

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

October 2015

READING THE BIBLE

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

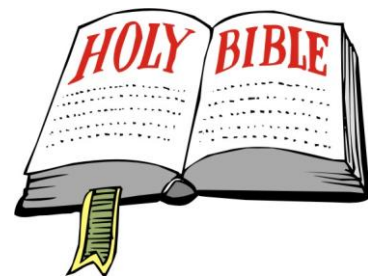
The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water in a basket," and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather, that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was once again empty. Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" The old man said, "Look at the basket." The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean. "Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out.

That is the work of God in our lives. To change us from the inside out and to slowly transform us into the image of His son. Take time to read a portion of God's word each day.



The Word of the Month: Hope

Daniel 2:21 *He changes times and seasons...*

Well, it's fall again. People are ready for cooler weather, the beauty of changing leaves, sweatshirts, s'mores, pumpkin pie and anything else on the long list of things that remind us of autumn.

I was researching the origins of the word 'autumn.' It comes from the Latin *autumnus*. It was hard to pin down the roots of what *autumnus* actually meant, but I came across words like cold, to cool off and drying up.

We look around and things are dying during fall. Many leaves turn beautiful colors of orange, red and yellow – but only before they turn brown and fall off of the trees. Flowers stop blooming and dry up. Gardens stop producing and we have to clear them out and plow them under as we prepare for winter.

It is getting cooler. Though some welcome the cooler weather as a relief from the hot summer, others can only think of how cold it will be in December and January. The days are getting shorter which can affect our dispositions. It is not that difficult to look at fall and get a little depressed.

Maybe you are going through a season in your life right now that seems to be a drying up season, a cold season. It seems things just aren't going the way you want them to. Perhaps you have health issues that you were not prepared for. Your relationships aren't where you want them to be. Could it be that you are struggling with money when you thought by this time in your life you would feel much more financially secure?

I want to give you a word to help you through this season. Hope.

Not the verb hope. "Wow, I sure hope the Royals pull out of their tailspin and go to the World Series." "I hope I can win the lottery!" [Side note: the lottery is a tax on people who are bad at math.]

I am talking about the noun hope. Hope is something we can have no matter what season of life we are in and no matter how badly things seem to be going right now.

What is the essence of hope? **1 Timothy 1:1** *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope.* Jesus Christ IS our hope. But if we dig a little deeper, we can learn even more.

1 Peter 3 tells us we are to be ready to make a defense of the hope we have within us. **Colossians 1:27** *To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

So our hope isn't merely Jesus in the abstract. It is Jesus dwelling within us through the Holy Spirit.

But wait – there's more! [Sounds like an infomercial.] Our hope in Christ is that He is not finished with us. He will return some day to make everything right again! **Titus 2:13** *[We are] waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.* 1 John 3 tells us when He appears, we will be made like Him.

Paul prayed in **Ephesians 1:18** that we would *know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.* 1 Peter 1 tells us it is a living hope that will never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for us.

Put it all together. Our hope is not a wishful whim, but it is the expectation of a promise made by God. It is Jesus. It is our life in Him and His in us. It is His return to take his bride. It is the glorification of our bodies. It is heaven itself – spending eternity with our Savior who loves us and died for us.

There is a key thing about this hope. Those who have not received Christ as their Lord have no hope. Zip, zero, nada. **Ephesians 2:12** *remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.*

As I studied the origin of autumn, another description jumped out at me. Before we called the fall season autumn, it was simply called harvest. The time of gathering in.

A possible root buried within the origins of the word autumn is 'the season of increase.' Autumn doesn't have to be cold and dried up. It can be a time of abundance. A time when God does a great work in your life. Remember, **John 12:24** *Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.* In Christ, weakness is a vessel in which He can show his power and death is the gateway to true life. (continued on the back page)

Recipe Swap

TURTLE COOKIES

2 cups minus 2 T. cake flour
1 2/3 cup bread flour
1 ¼ tsp. baking soda
1 ½ tsp. baking powder
1 ½ tsp. kosher salt
2 ½ sticks of butter
1 ¼ cups brown sugar
1 cup plus 2 T. sugar
2 large eggs
2 tsp. vanilla
2 cups dark chocolate chips
1 cup caramel bits
1 cup chopped pecans

Mix butter and sugars together then add eggs and vanilla. Mix your dry ingredients together then add them to the butter mixture and mix well. Stir in the chocolate chips, caramel bits, and chopped pecans. Chill for 24-36 hours. Make into golf sized balls and bake at *350 for 18-20 minutes. You can make them smaller and bake them for about 12 minutes. Makes about 1 ½ dozen 5" cookies.

Donetta Farr

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Shirley Harris is moving to KC.
Betty Smith had knee replacement surgery
Georganna Carson's nephew Daniel Sue Hosler family at her passing
Mary Breitsprecher will be having eye surgery on Sept. 29
Steve Carson
Dave Eaton
Darlene House
Help with the new addition construction

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.valleyfallsc.org.

POCKET CHANGE FOR PROGRESS: This will be a special offering every 3rd 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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 1 Ben Trotter
- 3 Marge Prebble
Kaylee House
Kevin & Nancy Gatzemeyer (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 Gatzemeyer
- 20 Jay Welborn
Marvin & Marge Prebble (1979)
- 21 Lori Barrett
- 22 Jessica (Farr) Mitchell
Clay Hawk
Jason Sears
- 30 Lynzie Haybarker

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Serving in OCTOBER

Congregational Prayer:

Jay Welborn

Scripture Readers:

4-Thomas-Psalm 121

11-Joan Phillips-Psalm 23

18-Nancy Gatzemeyer-Ps. 103:11-19

25-Grove-1 Cor. 12:12-19

Nursery:

4-Debbie Gerstner/Nik Branam

11-Laura Reich/Jackson Reich

18—Sarah Hollis/Libby Phillips

25-Joan Phillips/Caitlyn Thomas

Greeters/Ushers:

4-Thomas

11-Phillips

18-Kevin and Nancy Gatzemeyer

25-Grove

Lord's Supper Preparation:

4-Thomas

11-Phillips

18-Kevin and Nancy Gatzemeyer

25-Grove

Communion Table:

4-Stan, Jay

Clint Thomas, Curt Gatzmeyer

11- Jay, Stan

Ray Mitchell, Wayne Arnold

18- Stan, Jay

Dennis Turner, Steve Carson

25- Jay, Stan

David Grove, Ray Mitchell

Musicians

Worship Team: Mike Kirby

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Church Offerings

Aug. 30-\$1333.00

Sept. 6-\$1492.00

Sept. 13-\$1580.00

Sept. 20-\$2707.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

Valley Falls Christian Church has a website!!

www.valleyfallsc.org

MEN'S BREAKFAST: There will be no men's breakfast until further notice due to lack of kitchen.




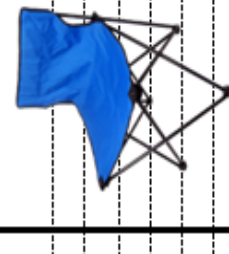



EYEGASSES: We now have a box in the foyer to put spare glasses in for missions. The lions club collects them and is able to reuse them in other countries that desperately need them. If you have any questions please ask Stan or Donetta.

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP: We would like to have a fall family fellowship. We usually do a hayride and hot dog roast. If you would be willing to host this please let us know. We have a tentative date of Oct. 10th.



REVIVAL: We had a wonderful revival with Don Young last week. We had 5 new souls saved. Welcome to the family Dave and Sheila Eaton, Misty Eaton, Sheena Eaton and Stephanie Byrd. It was a great start with Spoken 4 a Gospel quartet on Saturday night. It was wonderful seeing Don and Brenda Young and hearing him preach again.



2015		OCTOBER					2015	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
Fall is Here 				1	2	3		
4  2:00 PM Service at Midland 5:00 PM Youth Group	5	6	7 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	8	9	10  Family Fellowship?		
11 5:00 PM Youth Group	12	13	14 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	15	16	17		
18  10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 5:00 PM Youth Group	19	20	21 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	22	23	24		
25 5:00 PM Youth Group	26	27	28 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	29	30	31		

Valley Falls Christian Church

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Email: office@valleyfallsc.org

On the web: www.valleyfallsc.org

Find us on Facebook!

Mike Kirby, Pastor

You are welcome to join us!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

(The Word of the Month: Hope - continued)

If your life is going well right now, remember that this life is temporary with its peaks and valleys, and you will likely face some more valleys before you die. If the season you are going through feels dead, you can still have hope. You don't ever have to be in a hopeless season of life. Whatever problems this world brings you, those problems pale in comparison to the eternal glory we will experience in the world to come.

Our hope is a fact. It is rooted in the character of God. It is believed on in faith and confirmed by His word.

Hebrews 10:23 *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.* **Romans 12:12** *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*

No matter what season your life is in right now, there is always hope in Christ!

Mike

(All scriptures are from the ESV Bible.)

