5 12:00 Men's Lunch 7:00 Women's study 7:00 Elder Board	6 6:15am Men's Grp 8:00 Club 180	7
8 8:00 Thirst Conf. 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 5:00 Prayer	9 8:00 Thirst Conf.	10 8:00 Thirst Conf.	11 8:00 Thirst Conf.	12 12:00 Men's Lunch 7:00 Women's study	13 6:15am Men's Grp 8:00 Club 180	14 6:00 am Journey Men Leaders
15 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 5:00 Prayer	16 9:30 Women's study 6:30 Precepts 6:30 Outreach	17 10:00 MAKS 5:00 Women's Ministry	18 7:00 Jr & Sr High	19 12:00 Men's Lunch 7:00 Elder Board	20 6:15am Men's Grp 8:00 Club 180	21 Hadley/Weber wedding
22 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 5:00 Prayer	23 9:30 Women's study 6:30 Precepts	24 7:00 Adult Discipleship	25 1:30 Quilters 7:00 Jr & Sr High	26 12:00 Men's Lunch 7:00 Elder Board 7:00 Women's study	27 6:15am Men's Grp 8:00 Club 180	28
29 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 5:00 Prayer	30 9:30 Women's study 6:30 Precepts	31				

Christ Community Church Disciple-making Pathway

Developing people who live God's love by:

Loving God - Loving one another - Loving our neighbors

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May 2016

Cornerstone

A heart for God and you

Volume 14, Issue 05

I've Been Thinking about . . . My Favorite Author

By Pastor Chris

Those who know that I am a bibliophile sometimes ask who my favorite author is. The answer is ironic: my favorite author is someone who never wrote a book.

Hebrews 12:2 urges us, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (NIV). Here Jesus is titled "the author . . . of our faith." The Greek word translated "author" is *archēgos*, a compound word from *archē*, meaning "first," and *agō* meaning "lead." Hence, *archēgos* means "first leader." So as the *archēgos* of our faith, Jesus is the first leader, the leader before all other leaders, the chief leader of our faith. He is the originator, the pioneer, the founder of our faith. Hebrews 12 immediately follows the "faith hall of fame" in chapter 11. Although the cloud of witnesses in Hebrews 11 surrounds us with sterling examples of faith, Jesus as the "first leader" of our faith far surpasses their examples of faith. Thus, if we are to emulate the faith of those inducted into the "faith hall of fame," we should fix our eyes not on them, but on Jesus, the first leader of our faith, the greatest example of faith, for they themselves fixed their eyes on Jesus (Heb. 11:26).

When Allan Emery was in the wool business, he spent a night with a shepherd in the field. The shepherd had kindled a fire to take the edge off the nocturnal chill. During that night, the wail of coyotes began to pierce the air. The sheep, which had been slumbering, rose to their feet alarmed, bleating fearfully. Allan looked out and saw scores of little lights, all aimed at the shepherd. These little lights were the reflections of the fire in the eyes of the sheep. In the midst of the danger, the sheep were not looking into the darkness toward the coyotes' wail, but the sheep were fixing their eyes on the shepherd.¹ When we hear the coyotes wail, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author of our faith, and live by faith, not by fear.

Continued inside

My Favorite Author cont.....

The word *archēgos* occurs only three other times in the Greek New Testament. Hebrews 2:10 reads, “In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author (*archēgos*) of their salvation perfect through suffering” (NIV). Jesus is the originator, the pioneer, of our salvation. Since Jesus authors a salvation that is eternal, he gives us an eternal perspective on both life and death. The Puritan writer Thomas Watson put it this way:

The world is but a great inn, where we are to stay a night or two, and be gone; what madness it is to set our heart upon our inn, as to forget our home. . . . We are travelers who take up our lodging here for a night; and Paul longed to be out of his inn. “I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ; which is far better. . . .” The apostle did not say, “Having a desire to die,” but “to depart.” What a wicked man fears, a godly man hopes for. . . . Simeon, having taken Christ in his arms, cries out, “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace” (Luke 2:29). He that hath taken Christ into the arms of his faith, will sing Simeon’s song.²

Since Jesus is the author of our salvation, this world is only our inn, and heaven is always our home.

Furthermore, in Acts 5:30-31, Peter and the other apostles proclaim to the Sanhedrin, “The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader (*archēgos*) and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins” (ESV). As our *archēgos*, Jesus is our first leader who authors our repentance and originates our forgiveness.

The fourth occurrence of *archēgos* is in Acts 3:15, where at the temple Peter preaches, “You killed the author (*archēgos*) of life, but God raised him from the dead.” Since Jesus is the author of life, death could not lock him in the tomb! Since Jesus is the first leader of life, we who believe in him will follow him in resurrection!

Thus, in the Greek New Testament, the word *archēgos* occurs four times, all of which designate Jesus. Jesus is the author of our life, the author of our repentance and forgiveness, the author of our salvation, and the author of our faith. Jesus is my favorite author!

1. Allan C. Emery, *A Turtle on a Fencepost* (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1979), 53.

2. Hamilton Smith, ed., *Gleanings from Thomas Watson: Extracts from the Writings of Thomas Watson* (Morgan, PA: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1995), 115-117.

Women’s Ministries

THE WAR ROOM

A 5 week Bible Study presented by
By Stephen & Alex Kendrick

Beginning: Thursday, May 12th 7-9pm

Class will meet: May 12, 26, June 2, 9 & 16th

*Cost of class: \$10 (includes study book)

Please submit registration by May 5th



THIRST Conference Schedule

Have you visited the THIRST table in the foyer? To help the team prepare, please check the sign-ups for the nursery, children's program, women's luncheon, and how adults can meet a few of the needs!

Here is an overall schedule for the Thirst Conference:

Friday, May 6:	Team arrives at about 3 pm
Saturday, May 7:	Team preparing for Sunday
Sunday, May 8:	9:00 - Combined youth & adult Sunday School 10:15 - Combined youth & adult worship 6:00 - Worship, youth meeting, children, nursery
Monday, May 9:	6:30 - Worship, youth meeting, children, nursery
Tuesday, May 10:	11:30 - Women's luncheon 6:30 - Worship, youth meeting, children, nursery
Wednesday, May 11:	6:30 - Worship, youth meeting, children, nursery
Thursday, May 12:	Team preparing for next church
Friday, May 13:	Team departs for Green Bay (too bad!)

The team will be staying with church families and using loaned vehicles for transportation. Thanks to all!