

# THE LINK

LINKING GOD AND HIS PEOPLE, EACH TO THE OTHER,  
TO CHRIST JESUS OUR SAVIOR AND LORD

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## Pastor's Notes

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<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month	
Thank You!	

My precious sheep:

The New Year has begun! 2018 is in full swing! How are you doing with those New Year resolutions? They might be going strong; they might not be. In contemporary culture, the third Monday of January (Jan 15 this year) is called "Blue Monday" because it's considered by some the most depressing day of the year because by then many people have given up on their new year's resolutions. I don't know if that's the case with you or not. But as a Christian you need not feel "blue" or depressed because regardless of whether you have fulfilled those resolutions or not God still loves you just the way you are and He will always love you.

This leads me to our current sermon series. Currently, I am preaching through the book of Galatians and my sermon series is entitled "Got freedom?" because freedom is the foremost theme of the book of Galatians (see Gal 5:1). Do YOU have freedom

in Christ? Are you free and secure and satisfied in your identity in Christ? The key to enjoying freedom in Christ is knowing who you are in Him and being fully satisfied and content and overjoyed and at peace in your Christian identity alone. Too often our identity is in other things like our career or how much money we make or our stuff or our appearance etc. But we all know that if our identity is in these other things (the Bible calls them idols) sooner or later they're going to let us down because none of us can enjoy all of these things for too long living on this sin-cursed planet. These things are ok, but just don't make them ultimate. Don't derive your identity and self-worth from them because sooner or later they will let you down. Idols always disappoint eventually. "Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth...but in heaven" (Matt 6:19-20).

Another prominent word in the book of Galatians is "justification" and it's related to the concept of freedom. Let me explain. Justification is a word from the law-courts and it means "not guilty, innocent, acquitted of all charges." That means that as a Christian, because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for you, you have already been declared "not guilty" in God's court of law; your verdict has already been decided on the (future) Judgment Day. Hallelujah! Recently, I've also heard the word "justification" defined simply as "acceptance" (by Tim Keller). This means you have been accepted by God in Christ for the future (on Judgment Day) but it also has implications for your identity in the present. This is where freedom comes in. To know that you have full acceptance by God in Christ ought to bring a sense of freedom in this life and confidence in your identity. Why are we so concerned about our careers and our talents and the size of our bank accounts and our appearance? Is it not (in part) because society measures acceptance by these things and we want to look good before others, because we want the praise (and acceptance) of others? But all that acceptance you're looking for in the world and in our culture you have in Christ perfectly (and so much more – cf. Eph 2:7)! Don't live for the praise of man. There's no freedom in that – remember Paul says that in Galatians 1:10.

This is the gospel, my friends. The gospel provides a dual blessing: 1) It's the message that will take us to heaven when we die (or when the Lord returns – "Maranatha!") and 2) It's the message that will transform us on earth (by giving us a sense of freedom, and joy and peace and love in the Holy Spirit). The reason I am preaching through the book of Galatians is to help you understand this gospel and be transformed by it. And once we're transformed by it, we will want to see other people

transformed by it. This is where the fourth part of our vision comes in – INVITE (there’s a method to my madness, you see!). Let me encourage you to invite your unchurched or unbelieving friends to our church. Find your one lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7). How are you doing in finding your one lost sheep? In one of our Sunday school classes we are learning practical tips for sharing our faith and finding our lost sheep. We are going through the book by Pastor Bill Hybels entitled “Just walk across the room.” There are many good tips in this book. A foundational one which we are studying is learning to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit when it comes to personal evangelism (as Pastor Hybels says to develop “an ear fine-tuned to the promptings of the Holy Spirit” [pg. 35]). He encourages us to recite the following prayer every morning and I hope you will pray this prayer:

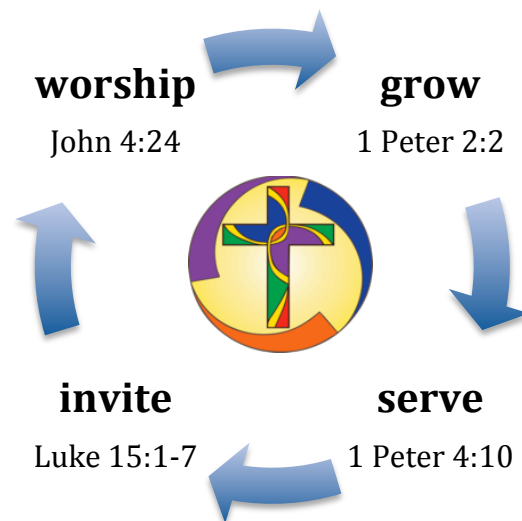
“My life is in *your* hands, God. Use me to point someone toward you today – I promise to cooperate in any way I can. If you want me to say a word for you today, I’ll do that. If you want me to keep quiet but demonstrate love and servanthood, by your Spirit’s power I will. I’m *fully* available to you today, so guide me by your Spirit.” (Pg. 37)

Grace and peace,

Pastor James

**CCC’s Mission:**  
**“Worshipping God, Growing spiritually,  
Serving others, Inviting friends”**

**CCC’s Vision:**



**Classes/groups this Winter:**

**Sunday (at 9:45am):**

- Sunday school class on 1, 2, 3 John (Led by Richard Axmann) – room 10
- Sunday school class on “Just Walk Across the Room” (Led by Gerald Nichols) – room 6
- Youth Bible study on Ecclesiastes (Co-led by the Rogers & Moyles) – The Upper Room
- Membership class (led by Pastor James) – starts on Feb 18

**Wednesday (at 10:00am & 7:00pm):**

10:00am

- Women’s Bible study on “The Upper Room” (Led by Pat Baker) – The Fellowship Hall 7:00pm
- Bible study on Romans (Led by Pastor James) – church lobby
- Women’s Bible study on Eph 4-6 “Ridiculous love” (Led by Katie Carlson) – room 5

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!****February Birthdays are:**

Feb. 1st: Bruna Coffey  
 Feb. 2nd: Chris Rebmann  
 Feb. 6th: John Parsley  
 Feb. 8th: Kyler Herdt,  
 Feb. 10th: Sheila Loomis  
 Feb. 10th: Donna Axmann



Feb. 15th: Chase Marten  
 Feb. 16th: Tiffany Nichols,  
 Feb. 16th: Melissa Wilson  
 Feb. 18th: Tine Wolfe  
 Feb. 19th: Elsie Hall  
 Feb. 21st: Till Shiffer



Feb. 22nd: Scott Blank  
 Feb. 24th: Chris Lanting  
 Feb. 25th: Joshua Lanting,  
 Feb. 25th: Norma Jean George  
 Feb. 26th: Jeff Carnley  
 Feb. 26th: Adam Zabel

**It's All About Jesus**

Christmas is over...

We've taken down the tree.  
 The lights were stored away,  
 and it's reflection time for me.

It's not about the presents,  
 It's not about the tree.  
 It's not about the shopping,  
 - It's not at all what you see.

It's about Jesus' birth,  
 It's about His Amazing gift of love.  
 It's about the wise men and the shepherds,  
 And shouts of joy in Heaven above!

It's about the song of angels,  
 who announced the Christ child's birth.  
*...It's all about the baby, Jesus,*  
 - who came to save the earth!

written by, Dianne Ingle

**Helping Hands**

*The inner strength of life grows stronger*

*When compassionate understanding  
 is understood*

*In contrast to the diminished persona*

*Whose interests have been  
 narrowly centered*

*Everyone in time will have need for help*

*Help is a well-considered aim*

*A person who has given of himself*

*Becomes a part of the greater whole*

*The affect to life is immeasurably enhanced*

*The world is well aware of communal unity*

*For all we can muster and bring to life*

*Is such a small part with what lies in store*

*By Edward S. Murphy*

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## News & Upcoming Events

### **VALENTINE'S PARTY**

You are invited to CCC's annual Valentine Party, Sunday February 11, 2018 after services. Enjoy a light lunch, fellowship, games, and a craft for the children. This is a FUN family event, celebrating our love for each other and God's love for us. Please bring a desert to share or if you would like to help by bringing a salad see, Linda DeGroot or Marci DeGroot, or call Linda at the above numbers.

### **Lunch Bunch**

Sunday, Feb. 18th - the Lunch Bunch will meet after church at Olive Garden in Layton. Come and enjoy the fellowship together.

### **Attention! All Parents and Caregivers!**

We have a sign in table in the lobby. Please sign in your children before service, so they can go directly to Children's church after the Children's moment in service. We will also have parent contact info sheets for you to fill out for each one of your children. Please fill one out when you sign in your child. Thank you for your help in this matter.

CM Intern Jailyn Smith 801/390-7814

**A New Membership Class will start on Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup>  
at 9:45 AM in room 5, led by Pastor James.**

### **Attention Ministry Chairperson!**

Annual Reports are due in the Church Office ASAP.  
Thank you for your help in getting our Annual Report out  
on time!

### **MARTHA CIRCLE:**

Martha Circle meeting and potluck is on **Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 11:30 in *His Gathering Place***. We always have a great time and have a wonderful bunch of ladies that attend. All ladies of the church or friends or first timers are always welcome to join us. We have a short meeting along with devotions, wonderful food and socializing. Don't worry if you don't cook – something "store bought" is perfectly acceptable. Please come join in!! (Regular meetings will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 11:30.) Hope to see you there. Questions call Dorothy Kinsey 801/544-7112.

**Martha Circle** will be assembling the Hygiene kits for the Ogden Rescue Mission on Friday February 16<sup>th</sup> after Martha Circle meeting and lunch. Please come and help. Any questions contact Dorothy Kinsey 801/544-7112 or Sheila Loomis 801/544-0752

# Ministry News

CCC's Mission:

**"Worshipping God, Growing spiritually, Serving others, Inviting friends"**

## **Rocky Mountain Care Center Ministry**

*Please Come join us every Friday at 10:30 AM for a half hour of song and a message from the speaker that day with patients.*

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> –Alice Cipilonni, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> – Mike Mann

Feb 16<sup>th</sup> – Ken Mikaelsen & Lee Oswalt, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> –Mike Mann,

Any questions you may contact Wilma Bowen 801-825-6820 or Dennis Richards 801/825-3471.

**\*CCC Worship at Legacy of Ogden is every other Sunday at 2:00 PM.**

**5526 S. 500 E., Ogden.**

**\*CCC Worship at Rocky Mountain Care Center is every Friday at 10:30 AM.**

**1481 E. 1450 S. Clearfield.**

### Mission Project 2018 Fish 'N Loaves "Food Tower"

It's February and time for our Annual Mission Project of raising a Food Tower for Fish 'N Loaves. Put your food donations on the steps of our place of worship. Let's try to fill up the area with lots of cans and dry goods. We appreciate your participation in this special "push" to get food for Fish 'N Loaves Food Pantry. If you prefer to give a monetary donation – label it: "Food for Fish 'N Loaves" and put it in the offering plate. Thanks so much!



Dianne Ingle, Kathy Russell and Sarah Voigt

### **GUEST WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS**

Wi Fi: CCCGuest Password: Churchonfire