



## The Preeminence of Christ in Colossians

I had a wonderful time at the Pepperdine Lectureship this year. It truly is an amazing experience. There was beautiful scenery, Christ-filled people, uplifting praise, and Spirit-gifted preachers and teachers sharing God's word. The theme was based in the letter to the Colossians. Let me give you a snippet of the messages I heard.

Monte Cox and Rick Atchley shared very powerful messages that can be summed up in two very similar looking phrases: 1) Jesus is the only way, and 2) Jesus only is the way. They look similar but are very different.

Monte Cox warned that in a culture as pluralistic as Colossae's (and our own culture today) the message of the gospel is, "*Jesus is the only way!*" We need to preach it simply, yet powerfully. There are not *many* ways, but only *one* way - Jesus! He also shared with us the encouraging message that "*you can never be more saved than you are right now.*" I wish more of our churches could grasp this message. This encouragement fit nicely with Rick Atchley's sermon.

Rick Atchley dove headfirst into the legalism that seemed prevalent in Colossae. Christians in Colossae were starting to judge each other according to what they ate or drank and what holidays they observed. There were a lot of rules being thrown around - "*Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!*" Legalism conveys the message that Jesus alone is not enough, but we need "*Jesus and...*" While Monte's message was about Jesus being the only way, Rick's message was, "*Jesus only is the way.*" Christ is enough! He closed by asking, "*Are you a 'Christ only' follower, or a 'Christ and' follower?*"

Another powerful reminder came from Rich Little, a preacher not too far from here. His message was about Christ being in us. This is a message that Paul emphatically teaches. Rich's reminder was that because Christ is in us we are the 67th book of the Bible, which is probably the most read book of the Bible.

There was so much more that I took away from Pepperdine. It was a great experience, and I highly recommend you make at least one trip to their lectureship. You will not regret it.

-Gilbert

## Serving Others

*"What is it to serve God and to do His will? Nothing else than to show mercy to our neighbor. For it is our neighbor who needs our service; God in heaven needs it not."* —Martin Luther

This quote from Luther draws on some very important texts and concepts from the Bible. Throughout the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments, we are told to take care of the widow, the orphan and the homeless. We are told to love our neighbor as ourselves. To follow God's will, as Luther says, is to show mercy to our neighbor.

I often forget that God -being God- needs nothing from me. When we serve others not out of love for them, but simply because we are commanded by God to do it; if we grudgingly carry out actions that we are commanded to do, we miss a large part of the importance of serving others.

In Romans 12:16 Paul says, "*Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.*" Paul reminds us that we need to get to know those whom the world considers lowly. In order to serve them, we must know them and their needs. Our service to others should come out of a love for God and love for those in need. When we serve others, while in our heart hating them, or not loving them, our service is empty. When we serve others, but have contempt in our hearts for them, we are not experiencing the renewal of the Christian life but a substitute which pales in comparison.

-Phil

**Harry Linback** is in Clarian Arnett Hospital ICU, room 225. He has had another stroke and is on a ventilator...**David Fulkerson**, son-in-law of Ethel Cable and husband of Jane, had double bypass heart surgery and doctors repaired a hole in his heart. The Fulkersons live in Billings, Montana....**Charles Carter** is now receiving hospice care. His condition continues to deteriorate.... Continue praying for **Cara Gamble, Dick Waterstraat, Diann Doty, Jan Lucas, David Brutans** (*Shirley Farmer's son-in-law*), **Pete Swank, Rose Hunt, Charles Moore, Lorna Marshall** (*Amy Colon's mother*), **Robert Ruckh** (*Sally Smith's father*), **Linda Jetton** (*Dave Weckerly's sister*), **John Adams, Eloise Shank** (*Andrea Browell's mother*), **Justin Thomas** (*Thelma Hoyt's brother*), **Hattie Coffel, Mary Tavana** (*Peter Tavana's sister*), **Ted Heitman** (*Becky Pitt's father*), **Annie Crowder, Dorothy Walters, Irene Fox, Willie Batts, Ethel Cable, Edith McCoy, Eugene Zinn, Kaden Koebecke, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, and Minnie Scott.** Also, be in prayer for **Bren & Cheryl White** as they face economic shortfalls with their mission work .



In the military: Phyllis Simmerman's nephew, **Josh Martin**, is serving in Iraq.

## 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.

- May 14, 15* **Protecting Our Country's Future.** Our panel of guests discuss several public policy issues and the current lack of checks and balances in Washington, D.C., which is resulting in a radical agenda being imposed upon our nation. (Parts 1 & 2)
- May 18* **The Importance of Heroes.** In a discussion based on their book *Heroes Among Us*, Rep. Jim Ryun and his sons Drew and Ned talk about the importance of heroes and how heroic people can teach children about character and integrity.
- May 19, 20, 21* **The God of All Comfort.** Steven Curtis Chapman discusses the loss of his adopted daughter, Maria Sue, and describes how faith in God has helped his family cope with the tragedy. (Parts 1, 2, 3)
- May 22* **Wise Media Choices for the Summer.** Several members of Focus on the Family's Plugged In staff examine the upcoming summer movie season and offer advice on how families can make wise media choices for the months ahead.

**Our vision:  
Knowing Christ,  
Making Christ Known**



A big thank you to **Don Vice, Lee Porter, Jeff Mayernik** and **Lorraine Weckerly** for helping Beth move to her new apartment. Also, thank you to **Janet Boston** for helping Beth prepare for her moving day. Beth is happy for the help she received.

-Dave Weckerly

## Graduation Open House

Former Elmwood member, **Suzanne (Fournier) Macaluso** will graduate from Purdue with a Doctor of Philosophy. She now lives in California where her husband, Chris, works for Pepperdine University. Camilla Lawson is hosting an open house at her home, 422 Kittiwake, Lafayette, this Saturday, May 16, from 1:00 until 6:00 PM. They would **love** to visit with everyone.



The **food pantry** is always in need of personal items: **soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, and toilet paper.** We appreciate any donations you make.

**May 10, 2009**  
**Class: 162 Worship: 262**  
**Contribution: \$9,632**



## Randy Kerrigan is Here!

By the time you read this, Randy Kerrigan (our Summer Youth Intern) will be here. He will be with us from May 13 through August 16. Some of you have already signed up, thank you, but there are lots of dates still available for you to host Randy in your home or to help him with meals. The reason we do this is so that our interns can get to know the congregation better and so we can get to know the interns better as well.

There are at least two major reasons we have summer interns: 1) it gives those planning to go into a full-time ministry a chance for some hands on experience with a "safety net" before they launch out on their own. Some feel that an internship is only effective if the candidate goes on to be a "successful" minister serving a church full-time somewhere. Truth is, some internships help the individual realize ministry is not for them. In this case, the internship has helped the individual and probably saved them and maybe a church somewhere from a lot of pain. We fully expect that Randy will go on to a full-time ministry as he has already served in that capacity as a missionary in Italy for two years. I am sure that Randy is feeling plenty of pressure being Gilbert's brother, but I know all of you will show him some Elmwood family love and acceptance.



Elmwood should take pride in the summer intern ministry. Former intern Steve Corp is now serving as the youth minister and worship leader at the church of Christ in Salem, Indiana, and of course our campus minister Phil Travis is a former intern for us as well. Elmwood is involved in training and providing ministers for the kingdom at large...and we get some direct

benefit, too!

Almost all meal times are still open for Randy - I have a calendar with me or there is one posted outside the Library. I will give some open lodging dates here... please sign up for at least a week at a time...we don't want Randy to have to move around more than that. Thanks in advance for taking care of Randy!

-Lee

### Open dates to house Randy:

May 24 - 31      June 14-30  
July 1-31 (may be gone July 12-24)  
August 1 - 8

## Weekly Prayer Focus

Each month we will focus on a specific topic and each week we will have specific items that people should pray for. This month our main focus is "Outreach." On May 16 our focus will be **World Christian Broadcasting, specifically: Gayle Crowe's work there, Kevin Chambers coordinating the work on the new Madagascar antenna, political unrest in Madagascar, and praying the project of reaching the Arab world will not be interrupted.**

## VBS-Crocodile Dock

**VBS registration** for children 3 years-incoming 6th graders is now open. Forms are available online at [elmwood-church.org](http://elmwood-church.org) and on the bulletin board by the teachers' workroom. Invite those around you!

Remember that for the rest of May we will be creating VBS decor on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM before the regular Bible study. You are welcome to come any Wednesday night or all of them!

## Women's Ministry Request

In an attempt to communicate more effectively with all women at Elmwood, the Women's Ministry committee is composing a newsletter and compiling a distribution list of all women's e-mail addresses. If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, please send your preferred e-mail address to [snuffyplum@comcast.net](mailto:snuffyplum@comcast.net) and you will receive a copy of the newsletter as soon as it is composed. Hard copies will also be available for pickup. Elmwood Women also have an interactive Facebook group. If you would like to participate in this online group, include the words "facebook group" in your e-mail and we will add you to the group. If you have any questions or comments, contact Dana Miller, Terri Miller, Doris Swensen, or Katy Travis.



**May 13, 6:00 PM....**Creating VBS decor

**May 13, 7 PM....**Bible classes for all

**May 17, 6 PM....**Worship at Elmwood

**June 8-12, 6-8 PM....**Vacation Bible School

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

Read:  
*Psalms 56-74;*  
*Hebrews 8-12*






# 2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 22: May 25-31

## Prayer

We have been having excellent lessons on prayer. In Psalms 56 through 74 we read a series of prayers by David. He begs for mercy many times. He asks God to destroy his enemies who number more than the hairs on his head. People hate him, some mock him, some say false things about him, and others want to kill him. He expresses his own guilt for his folly and claims to be a stranger to his brothers. He asks for God's help quickly for he is in trouble. He appeals to God's love and begs for mercy. He asks God to charge his enemies with crime upon crime; do not let them share in Your salvation. May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous. Then David says, "I am in pain and distress". In the 69<sup>th</sup> psalm David says he is worn out calling for help. His throat hurts and his eyes fail looking for his God. Since he asked the same things over and over I believe being repetitive was okay with God. Certainly David had the need to repeat his requests. He was also very graphic describing what he wanted God to do to his enemies.

When we shift to the New Testament (Hebrews 8 through 12) we read about the new covenant. We learn Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for us. He wiped away our sins. They are gone. What are our responsibilities? How has this new covenant changed the way we pray?  
*- Doris Swensen*

 Weekly Schedule	 Elders	 World Missions
<b>Sunday</b> Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m.  <b>Wednesday</b> Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653  <b> Staff</b> <b>Ministers</b> Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 <b>Office</b> 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
 <b>Our Vision:</b> Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.		

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