



God Has a Plan For You

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

- Jeremiah 29.11, 13 (ESV)

VISION 2018



A Message from our Shepherds

Jeremiah became known as the weeping prophet. He and along with his contemporaries, Habakkuk and Ezekiel, served as prophets to Judah over its last three decades. Habakkuk and Jeremiah concentrated their efforts in Jerusalem, while Ezekiel was taken to Babylon in the second wave of captives in 597 BC. As for Jeremiah, he remained in Jerusalem through to the bitter end. The country was literally crumbling around him.

This had been a long time coming. For decades Jeremiah had prophesied judgment upon God's people. Sword, famine, and captivity were coming. Everything he prophesied came true, Jeremiah 1-28. In Jeremiah 29-33, Jeremiah's tone remarkably changed. These chapters are filled with some of the most beautiful promises in all of Scripture. His words are filled with grace and glory.

Jeremiah promised that God would bring His people back from captivity, 30.3. He would love them with an everlasting love, 31.3. He would turn their mourning into gladness, 31.13. He would make a new covenant with them, 31.31, and give them singleness of heart and action, 32.39. God would even cleanse them from all the sin they have committed, 33.8. Ultimately, these promises were fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

These wonderful blessings are summarized in one promise in Jeremiah 29.11: For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. This promise demonstrated that God knew exactly what He was doing. He had known it all along, as He always does. God had a plan and then He carried it out. Everything He does is for the ultimate good of His people.

Let's be honest. Life is a challenge. There are wonderful days filled with joy and happiness. And then there are days when life crashes around us. That is the way it is for all of us. How do we respond? Where do we go for help or comfort? How do we share in our happiness without sounding boastful? How do we re-

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bound when pressure comes? It begins with understanding God has a plan for us. He has plans for welfare and not for evil. His plan provides a future and a hope.

His plan centers around the salvation of His people through Jesus Christ. The blessing in this life is God adding us to His family, His church, Ephesians 2.18-19, 21. He never meant for us to be a loner. It is in His church that we should find a hand to help us when we fall, a shoulder to cry on, a kind word, and genuine love. We bear one another's burdens, Galatians 6.2. We rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep, Romans 12:15. We experience a selflessness that considers others better than themselves, Philippians 2.3.

We stand together in confidence as God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is, 1 John 3.2. God had a plan from the beginning that brought us to Christ. He added us to His church to get through this life together. Finally, He has freely given us a future and a hope for eternity with Him.

We believe these are important concepts for God's people to remember today. As we live inside a tumultuous world, never lose sight that God has a plan for each one of us. God is inviting you to join with Him and other like-minded people in your very personal journey of transformation. He promises to sustain you through a difficult world and give you life, prosperity, and peace in the world to come.



Rich Walker



Russ Robins



George Wacks

November 19, 2017

Moving Forward

In 2017, we looked at being a disciple of Jesus and how He impacts our daily life. We considered His “excellences” as the critical motivating factors in our daily pursuits, our dedication to God, and the essence of our character in the Lord. We spent the year learning what Jesus meant when He said, “Follow Me.”

As we begin 2018, our central theme is God has a plan for you. In Ephesians 1.5-6, we see that He chose us as adopted children into His family. God has a plan that we all be with Him in eternity. This year is dedicated to understanding that plan and God's desire for man throughout eternity. We have a song, “We Have an Anchor,” that speaks to the challenges we face daily. We sing of withstanding the storms of life, yet through our faith in the Lord, the moorings of our anchor remain steady. When the blasts of life shatter our very being, we can have confidence that our Savior is grounded, and He will never “abandon ship” on us. We can rest easy at night and wake up the next day knowing our Lord is our rock and our salvation. Fixing our eyes on the Author and Perfector of our faith, the storms of life will pass as we have an anchor for our souls.

In Ephesians 3.11, Paul describes that God's eternal plan was carried out in Jesus Christ and in His Church. But, for us to be a part of that church, we have to “remove ourselves” from standing in the way. Paul said in Romans 6.13, *do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness*. We have to let go of our old person.

So, as we study this year, let us be assured that “God has given us everything we need for life and godliness,” (2 Peter 1.3). God will continue to provide for us richly until we see him face to face in glory. Because we have been promised an abundant and eternal life that is secured in heaven waiting for us, we can be confident nothing that could bring us lasting eternal harm can touch us. *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor*

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anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, Romans 8:38–39.

While our circumstances may be painful, God is working out His desire that we grow up into the image of His Son, Romans 8.29; Philippians 1.6. Let us put off our old sinful and destructive ways, and above all else, find our satisfaction in Him.

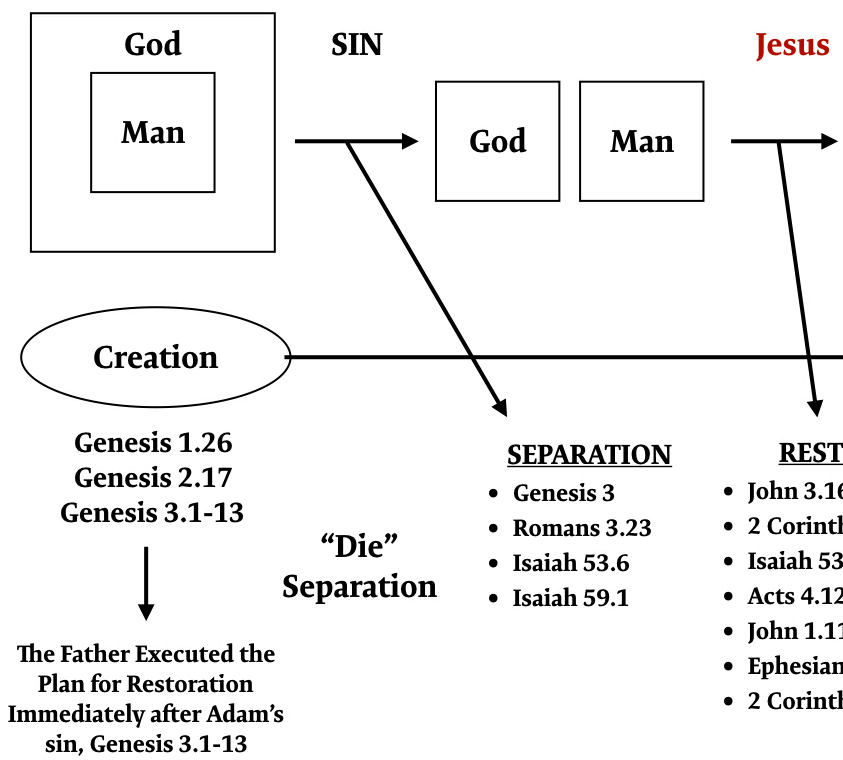
We know that inside this family there are those who need compassion and care, right now. Some are weak and being beaten down. Some have a broken heart. Members are sitting right beside you *today* who are coping with all sorts of personal issues. They, or someone they love have been diagnosed with a form of cancer. Some are dealing with an unplanned pregnancy, others are staring down a long prison sentence. Some grieve the loss of a loved one and others are coping with unexplained health symptoms that have led to debilitating health problems. Some have been rocked by marriage problems while others are coping with aging parents and are perplexed on what to do next. Some parents are dying inside because their son or daughter has destroyed their life with drugs or alcohol and are facing uncertain legal issues. Some are dealing with employment issues while others face a situation where their children have turned away from God and left the church.

None of these things should come as a surprise. God's plan never promised us a life on earth that is free from difficulty. Instead, let us remember that we are, "by God's power, being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time, In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, "so that the tested genuineness of your faith... may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."(1 Peter 1:5-7, ESV). *That is God's plan.*

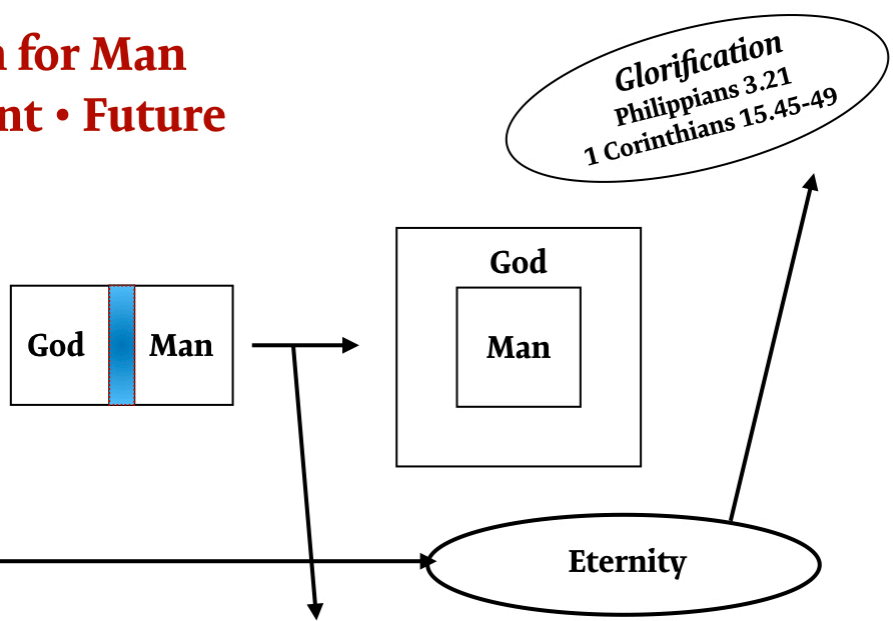
Your elders, deacons, ministers, and your brothers and sisters in Christ, are all a part of God's plan as we help each other through this life.

Let not your heart be troubled.

God’s Plan
Past • Present • Future



Plan for Man
Present • Future



ORATION

5
nians 5.17
.6
1-12
s 2.8-9
nians 5.11-21

SANCTIFICATION

- James 1.21
- 1 Peter 2.24
- Luke 9.23
- John 17.17
- Colossians 2.6
- Philippians 2.12
- Psalm 34

GLORIFY GOD

- Galatians 2.20
- Colossians 3.1-4
- 1 Corinthians 3.16
- Matthew 5.16
- John 12.24

God's Desire For Us

Seeing the power of His eternal purpose for you

Around the year 627 BC, God called Jeremiah into service. *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations,* Jeremiah 1:4–5. There was a divine plan for Jeremiah's life, serving a spiritual purpose. In fact, far from glorious by human standards, God's plan required Jeremiah to endure great suffering and mental anguish. Most who heard his preaching failed to listen. Kings and religious leaders publicly scorned him and even had him arrested on charges of treason. At one point, he was thrown inside an empty cistern and left to starve to death. But, he persevered and ultimately accomplished God's purpose.

Today, Christians know and understand that God has always had a plan for mankind. God knew long before creation that we would encounter sin and need a Savior. Paul wrote that *he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,* Ephesians 1:4–5. You see, it's personal with God. Seven hundred years before Jesus, God envisioned a time when He would say *Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made,* Isaiah 43:6–7.

Did you catch what God said near the end of verse 7? *You* have been created for His glory. He personally played a role in your creation and His moving to save you came from the depth of His heart, John 3:16. Our coming together in Christ is more than a ritual or command. We are here to do life together. We come here each week to refresh our hope.

From the beginning, God wanted us to find and trust Him. *Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.* Seeking God and finding God does happen for us. It is something we experience. It transforms our life. It directs our life. It shifts our focus to eternity.

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He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away, Revelation 21:4.

During the winter quarter we want to help you and others find God's plan for you. We'll reacquaint ourselves with the story from the beginning. We'll learn how God has enacted His plan by directing the path that brought mankind to Jesus. And, we'll see how God's plan has been fully accomplished. God started it. Jesus finished it. We have a *hope* and a *future*.

Goals and objectives for the quarter:

- To become totally confident and assured that God had a plan from the beginning.
- To understand it is absolute and infallible.
- To allow this knowledge to bring us experience rest and peace.

Sunday Schedule

First Quarter • December 3, 2017 • February 28, 2018

| Date | Theme | Notes |
|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| December | God's Eternal Purpose | 12/3 - Elder/deacon meetings |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | 12/31 - Prayer Service |
| January | God's Tactical Plan | 01/07 - Elder/Deacons Meetings |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | 01/28 - Group Meetings |
| February | It is Finished | 02/04 - Elder/deacon Meeting |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | 02/25 - Congregational Singing |

Adult Class Schedule

First Quarter: December 3, 2017 • February 28, 2018

Sunday Morning

God's Great Plan for Mankind

Teacher: Matthew Allen

| WEEK | DATE | LESSON TITLE |
|------|----------|--|
| 1 | 12/3/17 | Revelation 21-22 - At Home With God |
| 2 | 12/10/17 | Genesis 1-2 - What God Created in the Beginning |
| 3 | 12/17/17 | Genesis 2-3 - Blessings and Cursings of Free Will |
| 4 | 12/24/17 | God Enacts His Plan - Jesus in the Pentateuch |
| 5 | 12/31/17 | God's Plan Continues (1) Israel's Conquest |
| 6 | 1/7/18 | God's Plan Continues (2) The United Kingdom |
| 7 | 1/14/18 | God's Plan Continues (3) The Divided Kingdom |
| 8 | 1/21/18 | God's Plan Continues (4) The Exile & Afterward |
| 9 | 1/28/18 | The Incredible Wisdom of God |
| 10 | 2/4/18 | Hebrews 2.5-8; Romans 5.12-21 - Why Jesus Came (1) |
| 11 | 2/11/18 | Ephesians 2 - Why Jesus Came (2) |
| 12 | 2/18/18 | Ephesians 3 - Why Jesus Came (3) To Bring us to His Church |
| 13 | 2/25/18 | A Look Back (Review and Preview) |

Adult Class Schedule

First Quarter: December 3, 2017 • February 28, 2018

Wednesday (1 pm and 7.30 pm)

Ephesians

Teacher: Matthew Allen

| WEEK | DATE | LESSON TITLE |
|------|----------|---|
| 1 | 12/6/17 | 1.1-14 - Spiritual Blessings in Christ |
| 2 | 12/13/17 | 1.15-23 - Thanksgiving & Prayer |
| 3 | 12/20/17 | 2.1-10 - Salvation is God's Work |
| 4 | 12/27/17 | 2.11-22 - One in Christ |
| 5 | 1/3/18 | 3.1-13 - Mystery Revealed |
| 6 | 1/10/18 | 3.14-21 - Prayer for Spiritual Strength |
| 7 | 1/17/18 | 4.1-10 - Unity in the Body |
| 8 | 1/24/18 | 4.11-16 - Growth in the Body |
| 9 | 1/31/18 | 4.17-32 - New Living |
| 10 | 2/7/18 | 5.1-14 - Don't Live Like an Unbeliever |
| 11 | 2/14/18 | 5.15-21 - Walk with Wisdom |
| 12 | 2/21/18 | 5.22-6.9 - Relationship Principles |
| 13 | 2/28/18 | 6.10-24 - Spiritual Armor |

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

(Ephesians 1:3-4, ESV)

quarter 2
SPRING
2018

The Role of the Church in Your Life

Experiencing the unfathomable riches of Christ

Oh the depth and the riches of God's saving grace flowing down from the cross for me! There the debt for my sins by the Savior was paid in His suffering on Calvary. Oh, what marvelous mercy, what infinite love! What immeasurable grace I see! By His blood I am cleansed, I am happy and free through His suffering on Calvary.

Have you ever asked yourself why God gave us the church? Why would God expect for us to be together with other believers? Christianity was never intended to be experienced alone. Yet today there are a myriad of influences that seek to draw us away from God and His people. Americans are more connected than ever. Yet, we are more lonely than we have ever been.

How many are attempting to tackle the rigors of life alone? A young mother hears the words that her husband is leaving her for someone else. A man hears the dreaded words, "cancer." A person finds out at work that they have lost their job. Each of these people have the same questions racing through their minds. What will I do? The young mother is thinking divorce. The man with cancer is thinking death. The worker who lost his job is thinking bankruptcy. Devastating and crushing news. It's enough to destroy anyone. For many, it will. But for those who have built a life on Christ, there are sure answers and sure help. It is found in God's word with support from those in His church. God's plan is that we continue with Him. That we surround ourselves with Scripture. That we flood Heaven with prayers and seek the advice and wisdom of godly people. We survive together. *God's plan is that we not be ruined or crushed. I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it,* Matthew 16:18. Did you notice the highlighted words? It's *His* church. It's *His* plan. *Nothing* will prevail against it.

Challenging times should draw us closer to the Lord and to His people. *Submit yourselves therefore to God. ...Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you,* James 4:7a, 8a. *Therefore encourage one*

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another and build one another up just as you are doing. ...Encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with everyone, 1 Thessalonians 5,11, 14. God has a purpose for the church in your life. He added you to it. It is a place of refuge, comfort, and hope.

During the spring quarter, we want to help you better understand God's purpose for the church in your life. We will cover these three themes:

- The church is a place of refuge away from this world.
- As a church family, we share a common faith, love, and concern for each other.
- In the church, we help each other reach the goal of getting to our eternal home.

Sunday Schedule

Second Quarter • March 4, 2018 • May 30, 2018

| DATE | THEME | NOTES |
|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| March | A Place of Refuge | 03/04 - Elder/Deacon Meetings |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | 03/25 - Congregational Singing |
| April | A Place of Comfort | |
| | | 04/08 - Elders/Deacon Meetings |
| | | |
| | | 04/22 - Aaron Kemple Meeting |
| May | A Place of Hope | 04/29 - Group Meetings |
| | | 05/06 - Elder/Deacon Meetings |
| | | |
| | | 05/20 - Young Men's Service |

Class Schedules

Second Quarter • March 4, 2018 • May 30, 2018

Sunday Morning

One Another Christianity: Restoring Life-Changing Relationships in the Church

Teacher: Jim Rutter

| WEEK | DATE | LESSON TITLE |
|------|---------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 3/4/18 | Members of One Another |
| 2 | 3/11/18 | Serve One Another |
| 3 | 3/18/18 | Care for One Another |
| 4 | 3/25/18 | Encourage One Another |
| 5 | 4/1/18 | Greet One Another |
| 6 | 4/8/18 | Honor One Another |
| 7 | 4/15/18 | Forgive One Another |
| 8 | 4/22/18 | Spring Conference |
| 9 | 4/29/18 | Be Hospitable to One Another |
| 10 | 5/6/18 | Do Not Speak Against One Another |
| 11 | 5/13/18 | Accept One Another |
| 12 | 5/20/18 | Be at Peace With One Another |
| 13 | 5/27/18 | Love One Another |

And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another.

(2 John 5, ESV)

Class Schedules

Second Quarter • March 4, 2018 • May 30, 2018

Wednesday (1 pm & 7.30 pm)

1 Corinthians

Teacher: Matthew Allen

| WEEK | DATE | LESSON TITLE |
|------|---------|--|
| 1 | 3/7/18 | Introduction & Background |
| 2 | 3/14/18 | 1 - The Wisdom & Power of God |
| 3 | 3/21/18 | 2-3 - Proclaiming Christ Crucified |
| 4 | 3/28/18 | 4 - The Ministry of the Apostles |
| 5 | 4/4/18 | 5 - Congregational Discipline |
| 6 | 4/11/18 | 6 - Lawsuits & Immorality |
| 7 | 4/18/18 | 7 - Marriage Principles |
| 8 | 4/25/18 | 8-9 - Personal Liberties |
| 9 | 5/2/18 | 10 - Warnings from the Past |
| 10 | 5/9/18 | 11 - Headcoverings & the Lord's Supper |
| 11 | 5/16/18 | 12-14 - Conflict over Spiritual Gifts |
| 12 | 5/23/18 | 15 - The Resurrection |
| 13 | 5/30/18 | 16 - Final Instructions |

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

(1 Corinthians 1:4–9, ESV)

Allowing God to Reign

Getting rid of self

Life goes by fast and it comes at you hard. Media, culture, academia, and entertainment bombard us every day with temporal expectations that can cause our spiritual commitments to go out of focus. These external, worldly influences can lead us to measure ourselves by unrealistic benchmarks. For example, we might be confronted with thoughts like this:

- *By this age, I should have "this amount" of money in the bank.*
- *My success in life is measured by the things I possess.*
- *My family must "do all these things" in order to be happy.*

Unfortunately some begin to believe as God's children we should be spared from the ravages of the world. We should attain wealth, have wonderful families and be blessed with excellent health because that would prove God's love for us. What happens when things do not turn out according to plan? What will your reaction be when certain expectations aren't met? How will you respond when a major crisis hits? Are you prepared? Are you keeping God's plan for you in mind?

What keeps us from being connected to God's plan? Us! We can be the primary obstacle to God working inside us, Galatians 5:17. We must get out of the way by emptying ourselves, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15: *For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died: He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.* Will we live for Christ? Will we allow Him to reign? *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me,* Galatians 2:20.

Unfortunately, many 21st-century Christians believe in God but live like He does not exist. They go through the motions, undistinguishable from the world around them, compromising the truth for worldly pleasures. It is easy to slip into spiritual

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complacency. The creator of the universe calls us to worship Him, and yet we struggle to attend church or spend time in Bible study and prayer. We take what is holy and treat it as mundane.

The challenge of allowing God to reign is difficult. Just as we hinder ourselves from transformation, things in the world hold us back as well. It was Peter who said, *For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first*, 2 Peter 2:20.

During the summer quarter, we wish to accomplish these three teaching objectives:

- Seeing the danger of spiritual stagnation and arrogance.
- Defining "worldly pollution" in life and how to remove it.
- How to move forward with a spirit of selflessness.

Sunday Schedule

| Third Quarter • June 3, 2018 • August 29, 2018 | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| DATE | THEME | NOTES |
| JUNE | All of Self and None of Thee | 06/03 - Elder/Deacon Meetings |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | 06/24 - Congregational Singing |
| JULY | Some of Self and Some of Thee | |
| | | 07/08 - Elder/Deacon Meetings |
| | | |
| | | 07/29 - Group Meetings |
| AUGUST | None of Self and All of Thee | 08/05 - Elder/Deacon Meetings |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | 08/26 - Young Men's Service |

Class Schedules

THIRD QUARTER: June 3, 2018 • August 29, 2018

Sunday AM Auditorium

Learning to Deny Self

Teacher: Jim Grushon

| WEEK | DATE | LESSON TITLE |
|------|---------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | 6/3/18 | What is Self Denial? |
| 2 | 6/10/18 | God Demands Self Denial |
| 3 | 6/17/18 | Putting God's Will First (1) |
| 4 | 6/24/18 | Putting God's Will First (2) |
| 5 | 7/1/18 | Defining Meekness |
| 6 | 7/8/18 | Examples of Meekness |
| 7 | 7/15/18 | How to Apply Meekness (1) |
| 8 | 7/22/18 | How to Apply Meekness (2) |
| 9 | 7/29/18 | Temperance (1) |
| 10 | 8/5/18 | Temperance (2) |
| 11 | 8/12/18 | How to Develop Self Discipline (1) |
| 12 | 8/19/18 | How to Develop Self Discipline (2) |
| 13 | 8/26/18 | Dealing With Others |

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

(Galatians 2:20, ESV)

2018 Summer Series

| People Fitting into God's Plan <i>How God used His people for good...</i> | |
|---|--|
| DATE | LESSON TITLE |
| 6/6/18 | God's Plan for Abraham |
| 6/13/18 | God's Plan for Isaac |
| 6/20/18 | God's Plan for Jacob |
| 6/27/18 | God's Plan for Rahab |
| 7/4/18 | God's Plan for Ruth |
| 7/11/18 | God's Plan for David |
| 7/18/18 | God's Plan for Solomon |
| 7/25/18 | God's Plan for Hezekiah |
| 8/1/18 | God's Plan for Manasseh |
| 8/8/18 | God's Plan for Josiah |
| 8/15/18 | God's Plan for Joseph, father of Jesus |
| 8/22/18 | God's Plan for Mary, mother of Jesus |
| 8/29/18 | How is God Working Through You? |

Each year, our Summer Series is a highly anticipated and exciting time where we take a break from our Wednesday classes and focus on vital topics related to our yearly theme. This year is no different.

As we think about *people fitting into God's plan* we discover a line of persons from Abraham to Joseph and Mary who were *used by God for good*. This year, each speaker will introduce one of these servants of God, looking at God's plan for them personally and how this fit into the overall plan that culminated in Christ Jesus. *What happened in their life that we can find inspiration from today? How did God use them for His good, even while not choosing "perfect" people?*

Join us every Wednesday during the third quarter to learn more.

quarter 4
FALL
2018

Accepting God's Plan With Trust and Hope

Preparing to be glorified....

*O land of rest for thee I sigh, when will that moment come?
When I shall lay my armor by, and dwell in peace at home?*

The lyrics from this beloved hymn capture this quarter's theme and lays out the two major points we want the congregation to see:

1. The certainty of God's promise for our future.
2. Our commitment to our salvation.

In Hebrews we read, *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him*, Hebrews 11.6. In this life, our walk with Jesus is by faith and our efforts are to diligently seek Him every day. We have an absolute promise and assurance of the reward that awaits us on the other side.

In this quarter, we come full circle to God's eternal plan as seen in Jeremiah 29.11: God wants *to give you a future and a hope*. His promises of reuniting man with Him are throughout the Bible. It was Paul who said, *let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up*, Galatians 6.9. Yet, it is sad to see those who have "given up" on their faith. Our lives on earth are based on relationships and the most important one is the one we have with God. *Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him*, James 1.12. Jesus said, *...the one who endures to the end will be saved*, Matthew 24.13.

Our salvation is not about us. While we have been called to walk in a manner worthy of our calling, Ephesians 4.1, ultimately it is by God's amazing grace that we will enter into His presence (Psalm 69.13–15; Romans 8.29–30; Philippians 1.6). Yet, one danger we face is complacency in our walk with Christ. To overcome this, we need to understand the

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assurance of God's hope in our lives. We know that we have true faith as we work out our salvation in fear and trembling, resting our hope of salvation on Christ alone, Philippians 2.12-13. So, how firmly are you holding to your confidence in Christ? *Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope*, Hebrews 3.6.

In this quarter, we will focus on:

- How to strengthen our trust in God's promises to bring us home to heaven, Philippians 1.6.
- How to "press forward" in our daily walk with Jesus, Philippians 3.14.
- Our commitment to walking in our daily commitments to the Lord, Revelation 2.10.

Sunday Schedule

| FOURTH QUARTER: September 2, 2018 • November 28, 2018 | | |
|---|---------|--------------------------------|
| DATE | THEME | NOTES |
| SEPTEMBER | Believe | |
| | | 09/09 - Elder/Deacon Meetings |
| | | |
| | | 09/23 - Prayer Meeting |
| | | 09/30 - Group Meetings |
| OCTOBER | Pursue | 10/07 - Elder/Deacon Meetings |
| | | 10/14 - Ken Weliever Meeting |
| | | |
| | | 10/28 - Congregational Singing |
| NOVEMBER | Trust | 11/04 - Elder/Deacon Meetings |
| | | |
| | | 11/18 - Congregational Meeting |
| | | |

Class Schedules

FOURTH QUARTER: September 2, 2018 • November 28, 2018

Sunday Morning

Taking Hold of Eternal Life | 1 Timothy 6.11-20

Teacher: Matthew Allen

| WEEK | DATE | LESSON TITLE |
|------|----------|---|
| 1 | 9/2/18 | Righteousness (6.11b) |
| 2 | 9/9/18 | Godliness (6.11c) |
| 3 | 9/16/18 | Faith (6.11d) |
| 4 | 9/23/18 | Love (6.11e) |
| 5 | 9/30/18 | Steadfastness (6.11f) |
| 6 | 10/7/18 | Gentleness (6.11g) |
| 7 | 10/14/18 | Ken Weliever Meeting |
| 8 | 10/21/18 | Fight the Good Fight of Faith (6.12a) |
| 9 | 10/28/18 | Take Hold of Eternal Life (6.12b) |
| 10 | 11/4/18 | Your Confession Matters (6.12c) |
| 11 | 11/11/18 | Rich in Good Works (6.18a) |
| 12 | 11/18/18 | Generous, Ready to Share (6.18b) |
| 13 | 11/25/18 | Guard What has been Entrusted to You (6.20) |

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

(1 Timothy 6:12, ESV)

Class Schedules

FOURTH QUARTER: September 2, 2018 • November 28, 2018

Wednesday Bible Study (1 pm and 7.30 pm)

1 John

Matthew Allen

| WEEK | DATE | LESSON TITLE |
|------|----------|--|
| 1 | 9/5/18 | 1.1-6 - Introduction/Background |
| 2 | 9/12/18 | 1.7-10 - The Forgiveness of Sin |
| 3 | 9/19/18 | 2.1-6 - Our Advocate, Jesus |
| 4 | 9/26/18 | 2.7-14 - The New Commandment |
| 5 | 10/3/18 | 2.15-27 - Do Not Love the World |
| 6 | 10/10/18 | 2.28-3.10 - Children of God |
| 7 | 10/17/18 | Ken Weliever Meeting |
| 8 | 10/24/18 | 3.11-24 - Love in Action |
| 9 | 10/31/18 | 4.1-14 - God is Love |
| 10 | 11/7/18 | 4.15-21 - Confidence for the Day of Judgment |
| 11 | 11/14/18 | 5.1-5 - Overcoming the World |
| 12 | 11/21/18 | 5.6-12 - Faith is the Victory |
| 13 | 11/28/18 | 5.13-21 - We Can Know We are of God |

And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him

(1 John 2:3–5, ESV)

Our Shepherding Model

The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them, Ezekiel 34.4.

When Max Dawson was here in August 2016, we spent a weekend deepening our understanding of “what shepherds are in the Lord’s church.” We discussed the paradigm in many congregations where the leadership model is based on “administrative” tasks (e.g. money, building, schedules, maintenance, etc). Shepherding was defined as writing letters of withdrawal. We looked at ourselves and realized we needed to be much more focused on the spiritual needs of the family at Kettering. Our *Kingdom-servant* transformation also included in-depth Biblical discussions with Don Truex and most recently with Roger Shouse. In our studies, we saw the need for a shepherding model rather than “superintendents” in the Lord’s church. The concept of “the shepherd” is a very detailed image in the Bible. First, and foremost, the shepherd is a SERVANT. Thus, we set a course to move to this *Shepherding Model* where we can better focus on the “sheep” of the congregation for which we have responsibility.

Our model includes two basic principles:

1. better know each member, and...
2. to more effectively demonstrate our caring and compassionate spirit in our work.

The mindset of the shepherd is the health and well-being of the flock. The heart of the shepherd is given to the care of the sheep as seen in Isaiah 40.11, Psalm 78.71-72, and Jeremiah 3.15.

We talked with our deacons and explained how the work of God’s shepherds is leading and helping the flock stay spiritually

VISION 2018 • God's Plan for You

healthy. That's what we feel we need to focus on. We recognized budget, buying supplies, seeing after the care of the building, all take time and distract from our primary mission. A clean building does not produce healthy sheep. We need to be about tending to sick sheep and healing broken hearts. This is our work. This is the greatest thing we can do. This task changes lives and family destinies. So, in 2017 the deacons met separately from us. We have total confidence in these men. Their meetings focused on the tasks assigned to them and they review those areas and send back a written report. We respond to any questions they have. Our time together is now focused on every member. We go through the directory and try to see what is affecting each person. We look for the ones who are sickly and broken and pray for those who have need. Our time together is spent looking for how we can help heal wounded souls. These are our efforts to implement what the Prophet was addressing in Ezekiel 34.4. We are in a transitional phase trying to improve month by month, year by year.

Jesus said, come to Me all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you shall find rest for your soul, Matthew 11.28-30.

We want each member of Kettering to know we are here for you. We want to help you in any way as you journey through life's struggles. Our plea is for you to lean on us, call on us any time of day or night, and we will be there. We want to help you. We want to pray for and with you. We want to know about your struggles. Please feel comfortable reaching out to us. During most months, we meet together on the first Sunday. If there is a need, stop by and visit with us or just drop in and ask for prayer. We would love to pause in our work and just pray. Use us. Lean on us. Jesus said, "I am gentle." We have not forgotten that. We are trying to do better and learn from the Master.

Those We Support in Colombia

Jaime Restrepo *lives in Manizales, Caldas.*

He travels extensively throughout Colombia preaching God's word. He also goes to neighboring countries in South America and has been instrumental in establishing many new congregations in the Lord. He has translated many English Bible study materials into Spanish. The Kettering congregation has been supporting Bro. Restrepo since 1985.



Carlos Julio Rameriz *lives in Cali, Valle del Cauca.*

Besides his work with one of the churches in Cali, Brother Rameriz travels throughout western and southern Colombia working with various churches of Christ. He has helped establish congregations in Pasto, Buenaventura, Palmira, and Popayan. He began preaching full time in January 2013 and has served as a shepherd for the Cali church since 2017. The Kettering congregation has been supporting Bro. Rameriz since 2013.



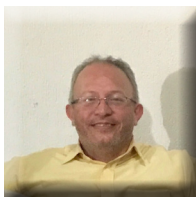
Rafael Amaya *lives in Ibagúe, Tolima.* He has been preaching the gospel since 2000. In 2005, he helped begin a new work in the neighborhood of Las Gaviotas in Ibagúe. Beginning with two families (6 individuals), the church currently numbers about 30 people. He also teaches twice a month in a village called God Wáter (Agua de Dios). There are about 12 people there. He also works with another congregation in Ibagúe. The Kettering congregation has been supporting Bro. Amaya since 2013.



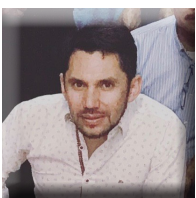
Those We Support in Colombia



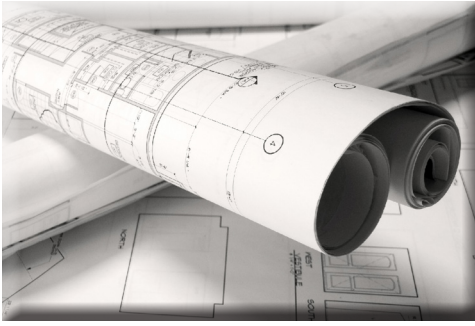
Carlos Correa *lives in Lorica, Cordoba.* He has been preaching the gospel since 2005. Brother Correa works with five congregations in northern Colombia. Besides working with churches in Lorica, San Antero and Manantial, he has recently helped begin new congregations in Guabanano, San Jose de Palmito and Pueblo Nueva. The Kettering congregation has been supporting Bro. Correa since 2013.



Wilson Valbuena *lives in Villavicencio, Meta.* He has been preaching the gospel since 2008. Besides his work in Villavicencio, Brother Valbuena also works with congregations in Acacias, Castilla La Nueva, and Fuente de Oro. Around 35 Christians make up the church in Villavicencio. The Kettering congregation has been supporting Bro. Valbuena since 2015.



Julio Caesar Tellez *lives in Bogotá, Distrito Capital.* He has been preaching the gospel since 2000. Brother Tellez labors with the Bolivar church on the south side of Bogotá. Besides his work in Colombia, he also works each year with congregations in Ecuador and Mexico. Originally from the Colombian mountain town Vélez, Julio Caesar's wife, Nibia is from Mexico. The couple has two boys, Esteban and Sebastian. The Kettering congregation has been support Bro. Tellez since 2016.



VISION 2018



Service Times:

Sunday:

9.30 am: Bible Classes (Age 18 mo-up)

10.45 am: Praise, Prayer, and Preaching

Wednesday:

1 pm: Bible Class (Sept-May)

7.30 pm: Bible Class

Thursday: *(seasonal, see web for details)*

10 am: Bible Class

*Loving like, Sharing,
Growing in,
& Honoring Jesus*

4600 Bigger Road
Kettering, OH 45440

937.434.8481



Shepherds:

Russ Robins

George Wacks

Rich Walker

Learn more about us at:

www.KETTERINGCHURCH.com

Minister:

Matthew Allen

Deacons:

Paul Braden

Jim Rutter

Jason Schofield

Dan Spargo

Chris Fles

Roy Pyle

Wes Grushon

Rich Jacobs

Jason Pratt

Jeremy Price