



**May
2016**

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**Birthdays
This Month**

If we have missed your birthday or someone else's, please contact the office to inform us.

- May 1 Joni Lownsdale
- May 3 Mitch Saylor
- May 5 Danny Lopez
- May 9 Linnea Saylor
- May 11 Vera Bochert
Fred Gangel
- May 14 Tony Thode
- May 19 Rick Dray
- May 21 Kody Leathers
- May 26 Nicci Leathers
- May 28 Jack Allman

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Morning

- 9 a.m. Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 10:25 a.m. Worship Service

Mondays

9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study

Wednesdays

6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Saturday

8 a.m. Men's Prayer Group

Contacting Pastor Mitch

Call or Text
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mitch@ihgg.net

Keep Praying for the Election

If you are like me, you are well passed election fatigue. But, let me encourage you to continue praying for the upcoming election. Each of us needs wisdom to know how to pray in what is shaping up to be a very contentious election.

But what do we do when each of the candidates has a higher "dislike" rating than "likeable" one? How do we vote when there is no clearly "Christian Candidate"?

The traditional issues that Christians focus their primary concerns on are no longer issues for the vast majority of candidates. All the presidential candidates have made clear they are not really interested in making Abortion a key issue, and the issue of homosexual marriage seems to be completely ignored. So what does that leave for Christians to consider?

Pray over Paul's admonition and discuss with other what these words mean:

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Take time in your Bible reading to answer the question: What qualities other than faith make for a good leader?

While we would prefer candidates with clear testimonies of faith in Jesus Christ, there are other qualities that make for good leadership and service to our country.

Please do not forget there are real quality people running in other elections that are just as important as the national elections. Those who serve on a local and state level have at least as much of an impact on our lives as those who are elected to more prominent offices.

In His Grip & Grace

Pastor Mitch

Annual Meeting

Sunday May 15th 4 p.m.

What is the Gospel (Part 3): How Do They Come to Believe?

The last two months, we considered What the Gospel is. This month I want to continue our consideration of the Gospel from a different angle. How do people come to believe the Gospel?

Why is this important? There is a wide variety of opinions about how to reach people with the Gospel. The following questions rise at the center of this debate. What part does the person sharing play? What part does the person hearing the gospel have? What part does the Holy Spirit play? Is there instruction in the Scriptures about these matters?

In Romans 10, Paul speaks to the process by which people come to believe in Jesus.

"8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART "-- that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." 14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? 15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!" 16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." (Romans 10:8-17)

A saving relationship with Jesus Christ is the result of believing Jesus was raised from the dead by God and confessing Jesus as Lord. It says that everyone who calls on the name of Jesus will be saved. This assumes the two conditions of belief and confession. It also assumes an understanding of these ideas as we have previously examined them. But how does one come to believe and confess this?

The Apostle Paul asks a series of questions in verses 14 and 15 to get us to think about how people come to call on Jesus for salvation. Let me work the series backwards from Paul's questions: 1) God calls believers to preach the Gospel; 2) God sends believers to preach the Gospel to nonbelievers; 3) nonbelievers hear of their sinfulness and need of a savior; 4) nonbelievers come to believe the

Jesus died for their sins and rose again from the dead; 5) the new believer proclaims Jesus the Lord of their life. This is a necessary process in every person who becomes a believer. They must hear the message proclaimed, be convicted of their sins, believe Jesus died for their sins with the result of calling on the name of Jesus for salvation.

Paul summarizes this series of questions with this statement: "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ (verse 17)." He is telling us that every person comes to faith in Jesus Christ as result of hearing the word of Christ, the Gospel. No one comes to believe in Jesus without hearing the Gospel – The Scriptures – The Word of Christ.

This is the reason behind Paul's strong admonitions to Timothy to use the Scriptures in ministering to others.

2 Timothy 2:15 "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

It is no different for us, than for Timothy. If Paul pointed to the importance of Timothy using the Scriptures for all things from Evangelism to Discipleship, then we should be found doing the same.

Let us answer the questions we started with practically. God through the Holy Spirit prompts the believer to share the Gospel. The Holy Spirit inspired Scriptures are the means by which the non-believer comes under the conviction of the Holy Spirit and hears of the saving grace offered through faith in Jesus. It is in hearing these truths that the Holy Spirit regenerates the sinner, giving new life and the ability to believe. The new believer then grows by the reading and study of these same Scriptures. Then the Holy Spirit prompts the new believer to share the Gospel with others. Thus, we find the critical player in all of this to be the Holy Spirit, and His chosen tool for all of ministry is the Scripture He inspired for our growth and proclamation to others.

May we never diminish the importance of using the Scriptures in proclaiming the Gospel, so faith might blossom in the hearts of God's people.

In His Grip & Grace

Pastor Mitch