



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

It says in **1 Corinthians 1:12**, "What I mean is that each of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." In this issue of the Link, I want to talk about what it means to be a pastor in the church. How the congregation should view the pastor and what expectations one should have of a pastor. I am not being selfish by addressing this topic. It is for the good of the church and the spiritual health of individual Christians.

In the verse quoted above, the Corinthian Christians were obviously in the wrong. They were divided around their favorite leaders in the church. Some preferred Paul. Others liked Apollos (probably because he was an eloquent speaker – **Acts 18:24**). Still others gravitated toward the Apostle Peter (Cephas). These Corinthian Christians lost sight of Who they were truly following. This kind of thing still happens today – I think worse than in Corinth! On the same block in our city, there are three evangelical churches (ours, Nations for Christ, and Elevation). People could say, "I am of Pastor James," or "I am of Pastor Fernando," or "I am of Pastor Matt."

The danger is we may draw so close to a particular pastor it's almost like that pastor becomes a substitute for Christ. Or like Christ is mediated through the pastor. The flip side is if the pastor does wrong or is perceived to have done wrong, the church member may become quite damaged spiritually.

Often when people talk about churches, they will say, "That's Pastor so-and-so's church." The church does not belong to any pastor, or any church member for that matter. It is the LORD's church! The church is the Body OF CHRIST, with many members, and ONE Head, namely, the Lord Jesus Christ.

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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...

How then should we view the pastor? First, as a servant leader. In **1 Peter 5** Peter the Apostle addresses shepherds. He tells us in **1 Peter 5:2-3**, “Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.”

Second, a pastor is a teacher. A teacher of God's Word. In the list of qualifications for pastors in **1 Timothy 3**, almost all the qualifications are character-based. But one stands out as far as the skill of the pastor. It says, “able to teach” (**1 Tim 3:2**). There's a popular understanding that a pastor is a storyteller, but that's not found in the Bible. The pastor is a teacher (**James 3:1**).

The pastor teaches God's Word to feed the flock. Jesus told Peter three times, “Feed My sheep” (**John 21**). The pastor teaches God's Word to EQUIP the saints for works of service and for maturity (**Eph 4:11-13**). Ultimately, I believe the pastor is a disciple-maker. Please view me this way at CCC.

I do weddings and funerals, but this is not my calling. A pastor is not professional clergy that offers services to the community. I am not a marriage counselor. I am not a hospital chaplain. I am called by God to make disciples in the local church.

Please don't misunderstand me: I want to be there for all of you in the seasons of life, the highs, and the lows, to visit you in the hospital, to have coffee and lunch, to be genuine friends. But most of all I want to help nurture YOUR relationship with Jesus Christ! I want to see you growing in Him, bearing fruit for Him, praying to Him, depending on Him. I want to help Jesus Christ become your EVERYTHING! So that, when you die, you will be confident and eager to go home to be with Him.

"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

I want to close by going back to **1 Corinthians**. Paul addresses this same problem again later. He writes in **1 Corinthians 3:4-7**, “For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? SERVANTS through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters IS ANYTHING, but ONLY God who gives the growth.”

Paul says twice in this passage IT IS GOD who gives the growth. Pastors are expected to grow churches, as if they are CEO's or entrepreneurs or program leaders. But Scripture shows us that we plant and water, but God gives the growth. I'm the guy who plants and waters.

Grace and Peace, Pastor James



Choice

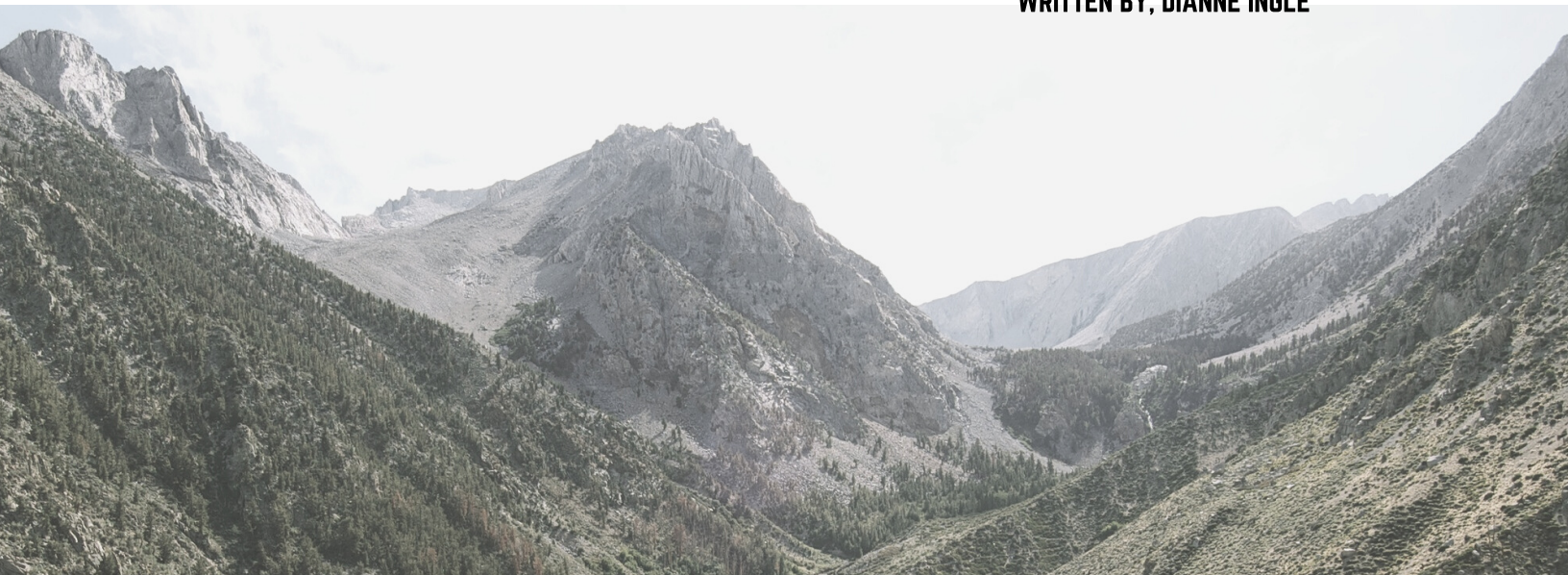
From an endless stream of attractions
Addressing this worlds short run
In attempt to mount change for access
Choice offers difference from vantage views
With variation form myriad facets
Channeling energy to court risk
To take notice of passing appearances
For that which shows promise
With which can become compelling
Life does infuse choice to enliven contrast
To have flowers placed upon your table
This is happiness to have happen

By Edward S. Murphy

THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY

**IN THE QUIET HUSH OF THE MORNING
THE SHADOW OF THE NIGHT
LIFT IN ANTICIPATION
OF THE EARLY MORNING DAWN
AS GOD TURNS ON THE LIGHT
HIS GLORIOUS, EXHILARATING RADIANCE
LIGHTS UP THE MORNING SKY
AND GIVES BREATH & WARMTH TO
A BRAND NEW DAY...
ARISING LIKE A BRILLIANT DIAMOND, SO HIGH
RADIANT SUNBEAMS TRAVERSING ACROSS THE SKY...
AS IF GOD IS REACHING OUT TO US
IN HIS LOVE AND GRACE
HIS LOVE SHINES FORTH
BEAUTIFUL, WARM AND COMFORTING...
LET HIS LOVE GUIDE YOUR WAY
AND GIVE YOU STRENGTH TO FACE EACH DAY
AND MAY HIS HEAVENLY LIGHT
SHINE UPON YOUR SOUL...
MAY IT LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE
AND MAKE YOU WHOLE.**

WRITTEN BY, DIANNE INGLE



HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

BIRTHDAYS

- May 7th: Jenifer Gallegos
- May 7th: Stacey Moyle
- May 9th: John Moulton
- May 9th: Dave DeGroot
- May 16th: Mary East
- May 17th: Diego Felix
- May 20th: Nate Gallegos
- May 22nd: Annastasia Birr

CLASSES & STUDIES

Classes/Groups for Fall:

SMALL GROUPS – in person & online

- 1) A Women's group led by Shari Boehmer - is on **Discipleship Curriculum by The Navigators** – FH - Tuesday at 7pm.
All are welcome! -**On hiatus until the fall**
- 2) A men's group led by Chris Morin, "**Growing Strong in God's Family** by The Navigators" on Thursdays at 7pm in the church cafe.
- 3) Women's Bible Study on **Hebrews Chapter 11** -FH Wednesday 10 AM led by Pat Baker
- 4) A study through the book of **Ezekiel** 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. ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY CONTACT EILEEN OR DENNIS RICHARDS 801/825-3471. MAY 6TH -PASTOR JAMES CARLSON, MAY 13TH - LEE OSWALT, MAY 20TH - DENNIS RICHARDS, , MAY 27TH - ALICE CIPOLLINI

ATTENTION MINISTRY CHAIRPERSON!

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN GETTING OUR ANNUAL REPORT OUT ON TIME!

MARTHA CIRCLE

ATTENTION LADIES: MARTHA CIRCLE MEETING AND POTLUCK WILL BE ON FRIDAY MAY 20TH 2022 AT 11:30 AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. 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 US. REGULAR MEETINGS WILL BE ON THE 3RD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 11:30. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

FISH 'N LOAVES

THE PANTRY NEEDS ARE: TOILET TISSUE, BATH SOAP, JAM AND HAMBURGER HELPER. OUR SHELVES ARE FILLED WITH ALL OTHER ITEMS. THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT! SARAH L. VOIGT

HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

PRAYER CONCERNS

May 2022

Sue Carlson, Kaylin Terry, Kathy Knighton, Eric Palmer, Lynn McCarthy, Pat Call, Linda Manning, Jamie Richards, Stuart Simmons, Bob Roberts, Travis Jeffery, Barrett Wellington, Marte Hazelwood, Dennis & Naomi DeGroot, Marilyn Simon, Angelika Bertrand, Traudy Sandborn, Jean Moneymaker, Tonya Brandler, Audrey Otrumbar, Bob Schellhase, Pat Zabel, Joe Umbriaco, Jackie Ross, Andrew Milito, Robert & Doris Stott, Kristin Taylor, Karen Snyder, Tami Morin, Lois Kennedy Stone, Vanessa Chavez, Debbie Maryott, Peyton Mclain, Shelly Griffith, Ken Morgan family, Bill Davidson

"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

WE STARTED A PRAYER MEETING ON SUNDAY MORNING AT THE CHURCH (9AM - ROOM #10). WE ARE FOCUSING ON THE FOLLOWING THREE PRAYER REQUESTS. WE ARE ASKING THAT YOU FOCUS ON THESE PRAYER REQUESTS EACH WEEK THROUGHOUT THIS MONTH OF MAY DURING YOUR OWN PRAYER TIME.

- PRAY THAT GOD WOULD SEND LAY-WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS (MATT 9:38)**
- PRAY THAT WE WOULD ALL BE THANKFUL AND NOT COMPLAIN (COL 3:15; 4:2; PHIL 2:14-15)**
- PRAY THAT GOD WOULD DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE (MATT 6:13; EPH 6:10-20; 2 TIM 2:26)**

LET US PRAY, PASTOR JAMES





HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

UPCOMING EVENTS