



God Loved and God Gave

In a culture that is inundated with bad news I believe people are yearning for something good. People are looking for a glimmer of hope. People need a message that gives life, not a message that gives more gray hairs. Right now the world is in desperate need for the message of the church: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3:16).

That is good news! It is especially good news if, as C.S. Lewis claims, God is beyond time. If God is beyond time then John is not saying that God only loved the world as it was during the days of Jesus. No, God loved the world of 2009 just as much. Lewis tries to make this point by saying, *“When Christ died, He died for you individually just as much as if you had been the only man in the world.”* God loves you. God loves Gilbert Kerrigan. Put your name in this passage, *“For God so loved _____, that he gave his only Son...”* Say it with confidence. It is true!

One other thing, God’s love for you is final. It is not dependent on what you do or how well you do it. There is no conditional clause. True, the eternal life God offers is dependent upon belief in him. But his love is final and has no conditions. Listen to the finality of the passage: *“For God so loved the world, that he **gave** his only Son...”* God gave. He can’t take that back. It is final. God loves you.

I know of no better news than to know I am loved. That is why the world needs the message of the church so badly right now. People need this message. Let’s spread it together.

-Gilbert

***God is good...all the time
All the time...God is good***

Why Do We Do That?

“Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” ~ Romans 8:12-14.

The location of this passage is important to Paul’s understanding of Christian behavior. Before this passage (to which he refers with *“Therefore”*) Paul talks about how we have been given new life in Christ. Paul is saying here that since we have received such a great grace, and since we are no longer controlled by the sinful nature, but by Christ’s nature, we have an obligation to live by the Spirit.

Paul does not end there however. Not only should we live by the Spirit because we have been given new life in the Spirit, but also because we, along with creation, groan *“as we wait eagerly for our adoptions as sons, the redemption of our bodies”* ~ Romans 8:23.

According to Paul, Christians are called to act in a different manner for two reasons: 1) because we have been saved from slavery to sin we act out of gratitude for this present salvation, and 2) because we are eagerly awaiting our adoption as children of God- our future salvation.

We act both because of what has been done, and in anticipation of that which is coming- the Kingdom of God. *-Phil*

Cheri Vaughn had shoulder surgery Tuesday at Clarian Arnett....**Annie Crowder** will have surgery at 9:00 Thursday morning at Clarian Arnett...Hedi Devine returns from Germany this week after being with her mother, **Agnes Schubert**, who is battling cancer.... **Cherie Hanson**, Kay Tavana's sister, and **Diane West**, Andrea Browell's sister, are undergoing chemotherapy for cancer....**Rose Hunt** will have surgery January 19....**Randi Verett**, Pauletta Smith's sister-in-law, had great news last week. All her tests showed no more cancer at the present time. Praise God!!....Continue praying for **Ethel Cable**, **Pete Swank**, **Phyllis Gray**, **Dick Stout**, **Eric Waltz** (*Bob's brother*), **Dorothy Walters**, **Eileen Richardson**, **Hattie Coffel** (*Rosewalk Village*), **Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor*), **Wanita White**, **Willie Batts**, **Edith McCoy** (*Digby House*), **Jean Stockberger**, **Lance & Lane Pepper**, **Eugene Zinn**, **Kaden Koebecke**, **Marge Campbell**, **Valley Stockton** (*Regency Place*), **Irene Sims**, **Henrietta Frampton**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Paul & Argie Verett**, **Delpha Allen**, and **Minnie Scott**.

Serving in our military: **Shawn Wilson**.



Dear Elmwood family,
 Thank you so much for all the prayers, encouragement, and love. Your support really helped me get through my recovery and helped keep me positive. I am so thankful for all of you. You truly are a blessing to me and my family. Love you all,
 Mandy Anderson

Focus on the Family Programs

Upcoming *Focus on the Family* programs are heard on local radio, WHPL-FM 89.9 at 2:00 PM Monday-Friday.

- January 14* **Rescuing Children from Prostitution**—Linda Smith, founder of Shared Hope International, discusses the global problem of trafficking minors for the sex industry, and what her organization is doing to help stop it.
- January 15-16* **Safeguarding Your Marriage**—Gary and Barbara Roseberg discuss conflict resolution and ways to promote forgiveness and healing in marriage. (Parts 1 & 2)
- January 19-20* **Defeating the Darkness of Abortion**—Kathy Sparks describes her experience as a former abortion clinic worker, and she explains how becoming a Christian changed her perspective on the sanctity of human life. (Parts 1& 2)
- January 21* **Remembering Johnny Stallings**—Coach Gene Stallings discusses the legacy of his special needs son, Johnny, who recently passed away.
- January 22* **The Adopted Child**—Dr. James Dobson discusses a number of important issues related to adopted children and gives sound advice to adoptive parents.
- January 23* **Protecting and Defending Human Life**—Focus on the Family's Yvette Maher updates listeners about the ministry's Option Ultrasound Project, a successful initiative that is saving pre-born babies from abortion.

Snow Servants



The snow servant this week (1/11-17) for light snow removal is **Joshua Brainard, 813-784-2486**.

The **food pantry** is always in need of personal items: **soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, and toilet paper.** All food items are also welcomed.



January 11, 2009
Class: 183 Worship: 285
Contribution: \$5,915



“Dangerous”

I guess some people see me as dangerous after I return from conferences. Relax; I think Gilbert and Phil probably have the same disease. Last week, Sharon and I had the opportunity to meet with about 400 other youth workers and spouses plus a few college students, preachers, elders and some volunteers. The National Conference on Youth Ministries has been a great blessing to my life and ministry for nineteen years. NCYM serves many purposes including fellowship, networking, encouragement, counseling, training and teaching. One purpose it always serves in my life is to challenge me, so I in turn get to challenge you.

Dr. Tony Campolo, Sociology Professor from Eastern College in Pennsylvania is a very well known speaker and has long been very vocal about the need to be more concerned about social justice. His speeches this year were filled with that focus, but in the middle of the challenges for us to make a difference, he reminded me of something very important – a focus I had allowed to be dulled by society and the need to be politically correct.

Under the leadership of Dr. Tony Campolo, the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education has developed and nurtured elementary and secondary schools, universities, adult and child literacy centers, tutoring programs, orphanages, AIDS hospices, urban youth ministries, summer camps, and long-term Christian service programs in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Africa, Canada and throughout the USA. To promote this effort, Eastern College invites High School students to join them in inner city efforts for two weeks, one month, or the entire summer break.

Dr. Campolo said he often gets phone calls from parents wondering if the experience could be Dangerous. He said he replies with, “gangs, crack houses and drug dealers, extreme poverty – sure it’s Dangerous, but not nearly as Dangerous as allowing your children to be seduced by the ways of the world they are exposed to every day.”

Dr. Campolo went on to say that the United States has become the Babylon mentioned in Revelation (and he added that so is every other government/society as none have ever been totally God-focused) and that the current state of affairs may just be the fall. Whether you agree with the analogy or not, I wonder: is our trust in our nation or in our God? What is Dangerous? Reflect on these words from Matthew 10:25 and be challenged to live accordingly...

“Don’t fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (HCSB).

“Don’t be bluffed into silence by the threats of bullies. There’s nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. Save your fear for God, who holds your entire life—body and soul—in his hands” (Message). -Lee



Amanda Doty, 14 year-old daughter of Diann & Mike Doty, made the decision to obey the Lord in baptism last Tuesday evening, January 6. Amanda attends school at West Lafayette Junior/Senior High School. She has two older brothers, Shawn and Ricky. We rejoice with you Amanda, and pray for God’s blessings in your walk with Him. Congratulations!

Lafayette Christian School Kindergarten Call Out



Lafayette Christian School’s **Kindergarten Call Out** is scheduled for Tuesday evening, **January 27 starting at 6 PM**. The school will be offering a 3-day-per-week all-day class and a 5-day-per-week all-day class. Parents seeking a Christ-centered education for their kindergartner are urged to attend. Please contact principal Abe Vreeke at 447-3052 for more information. Check us out at www.lafayettechristian.org or write us at info@lafayettechristian.org.

*Our vision:
Knowing Christ,
Making Christ Known*



January 14, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
January 18....LIFE Groups meet
If you haven’t tried a LIFE Group, call the church office and we’ll help you get in touch with a leader.
You will love the experience!

Read:
Exodus 19-36
Luke 15:1-18:17

2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 5: January 26-February 1






Powerful Living

After reading through these chapters, my thought was, “What did I just read?” Sometimes I read for general information and sometimes I read the passages as a story; however, the chapters in the Exodus reading are powerful.

Beginning in Exodus chapter 19, the first six verses caused me to pause and digest the message. Beginning with the later part of verse 3, the LORD said to Moses, “*This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites*” Exodus 19:3b-6, NIV.

In chapter 20 we find what is commonly called the Ten Commandments. The commandments were designed to lead Israel to a life of practical holiness. In them the people could see the nature of God, God’s plan for their lives and how they should live. The commands and guidelines were intended to direct the community to meet the needs of each individual in a loving and responsible manner.

Chapters 21 and 22 deal with some of the laws God set before the people- community living, laws of restitution and social responsibility. These instructions were a personal example of expressing forgiveness to others as their loving GOD forgives and protects them. The message was to follow God out of love, rather than out of fear. God wasn’t trying to scare the people; He was showing His mighty power so the Israelites would know He was the ONE true God and therefore, obey Him. If they would do this, He would make His power available to them. God wants us to follow Him out of love rather than fear. — Don Vice

 Weekly Schedule	 Elders	 World Missions
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653  Staff Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 Office Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874 Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536 Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774
 Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.		

 **Elmwood**
 CHURCH OF CHRIST
 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904
 (765) 447-2874 (765) 447-0878 FAX
 E-mail: office@elmwood-church.org
 www.elmwood-church.org

Christian Student Center
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY
 115 Waldron Street
 W. Lafayette, IN 47906

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