

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

March 2016

LOYALTY TO THE LORD

A Christian has pledged to be loyal to the Lord Jesus Christ. If one remains true to that pledge, customs and human traditions will not be allowed to become sacred. The ways of this world will not become a strong influence, and his/her desire will ever be to conform to the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is sometimes difficult for some people to see how wrong it is to introduce into the work and worship of the Lord's church anything that appeals to them. They do not realize that to mix human wisdom with divine is offensive to God. Jesus rebuked the most pious Jews of His day because they could not accept what God said as sufficient; they had to add their own traditions and customs and make them of equal, if not more, important than scripture.

Our Lord said, "This people honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, Teaching (as their) doctrines the precepts of men" (Matt. 15:8-9). One lesson we must eventually learn is that God's ways are incomparable to man's. The ancient prophet wrote, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith Jehovah. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa 55:8-9).

The wisdom of this world is but foolishness to Almighty God. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning will I bring to nought. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?" (1 Cor. 1:19-20).

James wrote of a religion that is vain cannot be the religion that honors God. Not to put the bridle of truth on the tongue makes vain religion and to bring into the worship and work of the church anything God does not authorize makes vain worship. We must always revere and honor the authority of the Almighty by taking our stand on a "thus saith the Lord.

Spring Training

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

1 Corinthians 9:25 (NIV)

Here are some key dates we should all have memorized for this year: February 18, 19, 23, 24. March 2. April 3.

What makes these dates so important? If you are a Royals fan, they are very important. 2/18 – Pitchers and catchers report. 2/19 – Pitchers and catchers first workout. 2/23 – Position players report. 2/24 – First full workout. 3/2 – First pre-season game. 4/3 – Opening day of the regular season.

I am hoping for another exciting year as the Royals chase an opportunity to repeat as world champions of Major League Baseball. On opening day they play the NY Mets – the team they defeated to win the World Series last fall.

Notice that the players don't show up on April 2 in order to begin the season on April 3. Many players continue to stay in shape and train in the off season. Then in February, they must report to train with the team. They play exhibition spring training games against other teams for almost a month as they get ready for the grueling 162 game season.

All of this training is necessary for each team to compete to make the playoffs at the end of the season.

Training allows the players to be in better shape to avoid injury as the season wears on. It allows them to reinforce fundamentals, work on weaknesses and get their timing just right so they can play at their peak. It allows them to practice together as a team so they can function at their highest level as one unit.

Sports have been exciting in the KC area this year. The Royals won the World Series and the Kansas City Chiefs had a good year as they rebounded from a 1-5 start to make the playoffs and even win a playoff game.

The KU Jayhawks are playing very well right now and will likely get a one or a two seed in the upcoming NCAA basketball tournament. And now the Royals can anticipate another run at the crown.

As Christians, we are to pursue a crown that doesn't fade, rust or tarnish. I can remember the Royals won the World Series in 1985 and 2015 and the Jayhawks won the NCAA championship in 1988 and 2008 because they are close to my heart. I can't tell you who won in the subsequent years. In 100 years, only the most hardcore sports fans will remember who won it all in 2015.

Yet we are to train for a crown that will never be forgotten. It is eternal and given to us by God.

What does Christian training look like? We train ourselves to be obedient to Christ. **1 Timothy 4:7-8** *Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.*

We train ourselves in Christian disciplines like prayer, fasting, service, worshiping together in church and meditating on the scriptures. **Titus 2:11-12** *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.*

We always turn to the word of God to train us for life. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

All this training allows us to finish the Christian race and receive the victor's crown! **2 Timothy 4:7-8** *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.*

As Christians, let's all train hard so we can finish well!

Mike

(All scriptures are from the ESV Bible unless otherwise noted.)

Recipe Swap

BREAKFAST BALLS

1 cup peanut butter
1 ½ cup oatmeal
1 tsp. vanilla
¼ c. dark chocolate chips
2 T. honey
¼ tsp. cayenne pepper

Mix all ingredients together, roll into balls and eat. Store in refrigerator. Makes about 36 balls. Donetta Farr

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Pat Petesch- moved to rehab
Charlie Brown and his wife traveling

ACTIVITY FOLDERS: There are 2 folders left. Mothers Day and the Christmas Program. If you have wanted a chance to get involved, here is your opportunity. These will be put away if not picked up Sunday.

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.

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

4 Donetta Farr
Mary Breitsprecher
6 Joy (Farr) McGuire
Katie (Mitchell) Handke
8 Caitlyn Thomas
10 Jennifer Guffey
11 Peggy Meyer
Kaylie Mitchell
12 Kamren Haybarker
14 Gary & Betty Smith (1983)
15 RALPH SHEAD
19 Peyton Barrett
20 Grace Thompson
Lance Turner
CASSIE WATKINS
26 Trey Munson
Marvin Prebble
28 Grady Tichenor
Jeff & Carolyn Starkey (1981)
29 Isaac Reich
Jodie Cook
(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Serving in March

Congregational Prayer:

Wayne Arnold

Scripture Readers:

6- Brian Barrett-John 11:38-44
13-Christy Arnold- Luke 19:28-40
20- Erin Thomas-Luke 23:13-25
27- Joan Phillips-Luke 24:1-9

Nursery:

6-Debbie Gerstner/Caitlyn
13-Cheyenne H.
20-Joan Phillips/Jackson
27-Glee Hosler/Caitlyn

Greeters/Ushers:

6- Barretts
13-Arnolds
20-Thomas'
27-Phillips

Lord's Supper Preparation:

6- Barretts
13- Arnolds
20- Thomas'
27- Phillips

Communion Table:

6-Stan, Jay
Clint Thomas, Matt Branam
13- Jay, Stan
David Grove, Curt Gatzemeyer
20- Stan, Jay
Ray Mitchell, David Grove
27- Jay, Stan
Ray Mitchell, Brian Barrett

Musicians

Worship Leader: David Grove
Organ: Leah Brown
Piano: Donetta Farr
Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clinton Thomas,
Stephanie Byrd
Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Church Offerings

Jan.31 - \$1597.50
Feb.7-\$2308.00
Feb.14-\$1391.00
Feb.21-\$1263.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The men's breakfast will be on Mar. 12th at 8:00 AM. Stan Farr will be cooking.

TIME CHANGE: Time change will be Mar. 13th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour.

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.

SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAY MINISTRY: We are still looking for a person (s) to take over this ministry. Please pray about this mission and where it will go. Is God calling you to step up? We really don't want this to go by the wayside.

FUNDRAISING: Several churches in Jefferson County along with us are collecting canned goods the month of February for Alpha Christian Children's Home in Perry, KS. Sunday the 28th of February is the last day to bring donations. Thank you to everyone that added to the pile of food items in the foyer.

2016		MARCH				2016	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
		1	2 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	3	4	5	
6 2:00 PM Service at Midland 5:00 PM Youth Group	7	8	9 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Board Meeting	10	11	12  8:00 AM Men's Breakfast	
13  10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 5:00 PM Youth Group	14	15	16 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	17 	18	19	
20 Palm Sunday	21	22	23 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	24	25	26	
27 Easter 5:00 PM Youth Group	28	29	30 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	31			

Valley Falls
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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

Vacation Bible School is COMING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Welcome to Ocean Commotion where your kids will learn how to trust, obey, fear, stand for God and thank God with exciting lessons from the life of Noah and the flood. Every day our kids are challenged to stand for God in their schools, among their friends, in our culture... no matter what. And they're bombarded with the lie that God's Word isn't true. At this monumental VBS program, your kids will dive deep into the amazing account of Noah and the flood from the book of Genesis! They'll learn to apply the spiritual lessons from Noah's life to their own. And, along the way, they'll uncover faith-affirming lessons from the Flood; how all the animals fit on the ark, how the flood covered the whole earth, and how we can still see the effects of this flood today. They'll also learn that the flood legends from around the world are based on the true account in Genesis! Prepare for a boatload of excitement at Ocean Commotion! We need YOU first VBS meeting will be Sunday March 13 right after church. We'll give you a quick overview of how it will run, always new and exciting ways of doing things, you know. Many positions to fill, so hopefully you can pray about this ahead of time and be willing to fill 1 or 2 spots. We will be looking for drama people, music coordinator, drama director, Dive Club Leaders (walking leaders), Dive instructors, (teachers 1 or 2 people), snack person,

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Game person, craft/science person, a person in charge of decorations, publicity and registration. An encouraging thought: At the end of John's gospel the writer tells us, "Jesus did many other things as well. If everyone of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written." John 21:25. So when a story is mentioned in multiple accounts, we need to take notice. One such story is when people were bringing children to Jesus. Jesus was greatly displeased when the disciple rebuked them for bringing the children. Jesus said "permit the children to come to me..." Now is the time people to let the children come to us. Not only our own, but children of the community that may not get biblical teaching any other time. Please be willing to give of yourself to teach these precious souls.... All in God's glory! See you March 13th. Donetta and Carol

PS. If you know what you want to do before that, please by all means let us know!! We can get you the information anytime.