



## Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Years ago, when I was a teenager, I asked one of my sisters for a special Christmas gift. I was getting ready to go off to Christian college and I wanted a picture to represent one of my favorite verses: *"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God"* (Ps.42:1). My sister is an unbelievable artist and since I cannot draw (or even write my name legibly), I asked if she could capture the essence of this verse in a small picture.

When Christmas morning came I couldn't find any gift for me from my sister. In our family, we take turns opening presents one-at-a-time enjoying the occasion to watch everyone open their individual gift and waiting "patiently" for our turn. When my turn came, my sister abruptly got up and left. I had no idea where she was going, but being the youngest in the family, and the only boy, I was accustomed to being "ignored" by my older sisters (not really, but it is always fun to play that card). To my great surprise, she came back...and with an enormous but very thin present – all wrapped up to hide its identity. When I opened the present, I was stunned to discover that my small request had become a very large reality. She had drawn a beautiful picture of two deer standing before a stream of water, drinking it's refreshing goodness.

Ever since that day, that picture has been proudly displayed for all to see. More importantly, it is a constant beautiful reminder of that great Scriptural truth – a truth that is the passion of all true believers. As I have studied Psalm 42 again and again in my life, I have discovered that the depth and breadth of that verse was much more than I originally understood. Clearly, the Psalmist is comparing our desire for God with that of the desire a deer has for water. But that understanding only scratches the surface of what the Psalmist is intending to communicate. The Hebrew word for "pants" (*arag*), describes more than a simple thirst for water. Its only other use in the Old Testament is Joel 1:20 where we read, *"Even the wild animals pant for you; the streams of water have dried up and fire has devoured the open pastures."* It is easy to see in this verse that the word "pant" is not descriptive of some small thirst or yearning. Rather, it expresses an intense longing, earnest desire or desperate need.

In other words, the Psalmist is not comparing his desire for God to that of a thirsty deer before a stream of water, but a dehydrated deer that is desperately dying for a drink of water. The picture is not serene, but severe. The deer is not just wanting water, but dying for water! This is a perfect illustration of the Christian life, for ***Christians have an intense longing, earnest desire and desperate need for God!*** As Christians, we recognize our passionate need for God, and our utter hopelessness apart from God. We desire God like a deer dying for a drink of water (Ps.63:1; 84:2).

We need to daily ask ourselves questions such as this: Is my Christian life captured by an all-consuming desire to know and follow after Christ? Could I accurately describe myself as a person who is passionately obsessed with Jesus? Would others testify that I am intensely, earnestly and desperately seeking after God in my life? I think all these introspective questions could be answered in response to this one question: *Does my life reveal that my soul longs for God as a deer – dying of thirst – pants for streams of water, or have I become too content with the wastelands and desert-lands of this world?* May we daily be reminded of our desperate need for God, and His all-satisfying goodness and grace.

Together in and for Christ,  
Pastor David

***Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #21):***

*Exodus 29-32; 2 Samuel 20-24; Psalm 60-62; Job 41-42; Jeremiah 42-46; Luke 5-6; 2 Corinthians 11-13*

***Recommended Reading:***

*"The Pursuit of God" by A.W. Tozer*

Calendar of  
Events:

Youth Garage Sale

May 25 & 26

Men's Breakfast

June 9

Looking Ahead....

Family Camp

June 28-July 1st

For prayer requests,  
email Amy Woodruff  
at [prayer@sbcnb.org](mailto:prayer@sbcnb.org)  
or call 541-404-0547

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[sbcnb.org](http://sbcnb.org)

## Growth & Study.....

### Men's Group Studies

#### Mondays ~

**6:30pm** "The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God" by D.A. Carson  
w/Jeff Etzel

#### Wednesdays ~

**6:30-7:30am** "Jesus Among Secular Gods"  
"Book of Ecclesiastes" \*Begins June 13<sup>th</sup>  
w/Pastor David

**8:15-9:30pm** "Zechariah"

w/Pastor Josh

#### Thursdays ~

**6:30-7:30am** "Galatians ~ No Other Gospel"  
w/Pastor Tim

#### Fridays ~

**6:30-7:30am** "The Christian Walk"  
"Jesus Among Secular Gods" \*Begins June 15<sup>th</sup>  
w/Pastor David

### Adult Group Studies

#### Sundays ~

**6:30-7:30pm** "The Lord's Prayer"  
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** \*On break for the summer\*  
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** "Experiencing God's Peace"  
w/Jeanette Murphy (541-266-7575)

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

## Connect & Encourage.....

### *Youth Garage Sale ~ May 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>*

We are accepting clean, reusable donation items for our May 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> fundraiser garage sale. Students are raising funds for the Mexico Mission Trip in August.

### *Men's Breakfast ~ June 9<sup>th</sup>, 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!

# 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

VBS Meeting – June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Noon

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)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Service Nursery Helpers (once a month)
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.