



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Years ago, I was hunting with a good friend. One of us is an avid, experienced and expert hunter; and I am the other one. One day, as we hiked through the fallen snow-covered timber and steep frozen hills of our expedition, we spotted a beautiful elk. She was just out of my range, so my hunting partner motioned for me to follow him and whispered, "Walk fast, but be quiet." I whispered back, "I can do one or the other, but not both!" Perhaps needless to say, we didn't get the elk.

Walk fast but be quiet. That resembles many of the spiritual challenges Christians face. For example, we are called to work hard but let God work through us, to be meek but not weak, to study God's Word faithfully but be in prayer constantly, to be courageous but gracious, to be in the world but not of the world, to fear God but not be afraid of God, to serve the Lord but with joy and gladness, and to be spiritually discerning but not critically minded.

That last one has recently grabbed my attention: we are called to be spiritually discerning, but not critically minded. That is, Christians are to possess a shrewd humility. When Jesus sent out the Twelve, He said, "*Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves*" (Matt.10:16). We need to judge wisely, but not be judgmental. We need to think critically, but not act hypocritically. We need to be discerning, but not condemning. We need to be willing and able to correct error and admonish the sinner, but not be hypercritical or enamored with fault-finding. In addition, we must be willing and able to receive correction and instruction from other Christians.

Like Christ, the apostle Paul exhorted believers to be both innocent and discerning: "*Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature*" (1Cor.14:20). "... *try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them*" (Eph.5:10-11). "*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is*" (Eph.5:15-17).

C.S. Lewis, in his profound book *The Screwtape Letters*, provides us with some much-needed wisdom [note: this book is written from the perspective of a senior demon giving advice to a subordinate demon, so here the "Enemy" refers to God]. "Surely you know that if a man can't be cured of churchgoing, the next best thing is to send him all over the neighbourhood looking for the church that 'suits' him until he becomes a taster or connoisseur of churches. . . . The search for a 'suitable' church makes the man a critic where the Enemy wants him to be a pupil."

Unfortunately, many Christians today look less like Peter and Paul, and more like Statler and Waldorf (the "two old guys" on *The Muppets* who sat on the balcony always criticizing and rarely participating). Our consumer-driven culture has paved the way for many Christians to be hecklers and critics of churches rather than students and servants in church. Striving to be sacrificial and servant-minded certainly swims against the current of our more self-centered and self-serving society. But that is exactly what we are to do as we follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who "*came not to be served but to serve*" (Mk.10:45).

*"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into His presence with singing!"* (Psalm 100:1-2).

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #5):

Genesis 16-19; Joshua 21-24; Psalm 12-14; Job 9-10; Isaiah 23-28; Matthew 11-13; Romans 9-10

Recommended Reading:

"The Practice of Godliness" and *"The Pursuit of Holiness"* both by Jerry Bridges

Calendar of
Events:

February 7

The Sanctuary Play
Group

February 10

Men's Breakfast

February 15

SAM's Potluck
Luncheon

Looking Ahead....

February 21

AWANA Grand
Prix

For prayer requests,
email Amy Woodruff
at prayer@sbcnb.org
or call 541-404-0547

We're on the Web!

See us at:
sbcnb.org

Growth & Study.....

Men's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "On the Christian Life" by John Calvin
w/Jeff Etzel

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Murder of Jesus"
w/Pastor David

8:15-9:30pm "Zechariah"
w/Pastor Josh

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Galatians ~ No Other Gospel"
Begins February 8th
w/Pastor Tim

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Murder of Jesus"
w/Pastor David

Adult Group Studies

Sundays ~

6:30-7:30pm "The Lord's Prayer"
Begins February 11th
At the Woodruff's Home (541-756-3311)

Young Adults

Thursdays ~

7:00-9:00pm At Skyline
w/Pastor Tim 541-756-3311

Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Not By Sight"
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)

8:30am "Isaiah, the Lord Saves"
w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)

9:00am "Live Out His Love"
w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-267-3106)

1:00-2:15pm "Romans"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

7:00-8:15pm "Romans"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

10:00am "A Woman of Wisdom, Proverbs"
w/Jeanette Murphy (541-266-7575)

6:30-8:00pm "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Connect & Encourage.....

"The Sanctuary" Play & Fellowship Time ~ February 7th, 9am

Moms & little ones are invited to come enjoy a time of fellowship and play in the Sanctuary on the first Wednesday of every month from 9:00am to 11:30am. Everyone is welcome with little ones from birth to age 5! Contact Anna Kintigh with questions 541-914-8013.

Men's Breakfast ~ February 10th, 8:30am

Walking in the truth. Men, that is what we do as we follow Christ in our marriages, with our children, in our jobs, etc. That is our life. Join us at 8:30am, as we continue to learn together to walk in the truth!

SAM's Potluck Luncheon ~ February 15th, Noon

For those ages 55 and up, please join us for our SAM's potluck luncheon in the Fireside Room. We don't want to miss you - if you need a ride, contact the church office at least 24 hours in advance and we will arrange a ride for you.

Children's Ministries.....

Save the date:

June 25 – 28 9am to Noon

Vacation Bible School

Open to children 3 years old (potty-trained) through 5th Grade

July 30 - August 3

Big G Summer Camp

Open to students entering 4th through 9th grade.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:



- Summer Sunday School Teachers and Helpers (this is our greatest area of need)
- 2nd Service Nursery Helpers (once a month)
- 1st & 2nd grade Sunday School Teacher (twice a month during second service)
- Awana helpers (Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8 pm – Summers off)
- Vacation Bible School Pre-School Director and Co-Director and leaders and helpers for other areas of VBS.

See Loy for more information. Training available.



Youth Ministries.....

Youth Group ~

High School youth group ~ Sunday nights 6 to 8pm.

Junior High youth group ~ Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8pm.