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"WALKING A LIFE OF PASSION AND PURPOSE FOR JESUS CHRIST"

PASTOR KIRK WERNER 2131 East Governor John Sevier Highway Knoxville, TN 37920 (865) 573-8684 Volume 15, Issue 3, March 2019

Friends and Family of Gross Walk,

I have really been enjoying our Bible study on Sunday evenings as we examine the book of Ephesians. What a rich and deeply profound epistle. It is great to share with one another the riches found in God's Word.

Recently we reflected on the words of Paul in Ephesians 3:10-11 "His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God intends for His church to be the instrument that communicates His wisdom to His world! You are an integral part of His plan! As probably most of you know by now, I am retiring this year. My last Sunday in the pulpit will be June 30, 2019. We first met together as CrossWalk Community Church on December 5, 2004. In many respects our time together has sped by so quickly. My goal as your pastor is summed up quite well in Chapter 4 of Ephesians verses 11-13 "It was He (the Lord) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

My responsibility as your pastor has been to prepare and equip you for ministry. Relying on His grace He has enabled me to do this according to His calling. We are very fortunate to have elders who have a heart for service and ministry. Please regularly pray for them as they lead this congregation. I am excited about new possibilities and the plans that God has for CrossWalk.

There are great opportunities before you. I ask that you commit yourselves to building up this body of Christ and doing all within your ability to promote the unity, purity and peace of His church. Just a few verses down we find this exhortation from Paul (4:15-16) "...speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

> Your pastor & brother in the Lord, Kirk



Messages for the Month

March **03**, 2019 – Luke **9:28 - 36** "A Glimpse of His Glory" Transfiguration Sunday – Communion

March 10, 2019 – Romans 10:8b - 13 - "Confess and Believe" – 1st Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2019 – Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 - "An Example to Emulate" – 2nd Sunday in Lent

March 24, 2019 – Isaiah 55:1 - 9 – "Come...Listen...Repent" - 3rd Sunday in Lent

March **31**, 2019 – 2 Corinthians 5:16 - 21 – "The Proper Perspective" - 4th Sunday in Lent

<u>Our Staff</u>

Pastor: Kirk Werner

Music Director: Trey Lister

Class of 2019: John Carson, Courtney Scollard & Maurice Briere

Class of 2020:

Carol Jordan, Jim Slyman & Maurice Brier

Class of 2021:

John Morton, Matt Peterson & Greg Waldrop



BIRTHDAYS





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L.J. Olafson – 6th Patrick Fletcher – 13th Dawn Briere – 22nd Jim Slyman – 24th Courtney Scollard - 29th





Maurice & Dawn Briere 10th Mike & Karen Walkup 15th







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NURSERY SCHEDULE

March 03: Laine Donnell & Wanda Wayman March 10: Carol Jordan & Karen McMurray March 17: Dawn Briere & Chelsea Peterson March 24: Carol Jordan & Gwen Davis March 31 Laine Donnell & Susan Fletcher

KIDS CROSSING

with Lisa Brummett
March 03: Brad Brummett
March 10: Lindsay Rosa
March 17: Jeremy Cecil
March 24: Brad Brummett
March 31: Jim Odle



It is flu and virus time and there is a need for *disinfectant sprays*, *disinfectant wipes* and *tissues* for those runny noses.

New Hopewell is a low-income school and there are children who are unable to get to school on time and come to school without breakfast. The office would appreciate breakfast foods like **breakfast bars** and **pop tarts** type foods to give to these children to tide them over until school lunch.

It is easy to help this school by picking up some of these items when you shop. The teachers and staff pay for these supplies out of their own pockets. The school funds do not cover these items. The supplies do not have to be name brand items and *your help would be greatly appreciated*. Please place them in the **blue tub** at the rear of the church. Thank you again, for your help.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CrossWalk Café



Our next Cafe' will be *March 3, 2019*. It's "*All Things March*" as we celebrate a variety of things. March begins with *National Pig Day* on the first, thus our meat will be pork, followed by *National Pi Day* (Pi being the Greek letter symbolizing the diameter of a circle) so perhaps bring a pie! And lastly, but certainly not least, *St. Patrick's Day* is the 17th, Potatoes were in limited supply during the great Irish potato famine, but they won't be in short supply for our cafe. Hopefully there will also be some green veggies on the menu.

So, plan on joining us for a fun time as we enjoy some great food and fellowship around the table!



THANK YOU...KUDOS...APPLAUSE!!!



The session would like to say THANK YOU to all families for your service on the Refreshment Ministry Team. When you join the church, you are assigned to this team, as we feel it is a ministry that all can participate in. You are paired with another family and given one month (every $1 \frac{1}{2} - 2$ years) to provide Sunday morning refreshments. Most teams take two weeks each; others share in the entire month. It is up to you. Please remember that you are NOT responsible for providing breakfast for everyone. This is just a light refreshment to have with coffee or juice. (Coffee is provided by the church.) What the teams provide is their gift to the church in service to our Lord. Be sure and show your gratitude... We are certainly grateful to each of you!!!

*The teams are posted on the bulletin board for the year and printed 3 months ahead in the newsletter, so that you can plan ahead.

SUNDAY MORNING **Refreshment Schedule**

March 2019

Diana & Bill Hawk 577-5392 Laura & Rusty Spargo 850-2827

April 2019

Carol Jordan 573-8679 Laine Donnell 681-7117 Cathy Tolbert 274-0889

May 2019

Nancye & Rusty Esch 977-4229 Betty & Frank Clepper 573-8784





CrossWalk family, if you see a need to replenish coffee supplies such as coffee, hot/cold cups, paper towels, kitchen dish soap or men's/women's room supplies, please let us know by; (1) noting what is needed on the bulletin board in the kitchen for refreshment supplies and (2) noting on the rest room listing in the rest rooms so that supplies can be replenished before they are completely out. If you have questions, please contact Judy Campbell or Sue Werner. Thank you!



Family Promise 2019 Schedule

So that you can go ahead and get the dates on your calendars, the weeks that we will be supporting First Baptist Knoxville are as follows:

March 24-31 July 21-28 September 29-October 6 December 8-15



March 24-31 is our Support Week for First Baptist Knoxville. We will be providing dinner one night and they are always looking for overnight hosts.

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Family Promise is always accepting gently used household items such as furniture, towels, kitchen items (plates, utensils, kitchen gadgets, etc.). So, think of them as you do your spring cleaning!!!

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If you would like to be added to the Family Promise email list, please let *Courtney Scollard* know. *Thank you!*



Photo Studio

As announced a few weeks ago in church, we are going to be taking pictures for the new **church directory**. The schedule is listed below. *If you cannot do it on the week you are scheduled, please contact me at* **425-466-3995**. We will arrange another time. If you have not yet submitted your information sheet, please do so as soon as possible so you can be included in the directory.

Pictures will be taken after church. You will be asked to review your information sheet at that time also, just to be sure nothing has changed.

March 17	Last name A thru C
March 24	Last name D thru K
March 31	Last name L thru P
No pictures on	April 7 due to Crosswalk Café.
April 14	Last name \mathbf{Q} thru \mathbf{Z}

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

In His service, Becky Baker

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Have you checked out our website lately? It's a great way to introduce people to our church. Navigate through the site and see pictures of church events, a calendar of events, and the weekly messages are catalogued in the media section. This is a helpful tool in keeping informed and a good resource to refer to your friends. The web address is **www.crosswalkepc.org**.



CHURCH CLEANING COMMITTEE

March 6 – March 9 – Mike & Karen Walkup March 13 – March 16 – Mike & Karen Walkup March 20 – March 23 – Rhett & Donna Carter March 27 – March 30 – Rhett & Donna Carter



If you use the church <u>during the week</u>, please, be sure to take your trash with you when you leave – especially food waste.



I'M A CHRISTIAN

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- I AM NOT PERFECT -
- I MAKE MISTAKES -
 - I MESS UP -

BUT GOD'S GRACE IS BIGGER

THAN MY SINS

Greg Laurie, Senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship

I heard the story of a man who had been down on his luck and was desperate to make a little money. After a few other doors had closed to him, he had the idea of going to the city zoo, hoping to land a job feeding the animals. The manager at the zoo had no openings, but seeing how big this guy was, he offered him another position.

"Say," he said, "Our gorilla died the other day, and he was one of our most popular exhibits. If we got you a special gorilla suit, would you put it on and imitate him for a few days, until the new gorilla arrives? We'll pay you well for it!"

The man was so desperate for work he agreed. In fact, after a few hours, he really got into the part—beating his chest and shaking the bars. Huge crowds were gathering. Maybe this won't be so bad after all, he told himself.

But one day, he was swinging on a trapeze and lost his grip. His momentum carried him right over a tall chain-link fence into the middle of the lion's den. Looking up at this intruder in his domain, the huge lion gave a ferocious roar. The crowds were mesmerized.

What was the gorilla to do? If he cried out for help, it would reveal his true identity. He slowly walked backward away from the lion, hoping to climb the fence back into his own cage. The lion, however, with a hungry look on his face, began to stalk him step by step. Finally, in desperation, the gorilla hollered, "Help!" Immediately the lion answered in an annoyed whisper, "Shut up, stupid! You'll get us both fired!" You see ... things aren't always as they appear! There are many people today who claim to be Christians—who may even think they are Christians—but they are not.

What Does Being a Christian Really Mean?

It's clear that many people really don't have a grasp on what it means to be a believer. Do you? Are you one? Are you sure? What exactly is a Christian? Are you born that way? If not, how exactly do you become one?

Let's look together at some clear biblical principles about what must happen as a result of someone truly finding Jesus Christ as his or her personal Lord and Savior.

When you ask someone if he or she is Christian, one of the most common responses you get back is, "Of course I'm a Christian. I go to church, don't I?" That's like saying I am a golfer because I own a set of golf clubs. Or I'm a surfer because I own a pair of board shorts. Listen, to be a golfer you need to golf; to be a surfer you must surf; and to be a Christian you need to walk with God! Don't All Roads Lead to God?

Now you might ask, "Why is it so important that I be a Christian, anyway? Don't all roads basically lead to God?" Not according to Jesus! Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

Only Jesus Christ—and no other—died on the cross for your sins. Only He promises you the hope of Heaven. Jesus essentially said the only way you can be certain your sins are forgiven and to know you will spend eternity in Heaven is by putting your complete trust in Him. And there will be tangible results to show you have done that. Don't misunderstand me, I am not suggesting that X amount of good works makes you a Christian. Far from it. In fact, all the good works on Earth will not save you.

The Bible says, "**He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit**" (Titus 3:5, NLT).

This, in fact, is one of the main things that sets apart Christianity from all other world religions. All other religious systems essentially say Do: "Do this and you will have good karma, or you will get to Heaven, or paradise, or nirvana." In contrast, Jesus Christ says, "Done!" That's what it meant when He cried out on the cross, saying, "It is finished." The transaction is complete. The price has been paid.

It's What's Inside That Counts

If you were to ask "the man on the street" what one must do to be a Christian, he would probably say: "Believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Believe in miracles, Heaven and hell. Go to church, pray, read the Bible and keep the Ten Commandments. And oh yeah—probably be baptized. And start living a good life."

I am going to make a statement that may be shocking to you: You can do all those things and not necessarily be a Christian! Don't get me wrong; if you are a true Christian you should do all those things. You see, the outward change is often without the inward. However, the inward change is never without the outward.

Let's take a closer look at some of the elements of this "outward-inward" phenomenon. A person may pray and still not be a Christian. Most of us pray when we're in trouble. But when the crisis blows over, what then? God said of Israel, "**These people draw near to Me with their mouths and honor Me with their lips but have removed their hearts far from Me**" (Isaiah 29:13). You may pray with all the passion and regularity in the world, but if you have not admitted to God that you are a sinner, lost without Him; if you have not sought His forgiveness and salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ, it won't do you any good. The psalmist wrote: "**If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me**." (Psalm 66:18, KJV).

A person may make visible changes in life and still not be a Christian. People will "get converted" to get what they want. A non-Christian guy asks an attractive and virtuous Christian girl out on a date. But she turns him down, saying, "Sorry, I only date Christians." Suddenly, the nonbeliever is saying, "Oh ... praise God! I'm really into this Christian thing, too." Probably not! And it will only be a matter of time before the mask falls off and his true motives are revealed. You can live a good life, be religious and even keep the Ten Commandments to the best of your ability and still not be a Christian. Think for a moment of the account of the Rich Young Ruler in the Gospels. One of the accounts tells us that he came to Jesus and said, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" Jesus told him, "If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." And then the Lord told him which ones. The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" (See Matthew 19:16–21.)

Look how far this earnest young man had gone. He not only heard the commands of God, he kept them. And he had done it since childhood! But he didn't go far enough—he stopped short of following Jesus.The story concludes with the young man turning his back on the Lord and walking away sadly. And there is no record that he ever came back to Jesus.

So, let's summarize. The outward without the inward is only an empty shell. You can pray, believe in miracles, hear the Gospel and even believe in its truth, and still not be a Christian. You can live an exemplary life, be religious and keep the commandments of God from earliest memory and still not be a Christian. You can be in church with other believers, hear the same message, receive communion, and even believe that Jesus is coming back—and still not be a Christian.

Who Then Is a Christian?

The real question before us is one that man has been asking for years. The Philippian jailer put it so clearly when he cried out, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul's response was significant, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Fine. But what does "believing" actually mean? The Bible says that even the demons from hell believe, and tremble at what they know very well to be true (James 2:19). Here are the essential elements of the Good News that we must believe and receive to become a born-again child of God:

Realize You Are a Sinner

Romans 3:23 tells us, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." In other words, sin

has infiltrated the human race, and not one of us has escaped its effects. The Bible says that prior to coming to faith, we are dead in our trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). The Greek word used here for "sins" is *hamartia's*— "to miss the mark." It was a term used in archery. This phrase came to represent missing or falling short of any goal, standard or purpose.

No human being in his or her own strength has hit that mark. Some of us may miss the bull's eye farther than others, but not one of us has hit it. Why? Because God's "mark" is absolute, total, complete, flawless perfection! Jesus said, "**Be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect**" (Matthew 5:48).

Repent of Your Sins

To repent means to "change" or to "turn." It's like driving down the highway, pulling a U-turn and heading the other direction. More than simply being sorry, it is a word of action. Many people feel remorse for their sin but never truly repent. Remorse is being sorry; repentance is being sorry enough to stop.

In the story of the Prodigal Son, the young man knew he was wrong. But nothing changed until he acted on that knowledge, crawled out of the pigpen and started down the road toward his father and home. He had a change of mind that resulted in a change of direction.

Believe in and Receive Jesus Christ Into Your Life

The Bible says, "But as many as received Him [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12). Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

This is because you realize that Jesus Christ is the very Son of God. He is the One who loves you so much that He died on a cross for you 2,000 years ago to pay the penalty for your sin, and then rose from the dead three days later. You need to believe

that and ask Him into your life. Do it Now! Good intentions are not enough. Agreeing with what I have said here is not enough. You must admit you are a sinner, repent of that sin, and put your faith in Christ.

The prodigal son could have repeated the words, "I am no longer worthy" over and over. He could have said it the rest of his life and still remained in the far country, separated from his father and home. But he did more than repeat those words. He acted on them. He got up and started walking. You must do the same.

When? The Bible says, "Now is the day of salvation." As with the prodigal, that first step might be a difficult one to make. But how glad he was when he felt his father's arms around him and heard the words, "Welcome home."







FAMILY PROMISE OF KNOXVILLE NEEDS YOUR HELP!! CLEAN UP DAY AT THE DAY CENTER

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THE HOUSE

SATURDAY, APRIL 6 9am-3pm

Snacks will be provided **Great Community Service Opportunity**

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