



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

More and more, I am convinced that Jesus is not looking for *radical* Christians but *real* Christians; not fanatical followers but faithful followers. The Biblical view of Christianity does not need to be supersized or dramatized. In the midst of an ungodly culture, faithful Christians only appear radical – swimming against the humanistic, secularistic, moralistic and idolatrous currents of worldliness.

The apostles were ordinary men, with ordinary personalities, talents and backgrounds. When looking over the Twelve, no one would have thought they could be used to change the world. In fact, the Jewish leaders were astonished by the power and effectiveness of Peter and John – two of Christ's leading disciples – and concluded "*that they were uneducated, common men*" (Acts 4:13). This is quite startling language, but it is not right to conclude that these men were idiots. Rather, the religious leaders understood that neither Peter nor John had any formal religious training. They were not teachers, theologians or lawyers. From a purely secular perspective, they had no business preaching and teaching concerning the Christ. They were mostly hard-working, blue-collar, ordinary men. In and of themselves, they were nothing special. But even the religious leaders had "*recognized that they had been with Jesus*" (Acts 4:13). The only way to explain the effectiveness of the apostles' ministry was that they had been powerfully affected by Jesus Christ.

In his best-selling book, *Twelve Ordinary Men*, John MacArthur described the apostles in this way:

They are just like us, and they are like other people we know. They are approachable. They are real and living characters we can identify with. Their faults and foibles, as well as their triumphs and endearing features, are chronicled in some of the most fascinating accounts of the Bible. ... Not one of them was renowned for scholarship or great erudition. They had no track record as orators or theologians. In fact, they were outsiders as far as the religious establishment of Jesus' day was concerned. They were not outstanding because of any natural talents or intellectual abilities. On the contrary, they were all too prone to mistakes, misstatements, wrong attitudes, lapses of faith, and bitter failure (p.xii).

That's the beauty of being an ordinary Christian – with all our failings, frailties, faults and flaws, God can use us for His divine purposes and ultimately for His divine glory! As Christians, we are to live in such a way that people are drawn to Christ, not impressed with our religious style or zeal. The apostle Paul explained this to the Corinthians when he wrote: "*For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God*" (1Cor.2:2-5). Jesus said it this way, "*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven*" (Matt.5:14-16).

I think most non-Christians are not impressed with religious fanaticism, nor are they ultimately swayed by artificially sensationalized worship. It seems that the more we try to make Christianity appealing to the world, the more we undermine the true power and purpose of the Gospel (cf. Rom.1:16). The world does not need more religious fanatics, but more professing Christians who are authentically living in and for Jesus Christ.

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #49):

Deuteronomy 23-25; Nehemiah 5-9; Psalm 140-142; Song 1-2; Revelation 1-6; Acts 21-22; 1 John 4-5

Recommended Reading:

"The Church: The Gospel Made Visible" by Mark Dever

Please join us for prayer on Sunday mornings at 8:00am in Pastor David's office

Calendar of
Events:

December 8

Men's Breakfast

December 9

Baptism Service

December 15

Women's Breakfast

December 15

Single Women's
Hearts for Christ
Dinner

December 20

SAM's Potluck

Looking Ahead...

Christmas Eve Services

December 24

Youth Winter Retreat

January 4-6

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 "The Measure of a Man: Twenty Attributes of a Godly Man"
w/Jeff Etzel (541-260-8725)

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Pursuit of God"
*Begins January 2
w/Pastor David (541-756-3311)

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Behold Your God: Discovering the Unfathomable Greatness and Glory of God"
w/Pastor Tim (541-756-3311)

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "Joseph-A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness" *Begins December 7
w/Pastor David (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 "Romans"
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Lessons from the Upper Room"
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 (541-751-3169)

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

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

Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am "Romans"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

10:00am "Seeking God's Great Riches, the Book of Hebrews"
w/Karla Fries (541-267-0139)

6:30-8:00pm "Romans"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Church News & Events.....

Men's Breakfast ~ December 8, 8:30am

Men, join us at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast, devotion & fellowship.

Baptism Service ~ December 9, After Second Service

There will be a baptism service on Sunday, December 9 after second service. Please contact one of the pastors at 541-756-3311 if you would like to be baptized.

Women's Breakfast ~ December 15, 8:30am

Ladies, please join us for a light breakfast, fellowship and devotions.

Single Women's "Hearts for Christ" Dinner ~ December 15, 4:00pm

Single women ages 18 and up, join us for a Christmas fellowship dinner at Kristi Snow's home - 918 Maryland Ave, Coos Bay. The cost is \$10 per person and includes soup, salad, bread and dessert. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Barb Miles at 541-888-0398.

SAM's Potluck Luncheon ~ December 20, Noon

For those ages 55 and up, please join us for lunch, worship and encouragement from the Word at our SAM's potluck. 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.

Welcome Baby Girl Eden!

Praise the Lord!

Pastor Chad and Lilly's beautiful baby girl was born Saturday, November 24th. Both Lilly and Eden are healthy and doing well!



Eden Hope Frantz

Born: November 24, 2018
at 3:40pm

Weight: 8 lbs. 3 oz.

Height: 20 in.