



## A Father's Delight

Sometimes I find myself just watching Cole or Beau when they are playing by themselves. It is those moments when they don't realize anyone else is around or paying attention. They are so entertaining. I catch myself watching them and I quickly realize that I probably have a pretty goofy grin on my face. If you are a parent you know what I am talking about.

I started thinking about those enjoyable moments today as I read the psalmist's reminder that *"the Lord delights in his people"* (Psalm 149:4).

I have a hard time convincing myself that God feels about me the way I feel about my two boys. Does he really watch me and smile? Does he really enjoy me?

That word *delight* seems to be such a strong word. It is not a word that we use all that much anymore. I can't remember the last time that I said I delighted in something. The Hebrew word in that passage carries with it the idea of bringing pleasure or finding enjoyment in. I truly do delight in my boys. Is it possible that God feels that way about me?

I believe this is something a lot of people wrestle with. So many people feel like they have to do more and more to be accepted by God. I said to be accepted by God, not to be delighted in by God. Most of us would simply settle for acceptance. Delight seems out of reach.

God does so much more than just accept us. He DELIGHTS in us. When no one else is paying attention, He is, and with a smile. His children bring Him pleasure.

*For the Lord takes delight in His people.* This really is an amazing truth.

*-Gilbert*

## Money

Recently my Alma Mater, Rochester College and Dave Ramsey, the popular Christian Financial guru, teamed up to offer a college-level course on personal financial management.

Considering that the average college graduate has nearly 20,000 dollars in debt, a personal finances course seems like a good idea to me. It got me thinking about money, and the spiritual side of money. The Bible touches on the topic of money quite often. The Bible does not condemn money. In fact, its authors commend those who earn it. For example, Proverbs 13:22 says, *"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children..."*

But the Bible's authors also spend a great deal of time warning about the dangers of money. The Bible speaks out against the love and endless pursuit of money. Hebrews 13:5 says, *"Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'"*

Money is neither good nor evil, but like power, it has a great ability to corrupt us. Those who are rich (which is you, me, and everyone reading this) have a responsibility to care for the poor. Leviticus 25:35-37 says, *"If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you. You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit."*

*-Phil Travis*



Melissa Willison is moving to Texas for graduate school. She starts her graduate assistantship on Wednesday. Keep Melissa in your prayers.

The Women's Ministry is putting together welcome baskets for the college students. Several small items are needed. Please consider picking up a donation slip from the table under the CSC bulleting board to help welcome our college students. The items are needed by August 17th. Thank you.

## 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!

**August 7, 2011**

Class: 143 Worship: 240  
Contribution: \$12,716

**Jan Lucas** is in IU Arnett Hospital, room 235, and will likely be there a few more days.... **Patty Vice** is in the hospital, doing better but may be there a few more days.... Jim Jones requests prayers for his mother **Louise Jones** who is having health problems.... Betty Brown's cousin **Mark Andrews** received a lung transplant on August 4th (*he is doing well, please keep him in your prayers*).... Continue praying for **Bill Farris, Seth Ratcliff, Jeanette Gibson, Rick Daniels, Sandy Reaves, Shawn Robbins, Armilda Follick, Andrew Cable, David Black, Mayra Medrano, Mary Lou Baugh, Marceena Miller, Tammy Beaver, Linda Weeks, Kaden Koebecke, Mickey & Carolyn Rigdon, Marie DeWoody, Wanita White, Max Raines, and Jan Swensen.**



In the military: **Josh Martin** is in Iraq. **Matthew Kauffman** is in Germany. **Evan Slaughter** (*Bill & Carol Bell's nephew*) is in Afghanistan. **Joe Newman** has finished his training in Chicago.

Continue to remember the following people who are home-bound or in a nursing care facility: **Ruth Carter, Irene Sims, Dorothy Walters, Paul Marks, Ethel Cable, Hattie Coffel, Willie & Calvin Batts, Argie Verett, Dovie Hurst, Phyllis Gray, Valley Stockton, Delores Hill, Henrietta Frampton, Mary Walker, Linda Bilyeu, Janet Achor, Clifford Farner, Eugene Zinn, Charles & Carolyn Moore, and Annie & Elaine Crowder.**



Our sincere sympathies to **Sherry Marks** and to **Larry Gibson** whose father **Bill Gibson**, 83, died Sunday afternoon. His wife Jeanette survives. Mr. Gibson leaves a wonderful legacy in three children, their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Visitation will be held today at Soller-Baker Funeral Home on Twyckenham Blvd. from 5pm-8pm.

The funeral will be held at Dayton Memorial Presbyterian Church, 10am, on Wednesday, August 10. Continue to keep the families of Sherry Marks and Larry Gibson in your prayers.



College students will be arriving at Purdue soon. That means lots of activities at Elmwood's Christian Student Center (CSC) at 115 Waldron St., West Lafayette. Phil and Katy are organizing a "CSC Cleaning Day" on August 20, from 9:00 until 11:00 AM. If you can help, please have your sleeves rolled up and be ready to jump in! They will appreciate it!

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## Food Pantry Needs



Our food pantry has been very busy this summer. With joblessness still on the rise, there have been more visitors than usual. Our food pantry is always in need of personal items: **shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and especially toilet paper.** Our friends at Prairie Farms (from the Battle Ground area) have once again donated fresh vegetables and fruit. Praise God for their generosity. Thanks to you who have generously donated items to our food pantry.

## Camouflage Souls

Back in June, I went with Raegan, my mother and her husband to Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. It was a great experience, and we got to see so many varieties of sea life and other animals. One game we quickly got into was looking to see who could spot all the types of animals in a given tank first.

This is harder than it sounds, because many of them were hiding by either mimicking parts of their environment or trying to blend into their surroundings as a whole. Sometimes you would have to look for minutes on end only to find that certain fish, snake or reptile right in front of you, cleverly disguised. One of Raegan's favorites was a certain type of tube shaped fish that anchored itself in a hole in the sand among sea grass and would sway in motion with the currents of the blades around it. Everything about its shape and instincts was about preserving its camouflage.

One of my favorite verses about being transformed into Jesus' likeness is Romans 12:1-2. Reading the NLT version recently I was struck by the language Paul uses. *"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."* I think we struggle daily with an instinct to put on "spiritual camouflage," to try and claim Christ while altering our behavior and actions as little as possible. In contrast, Paul makes it clear that we are supposed to embrace a new life that is distinctly different because of Christ's presence in us.

The thing about camouflage is that it is almost exclusively used to assure safety and security. Whether it is a defense mechanism for a smaller fish or an attribute used by a predator in order to lure prey close in, the point of camouflage is almost always self-preservation.

I believe the desire to have a "camouflage soul" is one of self-preservation as well. We want to have the security of not standing out too much. It keeps us from being a target, and generally lets us continue to control our lives while still feeling devoted. Into this comes Jesus with bold statements about self-denial, ardent compassion and kingdom living. Let me be clear; Jesus' message isn't merely about being counter-cultural. It is challenging because it runs counter to the selfishness of the heart in any age or place. The disciple of Jesus, however, is not interested in self-preservation any more; they desire union with God more than anything, even the relative safety from "blending in" by their behavior. This is the transformation of thinking that changes our lives to match His.

May God challenge each of us to abandon the camouflage of our souls and instead embrace His good, pleasing and perfect way of thinking and living. Not only will it make us stand out as beacons of hope in a hopeless world, it will offer us the real security of a life that matters in Christ and is set on the eternal life we have rather than the temporary life we see.

*In His Grip,  
Travis*

## The Screwtape Letters

Family,

This semester the college students and I are going to be using *The Screwtape Letters* as a basis to talk about pitfalls to the Christian walk. I think it would be beneficial for the students to have a copy to read along with as we go through the letters.

Since it is a relatively popular book, I thought rather than buying a copy for each of the students, I would ask you all if you had a copy you wouldn't mind lending to the Campus Ministry for the semester.

If you don't care if your book is returned to you, please put a sticky note on it letting me know that. That way, I can give those copies to students who like to underline and make notes in their books. Otherwise, please put a note on the book with your name so I can return it to you at the end of the semester.

I will make it very clear to the students to take care of your book and should damage occur, I will replace it with a current printing of the book (I don't recommend donating your antique copies! ☺ )

All copies of The Screwtape Letters can be brought to me at church or the CSC. The semester starts on August 21<sup>st</sup>, so I need to have them before then!

Thanks for your consideration!  
Phil Travis

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



**August 10, 5:45 PM**...."Freed Up Financial Living," taught by Janet Boston in media room

**August 10, 7 PM**....Bible classes for all

**August 14, 6 PM**....Evening worship at Elmwood

**August 15, 7-9 PM**..Prayer Shawl group meets

Rose Hunt's home



**August 20, 9-11 AM**....CSC workday, 115 Waldron , WL

**September 11**....All-Church Picnic at Columbian Park

Read:  
Esther through Job 12;  
I Corinthians 3-8

# 2011 Spiritual Adventures

Week 33: August 14-20

## Be Committed

Esther is one of my favorite books of the Bible, so it should come as no surprise that I have a few resources about the book. One of my favorites is a book by Warren Wiersbe that appears in his “Be” series: this one called “Be Committed.” His prelude points out that there is no mention of God within the book of Esther and he makes some very good points of what we should take from that. I thought I would share some excerpts from this resource since Wiersbe says it much better than I can.

“While there is no name of God, and no mention of the Hebrew religion anywhere, no one reads this book without being conscious of God. He is the God of the feasts and overrules the powerful king on the throne, but yet never violates his freedom. This fact ought to encourage God’s people. Whether you live on a farm, in a small town, in the suburbs, or in a metropolis, God is there and is always at work on behalf of His people. Nobody can escape the watchful eye of the faithful hand of Almighty God, for God works all things according to the counsel of His will. This much is true: though God is not named in this book, He is present and active. He was not hiding: He was only hidden. This means we can trust Him without fear and obey Him without hesitation. God can use anyone from poor peasants to powerful queens to accomplish His divine purposes in this world. The question is not “Where do I live and work?” but “For whom do I live and work, for myself or my Lord?” We must never think that the days of great opportunities are past. Today, God gives to His people many exciting opportunities if only we will commit ourselves to Him. God can use you to influence others and accomplish His purpose, if only you are fully committed to Him.”

So I ask, even in areas where it seems like God is absent, are you fully committed to Him?

— Mindy Hart