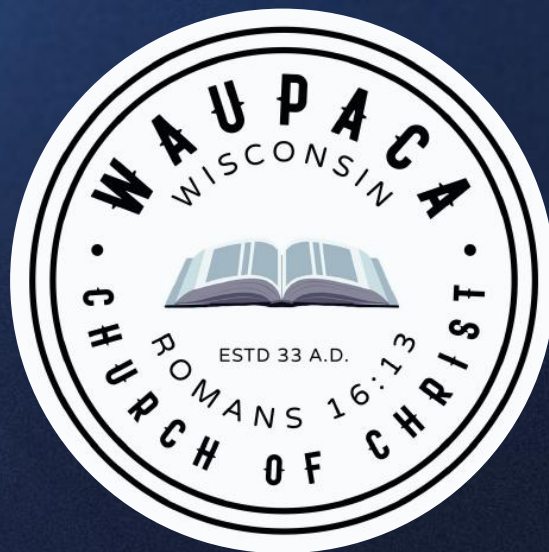



A HOLY CALLING



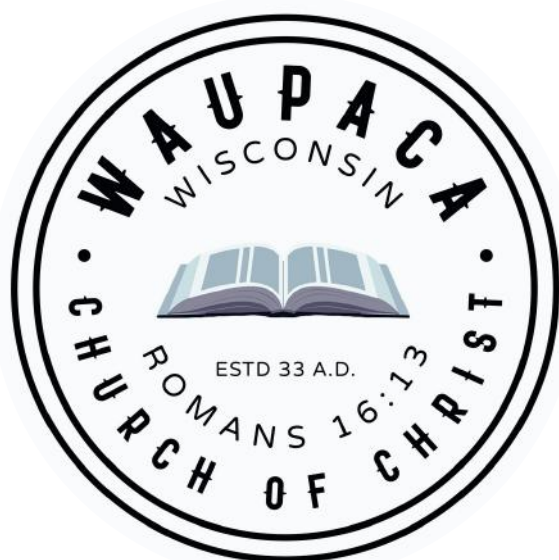
“who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,”



2 TIMOTHY 1:9
VISION 2024

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“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and **called us with a holy calling**, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,”
- 2 Tim. 1:8-9



A HOLY
CALLING

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— 2 Peter 1:12-13

Elder's Message

In Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy, we are reminded not to be ashamed of our Lord but to remember that by the power of God, He has saved us "and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." (2Tim 1:8-9) This calling comes from our God, who is holy, and it is a call for us to be holy as we read in 1 Peter 1:15; "But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation."

The elders have been working with Ed and have determined to make our holy calling a central theme for 2024. It is our firm belief that if we implement this theme into every aspect of our lives as individuals, families, and the body of Christ, we will all grow stronger in the faith, be more dedicated to God, and better able to evangelize in the lives of those around us.

Ed will preach lessons throughout the year that touch on our holy calling. We will be asking our announcers to remind us from time to time to consider our holy calling. We ask that our Bible class teachers incorporate this concept into our studies whenever possible. Parents are encouraged to bring this theme into our homes in every area of our lives: discussions around the dinner table, bible lesson preparations, and attending all bible classes. (Phil 1:27, Dt 6:4-9)



"Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder..." -
2 Peter 1:12-13



Romans 8 is a great chapter that covers several areas of our Holy Calling. vs.28, 30.

1. Transition from walking after the flesh to walking after the Spirit.
2. Putting to death the fleshly body and taking on the spiritual body.
3. The troubles we go through in this life will be insignificant to the glory we receive in heaven.
4. The Spirit of God makes intercession for us.
5. If God is for us, who can be against us?
6. Nothing but ourselves can separate us from the blessings of the Love of God.

As we move forward into the new year, it's essential to keep our focus on serving God, building up our fellow believers, and sharing the message of salvation with those who have yet to hear it. May the Lord guide and bless us in all our efforts to glorify Him.

Vision 2024

In 2024, our theme will be a "Holy Calling." Our focus will be on truly understanding who God is and responding with the reverence He deserves.

We want to equip everyone with the spiritual tools to refute the claims of those who would deny God as the True Creator or deny the Biblical record of the flood or the age of the earth. We want our children to have the confidence of the Scriptures engrained in their hearts so they can withstand the onslaught of the teaching from their friends, social media, schools, universities, television, and the 30-second online news clips.

We will study the fundamental truths in God's Word from the Genesis account of Creation, marriage, the sanctity of life, the promise of the Messiah, and eternal life in heaven. We believe that a balanced and sound teaching from God's Word in our Bible classes, pulpit, and homes will enable us to achieve this goal. As Peter divinely spoke, "seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence." (2 Peter 1:3)

- In the **first quarter of the year** (January - March), our focus will be on better understanding and verifying the evidence supporting the existence of God, as well as confirming the accuracy of the Biblical record.
- During the **Second Quarter** (April-June), we will explore David's questions in Psalm 8:4, "Why are you mindful of me?" The Psalmist's words are confounding as he contemplates the vast expanse of God's glorious creative handiwork, where God spoke time, space, and matter into being through the might of His power and wisdom. Despite the indescribable greatness of our Heavenly Father, humankind plays an insignificant and inconsequential role. We are dead in our sin, at enmity with God, and without hope in the world. This presents a sharp contrast to the majesty of His glory and the depth of His wisdom. Yet, God has an intimate interest in each one of us. He has a dear desire that none should perish but that all should come to saving faith in Jesus Christ.
- During the **Third Quarter** (July - September), we will explore the experiences of individuals whose lives were transformed when they discovered God. We will delve into how they were summoned to consider the price of following Jesus, the hurdles they had to overcome to remain steadfast, and the difficulties they encountered as they strived to add to their faith and "be holy for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16)

As we approach **the end of the year** (October - December), we will focus on discovering ways to attain holiness, just as He is holy, as outlined in 1 Peter 1:15-16 and 2 Timothy 1:9.

-continued - Vision 2024

We must take a firm stance and confidently declare that God is alive. It's crucial that we also caution our nation to return to Him if we wish to receive His ongoing blessings.

We are excited about the Vision Plan for 2024. We earnestly hope you will extend your support and embrace all we have planned for the coming year. Please join us in prayer for our nation to return to God and treat Him with the utmost reverence and respect, as He is truly worthy of it. Our top priority is the preaching of the Gospel and, well-being of the church and our families. We humbly ask for your prayers.

- The Elders

Preacher's Message: A Preacher of Human Responsibility

Four Scenarios Presented By
God: Ezekiel 3

"Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me." (Ezekiel 3:17). Ezekiel was appointed to be a watchman to a people who would not only ignore the warnings of destruction, they would outright reject God and His prophet.

At the beginning of Ezekiel's appointment, he refused to be God's mouthpiece and chose to sit quietly among the people (Eze. 1:28-3:15). Finally, God made it clear that Ezekiel's stubbornness was a matter of life or death, he would have to make a decision. Would Ezekiel continue to be a watchman like the ones spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, "His watchmen are blind, "All of them know nothing. All of them are mute dogs unable to bark, Dreamers lying down, who love to slumber;" (Is. 56:10); or would he make the right choice and speak on behalf of the Lord?

At Ezekiel's appointment, Israel was in captivity because of their rebelliousness. They had stiffened their necks, wagged their fingers at God, and refused to do what God commanded them. "And I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen.'" (Jer. 6:17) They had abandoned the covenant they had made with God of being holy and faithful and of never departing His Word - "and all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do!" (Ex. 24:3).

Israel's spiritual downfall can be traced to one point in history: disobedience to completely possessing the Promised Land. They chose rather to do what they thought was right and not what God commanded them was right. By not completely possessing the Promised Land, they compromised their relationship with God and contributed to their children's spiritual destruction. (Joshua 13:1-7; Judges 1:28¹; Deuteronomy 31:16-17²; Joshua 23:16³)

"When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand"
- Ezekiel 3:18

A Preacher of Human Responsibility

Four Scenarios Presented By
God: Ezekiel 3

For 2024, the elders and I have prayed for wisdom and guidance in proclaiming the oracles of God. (1 Peter 4:11⁴). It is our firm conviction that God has called all of His children to a higher calling (Mk. 10:45⁵), a higher standard of spiritual living (2 Cor. 6:17⁶), and to be holy for He is holy (1 Peter 1:14-16⁷). Each quarter will focus on a scenario presented to Ezekiel in the 3rd chapter relating to his and the congregation's responsibility and holiness. May God bless our efforts in 2024 and equip us to remain faithful, add to our faith, become stronger in the Lord, and answer the call to be holy. Onward and upward!

Footnotes:

1. "It came about when Israel became strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but they did not drive them out completely."
2. "The Lord said to Moses, "Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers; and this people will arise and play the harlot with the strange gods of the land, into the midst of which they are going, and will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them. Then My anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide My face from them, and they will be consumed, and many evils and troubles will come upon them; so that they will say in that day, 'Is it not because our God is not among us that these evils have come upon us?'"
3. "When you transgress the covenant of the Lord your God, which He commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, then the anger of the Lord will burn against you, and you will perish quickly from off the good land which He has given you."
4. "Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever."
5. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
6. "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you."
7. "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."



"When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand"

- Ezekiel 3:18

Changes and Goals for 2024

Preacher



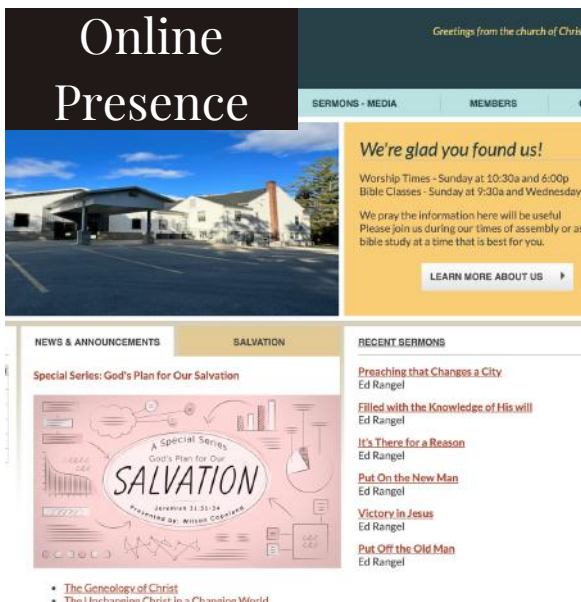
During the end of 2023, the church welcomed Ed, Jeny, and their family to join the work at Waupaca. Ed brings many years of preaching experience and a great desire to preach the Gospel within the community.

Community Outreach



Waupaca has become more culturally diverse over the last few years. We plan to fulfill our commission to take advantage of every opportunity within the community and preach the Gospel.

Online Presence



Our online presence will increase and make it easier for people to locate our spiritual resources. The goal is to generate more Bible study.

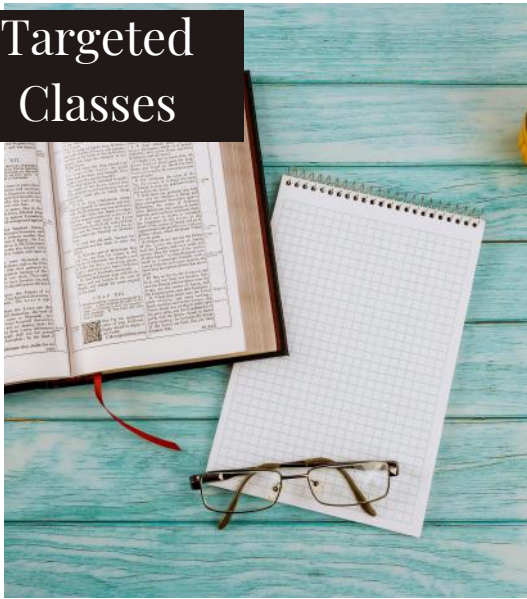
Leadership Development



We are aware of a constant need for church leadership development and acknowledge our responsibility to cultivate it within the local church. Our goal for 2024 is to develop young men and women for the church's future. We plan to do this through one-on-one and group mentorship and classes. (Eph. 4:11-24)

Changes and Goals for 2024

Targeted Classes



On Friday mornings, a special Bible study called "Equipping the Saints" is offered for everyone. Every other Thursday, a ZOOM class is taught by one of the elders. On Sunday evenings, between worship services, another class is offered. See schedule for times, dates, and topics.

Summer Gospel Meeting



We welcome all to attend a series of lessons to be presented by Mike Wilson, a gospel preacher from Santa Clara, CA, on how the Word was passed down and transcribed and how Scripture came to life in the pages of the Bible. This will be a great community outreach opportunity.

Children's Bible Classes



It's imperative to prioritize attending all Bible classes and Worship services. We encourage you to bring your children as well, providing them with the necessary tools to secure their spiritual future. As the proverbial saying goes, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Be Holy



To become holy as God is holy. "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy." (Lev. 19:2)



Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 1 Gen 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 8 Job 17-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 15 Job 40-42	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 22 Gen 30-31	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 29 Gen 48-50
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 2 Gen 4-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 9 Job 21-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 16 Gen 12-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 23 Gen 32-34	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 30 Ex 1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 3 Gen 8-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 10 Job 24-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 17 Gen 16-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 24 Gen 35-37	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 31 Ex 4-6
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 4 Job 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 11 Job 29-31	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 18 Gen 19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 25 Gen 38-40	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 1 Ex 7-9
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 5 Job 6-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 12 Job 32-34	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 19 Gen 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 26 Gen 41-42	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 2 Ex 10-12
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 6 Job 10-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 13 Job 35-37	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 20 Gen 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 27 Gen 43-45	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 3 Ex 13-15
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 7 Job 14-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 14 Job 38-39	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 21 Gen 27-29	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan 28 Gen 46-47	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 4 Ex 16-18

Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 5 Ex 19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 12 Ex 39-40	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 19 Lev 19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 26 Num 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 5 Num 23-25	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 12 Deut 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 19 Deut 24-27
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 6 Ex 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 13 Lev 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 20 Lev 22-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 27 Num 8-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 6 Num 26-27	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 13 Deut 5-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 20 Deut 28-29
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 7 Ex 25-27	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 14 Lev 5-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 21 Lev 24-25	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 28 Num 11-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 7 Num 28-30	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 14 Deut 8-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 21 Deut 30-31
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 8 Ex 28-29	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 15 Lev 8-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 22 Lev 26-27	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 1 Num 14-15, Ps 90	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 8 Num 31-32	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 15 Deut 11-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 22 Deut 32-34, Ps 91
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<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 10 Ex 33-35	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 17 Lev 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 24 Num 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 3 Num 18-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 10 Num 35-36	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 17 Deut 17-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 24 Josh 5-8
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 11 Ex 36-38	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 18 Lev 16-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 25 Num 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 4 Num 21-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 11 Deut 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 18 Deut 21-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 25 Josh 9-11

Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16	Week 17	Week 18	Week 19
<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 26 Josh 12-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 2 Juddg 8-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 9 1 Sam 4-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 16 Ps 56, 120, 140-142	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 23 1 Chr 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 30 Ps 102-104	<input type="checkbox"/> May 7 2 Sam 7, 1 Chr 17
<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 27 Josh 16-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 3 Juddg 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 10 1 Sam 9-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 17 1 Sam 25-27	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 24 Ps 43-45, 49, 84-85, 87	<input type="checkbox"/> May 1 2 Sam 5:1-10, 1 Chr 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> May 8 Ps 25, 29, 33, 36, 39
<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 28 Josh 19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 4 Juddg 13-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 11 1 Sam 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 18 Psalms 17, 35, 54, 63	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 25 1 Chr 3-5	<input type="checkbox"/> May 2 Ps 133	<input type="checkbox"/> May 9 2 Sam 8-9, 1 Chr 18
<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 29 Josh 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 5 Juddg 16-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 12 1 Sam 15-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 19 1 Sam 28-31, Ps 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 26 Ps 73, Ps 77-78	<input type="checkbox"/> May 3 Ps 106-107	<input type="checkbox"/> May 10 Ps 50, 53, 60, 75
<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 30 Juddg 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 6 Juddg 19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 13 1 Sam 18-20, Ps 11, 59	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 20 Ps 121, 123-125, 128-130	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 27 1 Chr 6	<input type="checkbox"/> May 4 2 Sam 5:11-6:23, 1 Chr 13-16	<input type="checkbox"/> May 11 2 Sam 10, 1 Chr 19, Ps 20
<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 31 Juddg 3-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 7 Ruth 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 14 1 Sam 21-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 21 2 Sam 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 28 Ps 81, 88, 92-93	<input type="checkbox"/> May 5 Ps 1-2, 15, 22-24, 47, 68	<input type="checkbox"/> May 12 Ps 65-67, Ps 69-70
<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 1 Juddg 6-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 8 1 Sam 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 15 Ps 7, 27, 31, 34, 52	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 22 Ps 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21	<input type="checkbox"/> Apr 29 1 Chr 7-10	<input type="checkbox"/> May 6 Ps 89, 96, 100, 101, 105, 132	<input type="checkbox"/> May 13 2 Sam 11-12, 1 Chr 20

Week 20	Week 21	Week 22	Week 23	Week 24	Week 25	Week 26
<input type="checkbox"/> May 14 Ps 32, 51, 86, 122	<input type="checkbox"/> May 21 2 Sam 22-23, Ps 57	<input type="checkbox"/> May 28 Ps 111-118	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 4 Prov 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 11 1 Kgs 5-6, 2 Chr 2-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 18 Prov 27-29	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 25 1 Kgs 15:1-24, 2 Chr 13-16
<input type="checkbox"/> May 15 2 Sam 13-15	<input type="checkbox"/> May 22 Ps 85, Ps 97-99	<input type="checkbox"/> May 29 1 Kgs 1-2, Ps 37, 71, 94	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 5 Prov 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 12 1 Kgs 7, 2 Chr 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 19 Ecccl 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 26 1 Kgs 15:25-16:34, 2 Chr 17
<input type="checkbox"/> May 16 Ps 3-4, 12-13, 28, 55	<input type="checkbox"/> May 23 2 Sam 24, 1 Chr 21-22, Ps 30	<input type="checkbox"/> May 30 Ps 119:1-88	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 6 Prov 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 13 1 Kgs 8, 2 Chr 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 20 Ecccl 7-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 27 1 Kgs 17-19
<input type="checkbox"/> May 17 2 Sam 16-18	<input type="checkbox"/> May 24 Ps 108-110	<input type="checkbox"/> May 31 1 Kgs 3-4, 2 Chr 1, Ps 72	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 7 Prov 13-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 14 2 Chr 6-7, Ps 136	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 21 1 Kgs 10-11, 2 Chr 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 28 1 Kgs 20-21
<input type="checkbox"/> May 18 Ps 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64	<input type="checkbox"/> May 25 1 Chr 23-25	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 1 Ps 119:89-176	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 8 Prov 16-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 15 Ps 134, Ps 146-150	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 22 Prov 30-31	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 29 1 Kgs 22, 2 Chr 18
<input type="checkbox"/> May 19 2 Sam 19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> May 26 Ps 131, 138-139, 143-145	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 2 Song 1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 9 Prov 19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 16 1 Kgs 9, 2 Chr 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 23 1 Kgs 12-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 30 2 Chr 19-23
<input type="checkbox"/> May 20 Ps 5, 38, 41-42	<input type="checkbox"/> May 27 1 Chr 26-29, Ps 127	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 3 Prov 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 10 Prov 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 17 Prov 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/> Jun 24 2 Chr 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 1 Obad 1, Ps 82-83



Week 27	Week 28	Week 29	Week 30	Week 31
<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 22 Kgs 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 9 Isa 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 16 Isa 13-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 23 Isa 31-34	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 30 Isa 54-58
<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 3 2 Kgs 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 10 Isa 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 17 Isa 18-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 24 Isa 35-36	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 31 Isa 59-63
<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 4 2 Kgs 9-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 11 Amos 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 18 Isa 23-27	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 25 Isa 37-39, Ps 76	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 1 Isa 64-66
<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 5 2 Kgs 12-13, 2 Chr 24	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 12 Amos 6-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 19 2 Kgs 18:1-8, 2 Chr 29-31, Ps 48	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 26 Isa 40-43	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 2 2 Kgs 20-21
<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 6 2 Kgs 14, 2 Chr 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 13 2 Chr 27, Isa 9-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 20 Hos 1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 27 Isa 44-48	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 3 2 Chr 32-33
<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 7 Jonah 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 14 Mic 1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 21 Hos 8-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 28 2 Kgs 18:9-19:37, Ps 46, 80, 135	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 4 Nahum 1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 8 2 Kgs 15, 2 Chr 26	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 15 2 Chr 28, 2 Kgs 18-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 22 Isa 28-30	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul 29 Isa 49-53	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 5 2 Kgs 22-23, 2 Chr 34-35

Week 32	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35	Week 36	Week 37	Week 38
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 6 Zeph 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 13 Jer 23-25	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 20 Hab 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 27 Ezek 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 3 Ezek 22-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 10 Ezek 42-43	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 17 Dan 10-12
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 7 Jer 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 14 Jer 26-29	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 21 Jer 41-45	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 28 Ezek 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 4 Ezek 24-27	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 11 Ezek 44-45	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 18 Ezra 1-3
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<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 10 Jer 10-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 17 Jer 35-37	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 24 Jer 51-52	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 31 Ezek 16-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 7 Ezek 35-37	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 14 Dan 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 21 Zech 1-7
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 11 Jer 14-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 18 Jer 38-40, Ps 74, 79	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 25 Lam 1:1-3:36	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 1 Ezek 18-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 8 Ezek 38-39	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 15 Dan 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 22 Zech 8-14
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 12 Jer 18-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 19 2 Kgs 24-25, 2 Chr 36	<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 26 Lam 3:37-5:22	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 2 Ezek 20-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 9 Ezek 40-41	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 16 Dan 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 23 Est 1-5

Week 39	Week 40	Week 41	Week 42	Week 43	Week 44	Week 45
<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 24 Est 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 1 Luke 1, John 1:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 8 John 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 15 Matt 8:16-34, Mark 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 22 Matt 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 29 John 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 5 Matt 23, Luke 20-21
<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 25 Ezra 7-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 2 Matt 1, Luke 2:1-38	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 9 Matt 12:1-21, Mk 3, Luk 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 16 Matt 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 23 John 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 30 Luke 17:11-18:14	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 6 Mark 13
<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 26 Neh 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 3 Matt 2, Luke 2:39-52	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 10 Matt 5-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 17 Matt 14, Mk 6, Luk 8:1-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 24 John 9:1-10:21	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 31 Matt 19, Mark 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 7 Matt 24
<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 27 Neh 6-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 4 Matt 3, Mark 1, Luke 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 11 Matt 8:1-13, Luke 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 18 John 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 25 Luk 10-11, Jhn 10:22-42	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 1 Matt 20-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 8 Matt 25
<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 28 Neh 8-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 5 Matt 4, Luk 4-5, Jhn 11:5-51	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 12 Matt 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 19 Matt 15, Mark 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 26 Luke 12-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 2 Luke 18:15-19:48	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 9 Matt 26, Mark 14
<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 29 Neh 11-13, Ps 126	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 6 Jhn 2-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 13 Matt 12:22-50, Luke 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 20 Matt 16, Mk 8, Luk 9:18-27	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 27 Luke 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 3 Mark 11, John 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 10 Luke 22, John 13
<input type="checkbox"/> Sep 30 Mal 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 7 Mark 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 14 Matt 13, Luke 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 21 Matt 17, Mk 9, Luk 9:28-62	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 28 Luke 16-17:10	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 4 Matt 22, Mark 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 11 John 14-17

Week 46	Week 47	Week 48	Week 49	Week 50	Week 51	Week 52
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 12 Matt 27, Mark 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 19 Acts 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 26 Acts 17-18:18	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 3 1 Cor 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 10 Rom 1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 17 Phil 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 24 2 Tim 1-4
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 13 Luke 23, John 18-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 20 Acts 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 27 1 Thes 1-5, 2 Thes 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 4 2 Cor 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 11 Rom 14-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 18 1 Tim 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 25 2 Pet 1-3, Jude 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 14 Matt 28, Mark 16	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 21 Acts 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 28 Acts 18:19-19:41	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 5 2 Cor 5-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 12 Acts 20:4-23:35	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 19 Titus 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 26 1 Jn 1-5
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 15 Luke 24, John 20-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 22 Jas 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 29 1 Cor 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 6 2 Cor 10-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 13 Acts 24-26	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 20 1 Pet 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 27 2 Jn 1, 3 Jn 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 16 Acts 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 23 Acts 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 30 1 Cor 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 7 Acts 20:1-3, Rom 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 14 Acts 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 21 Heb 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 28 Rev 1-5
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 17 Acts 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 24 Gal 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 1 1 Cor 9-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 8 Rom 4-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 15 Col 1-4, Phm 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 22 Heb 7-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 29 Rev 6-11
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 18 Acts 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 25 Gal 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 2 1 Cor 12-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 9 Rom 8-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 16 Eph 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 23 Heb 11-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 30 Rev 12-18
						<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 31 Rev 19-22

“I Already Know God”

While reading the message from the elders, you may have thought to yourself, "I already know God." But, even though we all have an understanding of God, do we truly know Him?

Have you tried to reconcile evolution with the creation account? Do you question the existence of dinosaurs and how their fossils fit into the biblical record?





We may be familiar with the stories and the fact that Jesus loves us and died for us, but do we have such a deep connection with God that every action and decision we make is directed by Him?

Have you ever had doubts about the creation account's literal seven days? Have you tried to reconcile evolution with the creation account?

Do you question the existence of dinosaurs and how their fossils fit into the biblical record? Is the age of the earth a mystery to you - is it 4000+ years old or millions of years old? Do you comprehend how Christ's death on the cross fits into the bigger picture of scripture? And, perhaps you may ask yourself, does any of this even matter?

If we allow the world to call into question the very foundation of the Bible, then we should not be surprised that God becomes no more than another mythical story or theory among the many others. If our children do not see Genesis 1 -12 as factual, then why should we expect them to remain faithful later in life when challenged by the world and humanistic professors?

It seems if we truly know God as He wants to be known, and are Holy as He is Holy then:

-  **Whenever there's a chance to gather for worship or attend Bible studies, we would always make it a priority to take advantage of those opportunities.**
-  **We would plan to spend time with people who have a strong connection with God and strive to enhance our spiritual growth.**
-  **A lot of things that we let into our homes via television or electronic devices would be eliminated.**
-  **Every day, we would have conversations with our children and grandchildren about how God has impacted our lives.**

It's unfortunate that a lot of individuals consider Christianity as just a component of their life, rather than it being the central focus of their existence.

“I Already Know God” – cont.

Perry Hall wrote an article in reference to John 1:14; "**And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**"

"The Gospel is not just words, parables, philosophies, or platitudes; although the gospel is told in all those forms. The **gospel is flesh** (John 1:14; Titus 2:11-14), **lived in the flesh, suffered and triumphed in the flesh**; the **purpose to be ultimately imitated by us in our flesh**.

That is the real transforming power of the gospel. God did not send a prophet or story teller only. God did not send just a teacher or philosopher. God sent God. The Father sent the Son in a form foreign to Himself to teach us how to live contrary to ourselves. And in living contrary to ourselves, the paradoxical truth is learned that in such living we live truly to ourselves. In denying ourselves we find ourselves. We learn to live like Jesus lived; and to die like Jesus died.

The weakness found in so many Christians' lives is that the gospel is *lived* but not led; understood but not undertaken. To truly be a Christian, we must be Christ-like. Power is found in not just telling the story of the woman caught in adultery, but to be that woman, and to be the Christ who forgave her. Supremacy above self is discovered by not just seeing ourselves as the Pharisee who did not wash Jesus' feet, but to become the woman who covered His feet with her tears. **The weakness in so many of us is that we know the gospel story intellectually but fail to see the heart of it.** The gospel is not just about knowing who Jesus is, but why Jesus came. It is more than just coming to save me, but encompasses coming to lead me to save others.

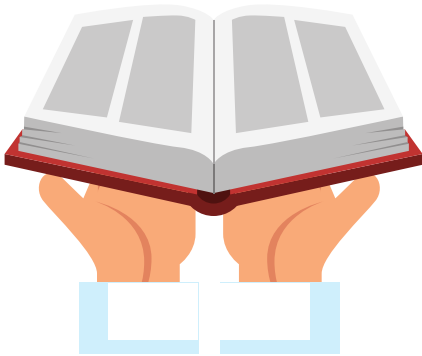
Too many Christians live weak lives because they fail to see the power in how the gospel story is told. It is told by being lived; and retold in us by being imitated to where the imitation becomes our reality. We become the gospel." (2 Cor. 3:2)
(<https://bit.ly/48iqp3f>)

During 2024, it is our prayer that we all will take a step back and evaluate our lives and relationships in light of Paul's words; "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." (Galatians 2:20)

His Blood I Will Require at Your Hand

- The people are dying because the watchman was unfaithful and didn't warn them. - (Ezekiel 3:18)

"Public sentiment in New York has been aroused against a poor brakeman on the New York Central railroad because he failed to give the danger signal to the St. Louis express. He was sent with a red lantern to wave down the approaching train, but, instead of doing so, he went into a depot and sat down by the fire. As the express thundered by he asked, "What's that?" and, when told, he disappeared in the darkness and has not yet been found by the police. The express dashed into the train on the track and killed twelve persons. Everybody feels that such neglect was criminal, and yet how about us who believe that our friends are going headlong to ruin and we have not warned them of their danger?" (Exell, J. S.).



"When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' (Ezekiel 3:18) - these are strong words from God. Imagine having life-saving information and not sharing it. God called to be a watchman, similar to a sentinel, whose duty was to protect the lives of the people of God from His wrath. Why would Israel need protection from God's wrath? The same reason Adam and Eve needed the warning in Genesis 2 was to avoid death. Israel was dying both spiritually and physically and was in desperate need of a responsible, courageous, and trustworthy watchman. In Ezekiel 3:18, God warns the prophet that

a failure to alert the people of God's wrath was equivalent to negligent homicide and that it was not enough to warn once. "Indifference that fails to save a life is comparable to negligent homicide. The prophet would be guilty of murder by his failure to fulfill his calling. According to the law of retribution, he was liable for the loss of life payable by the forfeit of his own (Gen 9:5-7). Today's responsibility of a believer in Christ to share the word of life, salvation, and forgiveness is no less awesome. Once the message of salvation is entrusted to us, we are responsible and accountable to share with those who are lost. "(Cooper, 111).

This quarter, we will focus on sharing the Holy Message that has saved us from the wrath of God, namely Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor. 15:1-5).

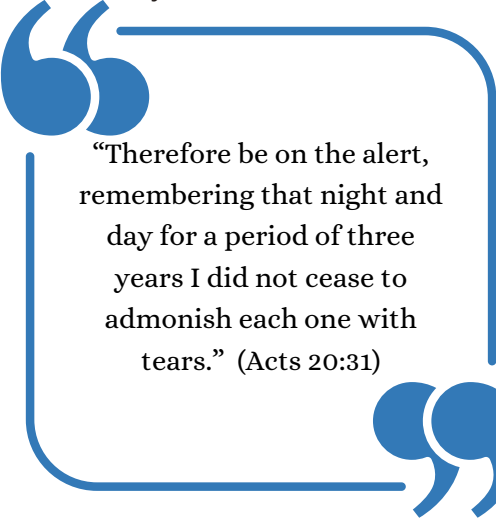
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"When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand"

- Ezekiel 3:18

His Blood I Will Require at Your Hand - cont.

Our world is suffering because of sin, our nation is pulling away from God, our families are broken, and even our churches are pushing God out and replacing Him with their version of a god. In other words, we are dying spiritually and are in desperate need of more faithful, responsible, and courageous watchmen who have faith in the saving Message of the Gospel (Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21), understand the responsibility of sharing that message with the world (Romans 10:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:20), and fear God enough to do so faithfully.



“Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.” (Acts 20:31)

As a family, let us seek God and teach others to do the same. “Boast in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the Lord be joyful. Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face continually.” (1 Chronicles 16:10-11)

As a nation, let us reverence God and His morality - “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” (Proverbs 29:18)

As a people (school and church), let us prepare our children to fight against the evil schemes of the devil. “Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against

the evil schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11-12)

Above all, may we seek, trust, teach, and live to be holy. Onward and upward.

**“Deliver those who are being taken away to death,
And those who are staggering to slaughter, Oh hold them back.
If you say, “See, we did not know this,”
Does He not consider it who weighs the hearts?
And does He not know it who keeps your soul?
And will He not render to man according to his work?”
Proverbs 24:11-12**

Sunday Schedule

First Quarter: January - March

Date	Notes	Monthly Theme	Sermon Title
01/7/24		A World Where God is Real	God and Country
01/14/24			God and Family
01/21/24			God and School
01/28/24			God and the Church
02/04/24		The World Today	Where is God in Our Nation?
02/11/24			What Happens When God is Removed from the Family?
02/18/24			What Happens When God is Removed from the Schools?
02/25/24			What Happens when God is Removed from Our Relationships?
03/03/24		How to Turn Back to God?	Seek God
03/10/24			Trust God
03/17/24			Teach God
03/24/24			Live God
03/31/24			Guest Preacher

Evaluating the Existence of

God

2
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Read an excerpt from a Harvard Pluralism Project article: “On a rainy day in March of 2012, roughly 20,000 people from all parts of the Humanist, atheist, and freethinking movements converged on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. They gathered to celebrate secular values, dispel stereotypes about secular people, and support secular equality. Sponsored by twenty of the country’s major secular organizations, the Reason Rally featured live music and remarks from academics, bloggers, student activists, media personalities, comedians, and two members of Congress, including Representative Pete Stark (D-CA), the first openly atheistic member of Congress.

The Reason Rally is evidence of a growing energy and excitement among atheists in America. This new visibility of secularism was inspired in part by the “New Atheists”—including authors such as Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens—who have pushed the discussion of the potentially dangerous aspects of religion to the forefront of the public discussion. More people than ever are turning away from traditional religious faith, with the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life reporting that, as of 2014, some 20% of the US population identify as “unaffiliated.” This is particularly true of the rising millennial generation, which has increasingly come to view institutional and traditional religion as associated with conservative social views such as opposition to gay marriage, and is therefore much more skeptical of the role of religion in public life than their parents and grandparents. The proportion of unaffiliated millennials is just over one in three.” (<https://bit.ly/41CzeCq>)

Humanism and Pluralism are nothing new. Professor emeritus at the University of Idaho, Nick Gier, claims humanism is as American as apple pie. (<https://bit.ly/41w2uKV>) At one time, humanism and Pluralism were attributed to communism and socialism, but these ideas reached far beyond that period. Even in biblical times, people denied the existence of God and embraced humanist theories. Note the apostle Paul’s warning in Romans 1:20; “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

How can we say God has made the truth about himself plain even to the Gentiles?

- Because “since the creation of the world,” certain truths about God have been clearly known through created things themselves. This has been the case ever since God originally created the world as recorded in Gen 1.

From that time to the very present God has been revealing Himself, and thus something about Him has been and is known.

Evaluating the Existence of



What is the content of this knowledge?

- “God’s invisible qualities” are known.
- “His eternal power and divine nature.”
- The invisible qualities of God known through created things also include His “divine nature.” All the attributes we usually associate with God: “the sum of all God’s glorious attributes.”
- The point is, though, that other qualities of God’s nature besides His power are clearly seen from the created world. These include His glory (Ps 19:1) and His goodness (Acts 14:17), as well as His righteous judgment (Romans 1:32).

The source of this knowledge:

- God’s invisible qualities are “being understood from what has been made.”
- Specifically refers to mental seeing, the activity of the mind.
- The things made by God in the activity of creation, the created visible universe.

The result of the knowledge:

- “so that men are without excuse.

Our faith and that of our children’s future are being challenged, with the aim of rendering God irrelevant. A lot of people these days are finding it difficult to uphold their faith based on the principles outlined in God’s word. What’s more alarming is the fact that our children are struggling to develop their faith in God based on visible evidence.

This quarter, we intend to:

- Prove the validity of the Biblical record.
- Become better equipped to refute the claims of the skeptics.
- Learn more about fundamental doctrines regarding marriage, the sanctity of life, and the Messiah.
- Examine how to return God to His rightful place in our country and lives.

Faithful Watchman



“Yet if you have warned the wicked and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself.” (Ezekiel 3:19)

Ezekiel, who was appointed as the watchman to Israel, initially hesitated to preach to his fellow countrymen. However, the Lord intervened and forcefully lifted him up, placing him among the exiled Jews, and commanding him to preach (as mentioned in Ezekiel 3:14, 18-20). It was a critical moment, as the decision to preach or not could determine the fate of both the prophet and the people.

Last quarter, we saw the first scenario where God warned the prophet that if he refused to preach to the people and they did not repent, then God would require their blood from Ezekiel’s hand. In other words, both the prophet and the people would be guilty in the eyes of God. This quarter, we will study the second scenario God presents to Ezekiel in our theme: If the prophet fulfills his duty in preaching the message of repentance to the people and they refuse to repent, the prophet is free and innocent of their guilt.

This is very similar to the day when Jesus stood outside Jerusalem and said, “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’” (Matthew 23:37-39) Jesus lamented that Israel had been given many chances to repent through the messages of several prophets and even through the Son of God, yet Israel refused to listen, much less repent.

Our duty as Christians is to preach the Word to the lost, to insist in season and out of season (2 Timothy 4:2); whether the people listen or not, the results are not in our hands. This quarter, let us concentrate on fulfilling our call to preach the Word to our neighbors.

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Yet if you have warned the wicked and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself. (Ezekiel 3:19)

What is Man That You Take Thought of Him?

David was amazed by the majestic beauty and glory of the heavens as he gazed into the night sky. He realized how great God is, despite not knowing all that we know today about what lies beyond. The sight of the heavenly bodies that light up the night sky left him in awe, as he contemplated how it is all the work of God's fingers. This verse offers three fascinating thoughts to ponder upon:



First, David was deeply moved by the thought of God's divine intervention in placing the stars in their rightful places. His words beautifully depict the heavenly bodies as being held in the palm of God's hand and carefully positioned according to His will. The term "ordained" is often used to describe this act of setting the stars in place. Today, we understand that God has created all matter, energy, and the laws that govern their behavior, resulting in the formation of countless stars and planets across the universe. In His boundless wisdom and knowledge, He has ordained and placed these celestial bodies in their respective positions.

It's common to hear people talk about God flinging the stars into space, but that's not how it actually happened. The Lord adorned the sky much like an interior designer thoughtfully decorating a home, placing each piece in an orderly and purposeful way according to His good pleasure. Similar to an engineer fitting together the components of a complex machine, the Creator meticulously crafted the laws that determine the position of every star in space and contribute to the smooth operation of the universe.

The second point discusses how God sculpted the stars with His fingers, just like a potter creates artwork out of clay. The Lord artfully crafted and shaped the planets, stars, and meteors, and you can almost visualize every crater and canyon on these celestial bodies as the impression of God's fingers. Additionally, the word "ordained" refers to the act of creating or fashioning something, such as the process of pronouncing words by framing them with the mouth (Jud. 12:6) and the Lord's creation of a baby inside the womb (Job. 31:15; Ps. 119:73).

Third, the simplicity of the task. Vernon McGee wrote, "It is interesting that when the Word speaks of salvation, it refers to the bared arm of the Lord: 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?' (Is. 53:1). But when it speaks of the creation of the heavens and the earth, it calls it His finger-work. God created the heavens and the earth and didn't half try. Creation was His finger-work, like the crocheting of a woman.

What is Man That You Take Thought of Him?

David viewed creation as the work of a Master Craftsman, with God's fingers and hands bringing it to life, even though God spoke the worlds into existence. Worshipping the heavenly host was deemed evil by the Jews, but they recognized creation as evidence of a loving Creator who designed the world for the benefit and use of humanity. God is attentive and has concern for us. He completed His creation before placing Adam and Eve in the garden, ensuring that everything was prepared to meet their every need.

David once queried of the Lord, "What is man that You would even think of him, let alone care enough to come and help him?" (Paraphrased from Wiersbe)

This quarter we intend to:

- Understand God's desire for us from the beginning.
- See His constant pursuit for the heart of man.
- Look forward to His promises for our future.



Sunday Schedule

Second Quarter: April-June

2
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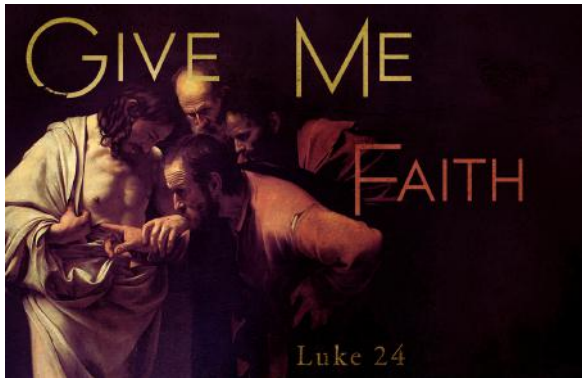
Date	Notes	Monthly Theme	Sermon Title
4/7/24	Gen. 1-3	Before You Were Formed, I Knew You	What Did God Prepare for Man? (Creation Account)
4/14/24	Gen. 1-3		What did God Prepare for Man? (Relationship)
4/21/24	Gen. 1-3		Made to Be Like Him (In His Image)
4/28/24	Ps. 8:3-4		What if God Weren't Mindful of Me? https://bit.ly/3GVFpHV
5/5/24	2 Peter 3:9-11	He Cares for You	God Has a Heart for Everyone
5/12/24	Matthew 26:39		There is Nothing God Wouldn't Do to Save Man
5/19/24	Romans 15:13		The God of All Hope
5/26/24	Luke 15:11-32		The Day God Ran (Prodigal's Father)
6/2/24	John 14:3	I Go and Prepare a Place	Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled
6/9/24	John 20:31		So That You May Believe
6/16/24	Hebrews 12:2		Eyes on the Author and Finisher of Faith
6/23/24	Isaiah 9:6		Prince of Peace
6/30/24			Guest Preacher

Lord, I Believe

When Faith is All We Have

*“Unless I see with my own eyes, I
touch with my own hands...”*

The scene is the final time when the Lord appeared to the apostles before ascending to heaven and retaking His rightful place at the Father’s right hand (Hebrews 12:1-5). This time, the apostle Thomas was present. Earlier, Thomas had said he would not believe Jesus had resurrected no



matter what the other apostles testified - until he saw with his own eyes and touched with his own hands! “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” (John 20:20). Thomas has never been accused of being a coward, but has always be known as the doubting apostle. But why? And, is this fair?

We should note that the Scriptures do not identify Thomas as a doubter, nor does the Lord chastise him for doubting. Centuries of unfair preaching have given Thomas the unfair nickname. The Lord said, “Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” (John 20:27). Is there a difference? Indeed, but only clearly seen in Greek as “aspistos” unfaithful, “pistos” faithful. In other words, Jesus says to Thomas, “Stop being unfaithful and be faithful.” When Thomas said, “Unless I see and touch, I will NOT believe,” he used a double negative - “I positively will not believe!” There is a nuanced difference between “doubt” and “unbelief.” Thomas’ words help us to understand the difference between doubt and unbelief. Doubt says, “I cannot believe! There are too many problems!” Unbelief says, “I will not believe unless you give me the evidence I ask for!”

“Evidence!” There is the key word. When Jesus appeared and offered his hands and side, Thomas did not need to touch. He immediately turned his unbelief to belief because he now had all the evidence required to say, “My Lord, My God!” (John 20:28). If Thomas had been a true doubter, he would not have believed even with his finger stuck in the nail holes and his hands in the sides of Jesus! He may have been like the people who demanded signs from Jesus, and the Lord offered them Jonah, the whale (KJV), and His resurrection as sufficient evidence. (Matthew 12:38-40)

This quarter, our focus will be on the following:

- **Work on believing what we cannot see.**
- **Learn to ask in faith.**
- **See God’s work in our daily life.**

The Righteous Should Never Leave God

-The righteous were dying because they turned from their covenant obedience and the watchman did not warn them.
- (Ezekiel 3:20)

The third hypothetical scenario presented to Ezekiel is when a righteous man abandons his righteousness and commits iniquity, God will place an obstacle before him. This is the same warning God had given years before to the prophet Jeremiah (6:21). However, note two differences: (1) the good deeds would not save the man once he abandoned his righteous ways, and (2) if the prophet failed to warn the people the prophet would be guilty of their blood.

"Again, when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I place an obstacle before him, he will die; since you have not warned him, he shall die in his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand." (Ezekiel 3:20)

God has always demanded a heart-to-heart relationship in addition to external obedience with His people. God and His covenant were the standard against which the righteous person was measured.

- Dt. 10:12-13, 16: "...what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer."
- Is. 1:17-17: "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow."

Unfortunately, in the hypothetical presented to Ezekiel, the "righteous" mentioned here actually turns away from God. This is a sad event that happens even today. But what about the stumbling block that God put before him? It is a punishment, an embarrassment for the sinner, and God's righteous judgment. Additionally, as mentioned before, the person should not rely on any righteous deeds done before as a savings account - those deeds would mean nothing if he had abandoned God. Also, the prophet should take notice; if he failed to warn the people, he would suffer God's wrath.

What was needed then and needed now, better yet, what has always been needed, is "...faith...the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1). Our faith must rely on God's Word to do His will, live His will, and be His will. This is our duty to be holy as He is holy.

3

"Again, when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I place an obstacle before him, he will die; since you have not warned him, he shall die in his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand."

- Ezekiel 3:20

Sunday Schedule

Third Quarter: July-August

3
QTR

Date	Notes	Monthly Theme	Sermon Title
7/7/24		<p style="text-align: center;">John Saw the Person of Jesus</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Gospel Meeting with Mike Wilson July 31st through August 4th Wed 7:00p - God Spoke Thursday 7:00p - Putting God's Message into a "Book" Friday 7:00p - The Transmission of the Manuscripts Saturday 10:00a - The Bible in the Middle Ages Sunday 10:30a - Translating the Bible into English Sunday 6:00p - The Final Act of Translation</p>	John 1: The Word Dwelt Among Us
7/14/24			John 2: The Wedding at Cana
7/21/24			John 3: Nicodemus
7/28/24			John 4: The Woman at the Well
8/4/24			<p style="text-align: center;">John Saw the Compassion of Jesus</p>
8/18/24		John 8: Cast the First Stone	
8/18/24		John 8: Who Are You?	
8/25/24		John 10: I Am the Good Shepherd	
9/1/24		<p style="text-align: center;">John Saw the Promise of Jesus</p>	John 11: Jesus Wept
9/8/24			John 14: I Go to Prepare a Place
9/15/24			John 17 That We May Be One
9/22/24			Revelation 20: The Vision of Heaven
9/29/24			Guest Preacher

I Will Be *Holy*

LEVITICUS 19:2

“Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.’”

Vision 2024 has focused on our holy calling. Paul stated we were saved with a holy calling by the Holy One according to His own purpose and grace. (2 Tim. 1:9). Peter said that God is holy; therefore, as His children, we must be holy. Peter reaches far back to what is known as the “Holy Code” section in Leviticus (17-26), where God discusses every aspect of holy conduct in the family, business, with foreigners, in offering sacrifices, in how neighbors (and who they are) are treated, in worshipping God, in speech, in every physical and spiritual aspect.

Like obedient children, Christians are to imitate their Father. As loving children, we should want to imitate our Holy Father. Jesus commanded that we are to be perfect as His Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:48) Christ, Peter, and Paul focus on the moral or spiritual aspects of being holy. “Some aspects of God’s holiness, for example, qualities of deity such as His omnipotence, cannot be imitated by human beings.” (Black and Black). But His absolute purity of thought and action may and must be imitated. However pitiful our attempts may be. (Ibid). Peter’s epistle says Christians are a “holy temple,” “holy priesthood,” and a “holy people.” This means Christians are to live as persons dedicated to God’s service.

Another phrase Peter uses in 1 Peter 1:15 is “in all your behavior” (NASB) or “in all you do” (KJ), which means “in all your way of life.” When we look at all these things together and within context, the teaching is simple - Be Like God. To achieve this, I need to make up my mind, and my attitude needs to be, “I Will Be Holy!”

As we conclude the year, let us finish strong with a renewed sense of being like God in all our ways. God wants godly families and godly people. Onward and Upward!

“but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:15-16)

“who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity” (2 Timothy 1:9)

I Will Be *Holy*



LEVITICUS 19:2

“Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.’”

During this quarter we will:

- Sharpen our commitment to set ourselves apart from the sin filled environment surrounding us.
- Give attention to how we treat others, our speech, our attitude, and a willingness to avoid the sinful enticements of the world readily available to us today.
- Consider every thought, action and reaction and how it aligns to what God would expect from His children professing holiness.

Old Testament Quotations and Allusions in the New Testament

Leviticus 11

Leviticus	Matthew	1 Peter
11:44-45	—	1:16

Leviticus 19

Leviticus	Matthew	1 Peter
19:2	5:48	1:16

Leviticus 20

Leviticus	Matthew	1 Peter
20:7	—	1:16

[More »](#)

Old Testament Quotes in the New Testament

1 Peter

Leviticus	1 Peter
11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7	1:16

The Preacher and the People Doing their Duty and Pleasing God

The final scenario is that of the righteous heeding the watchman's warning and not being judged.

- (Ezekiel 3:21)

Of all the prophets of God, Ezekiel had some amazing first-person experiences that were unique to him. For example, he saw the glory of God in a spectacular fashion (Ezekiel 1:3-28), prophesied to a valley of dry bones until they came back to life (37), was hand-fed a scroll by God (3:2), and was given the privilege of returning, in a vision, to a destroyed Jerusalem (572 B.C.) and spoke about the reconstruction of the temple, Jerusalem and the land (40-48). He was a prophet of hope in a land of hopelessness. This is the land we live in - one full of hopelessness, but there is hope.

“THE LORD IS NOT SLOW ABOUT HIS PROMISE, AS SOME COUNT SLOWNESS, BUT IS PATIENT TOWARD YOU, NOT WISHING FOR ANY TO PERISH BUT FOR ALL TO COME TO REPENTANCE.”

2 PETER 3:9

The final hypothetical scenario presented to the prophet is that of a people in sin who hear the message of repentance from an obedient and faithful preacher, and the people heed the message and turn back to God.

“HOWEVER, IF YOU HAVE WARNED THE RIGHTEOUS MAN THAT THE RIGHTEOUS SHOULD NOT SIN AND HE DOES NOT SIN, HE SHALL SURELY LIVE BECAUSE HE TOOK WARNING; AND YOU HAVE DELIVERED YOURSELF.”

EZEKIEL 3:21

When Adam and Eve destroyed their relationship with God, God did not leave humanity without a Savior (Gen. 3). Throughout the entirety of God's message, He leads humanity to the cross with a Scarlet thread of the Lamb's redeeming blood.* Man's only hope is to repent, confess Jesus as Lord and Christ, be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:28), and finish the race (Hebrews 12:1-5).

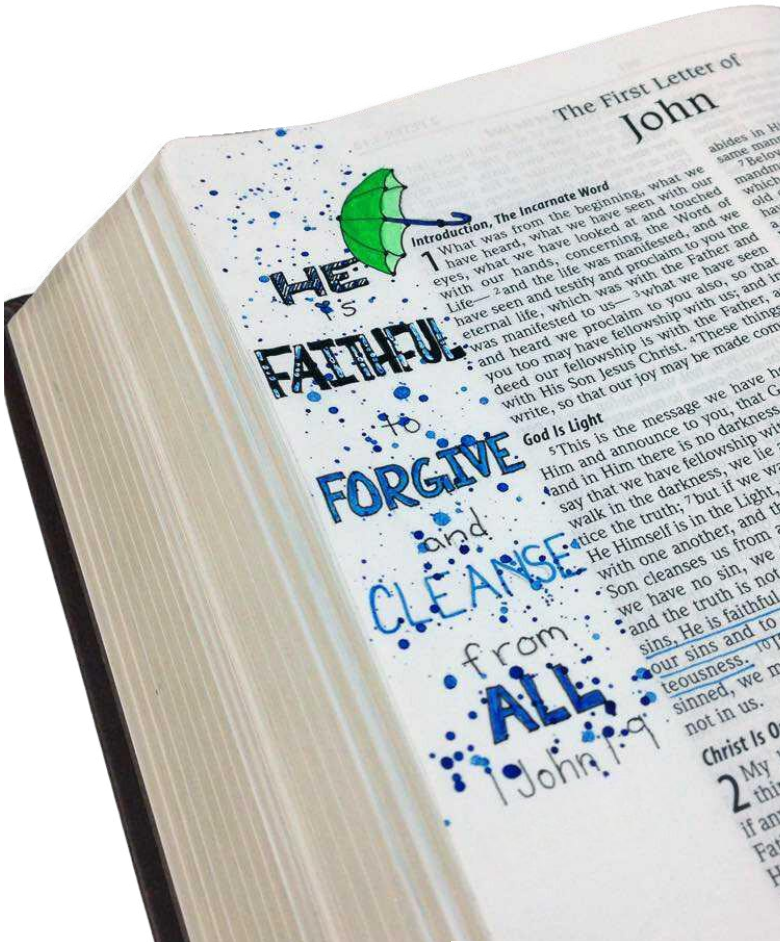
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“ However, if you have warned the righteous man that the righteous should not sin and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; and you have delivered yourself.”

- Ezekiel 3:20

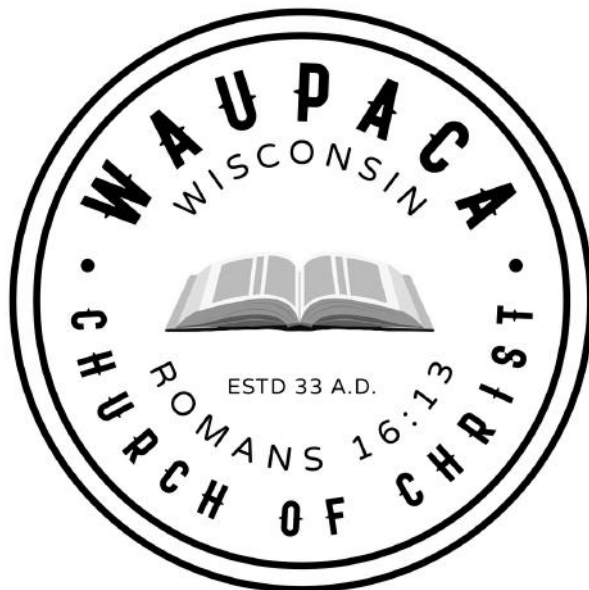
The Preacher and the People Doing their Duty and Pleasing God

The final scenario is that of the righteous heeding the watchman's warning and not being judged.
- (Ezekiel 3:21)



Humankind has been created in the image of God, and because of that, our desire is to seek God (Acts 17:24-28), and once we find Him, we are to love and obey Him as our Father. According to the Scriptures, God is not far off; He is in our midst, always available and ready to save us from ourselves if we repent. God wants His children to remain faithful, but when they sin, He wants them to repent and return to Him.

(*See: Skip Heitzig. Bloodline. Eugene, Oregon, Harvest House Publishers, 2018.)



Sunday Schedule

Fourth Quarter:

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QTR

Date	Notes	Monthly Theme	Sermon Title
10/6/24		Standing on Holy Ground	In the Presence of the Great I AM
10/13/24			Be Still and Know I AM God
10/20/24			Having Hearts for God
10/27/24			God is a Consuming Fire
11/3/24		Worship: My Daily Living	Shinig Like Stars in a Dark World
11/10/24			Deeper Relationships
11/17/24			Attitudes of Thankfulness
11/24/24			A Life Driven Purpose
12/1/24		A Vessel of Honor	Proclaiming His Excellencies
12/8/24			Holy and Acceptable
12/15/24			Zealous for Good Works
12/22/24			Living By Faith
12/29/24			Guest Preacher

A HOLY CALLING

SERVICE TIMES:

Sunday:

9:30 am: Bible Classes (All ages)

10:30 am: Praise, Prayer, and Preaching,
Lord Supper

6:00 pm: Praise, Prayer, and Preaching,
Lord's Supper

Wednesday:

7:00 pm: Bible Classes (All ages)

ELDERS:

Tony Turner

Tony Lewis

Les Wilmot



VISION 2024

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PREACHER:

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2 TIMOTHY 1:9