



For Freedom

Sometimes we just need to take a stand for freedom! I don't mean freedom in the American sense of the word. I'm talking about the freedom we find in the gospel.

We don't often talk about the freedom we find in Christ, except to talk about being freed from the punishment of our sins. That is an amazing freedom, but it is not the only freedom that the Bible talks about.

The book of Galatians is a letter about the freedom of the gospel, and the freedom Paul is talking about in that letter is freedom from legalism and rule-keeping. Paul warns the Galatians that *"some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves"* (Gal. 2:4). He later writes, *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery"* (5:1). False teachers had infiltrated the Galatian church and started adding new rules/commands to the gospel. Apparently believing that Jesus was the Son of God, crucified and resurrected, was not enough.

In Colossians he addresses more false teachers that were attacking the freedom found in Christ. He writes, *"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition..."* (Col. 2:8). He later writes, *"Do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day... Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: 'Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!'"* (2:16, 20-21).

Legalism, in Paul's words, have the appearance of wisdom (Col. 2:23). Legalism often looks more biblical than freedom, but Scripture teaches the exact opposite. Paul took a stand for freedom because the gospel of Christ is a gospel of freedom. Paul not only took a strong stand for freedom, but he also had harsh words for those that would preach any other gospel. He wrote, *"If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let that person be under God's curse"* (Gal. 1:9). This is the same Paul that wrote things like, *"Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak,"* and, *"do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature"* (1 Cor. 8:9 and Gal. 5:13). Even with those warnings Paul still took a stand for the freedom that is offered through the gospel of Christ.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. ~ Galatians 5:1

-Gilbert

Serving the Creator

I think we are often confused by the term "spiritual gifts." When we use that term, do we mean only a select few gifts like teaching, preaching, healing, and others in that vein? Or can our understanding of what a spiritual gift is, be expanded from rigid lists the original authors never intended to be exhaustive?

Rob Bell, a minister at Mars Hill Bible Church in Grand Rapids has a long talk which he titles, "Everything is Spiritual". He is not saying that everything (rocks, trees, etc.) has a spirit, but rather, all of our actions (or inactions) have a spiritual dynamic to them.

In Paul's list of gifts in 1 Corinthians 12, he includes apostleship, teaching, and healing, but then he includes those able to help others and those with gifts of administration. A gift of administration seems like an everyday sort of skill, and to deny that it is given by God would be silly. Here, Paul encourages those who have a particular skill set (one could argue ANY particular skill set) to use those skills for God.

1 Peter 4:11 says, "If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very word of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

Preaching, teaching, praying, knitting, stocking the food pantry, (stocking someone else's pantry) are all gifts, and thus, are all spiritual gifts. What are your gifts? Are you using them in order to give praise to God? If not, start today!

-Phil



Prayer Partners—thank God for you and your willingness to pray daily for your student(s). **Please tell your partner that you are praying for him/her daily.**



C.M. Gilbert, 76, Gilbert's grandfather, died Wednesday, Sept. 22, in Louisiana. Gilbert conducted his funeral on Friday. Our

sincere sympathies to Gilbert, his grandmother Polly, mother, Connie, and her sisters, Sandy and Pat.



Dear family,
Thank you so much for the heartfelt cards, blue cards, emails and text messages. The flowers from the church were very beautiful. My family has received so much love and support during this difficult time. My grandfather was a very special man, and it was an honor for me to perform his funeral ceremony. I was able to make it through that service because of your prayers. Thank you. *—Gilbert Kerrigan*

Attention Senior Servants

Reminder: with 5 Wednesdays in September, remember to come to Golden Corral, 11:30 AM, for lunch on September 29. Bring someone with you!

September 19, 2010
Class: 205 Worship: 351
Contribution: \$5,522



Upcoming Women's Ministry Events

October 1-2....Women's Fall Retreat, Ross camp; sign up now!
November 6....Women's Appreciation Luncheon (for all women)

The **Women's Fall Retreat is October 1-2 at Ross Camp.** A sign up list is posted in the Farris foyer and the cost is now \$30. You are encouraged to stay the night as the cost is the same whether you stay overnight or not.

Elmwood Variety Show Callout for Women's Retreat

Friday evening, October 1 around 8:00 PM
Ross Camp A-frame, emceed by Barb Newberry

Laughter and music will chase away our blues and be good "medicine" for the stress in our lives. Thus, to complement the theme of our retreat this year, we'll have the first ever Elmwood Variety Show during the Friday evening fellowship time at the retreat. Please consider volunteering—the sky's the limit for what you and your friends may choose to entertain us. The only requirement is that we lift up one another in Christian fellowship. Tell a joke...sing a song...play an instrument ...act out a skit, etc. Let Barb Newberry know what your "act" is so we can prepare a schedule, or you may respond to committee members, Lynia Coates, Angela Asbill, Reagan LePage, Armilda Follick, or Terri Miller. There is a sign-up sheet on the women's bulletin board as well.



Once again we want to remind all women of **game night** at Hedi Devine's home (715 Noble Ct., West Lafayette) this **Friday, September 24, 6:00 PM.** Hedi will provide food and fun!

Dovie Hurst fell last week and broke her collar bone and cracked a rib. After being at Creasy Springs for a few days, she was taken to Clarian Arnett Hospital for different health problems. She is in room 504....**John Marks** will have arthroscopic knee surgery this Friday....**Debbie Minix**, a friend of the Henkes, will have knee surgery this Wednesday in Indianapolis....Continue praying for **Mike Shirley, Linda Bilyeu (lung transplant), Diann Doty, Beth Holt, Vickie Sanders, Janet Achor, Kaden Koebecke, Gilbert Eavey, Charles & Carolyn Moore, Clifford and Betty Farner, John Ruckh, Bill Gibson, Dorothy Walters, Jan Lucas, Sandy Towle, Wanita White, Joe Erwin, Valley Stockton, Delores Hill, Willie & Calvin Batts, Connie & Ken Nicholson, Annie & Elaine Crowder, Hattie Coffel, Henrietta Frampton, Eugene Zinn, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, and Argie Verett.**



In the military: **Tim Beghtol** is in Afghanistan....**Josh Martin**, nephew of Phyllis Simmerman, and **Matthew Kauffman** are serving in Iraq. **Joe Newman** is in Chicago in Naval training. **Michael Flynn** is now home! Praise God for his safe tour of duty in Iraq.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 9.25 Bonfire Blast, 5-10p @ hodes farm
Sunday 9.26 Service Project Sunday, 12n @ church
Saturday 10.09 Common Ground, 7-10p @ casteel casa
Friday 10.22 Corn Maze Craze, meet 6p @ church

THINGS PONDERED

Fresh Faith

On Sunday mornings, we're studying our church vision: knowing Christ and making Christ known. The middle school class is focusing on the "knowing Christ" part, and we're spending several weeks talking about the things we believe as Christians. This week, we talked about believing God is who He says He is. It's related to what we're talking about on Wednesday nights about identity. How do you know I am Danae? Either because I tell you I am or perhaps because you've seen my identification. So, how do we know who God is? Because of what He tells us about Himself in His Word! And we have the choice of whether to actively believe Him or not. Going through the Scriptures and reading what God has to say about Himself is very rewarding. I was humbled throughout the process and reminded of what a great God we serve. He is God, LORD, Creator, Father, Shepherd, Judge, Provider, Redeemer, and the great I AM. And that is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg! We need to be reminded of these things. There is a reason that nearly every time God addresses the Israelites or a person in the Bible, He begins, "I am the LORD your God..." and lists the things He's done for them. We tend to forget unless it's kept in front of us. By exploring Scripture in preparation for the youth class, I experienced a renewal of fresh faith in my God. Of course, I believe in God, and I believe His Word, but sometimes you can come to a greater awareness and conviction that increase your faith. I encourage you to take time this week to read a few verses about Him, and let Him work in you the same way. He is Faithful, so you won't be disappointed!

"Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture" [Psalm 100:3].

— *danae*

PRACTICAL ASSET TIP

Make an effort to talk to one youth member about how they are doing with school, activities, friends, & life. Even small talk goes a long ways toward building relationships and self-esteem!

LIFE Groups Began!

LIFE Groups resumed last Sunday night! Lots of good fellowship, getting acquainted with new members, and food was shared by all. You can join a group at any time and are encouraged to come enjoy the fellowship and grow closer to one another and closer to God. **And**, if you haven't signed up to be in a LIFE group, it's not too late. You will be blessed by the experience.

Youth & Family Minister Candidate

We hope you will consider submitting your comments about Aaron Scott in writing (paper or electronic) to any member of the search team. You may submit e-comments to wvbelle@gmail.com. Additionally we would like you to make a comparison between the candidates, Mike Miles and Aaron Scott, indicating what differences you noticed and which candidate you believe fits better at Elmwood or whether either candidate is a good fit here.



The **food pantry** is always in need of personal items: **shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and especially toilet paper.** The food pantry is having many new families come each week and with cold weather coming, there will continue to be many people in need of food. Anything you donate is such a big help and much appreciated.



- September 22, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
- September 24, 6:00 PM....game night at Hedi Devine's
- September 25....**Matrix Lifeline Pregnancy Center**
5 K walk + run for life; registration begins at 8:00 AM at St. Elizabeth East, walk + run begins at 8:30 AM; call the church office for more info
- September 25, 5-10 PM....Youth Bonfire + lots of activities at Hodges' farm, 4088 Ridgefield Ct., West Lafayette
- September 26....LIFE Groups
- October 1-2.....Women's Fall Retreat at Ross Camp
- October 3, 10:30 AM....Great Communion service, Harrison High School
- October 3, 2:30-3:30 PM....LIFE CHAIN for Pro-Life; join others in a chain that will begin at S.R. 26 from Lafayette Courthouse and reach across to Purdue to support the pro-life movement

Read:
 Hebrews 5-7; Num. 29-32;
 2 Chron. 11-15; Ps. 117-118;
 Prov. 28; Jonah; Acts 3-4

2010 Spiritual Adventures

Week 40: October 3-9

“They sought God eagerly and He was found by them” 2 Chronicles 15:15

The scripture reading taken from 2 Chronicles 14, regarding King Asa of Judah, is inspiring to me. An additional story of Asa can also be found in I Kings Chapter 15 starting with verse 9. As we read the Old Testament stories of the kings, we find that some are good, some are evil, some are kings for many years and some reign for a few days. We see in chapter 14 verse 2; “Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God.”

King Asa got rid of all the ruffraff of Judah, including his grandmother. When I say ruffraff I am referring to all the detestable things that God is saddened by when we insert these “idols” into our lives replacing Him. Asa intently followed Gods directions for most of his reign until the 35th year.

We find in chapter 15 when the Spirit of God came upon Azariah and He said “Listen to me, the Lord is with you when you are with Him, if you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, he will forsake you.” Later on after Azariah had spoken with Asa through the Spirit of God we find King Asa “took courage.” In my words, he was jubilant; he was compelled to further his removal of all the ruffraff. We later read that Judah took an oath. Scripture says they rejoiced about the oath because they had “sworn it wholeheartedly.” “They sought God eagerly and He was found by them.”

I am very inspired that these followers of God wholeheartedly and eagerly sought God. Our God we serve today is that very same Mighty and Faithful God being sought during the reign of King Asa. The very same statement Azariah made to Asa, “The Lord is with you when you are with Him, if you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you,” remains for us today.

We must continue to wholeheartedly seek God and eagerly serve Him and we will find Him and see His smiling face. I am praying for all of you to continue to wholeheartedly and eagerly seek our Mighty Loving God. **-Kevin & Marilyn Walters**

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 Joe Ruhl 463-7012 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653 Staff Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Phil Travis 743-0954 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.		

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