



THE LINK

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

PASTOR'S NOTES

PASTOR JAMES W. CARLSON

The Beatles famously sang, "All you need is love, All you need is love, All you need is love, love, Love is all you need 🎸🎸🎸". I think the Beatles are correct in saying that all you need is love. Love is the most important thing in this life and the next. It was not the nails that kept Jesus fastened to the cross – it was love! How do we define love as Christians? The Beatles were right in saying all you need is love, but I'm afraid their definition of love, along with our culture's, falls short. Generally, our culture defines love as tolerance, as civility, as "You do your thing, and I'll do my thing. And as long as what we both are doing is legal (as defined by man's law) and not hurting anyone else, that's love." This is a nice sentiment, but I'm afraid it's too shallow. As Christians, our definition of love must go deeper. This leads to the Bible verse I have selected for this month's issue of the Link. It is 1 Peter 4:8 (NIV), "Above all, love each other DEEPLY, because love covers over a multitude of sins." There is conflict and division in our nation, in our families, and in the church. Much of this conflict arises, I believe, because our love for one another is too shallow. We get angry and offended by things that are minor offenses in the eyes of God (peccadillos). We have all seen people getting offended over minor offenses among unbelievers and believers alike. But this verse in 1 Peter urges we Christians to live differently. 1 Peter 4:8 begins by saying, "Above all." Other translations read, "Above all things" (KJV) or "Most important of all" (NLT). What Peter tells us about love in this verse is more important than everything else. Do we believe that? This deep love is more important than our jobs. It's more important than the ministries and programs of the church. It's more important than our personal preferences.

IN THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR'S NOTES - 1
POEMS - 3
BIRTHDAYS/CLASSES - 4
MINISTRY NEWS - 5
PRAYER CONCERNS - 6

THE MISSION OF CCC:

"WORSHIPING GOD, GROWING,
SPIRITUALLY, SERVING OTHERS,
INVITING FRIENDS"

****All Church Services and Meetings "in person" are canceled until further notice. Please check out our Facebook page to watch the worship service live 11 AM on Sunday.**

GUEST WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS

Login: CCCGuest

Password: ChurchonFire

CONT'D...

Next, Peter commands us (this is a commandment, not a suggestion) to love each other DEEPLY. That's the key word. A few other translations say to love, "fervently." Fervently means enthusiastically or passionately. People in our culture get fervent about sports, or hobbies, but to be a Christian means to be fervent in loving others. Our love is to be deep. Often times, sadly, it's only on the surface. That is, we put on a good face around others, but when their back is turned, we slander their name, and we harbor anger and resentment against them. There's a saying, that beauty is only skin deep. I'm concerned that our love is skin deep. What's the benefit of having a deep love for one another? The outcome of a deep love is what Peter speaks of in the remainder of the verse. He writes, "because love covers over a multitude of sins." When we love this deeply, we'll forgive more easily. We sin against people all the time, and people sin against us all the time (at least that's our perception – whether such sinning is based in objective reality or not is questionable). How do we react when someone sins against us? Do we give them the silent treatment? Do we approach them to "have the talk?" Or do we just let it go because our love is deep, and such deep love covers over a "multitude" of sins? A multitude refers to many, because we're offended by many different kinds of sins. If we have a deep love for one another as Christians, we won't let many sins bother us. But what is our limit in covering over a multitude of sins? We don't want to become doormats, right? Jesus was once asked by Peter himself how many times he should forgive a brother or sister in Christ. Peter suggested seven times maximum – and boy he thought that was a spiritual answer!



"The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1

Jesus said, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times (or "seventy times seven")" (Matt 18:22). In other words, Jesus is teaching: Stop keeping count. Christian love is not about score-keeping. Our forgiveness is to be unlimited – because God's love for us is unlimited (read the following parable in Matthew 18:23-35).

But won't that make us doormats? Yes, it may. And that's precisely what God is calling us to be – doormats! That's what grace is. That's what agape love is. That's TRUE love compared to the petty and shallow definitions of love that our culture teaches. Jesus Christ Himself was a doormat! I'm reminded of the lyrics in one of Michael W. Smith's songs, "Above All," where at one point he sings of Jesus, "Like a rose, TRAMPLED on the ground, You took the fall, And thought of me, Above all."

Again, 1 Peter 4:8 reads, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." Memorize this verse. Hide this verse in your heart. Let this be our theme verse for September 2020 to the glory of God!

Grace and peace,

Pastor James

At the End of the Rainbow

The Difference

Carry the load of life on your shoulders
Enlighten the mind with the bounty of beauty
There is much given that makes a difference
And much more as time adds interest
From which one's garnered strength submits
To the joys and sorrows contrast accords
Side by side comparison offers pathways
Relations upon which consideration ponders
Seeking some understanding of life
And finding this pause a moment of reflection
In which the manner of passage is met
For the ways in which the world coherently moves

By Edward S Murphy

White-marble clouds on blue satin
floating on by,
swirling and windswept;
dancing on a whim,
known only to the currents,
carried by the wind.
You know not what will happen tomorrow.
You are a mist that appears for a little while
- then vanishes like the whispering winds blow.

What matters in this life
is not what you own,
but what you have sowed,
and what waits for you
at the end of the rainbow...

Keep your eyes focused on me,
and you will be with me in eternity.
What God has promised us in death,
...the splendor just stops my breath.
Jesus died for you and for me,
He has won for us the victory!

WRITTEN BY, DIANNE INGLE



HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

BIRTHDAYS

- Sept 4th Madison Carnley
- Sept 11th Mel Enders
- Sept 12th Chris DeGroot
- Sept 13th Pat Call
- Sept 13th Lois Cummings
- Sept 13th Kaiya Rogers
- Sept 14th Mason Wilson
- Sept 14th Jim Phillips
- Sept 17th Scott Bramhall
- Sept 18th France Heiner
- Sept 20th Gerald Zabel
- Sept 21st Richard Axmann,
- Sept 25th Roxie Kirkpatrick
- Sept 25th Jose Aleman
- Sept 27th Braylee Earnhart

CLASSES & STUDIES

Classes/Groups for Spring:

For the health and well-being of our congregants, classes held at the church building are postponed until further notice.

Remote studies, facilitated via ZOOM are as follows:

- **"Inexpressible: Hesus and the Mystery of God's Lovingkindness" by Michael Card** on Thursdays at 7pm.
A men's group led by Chris Morin.
- A study through **"Becoming a Woman of Excellence"** (by Cynthia Heald) on Tuesday's at 7pm. A women's group led by Shari Boehmer.
- This Bible study is a **10 week study on the Major Themes of Proverbs** and it will be on Monday's at 7pm. Open to everyone. Led by Richard Axmann
- A study through the **book of James** on Wednesday's at 7pm.
- A group for everyone led by Pastor James (jamescarlsonsr@gmail.com).
**This class is facilitated via the church's Facebook Page.*

Directions:

When you sign up to be part of a group, you will email the group leader. Then, they will send you an email inviting you to join their small group. This email will include a link that you press on and, voila- you can join. It will ask you to run the program on your computer, and after a couple clicks, you'll be in the chat room. If you have questions about how to use this, contact your group leader or Pastor James (626-476-5543) or the church office (801-825-1115).

HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

MINISTRY NEWS

- 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. **Canceled until further notice.*

Any questions you may contact Eileen or Dennis Richards 801/825-3471.

Call for recommendations from the congregation:

The Church Council is asking the congregation for recommendations for officially recognized shepherds. From the recommendations received, up to three shepherds may be selected by the council. A shepherd's role is to work in conjunction with the pastor to determine and meet the spiritual needs of the congregation, support other shepherds and the pastor through prayer, study, and growth, and serve as a contact for the spiritual and physical needs of the congregation. Candidates should meet Biblical qualifications, be of good character, caring, prayerful, participate in worship, and be moved by the Lord to help the spiritual well-being of the people of the congregation. (Reference 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 for principles to apply to both men and women candidates.) A recommendation can be for one's self or another individual. Please submit your recommendations to both Pastor James (626) 476-5543 and Stacey Moyle (801) 698-1575 by October 4, 2020.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: CLEARFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH (CCC) IS SEEKING TO HIRE A WORSHIP LEADER. INTERESTED CANDIDATES ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT CCC BY PHONE (801-825-1115). A COPY OF THE POSITION DESCRIPTION CAN BE PROVIDED BY EMAIL ADDRESS UPON REQUEST.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR PRAYERS ON BEHALF OF OUR DEAR AUNT MILDRED MACDONALD. SHE WENT HOME TO BE WITH THE LORD, MONDAY AUGUST 24TH, 2020. WE ASK FOR CONTINUES PRAYERS FOR HER SON AND OUR COUSIN, MARK MACDONALD AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME. WE WILL MISS HER; WE KNOW SHE IS NOW AT PEACE WITH GOD AND FAMILY. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.
DENNIS & EILEEN RICHARDS

HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

PRAYER CONCERNS

September 2020

Ronald Branham, Kevin Branham, Sue Carlson,
Edith Warnshuis, Kaylin Terry, Kathy Knighton, Eric Palmer,
Lynn McCarthy, Pat Call, Linda Manning, Jamie Richards,
Stuart Simmons, Jean Varner, Bob Roberts, Mike Mann, Matt
Tobey, Travis Jeffery, Mark MacDonald, Edith Aleman, Barrett
Wellington, Ervin Herdt, Bill & Marte Hazelwood,
Evie Guzman, Dennis & Naomi DeGroot, Marilyn Simon,
Jessica Woeppel, Susan Woeppel, Angelika Bertrand,
Traudy Sanborn, Jean Moneymaker, Corey Maynard

Dear Hopeful,

Glad to hear from you. For my time at home I have been memorizing some scripture each week. Last week it was Psalm 121 and this week the benediction from Jude(v 24-25). I am learning to listen for His voice and it has been rewarding. I meditate on Jesus' promise - "I am with you always"

Thanks for writing. Faith

Dear Hopeful,

I appreciate your concern for me and others. Telephone calls and notes have brought joy to my days indoors. I'm reading John chapter 15 as one of my favorite assurance of Jesus in the new testament. May the Holy Spirit guide you each day into a glad tomorrow, and may God bless us all.

In His Name - Abiding

All Church Services and Meetings "in person" are canceled until further notice. Please check out our Facebook page to watch the worship service live 11 AM on Sunday.

"Rejoice
always, pray
without
ceasing, give
thanks in all
circumstances;
for this is the
will of God in
Christ Jesus for
you."

1 Thess 5:16-18