



Tell One Another

This morning I ran across this piece written by Jim McGuiggan that I thought was too good not to share with others. I hope it blesses your day.

Moses said, "Let me see you glory" and God said, "I will. Stand here in this crevice and I will make my GOODNESS pass by you." (See Exodus 33:17-23 and 34:1-9.)

Tell one another about his omnipotent power, tell one another about his omniscience, tell one another about his magnificence, his majesty and splendor—but tell one another about his goodness, about his goodness to a sinful nation; tell one another about his goodness to you as sinful people. Tell how he forgives your smugness, your self-promotion and self-glorification. Tell how he forgives your self-satisfaction and self-service. Tell how he forgives the bitterness or the ill-temper that makes your family miserable day in and day out.

Tell one another that his GLORY is his GOODNESS. Tell one another that God does more than hate and denounce sin, more than condemn it, more than punish it; that he does more than talk about it, analyze, explain, define and avoid it—he forgives it!

Blots it out!

Atones for it!

Carries it to the farthest reaches of the darkest corridors of outer space and throws it out there—forever.

Tell one another what the prophet Micah (7:18-19) told his sin-filled people; that God does all that with ceaseless joy, with delight. Tell one another that he doesn't do it reluctantly, he doesn't have to be begged or bribed or cajoled into it. He does it with fullness of generous joy so that you can know it and adore him for it on that day when he completes your redemption (Romans 5:9-10; 8:23).

This is what you eat and drink every Lord's Day at the Lord's Supper!

Tell that to one another!

-Gilbert

Faith? Works?

Faith Works!

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. James 2:14-17, 26

Upon first reading, it seems that James disagrees with Paul on the means of justification. Paul champions faith, while James speaks of actions. So is it our faith or our actions which save us?

There is only one action in history which saves us, and that is the death and resurrection of Jesus. The question is, "How we join ourselves to that salvific work? How do we become a saved people?" It is here where Paul and James seem to disagree.

But what if Paul doesn't mean faith is only "an intellectual assent to certain propositions," but instead means "reliance on and allegiance to God?" That definition includes the necessity of some prior understanding, but does not leave it as only a cerebral exercise. Now, James' statements can be understood to fall within the scope of Paul's statement. In our allegiance to God, we pursue a new life, the result of which is both faith—which means (in part) works.

It is God's gift of grace that saves, and the life we live of gratitude which we live out in reaction to that salvation is one of faith and works.

-Phil Travis



From time to time you might notice an announcement about an anniversary for 50+ years. If you have been married for 50+ years and I haven't put it in the newsletter, please notify me. We wish to recognize and honor all those who have such a milestone event! Also, if your birthday has been omitted on our calendar, please notify the church office. We don't want to leave anyone out. Thanks.

—Sherry Marks

Thanks!

Dear Elmwood Church of Christ,
Thank you for your faithful support. It helps so much in these difficult times. God bless! —Kim Pike, Executive Director, Trinity Mission



A Note of Thanks

Elmwood family,
Our daughter, Alyssa Collins (PU student), loves the family at Elmwood. Thank you individually and collectively for blessing her in so many ways.
—Harold & Susan Collins

August 28, 2011

Class: 192 Worship: 306

Contribution: \$7,288

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Janet Achor had successful hip replacement surgery Monday at St. Elizabeth East. She is in room 3S22...**Ken Nicholson** is in room 538 at IU Arnett Hospital....**Sherry Risley** had a biopsy on her thyroid on Wednesday....**Scott Baker** was in an ATV accident suffering numerous injuries—some serious....**Dave Hostetler** has been diagnosed with lymphoma and has a mass on his kidney....**Tammy Allen's** mother, **Joann Brown** has cataract surgery on Wednesday....**Alec Meisberger**, 11-year-old friend of **Natasha Risley**, suffering seizures associated with Tuberous Sclerosis....Continue praying for **Patty Vice**, **Armilda Follick**, **Louise Jones**, **Christian Coats**, **Mark Andrews** (*lung transplant*), **Bill Farris**, **Rick Daniels**, **Sandy Reaves**, **Shawn Robbins**, **David Black**, **Mary Lou Baugh**, **Marceena Miller**, **Tammy Beaver**, **Linda Weeks**, **Kaden Koebecke**, **Mickey & Carolyn Rigdon**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Wanita White**, **Phyllis Gray**, **Max Raines**, and **Jan Swensen**.



In the military: **Matthew Kauffman** is in Germany. **Evan Slaughter** is in Afghanistan. **Joe Newman** will be deployed in November.

Continue to remember the following people who are home-bound or in a nursing care facility: **Jeanette Tidrick** (Harry's mother now at St. Mary's Nursing Home), **Ruth Carter**, **Irene Sims**, **Dorothy Walters**, **Paul Marks**, **Ethel Cable**, **Hattie Coffel**, **Willie & Calvin Batts**, **Argie Verett**, **Dovie Hurst**, **Valley Stockton**, **Delores Hill**, **Henrietta Frampton**, **Mary Walker**, **Linda Bilyeu**, **Clifford Farner**, **Eugene Zinn**, **Charles & Carolyn Moore**, and **Annie & Elaine Crowder**.



Our deepest sympathies to **Dinea Kinzer** and to **Richard Kinzer** on the unexpected death of **Robert Kinzer, 55**, on **Wednesday, August 24**, from a heart attack. His funeral was Saturday at Elmwood. Be sure to notice Robert's beautiful paintings that grace the walls of Elmwood.

Jan Lucas, 81, mother of **Chris Sutherlin**, died also on **Wednesday, August 24**, from failing health—she had cancer and numerous health problems in recent days. She loved being a part of senior servants and in healthier days had worked in the food pantry. Our sincere sympathies to **Chris**, **Greg**, **Kelsey**, and **Jan's** brother, **Eugene Zinn**. A memorial service for the family will be held at a later date.

Clean Out/Organizing Day for Nursery, 1-2's, 2's-3's Rooms

Come help us freshen up the rooms for some of our youngest members. On September 17, from 9 AM–12 noon, we will be working on these rooms, cleaning and organizing toys and closets and decorating bulletin boards. We would like 1-2 people to commit to decorating boards in both the 1-2's and 2's-3's rooms. There are 3 square and 1 rectangular boards in each of these rooms. Fabric backgrounds are suggested as they last longer. Coordinating borders of either paper or ribbon can outline the boards. The teacher supply room has some borders and possible decorations. Teachers' Delight also carries decorations. Please let **Cara Gamble** or **Becky Pitt** know if you are interested in helping with these. Donations of the following items are also needed:

- large bottles of hand sanitizer • unscented baby wipes • diaper cream
- Lysol spray • disinfecting wipes • animal crackers • Cheerios
- diapers, sizes 3-5 • pullups, sizes 2T-4T • AAA batteries for pagers
- toy donations will be accepted and used as needed

Sponges, Funnels, and Sieves

I had a conversation recently with a friend about a movie he had seen. I had chosen not to see the movie based on some elements I thought were questionable, if not completely incompatible with the lifestyle I believe in. He is a Christian as well, but went and saw this movie. When I told him I had made the choice not to see the movie, he was astonished. As we talked, he began to recount and realize these same questionable elements in the film. His justification, however, was that the movie was still “very funny” and overall entertaining. It also had a positive message in parts of it, which I will agree to.

This conversation really got me thinking; how do we discern what parts of culture or entertainment we will insert into our minds and hearts as followers of Jesus? Both my friend and I are followers of Jesus, yet we obviously interpret that line differently. While I don’t think there are hard lines to draw, I do see some foundational guiding principles we can be aware of.

First, God’s truth is easily recognizable. When we see someone sacrifice themselves for another’s life that is God’s truth, whether it is in a movie or the Gospel of John. It’s not true merely in and of itself, but it’s true as it relates to the reality of God. God himself says that the whole earth is full of His glory, and I firmly believe that we can see it in people, places, and media outside of just church and the Bible.

Second, though, is the foundation that Scripture is what gives us the eyes to see that glory in Creation. It’s the lens we look through in order to be able to make healthy judgments about what is truth and what’s not. Otherwise we can unintentionally latch on to an idea or thought that might sound good, but isn’t the whole truth of God. Using verses like Philippians 4:8, Colossians 3:17 and 1 Corinthians 10:23-33 are some good markers to get us thinking in the right way when we look to discern what is worthwhile in our culture or media.

I heard an illustration about media consumption that I think sums things up well; we can either be sponges, funnels, or sieves (strainers). A sponge just soaks up everything, good or bad or ugly. It’s *mindless consumption* of media in the “I do what I want” vein of thinking, more friend-driven, culture-driven or just self-driven than God-driven.

A funnel, on the other hand, passes everything through and retains nothing. It is a *mindless evasion* response to media, either avoiding it all or dismissing it all out of hand. This approach can be just as damaging as mindless consumption, because we fail to make critical choices about what we believe or what we are engaging in. It helps us no more to call all media “bad” than it does to call it all “good”.

The sieve (or strainer, colander, whatever you call it) actively separates out what is passed through it, retaining some things while passing other things by. This model for us is *mindful engagement* of media, holding fast to what is good while taking every thought captive to Jesus Christ. We are actively considering what we take in, allowing God and His Word to form a filter in our eyes, minds and heart. Then as we look to engage in the media around us, we use Spirit-given wisdom to make conscious choices about what we consume and the messages about truth and reality we retain or reject.

We are surrounded by voices of media and culture every day. As we choose which ones we listen to, and which ones we don’t, my prayer for you is that you will look to be a sieve, actively letting God form your filter and making conscious, wise choices about how you consume, and what truth you hold on to.

In His Grip, Travis

All Church Picnic



Mark your calendars for the **All-Church Picnic at Columbian Park on Sunday, September 11, about noon** (following second service). This is a pitch-in meal. Come and enjoy good food, great fellowship and tons of fun!



L.I.F.E
Group Ministry
Elmwood Church of Christ

LIFE Groups are filling up quickly. If you have not already, please fill out the LIFE Group registration form. They can be found in the Farris foyer. If you would like to be in a LIFE Group, but don’t have a preference for which group, please indicate that on the registration form. **LIFE Groups start Sunday, September 18th.**

Be a Prayer partner for an Elmwood student



There will be a **Prayer Partner** sign-up for students (K-12) for the next few weeks in the Farris foyer before and after church services. Please be a “prayer warrior” for one of our children throughout the year.

Youth Group Event

2011-2012 Calendar of Events Meeting, Wednesday, September 7, 6-7 PM in A-2. Open to all families, teens and sponsors. Come meet with us as we set our dates and details for our youth events for the next year. We want your input and feedback to make this a great year, so if you have something you want to see us do or take part in, come join us!



August 31, 7 PM...Bible classes for all
September 7, 6-7 PM...2011-2012 Youth Calendar of Events Mtg
September 11...All-Church Picnic at Columbian Park
September 18, 2:00 PM...**Hunger Hike** for Lafayette Urban Ministry; registration 12:30-1:30 at Riehle Plaza
September 24, 9:30...Matrix Pregnancy Resource Center’s **Walk for Life**; 2 mile walk/run; registration 9:00

Read:
Ecclesiastes 7-12; Song of Songs;
Isaiah 1-6; II Corinthians 3-10

2011 Spiritual Adventures

Week 36: September 4-10

Jars of Clay

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed...”

It was a very confusing and difficult period of life. As we were travelling home from a hardship, we read **2 Corinthians 4:7-9**. In these words we found solace, comfort, and hope. At the time we could not see the reason behind life’s turn of events - it was difficult to see that God could make good out of such painful times, but He did. Then he used our ordinary “jars of clay” lives as the vessels to testify of His abounding love and amazing ability to work in our lives.

This powerful text reminds us that we will be hard pressed, but not crushed. It also reminds us that He will use our imperfect lives as vessels to spread the incredible truths that everyone needs to hear - the wondrous Gospel story. Christ loves us so much, delights in us, and He died so that we could live without fear.

As the Reverend Adrian Dieleman states, “This text is in reality a celebration of the power and might of God. God is able to make the Gospel treasure shimmer and sheen in us jars of clay; God is able to get the message out in spite of the messenger... God’s power is such that it overcomes and transcends and far exceeds all human weakness.”

The folksinger Carrie Newcomer tells a story of the Holy Spirit being poured from a vessel of one shape to a vessel of another shape, and so on. And regardless of the shape of the vessel, the Holy Spirit still fits. God’s spirit can fill us no matter what shape our lives are in and we can share our experiences with God’s truths and pour them out to others so that the Spirit may fill them and take shape in their lives.

—Christi and Brent Branstetter

Weekly Schedule	Elders	World Missions
<p>Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Joe Ruhl 463-7012 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Phil Travis 743-0954 Travis Hutchinson 447-2874</p> <p>Office Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874 Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874</p>	<p>Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536</p> <p>Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com</p> <p>Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774</p>
<p>Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.</p>		



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