



# 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

My precious sheep:

Lately I have been thinking about what it means to be a follower of Christ. Really, I think about this all the time. I want to grow spiritually: first as an individual disciple but also as a pastor.

There are different ways to determine whether we are growing spiritually or not. The first and most crucial area I am convinced is in our prayer life. The more that we pray, provided that we are praying according to God's will and with the right heart, we will grow spiritually. There is also the study of God's Word. There is service. But the more I think about it, I believe personal sacrifice (out of love for God and my neighbor) is the most Christ-like thing I can do.

This lies at the heart of Christianity. It is the cross. Jesus sacrificed His own body on the cross out of love for us sinners. And He teaches that to be His disciple we must take up our cross too. In Luke 9:23-24 it reads, "Then He (Jesus) said to them all: "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me will save it." There are many important things Jesus tells us here. The first thing He tells us is to deny ourselves. Our natural instinct is to protect and preserve our life, to live a life of comfort. To do what makes us feel good. To "save" our life, as Jesus says above. But the first step in becoming like Christ is to deny ourselves, to deny that impulse for our own self-preservation. This is not as dreadful as it may sound at first. Like Jesus, we deny ourselves out of love. Love for whom? I'll return to that shortly. After we deny ourselves, then we crucify ourselves. Jesus says to take up our cross and follow Him. Notice Jesus says to take up our cross "daily." Paul says, "I die daily" (1 Cor 15:31). This way of living is not appealing by the world's standards. Our world is represented by the slogan for Burger King, "Have it your way."

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### THE MISSION OF CCC:

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

**\*\*The Church is open for Worship Service  
on Sunday Morning at 11 AM .  
Also 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...

But Jesus teaches, "Deny yourself and take up your cross." Why would anyone want to live this way? Out of love. Love for God and love for our neighbor. Love for Jesus Himself. Notice at the end of Luke 9:24 Jesus says, "but whoever loses their life FOR ME will save it." We take up our cross FOR JESUS first and foremost. We love Him because He loved us. Really, Jesus is not telling us to do anything for Him that He has not done for us. He died for us because He loves us; He wants us to die for Him because we love Him. In any relationship, if one person is sacrificing more than the other, that relationship is one-sided and unhealthy. I believe the same holds true for our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Daily sacrifice is a way of life for Christ-followers. Consider two other key Scriptures on this topic. The first is Ephesians 5:1-2. It reads, "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Sacrifice is a fragrance to God. It's an aroma. It smells good to God. To the world sacrifice stinks. It's dreadful, because it's the loss of life. But, to the Christian, if it's done in love, in imitation of Jesus Christ, it is the aroma of heaven. The other key verse on this topic is Romans 12:1. It reads, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship." God wants us to "offer" our bodies as a living sacrifice. He won't force us. God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:7). God didn't force Jesus to die on the cross. Jesus Himself said He laid down His life of His own accord (John 10:18). I work long hours, many days I don't get much sleep, I try to help as many people as I can. Some might say this lifestyle will lead to burnout. I am aware of this, and there are days when I am able to recuperate.



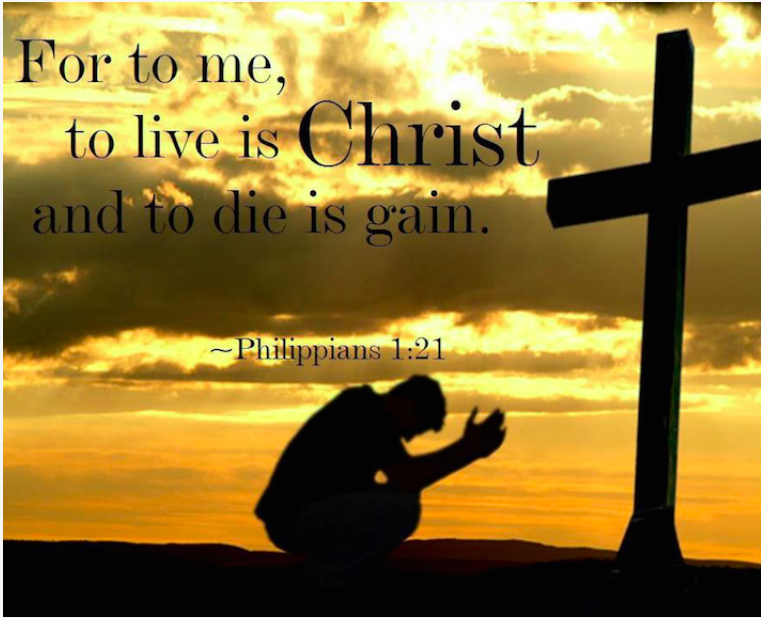
*"The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?*

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

But, I have found, over time, the more I live days like this, the more I experience a deeper intimacy with Jesus Christ and the more He becomes real to me.

These are simply a few practical ways that I try to sacrifice. How can you sacrifice this month of February me encourage you: Live each day for the glory of Christ (not your own glory) by a willingness to sacrifice and do such out of love for Jesus and for all people. Try it. It won't be easy. But it will bring you more joy and satisfaction than living otherwise. This is true life. Paul says, "For me to live IS CHRIST, and to die is gain."

Grace and Peace, Pastor James





## **MIRACLES**

### **JESUS**

**THE ONE WHO WALKED ON WATER**

**AND MADE THE BLIND TO SEE**

**HIS BLESSED MIRACLES OF FAITH**

**GAVE PROOF OF HIS DIVINITY.**

**HE CALMED THE STORMY SEA**

**AND BROUGHT THE DEAD TO LIFE**

**HE GAVE US A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS**

**- AND HIS GREATEST MIRACLE...EVERLASTING LIFE.**

**THE SON OF GOD FED THE FIVE THOUSAND**

**WITH JUST TWO FISH AND A FEW LOAVES OF BREAD**

**HE SHOWED US THE LOVE AND POWER OF GOD**

**JESUS WALKED...WHERE ONLY ANGELS TREAD.**

**I STILL BELIEVE IN GOD'S WONDROUS MIRACLES TODAY**

**A BABY SAVED FROM A CAR WRECK IN ICY WATERS**

**A MAN RESCUED FROM AN ICY POND NEAR CHRISTMAS DAY**

**THE GLORY OF GOD STILL APPEARS ALL AROUND**

**- WHEREVER HOPE AND FAITH ABOUND...**

**WRITTEN BY, DIANNE INGLE**

## **Healing**

Healing is nature's intent to sustain life

Where else could self-image be more evident

Nature is delighted when humanity is in harmony

Which is reason enough for creation

Healing is a task we should all be concerned

There comes a time when one needs help

The buoyant visit of a friend is enormously beneficial

An elegant flower in hand has lasting effect

Being remembered is good medicine for the heart

The fulness of life is having a cache of good memories

In the making each moment has impact

For which good will enables life's passage

When recovery is in grieving doubt

Strength to carry on emerges with confidence

By Edward S. Murphy



# HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

## BIRTHDAYS

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- Feb. 1st: Bruna Coffey
- Feb. 2nd: Chris Rebmann
- Feb. 2nd: Robyn Inabnit
- Feb. 2nd: Daniel Birr
- Feb. 6th: John Parsley
- Feb. 8th: Kyler Herdt
- Feb. 10th: Sheila Loomis
- Feb. 10th: Donna Axmann
- Feb. 18th: Tine Weibel
- Feb 19th: Elsie Hall
- Feb 20th: Melanie Rogers
- Feb 21st: Till Shiffer
- Feb 21st: Tom Earnhart
- Feb 21st: Nathanael Carlson
- Feb 22nd: Scott Blank
- Feb. 24th: Chris Lanting
- Feb. 25th: Joshua Lanting
- Feb. 25th: Norma Jean George
- Feb. 26th: Jeff Carnley
- Feb. 26th: Bill Arguello
- Feb. 26th: Adam Zabel

## CLASSES & STUDIES

### Classes/Groups for Winter:

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:

- **“A New Study on Ezra-Nehemiah - Books of the Bible”** on Thursdays at 7pm. A men’s group led by Chris Morin.

A Women’s group led by Shari Boehmer - will start a new Study on **Ruth, Loss, Love and Legacy. Jan. 19 26; Feb. 2,16, 23; March 2, 16, 7-9** pm on Tuesday’s at 7pm. All are welcome!

- A study through the **book of Daniel** 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.

**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.**



**DANIEL AND CAROL RIEB ARE NEW MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH. THEY HAVE GONE THROUGH THE MEMBERSHIP CLASS AND WE ARE EXCITED TO HAVE THEM BE A PART OF CCC. LET'S ALL WELCOME THEM INTO OUR CHURCH FAMILY HEARTILY!"**

**DO YOU HAVE A HEART FOR YOUTH? WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO ASSIST IN OUR YOUTH MINISTRY (WITH AGES 13-18) WITH PLANNING EVENTS AND YOUTH GROUPS ACTIVITIES / BIBLE STUDIES AND BE INVOLVED. FOR MORE INFORMATION TALK TO ROBYN INABNIT OR EMAIL THE CHURCH. THANKS FOR ANY SUPPORT YOU CAN GIVE.**





# HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

## PRAYER CONCERNS

December 2020

Sarah Voigt, Ronald Branham, Kevin Branham, Sue Carlson, 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 & Jeannine Herdt, Bill & Marte Hazelwood, Evie Guzman, Dennis & Naomi DeGroot, Marilyn Simon, Jessica Woeppel, Susan Woeppel, Angelika Bertrand, Traudy Sanborn, Jean Money maker, Jane Kelting, Tonya Brandler, Audrey Otrumbar, Marci Woeppel, Bob Schellhase, Kennedy Rebmann, Pat Zabel

**STARTING SUNDAY FEB 7 THERE WILL BE A TIME OF PRAYER AS A CHURCH AT 9AM MEETING IN ROOM # 8 DOWNSTAIRS. PASTOR JAMES AND SHEPHERD CHRIS MORIN WILL LEAD IT. IT IS OPEN TO EVERYONE. PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL TO THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST. THE CHURCH BEGAN ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST WHEN THE APOSTLES PRAYED TOGETHER IN THE UPPER ROOM AND THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDED. SCRIPTURE SAYS, "UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE, THE BUILDERS LABOR IN VAIN." (PSALM 127:1) LET US BUILD GOD'S HOUSE ON PRAYER - THE ONLY WAY.**

"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



Coming **Out** Of The Prayer Room

