



Being Saved

For Paul, salvation is not just a one time event. It is not just something that happened in the past. Paul has no problem speaking of salvation as an ongoing event. There are times when he speaks of salvation as something we continually experience in our lives. We are not just saved, but we are being saved.

In 1 Corinthians 1:18 he writes, “*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*” In 2 Corinthians 2:15 he uses the same language of *those who are being saved* and *those who are perishing*. Paul sees no problem with dividing the world into two categories: those who are in the process of perishing and those who are in the process of salvation. Those who have accepted Christ’s invitation to follow him are *those who are being saved*.

This does not imply at all that we are doing anything to be saved. The language is very passive. We are being saved, and someone else is doing the saving. Paul uses this same type of language another time in 2 Corinthians 3:18 when he writes, “*And we all, who with unveiled faces are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*” Again, a passive verb. We are being transformed into his image, not on our own power but by the Spirit’s power.

Maybe this is how Paul would define the ongoing process of salvation – being transformed into Christ’s image. Yes, Paul talks about salvation in the past tense. He has no problems suggesting that we were saved, and are saved. But for Paul I don’t believe that is the whole story. While we experienced salvation when we called upon the name of Lord and participated in his death, burial and resurrection through baptism, we are continually experiencing salvation through the Spirit’s transforming work. The end result of that work is that we are transformed into Christ’s image – ultimate salvation.

This should be exciting news for those of us *who are being saved!*

-Gilbert

Faith in Troubled Times

“Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isa 40:27-31).

In times of trouble, Isaiah calls us to remember God’s power. When we read the words of Isaiah we are reminded that God is powerful, He understands more than we can conceive of, and we should not give up on Him even in the darkest hour.

This is not to say that we cannot be frustrated or angry with our situation. David repeatedly calls out to God in the Psalms, asking Him why He has allowed David to be in that place. We also see in the book of Lamentations honesty with God about Jeremiah’s confusion and anger over the falling of Israel. And yet, these men also realize that even in the depths of despair, even in the midst of their questioning, that God is powerful and that God is faithful.

If you are going through a difficult time, remember that it is acceptable to voice your frustration with God, but also remember that God is faithful and has great power.

-Phil

Pete Swank had surgery to insert a stint behind his left knee. He did well in surgery and is already home....**Ann Vaught** had knee replacement surgery on Wednesday. She is home also....**Charles Carter** continues to receive hospice care.... Continue praying for **Dick Waterstraat, Diann Doty, Jan Lucas, David Fulkerson, David Brutans, Charles Moore, Lorna Marshall, Robert Ruckh, Linda Jetton, John Adams, Eloise Shank, Justin Thomas, Hattie Coffel, Mary Tavana, Ted Heitman, Annie Crowder, Dorothy Walters, Irene Fox, Edith McCoy, Eugene Zinn, Kaden Koebecke, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, and Minnie Scott.**



In the military: **Josh Martin, Brent Kaufman, and Matt Kaufman** (nephews of Ronda Tidrick) are serving in Iraq.

Weekly Prayer Focus

This month our main focus is "Outreach." On May 30 our focus will be: (1) **Asian missions-Loren Hollingsworth** and his work in Thailand and Cambodia; the churches we're connected with in Bangkok and Phuket. (2) **Jan Swensen's work with the Indian orphanage** (which we are also beginning to support in this new fiscal year). Keep praying for these important ministries and the people God touches through this mission work.

Women's Ministry Steering Committee News

One of the Women's Ministry Missions is to encourage, mentor, support and facilitate the spiritual growth of all the women here at Elmwood. To that end, we would like to re-introduce the Saturday afternoon teas that we began last year. These small get-togethers would be held in women's homes on Saturday afternoons. There will be different intergenerational groups each month so that all the women can get to know all members of our church. These groups will have a spiritual as well as a social focus. Conversational questions/topics will be provided to hostesses that will promote the sharing of faith stories and life experiences. Our first tea will be held on **June 27**; our goal is to have three teas this summer (one each month). Feedback will be encouraged, and it is anticipated that ideas generated from attendees will be obtained and assigned by using the yellow cards during Sunday services. If you would like to serve on the committees, to help facilitate and to plan for these teas, please contact Terri Miller or Barb Tilley.



Coming on Sunday nights in June:

June 7: VBS Prayer Walk

June 14: VBS Recap

June 21: Movie Night

June 28: Praise & Worship



Dear Friends at Elmwood,

I really appreciate your love, prayers, cards, food, visits, and flowers during Harry's recent illness and funeral. Thank you for your support and encouragement. Like Sam always says: you are good folks!

Take care of each other.

-Peggy Linback

Dear Elmwood congregation,

*On behalf of the Rochester College A Cappella Chorus, I would like to say **thank you**, very much for the hospitality, support and love we received from you during our visit. We were blessed by the time we spent with each of the families of your congregation, and we hope and pray that we were able to bless you as well.*

Thanks again and God's blessings to you. -Stephanie Maurice, for the chorus

May 24, 2009

Class: 165 Worship: 252

Contribution: \$4,846

ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST newsletter (USPS 758-630) is published weekly, except the week of Christmas, by the Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette 47904. Periodical postage paid at Lafayette, IN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904.



Are you ready?

It's a question that is asked many many times in our life time. "Are you ready for church?" is a common one on Sunday mornings. I'm sure our youth gets asked every weekday morning, "Are you ready for school?" And I'm also sure that they want to answer, "No!" every morning too. Thank goodness for summers.

In our spiritual walks, we are approached with this question all the time. It may not be directly said to us, but in our minds this question runs through our heads: "Are you ready?"

In 1 Kings 19 we read a short story about a man named Elisha. Elisha is being called by Elijah to be his attendant. We find Elisha working in the fields, plowing with twelve yoke of oxen. After Elijah meets with him I'm amazed at what Elisha does to show that he is ready for this task: *"So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and become his attendant"* (Chapter 19:21).

After he was called, he took the things that he used to make a living and destroyed them. He didn't need them any more. He gave them up. He was ready!

Before you became a Christian, I'm sure you were asked, "Are you ready?" I hope your response was like Elisha's. I hope you destroyed your old way of living. I hope you gave it up to the Lord. And, in your Christian walk today, I hope you are ready to give up many more things for the work of the Lord. Because sometimes we are asked to do some uncomfortable things and asked to give up many things to others. Are you ready for that?

On a side note, it's time for me to ask those in the Youth Group... are you ready for the summer? We have camps and trips and many things to plan for so please get up with me or Lee for more details and about how you can sign up for these trips.

God Bless!

-Randy Kerrigan

VBS - This Dock Rocks!



YOU make VBS happen! Invitation post cards are available throughout the church building. Take a few and mail neighbors, friends and family. Be sure to register your children as well others you know will be participating. The forms are here at the church building.

Final work session schedule: **Wednesday, June 3, at 6:00 PM; Saturday, June 6, 9:30 AM; and Sunday, June 7, set up after the 2nd morning worship service.**

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

Senior Servant's Schedule

The **Senior Servants** meet for lunch (*bring your own*) at 11:30 every first and third Wednesday. They have a wonderful card ministry (*maybe you have received one*) that blesses all those who receive them. If you haven't attended before, give it a try and enjoy the fellowship. Their next meeting is June 3.



- May 31, 6 PM...Worship at Elmwood
- June 3, 6:00 PM...Creating VBS decor
- June 3, 7 PM...Bible classes for all
- June 7, 6 PM...VBS Prayer Walk
- June 8-12, 6-8 PM...Vacation Bible School

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

Read:
I Kings 1-15; Matthew 6-10

2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 24: June 8-14

All of a Sudden






The life of King Solomon as recorded in I Kings 1-10 is best summarized by verse 3 of chapter 3, “Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the statutes of his father David.” During this time God appears to him twice and Solomon asks and prays for just the right things, he builds the temple, and gains world renown for his wisdom and great wealth.

Then, beginning in Chapter 11, Solomon’s life takes a complete turnabout. It is best summarized by verse 6, “The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord.” From this point on nothing is going right for him. His love for his foreign wives and the building of a high place for each of them to worship their gods brings an end to his kingdom.

The sudden change in Solomon between chapters 10 and 11 is hard to miss, and it could make one question if his walk with God changed almost overnight. Obviously, the answer to that question is no. Verse 4 of chapter 11 reads “As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods.” The consequences of his sin struck suddenly toward the end of his life but the sin had been festering for many years. He knew the right thing to do, but chose to ignore God’s command. God gave him plenty of time to change but when that period of grace was up, the consequences hit him all of a sudden.

The financial crisis we face right now is a good example of what happened to Solomon. It hit all of a sudden, but the writing of bad loans by people who knew better had been in practice for many years. We reap what we sow and the harvest is plentiful, either for good or bad.

—Jim Levick

 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

Periodical
 Postage
PAID
 at
 Lafayette, IN

Vacation Bible School



June 8-12

6:00 to 8:00 in the evening
Register your child at any time.

Parents and other adults:
please come and witness the
children's progress and enthusiasm
as they learn and grow in Christ