



Sharing Life Newsletter

MARCH 16, 2010

March Birthdays

3/2 Russ Price
 3/3 Delores Brooks
 3/3 Elizabeth Cooper
 3/9 Gary Kornegay
 3/16 Ruth Yeager
 3/24 Danny Manning
 3/25 David McCrary

Prayer Needs

Hospital:
 Lloyd Mahan (Princeton)
 Patsy Hazel (Princeton)
 James Robert Rosser (UAB West)
 Steve Mahan (Lakeshore Rehab)

Special Needs: ACROSS ALABAMA

David McCrary (Home w/ Shingles)
 Patsy Gamble
 Preschool Workers
 Adult Class
 Shepherds
 Apprentice
 Shepherds

REMEMBER to Make your RSVP for TOUCH Meals!

Everyone Loved the M&M's!

We continue our emphasis in MARKING THE CONTACTS our class members have made during the week. Please encourage your class to make and report them for each Sunday. The "idea" for every contact made equals an M&M. I know this is hard to stress, but the point is understood! Encourage your class to get involved! *M&M's might entice those marks?*

Explore the Bible Series: "Divine Purpose" Exodus 5-7

God has provided redemption through Jesus Christ so believers can be rightly related to Him. We fulfill His purpose by setting aside time to worship Him, grow in relationship with Him and live so others know He is the one true God of power and mercy.

[Read more](#)

Bible Studies for Life Series: "When Immorality Comes to Church" 1 Corinthians 5-6

Acceptance of immorality has become the norm in too many churches. This lesson will help adults examine ways they are influenced by cultural views of sexual morality and to identify ways to protect their moral integrity and the reputation of their church..

[Read more...](#)

"Preparing for Sunday"



Every Sunday is special at Canaan! We have wonderful small groups for every age and life stage. Please pray for the classes who will be participating in our ACROSS ALABAMA emphasis!

We would love to invite your class and others who are able to use the parking behind the FLC for our major emphasis Sundays (March 27, April 4, and April 11). If anyone will be willing to help with parking, please let me know.

Looking for new classes to start on April 4 – anyone interested??

TOUCH SEASON: 3rd Monday Emphasis!!!

1st Monday: Youth, College & Career, Singles, & Older Senior [RESERVE A MEAL](#)
THIS IS A CHANGE DUE TO FEBRUARY & MARCH CALENDAR

2nd Monday: Preschool & Young Adult Departments [RESERVE A MEAL](#)

3rd Monday: Children & Medium Adult Departments [RESERVE A MEAL](#)

Touching Every Absentee Weekly, Every Member Monthly – Is Effective!!

[Sign Me Up for TOUCH Training Camp – Spring 2010!](#)

*Lesson
Resources*

[Lifeway Extra](#)

[Lifeway
Lessons
Online](#)

[**I KNOW AN
OPPORTUNITY
FOR OUR
CHURCH**](#)

*Sunday
Morning
Message*

*Walking
Wealthy &
Worthy in
Christ:*

*Walk as a
New Man*

*Ephesians
5: 1-7*

Explore the Bible

Lesson: Divine Purpose

Scriptures: [Exodus 5:1-3](#); [6:6-8](#); [7:1-5](#)

It was very bold of Moses and Aaron to march straight into Pharaoh's place of rule and plead for the Israelites' release for a festival of worship. Except that's not exactly how it happened. Go back and read Exodus 4:27-31. Note Aaron told the elders of Israel everything God had instructed - already acting as God's chosen spokesperson. Moses then performed the signs for the people. As in 4:1-9, he likely turned water to blood, changed his staff into a snake and back again, and then infected his hand with leprosy and healed it again. All of these signs took place right before the elders' eyes. What was their response? They bowed down and worshipped the Lord God who had heard their cries and was about to free them. They believed! Interestingly Pharaoh would himself see these same signs and many more. What was his response? He hardened his heart and rejected the Lord God.

Nothing much has changed today. We can tell the same gospel to two people. One will rejoice in the God who has come to save him; the other will harden his heart and turn from the Lord. Jesus performed many signs and wonders in Galilee to multitudes of people. What was their response? Some believed He was Messiah, and bowed their hearts in obedience to Him. Others rejected Him, wanting the healings and miracles but not the gift of salvation. The power of the gospel is not in flash and style, and it's not in the words of an eloquent speaker. The gospel's power comes from the power of God, Himself, who quickens the heart and gives the ability to respond in faith.

Over hundreds of years God would continually prove Himself the Israelites' Deliverer. In their rebellion and idolatry, God would hand His people over to Syria and Babylon. The prophet Jeremiah, who watched as Jerusalem fell and the Temple burned, wrote a letter to his countrymen in Babylon proclaiming God had a plan for them, to prosper them and not to harm them, to give them a future and a hope (Jer. 29:11). He told them He would be their God, that he would write His law on their hearts in a new covenant (Jer. 31:31-34). God fulfilled this promise in the coming of His Son, once again to redeem them from the slavery of sin.

[Sign up for "Explore the Bible" Series Newsletter](#)

*Lesson
Resources*

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Bible Studies for Life Series: *Family Life Series*

Lesson: When Immorality Comes to Church

Scriptures: [1 Cor. 5:1-2, 9-13; 6:15-20](#)

The epistles of the New Testament provide ample instruction on proper church discipline. Consider doing a study of these passages. Borrow a systematic theology book (e.g. Hodge, Grudem) or topical analysis of the Bible that will isolate those passages for you. When immorality comes to church within its membership its leaders are biblically charged to take certain steps toward confronting it. In most Evangelical churches today it would be shocking to think members and leaders alike would condone or applaud such behavior. Sadly, though, the more common response is passivity or quiet tolerance. Why do you think church discipline is practiced so seldom today? Have you experienced any situations during your time in ministry in which such discipline would have helped? How well do your Sunday School attendees understand these concepts?

"Too judgmental." That's the reason many people give for not attending church or associating with Christians. Well, Paul puts a bit of a damper on that label in our second Scripture passage. We must lovingly judge and correct church members engaging in persistently sinful patterns. Yet Paul is clear we must not judge unbelievers. Don't be surprised when a non-Christian sins. That's what they do! Paul wrote in Romans 6 that they are slaves to sin, while we are slaves to righteousness. We can't continue offering our bodies as sacrifices to sins' demands. That kind of behavior infects a church. Just like a disease, it must be removed from the body. Despite the hurt and pain it will cause, dissociating from wayward believers is actually a loving action. It draws a firm line and causes the sinner to reevaluate his or her choices, if indeed that person is still sensitive to the Holy Spirit's voice of rebuke. It doesn't matter if the world thinks this kind of discipline is cruel or unloving. Just like we can't judge the world, the world cannot judge us.

Earlier in chapter Paul reminds the Corinthians that they used to be defined by their sins. Yet since their washing in the blood of Christ they had been sanctified - set apart as holy. This sanctification was not their doing but accomplished in the work of Jesus. Yet it is our responsibility to live like the sanctified sinners we are in Christ. Though we will still sin, those old ways no longer define us. We find our identity in the righteousness with which we are clothed in God's Son. Striving as hard as we can to be good and holy will fall short. The gospel is as much for us today as it was the day we were saved. We must trust in our ongoing sanctification God performs through His Holy Spirit. This is one of the great mysteries of life in Christ - the combination of His work and our commitment together.

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Suggested Parking Option for Members on Emphasis Sundays

