

# The Vine

I am the vine; you are the branches...John 15:5

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

October 2014

## THE URGE TO WORSHIP

The urge to worship is an inherent inclination to show reverence and respect. Sometimes it has nothing to do with anything biblical, like God. Since man has existed he has worshipped something- his ancestors, plants, the moon, stars, sun, trees, fire and even himself.

When men turn from God, Paul said they “exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever” (Rom.1:25). The creation of images and idols is known as idolatry- condemned severely in scripture (1 John 5:21).

Christians worship God alone (Matt. 4:10; John 4:23-24). Because the Bible has the only true information about God, the way Christians worship must be dictated by the truth of God’s word. That worship is not the result of inward impulse, but conformity to what God Himself has allowed in His word.

But still there is an inward urge to worship. When trouble strikes, the urge to turn to God is natural. It is wrong to limit to troublesome times. Jeremiah rebuked the idolatrous Jews as those who, “say to a tree, Thou art my father; and to a stone, Thou hast brought me forth; for they have turned their back unto me, and not their face; **but in their time of trouble** they will say, Arise, and save us” (Jer. 2:27).

Whether it be idolatry or infidelity, it satisfies only in tranquil and prosperous times. No sooner does trouble come, than the deep conviction of the existence of God, which is the witness for Him in our heart, resumes its authority, and man prays.

Christians also have an impulse to worship when their hearts are filled with joy. The Psalmist expressed it thus: “Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy (Ps. 43:4).

Today we assemble to offer to God the praise of worship so justly due to Him. Whether it is from the burden of hurt we feel or the joy experienced, let us benefit from the greatest privilege ever offered to a rational being-an opportunity to worship and praise our God.



## The Marks of a True Christian, Part 2

**Romans 12:9-13** *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.*

Last month we talked about enthusiastic service to God as a mark of a true Christian.

This month we will talk about giving and generosity. I will make this disclaimer: This is a reminder, not a rebuke. I have no idea how much anyone gives. I do not get that information, nor do I want it.

Oh, boy. Here we go again. The preacher's asking for money. There is always someone (usually not a church attendee) who says, "that's all you preachers do is ask for money!" "Seems like every time I go to church, they're asking for money"

Well, if you are talking about the offering we take every week, then yes, we ask people to give to the work of the Lord. If you are saying every time you are in church the preacher specifically talks about giving in his sermons, then one of two things is happening. 1. You aren't paying attention very well or 2. You only come to church once or twice a year.

In fact, a lot of preachers shy away from preaching about money and giving because they are afraid they will turn someone off. So much so that if you were to count all the passages that reference money, spending or giving as a percentage of the Bible, it isn't preached on enough.

If one of the true marks of Christianity is our generosity to our fellow man and support of the Church (Christ's body on earth and the mission Christ gave it), then it makes sense to see what God commands about it. First, let's break down Romans 12:13.

Contribute (give) to the needs (basics to function and thrive in our current culture) of the saints (believers). Believe it or not, one of the purposes of giving is to help other people in the church. If there is someone in our local body that is struggling to meet basic needs, we should help them. That requires the person/family needing help to tell someone. We aren't mind readers. We need to be humble enough to express a need and allow fellow believers the opportunity to minister. VFCC has a benevolence fund set up

specifically for helping people meet those basic needs. That need can be made known by contacting the pastor and it will be handled discreetly by those over this ministry.

The saints have other needs. Saints are called to make disciples, to be the light of the world. We are to meet regularly in order to encourage, teach, love, (etc.) one another. Our meeting place, that is the church building, is where we do that. The church building should be a lighthouse in the community and a safe haven for Christians. We come here to be equipped to go out into the world. So when you give, and the giving goes toward the building and utilities, needs of the saints are being met in that as well.

Then there is giving to those who have taken the Great Commission to other parts of the world. Ten percent of all the offerings at VFCC go to missions.

Continuing with Romans 12:13 – seek (actively pursue opportunities) to show (outwardly and practically express) hospitality. Webster's 1913 dictionary writes of hospitality as 'receiving and entertaining strangers or guests without reward, with kind and generous liberality.

A true Christian is generous with their resources to the church and to man without begrudging them. Do we fit the description?

Let's see what the Bible in general says about giving. A little homework if you want to check up on me – look up the references yourself and don't take my word for it.

**Psalm 24:1** – It all belongs to God anyway.

**1 Chronicles 21:22-26** – Giving to God requires sacrifice. It will cost us something.

**Luke 12:23-24** – Giving is a heart issue.

Giving today builds up heavenly treasures for eternity.

Remember, however, we don't give in order to get blessings. We give because we love God and God has commanded us to. We don't give in order to be saved. No amount of money (or hospitality) can buy our salvation. Jesus paid for that on the cross.

**1 Corinthians 16:1-2** – The early church met often and took offerings every week. It would seem that they were told to give a percentage (in keeping with their income).

**2 Corinthians 8:3** – Again, sacrificial giving.

*(continued on the back page)*

## Recipe Swap

### SWEET, STICKY & SPICY CHICKEN

1T. brown sugar  
2 T. honey  
¼ c. soy sauce  
2 tsp. chopped fresh ginger  
2 tsp. chopped garlic  
2 T. hot sauce  
Salt and pepper to taste  
4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves-  
cut into ½ inch strips  
1 T. vegetable oil

Mix together brown sugar, honey, soy sauce, ginger, garlic and hot sauce in a small bowl.

Lightly salt and pepper the chicken strips.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add chicken strips and brown on both sides, about 1 minute per side. Pour the sauce over the chicken. Simmer uncovered until the sauce thickens, 8-10 minutes.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**OUR SOLDIERS:** Curtis Mitchell, Brandon Miller, Ryan Myers, Luke Cummings, Greg Morales, Ryan Kirby, Zach Stiffler, Josh Lackey, Dan Cook, Rick Huertz, Steve Heinen, Ammin Spencer, Gates Kobuszewski, Leslie Bolz, Steve Grove, Austin Everhart, Noe Garza, Brandon Hammons, Ruth Churchill, Jason Cherry

### PRAISE:

Nancy Gatzmeyer's knee surgery went well.  
Christy Smith's sinus surgery went well.  
Grace (Arnold) Farwell's tests came out ok, no Crohn's disease.  
Shirley Harris' eye surgery went well.

**SYMPATHY:** Jay & Carol Welborn and family at the passing of his mother Vera.

Nedra Boyce passed away.

**COPIES OF THE SERMONS ARE AVAILABLE ON CD UPON REQUEST:** If you would like a copy please see Mike. You can also listen to them online at [www.valleyfallscc.org](http://www.valleyfallscc.org).

**POCKET CHANGE FOR PROGRESS:** This will be a special offering every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday during church. The money will be split between Mission Lake Camp and the School Supply Giveaway Fund

**RECYCLING:** We have a recycling box beside the copier in the office.

**COLLECTING FOR ALPHA:** Alpha Christian Children's Home can use Campbell soup UPC labels and lids, Best Choice UPC labels and General Mills Box Top Symbols coupons (Box Tops for Education.) We will have a box in the hallway outside the nursery under the mailboxes.

### SISTERS OF STRENGTH (S.O.S.)-

(Mission Statement: We are a lifeline to glorify God through service to the church and community and to build personal relationships with our Christian Sisters.)

We will be having our regular meeting on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Scott Preston  
Ben Trotter
- 3 Marge Prebble  
Kaylee House  
Kevin & Nancy Gatzmeyer (1970)
- 12 Gary & Peggy Meyer
- 13 Georganna Carson  
Kyle & Laura Reich (2001)
- 15 Helen Grove
- 16 Bud Bryant  
Emma Branam
- 19 Karie Turner  
Randee Jo Gatzmeyer
- 20 Jay Welborn  
Marvin & Marge Prebble (1979)
- 21 Lori Barrett
- 22 Jessica (Farr) Mitchell  
Clay Hawk

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

## Serving in OCTOBER

### Congregational Prayer:

Steve Carson

### Scripture Readers:

5-Matt Branam-Daniel 3:12-18

12-Tichenor-Haggai 1:1-4

19-Christy Arnold- Esther 4:13-16

26-Thomas-Nehemiah 8:8-12

### Nursery:

5-Debbie Gerstner/Nik Branam

12-Linda Durand/Jackson Reich

19—Sarah Hollis/Libby Phillips

26-Joan Phillips/Caitlyn Thomas

### Greeters/Ushers:

5- Durand

12-Tichenors

19--Arnolds

26-Thomas

### Lord's Supper Preparation:

5-Durand

12-Tichenor

19-Arnold

26-Thomas

### Communion Table:

5-Stan, Jay

**Dennis Ti**, Curt Gatzmeyer

12- Jay, Stan

**Clint Thomas**, Andy Arnold

19- Stan, Jay

**Ray Mitchell**, Matt Branam

26- Jay, Stan

**Dennis Tu**, Ben Trotter

### Musicians

Worship Team: Erin Thomas

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

## Church Offerings

Aug. 31-\$2274.00

Sept. 7-\$2988.00

Sept. 14-\$1476.00

Sept. 21-\$1535.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

**Valley Falls Christian Church has a website!!**

[www.valleyfallsc.org](http://www.valleyfallsc.org)

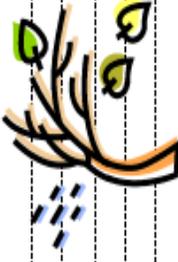
**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** The men's breakfast will be on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM. Dennis Turner will be hosting.

**EYEGLASSES:** We now have a box in the foyer to put spare glasses in for missions. The lions club collects them and is able to reuse them in other countries that desperately need them. If you have any questions please ask Stan or Donetta.

**ATTENTION LADIES:** Autumn Tea. Sunday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM. The Valley Falls Recreation Commission has chosen the "FREE School Supply Project" to receive the proceeds from the "Autumn Tea Party" this year. Tables are decorated by individuals, clubs or organizations, each with its own unique setting and theme. Linda Durand, Laura Reich and Helen Grove have volunteered to decorate a table for the event. The event is open to all ages so invite your mother, grandmother, aunt, niece or best friend to view the beautifully decorated tables and enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, delicious food and great conversations. Contact members of the Valley Falls Recreation Commission for tickets and more information: Heather Allen, Jeri Clark, Noe Garza, Alisa Grollmes, Jill Penry.

**MISSION LAKE FALL RETREAT:** The fall retreat for Junior and Senior High kids will be Oct. 10-11.

**THANK YOU:** The church received a thank you card from Jay and Carol Welborn for the lunch that was served after Vera Welborns service.

2014		OCTOBER				2014	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
			<b>1</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b> 2:00 PM Service at Midland 5:00 PM Youth Group	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>9</b>	 <b>10</b> Fall Retreat at Mission Lake Camp	 <b>11</b> 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast SOS 9:00 AM	
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	
 <b>19</b> 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 5:00 PM Youth Group	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	
<b>26</b> 5:00 PM Youth Group	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

# Valley Falls Christian Church

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Valley Falls, KS 66088

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On the web: www.valleyfallsc.org  
Find us on Facebook!

Mike Kirby, Pastor

***You are welcome to join us!***

**Sunday Service times:**

Bible Study (all ages) – 9:00 AM  
Worship – 10:00 AM  
Youth Group – 5:00 PM

**Midweek Bible Study:**

Wednesday 7:00 PM

*(Marks of a True Christian – Pt. 2 continued)*

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15** – So much here. Give cheerfully, not reluctantly. The giver will be blessed, though not necessarily with earthly riches (if you give just because you think you will get something back, your heart isn't right about giving). God will meet the needs of the giver. Giving brings glory to God. Giving is part of submitting to and obeying God.

Read the words of the Old Testament prophet Malachi. **Malachi 3:8-10** *Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

We should think of giving as a blessing, not a burden. It is something to look forward to, not to avoid.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

And why should we not give? Our Lord Jesus gave us everything – His very life! Is it too much for us to give to the church that He died for and to help people as He commands us? Please pray that each one of us gives as the Lord would have us give and that we would be receptive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in this area.

*Mike*

