



Parkway Baptist Church

The Messenger

June 2018



PASTOR KEVIN'S WELL OF LIVING WATER:

What is a 21ST Century "Disciple?"

Jesus offers any person seeking true living a "well of living water" in which they can endlessly turn to Him to quench the spiritual emptiness and pains that this world only knows and endlessly offers us.

This type of "living water" was first introduced to a particular woman at a well in **John 4:14** when He said, "*but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, **the** water I give them will become in them a spring of **water** welling up to eternal life.*"

We also see this type of "living water" being offered to the Old Testament disciples in **Isaiah 12:3** when God said, "*With joy you will draw water from **the** wells of salvation.*"

Throughout the New Testament we also find Jesus offering this type of "living water" in the form of a new life to anyone willing to receive it and follow Him. **Matt. 10:39** says, "*If you give up your life for me, you will find it.*" This higher quality of living is also referred to Jesus as "living abundantly." **John 10:10** says, "*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*" Finally, Jesus even reveals the secret to maintaining and growing this new life when He says in **John 15:5**, "*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.*"

Now, a Word of caution. Many people mistakenly think that once you accept Christ as your savior you AUTOMATICALLY become a follower or disciple from that day forward with no effort on your own. This could not be further from the truth. It is very possible for a person to be a believer in Christ, but not necessarily an everyday follower (a disciple of Christ). The difference can lie simply in the degree of how much one truly abides or remains in Christ (subjects themselves to and actively practices the commands of Christ).

You see, there can be quite a tremendous gap or range between someone that is a nominal Christian and one that is more closely aligned with the definitions spelled out by Christ as to what a true disciple looks like.

For example, when Jesus called forth His first disciples he told Peter that he was to become a "fisher of men." Now, if I were to ask you, "Do you consider yourself to be an active 'fisher of men'?" How might you respond to that question? Do you even know what it means to "cast your net"? And finally, if you are not regularly casting your net, why aren't you?

We discussed this last question in great length at our 11:00 am Wednesday Bible Study and at our 7:00 pm Youth Bible Study on May 16th.

Here is a list of reasons that both our adults and youth came up with as to why they do not more regularly “cast our nets” to others:

- 1) **Not in our job description.** Many followers think that sharing the gospel or inviting others to church is relegated to just the Pastor, Deacons, Sunday school teachers or those with the gift of evangelism. This is simply not so. Just as every member of the body of Christ is expected to tithe, everyone is also expected to “cast their nets” or be actively looking for opportunities to invite someone to church. See Matthew 28:19 for Christ’s command given to every disciple.
- 2) **Stuck in a stronghold of sin.** Sin has a way of killing our spiritual heart and passion to follow Christ. Sin has a way of changing our heart to instead chase after the loves and lusts of the world. In fact, it might be the sin of unbelief that we don’t need to share our faith that diminishes the power of the gospel. The irony is that when we are caught up in a stronghold of sin, it is the enemy who has captured us in his “net.”
- 3) **Fear of rejection.** Many teenagers shared that they are afraid of what other kids might do, say or think if they share the gospel or invite them to come to church. One youth shared her fear of losing her friends if she shared the gospel. One man shared how he feared what his neighbors might think and that it would push them further away from church and they might not want to talk with him anymore.

*It is here that I feel prompted to share a story I heard by a preacher on the radio. There was a teenage girl that came to know Christ at a church she attended. The father of this girl confronted the pastor one day and said, “Do you have any earthly idea of how you have ruined our family? The preacher said, “No, I have no idea. Please tell me what has happened.”

The man explained that once his daughter started coming to the preacher’s church she has done nothing but tell the family of how they need to accept Christ in order to be saved and how she reads her Bible and shares what she is learning and how it has divided the family. The man went on to share how he wished the preacher should have never introduced the Bible and it’s teachings to his daughter. To which the preacher retorted, “You are right...you should have! That should have been your job.”

The preacher on the radio went on to say that this girl was so in love with Jesus, wanting to obey all his commands, including the one about sharing our faith and what if more of us lived out a more genuine and authentic faith like this girl to the point of where Jesus’ words in **Luke 12:51-53** became more true and was a more common experience:

“Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three, they will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother,”

In an article entitled “The Gospel will Divide Families” by Tim Conway, he states, *“If a Christian’s walk is not divisively different in this world, then we are not walking ‘in Christ,’ according to the Gospel.”*

- 4) **Lack Compassion.** If we truly believe people will end up in hell if they don’t accept Christ as their savior then can we really go our merry way unfazed or unaffected and without an ounce of desire to share the gospel? If so, then we may need to check our compassion gauge.
- 5) **Discouraged.** Both our youth and adults shared how repeated declines by the people they invite to church and events can weigh down the desire to keep up the effort in asking people to come to church.
- 6) **Don’t know what to say or don’t know what evangelism even is.** Some of our youth and adults admitted they don’t really know how to present the gospel or to begin a spiritual-centered conversation with another. One leader even shared how it can be difficult to defend our faith when asked questions about the Bible they have yet to have answers for.

I even know of some churches that have “Evangelism Committees” where anything but the sharing of the gospel (how one can be saved) is being done. Many people in these churches are taught that engaging in projects like making crafts defines such titles.

- 7) **It will cause more problems than we want. We don’t want to invite people known to be on drugs to church or people unlike me.** If the gospel has the power to change lives then these are the very people we want to invite in order to make our communities even better.

There were many other reasons that folks gave as to why they don’t “cast their nets” more, but the challenge to “cast our nets” by our Lord remains to be a key definition and hallmark of being a true disciple, one that is more than a mere believer. The gospel is offensive, but we should be wearier of offending God by not sharing the gospel than by being more comfortable and weary of men.

If we return to the true and authentic roots of our beloved Bible then we must embrace the reality of Christ expectations of being a continuous “net caster.” It is only then when the church of Jesus Christ will experience revitalization, revival and a return to power. If we want to see our churches grow and bring in new families--- young and old---then we need to be a part of this plan of reaching people for Christ and not just give lip service to it as an embraced theology only. Evangelism is God’s vision for His church...an evangelism that embraces by the motto “each one reach one.” Evangelism holds the key to being a true disciple that drinks water from the well.

Kevin VaLeu



To my Parkway Family,

I appreciate so much all the cards, prayers during my illness and the death of my brother. It is a great comfort to know that you continue to remember me. I covet your prayers and I hope to be back in church soon.

Love,
Betty Canter

Dear Parkway Family,

Thank you so much for all the love and support you have shown me since my fall and shoulder surgery. I have appreciated every call, card, visit, email and text. Each has brightened my day!

I especially want to thank Pastor Kevin for his calls and visit. Also, a big thanks to Sharon and Tom Smith, Liz Kimbro, Barbara Seay, Evelyn Robinson, and Darlene and Bobby Daniel for all the food they brought us and for their wonderful visits.

It is so comforting to know we have extended family who love and support us in those times we need it most. Thank you again for everything!

With love,
Cyndy Davis

Director Of Music and Worship Ministries

Copied

The Purpose Of Our Worship Of God

The purpose of our worship is to glorify, honor, praise, exalt, and please God. Our worship must show our adoration and loyalty to God for His grace in providing us with the way to escape the bondage of sin, so we can have the salvation He so much wants to give us. The nature of the worship God demands is the prostration of our souls before Him in humble and contrite submission. James 4:6, 10 tells us, "**God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up**". Our worship to God is a very humble and reverent action.

Jesus says in John 4:23-24, "**But the hour is coming, and now is, when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.**" It doesn't say we can worship God anyway we want, but we "**must worship Him in spirit and in truth**". The word "must" makes it absolute. There is no other way we can worship God and be acceptable to Him. The word "must", according to Webster, expresses "an obligation, a requirement, a necessity, a certainty, and something that must be done". When "must" is used it means that it is not optional. Here the word "must" is expressing that in spirit and in truth is the only way to acceptably worship God. God seeks true worshippers, and He identifies them as those who "worship Him in spirit and in truth". Worshipping God in spirit and in truth is a serious matter which must not be taken lightly. If we have any regard for our own souls, we will want to make sure we are worshipping God in spirit and in truth.

Since God is the object of our worship, He and He alone has the right to determine how we are to worship Him. We read in Jeremiah 10:23, "**O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself, it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.**" We are not granted the option of directing our own ways in religion. God is the One who we look to for guidance and direction in our lives.

Our very best in worship is due God and is prescribed by Him in the Bible. The worship God has prescribed is the only way we can be pleasing to Him in this life and finally attain everlasting life with Him in eternity. The Christian's worship is of the greatest importance.

Worship is a time when we pay deep, sincere, awesome respect, love, and fear to the one who created us. Acts 17:24-25 says, "**God who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives life, breath, and all things.**"

God is the one who holds our eternal destiny in His hands. Philippians 2:12 tells us to, "**work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**" Our salvation is a very serious matter and will not happen by accident. We must work it out "with fear and trembling". Our salvation depends on whether our worship is pleasing to God or not. On the Day of Judgment it will be too late to make any corrections.

Worship should cause us to reflect on the majesty and graciousness of God and Christ, contrasted to our own unworthiness. God does not have to have our worship, but we must worship Him to please Him. Our singing, praying, studying His word, giving, and communion are designed by God to bring us closer to Him and to cause us to think more like He thinks, thus becoming more like Him. James 4:8 tells us to, "**Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.**"

Our worship not only honors and magnifies God, but it is also for our own edification and strength. Worship helps us develop a God-like and Christ-like character. We become like unto those we admire and worship. When we worship God we tend to value what God values and gradually take on the characteristics and qualities of God, but never to His level. As Philippians 2:5 says, "**Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ.**" How do we take on the mind of Christ? In Romans 12:2 we read, "**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.**" We renew our mind as we study and meditate on God's word and worship Him.

When we worship God we develop such traits as forgiveness, tenderness, justice, righteousness, purity, kindness, and love. All of this is preparing us for eternal life in heaven with God and Christ. As we are told in Colossians 3:2 to, "**Set your mind on things above, and not on things on the earth.**"



Susan's Scribbles

One of the principles that is frequently emphasized in the study of pastoral care is the need to be present in the moment during an encounter with another person. It is easy to determine if a person is physically present, but this principle deals with the idea of being mentally and emotionally present. Being present in the moment requires the listener to truly engage in the conversation. It requires focus and careful thought throughout the conversation. It forces the listener to put aside their own agenda and focus fully on the words being expressed. All of us have had conversations with people when we were thinking about something else and therefore remember very little of what was said. That is an example of not being present.

There are situations in life that seem to require that we be present in the moment but that is not always the case. Labor and delivery nurses comment on the number of dads who are focused on their phones instead of the miracle of birth that is unfolding around them. I once attended a wedding reception where the groom was spending a lot of time keeping up with the score of the televised basketball game. There are other important times that we might not be present in the moment. Corporate worship is an example that comes to mind. Worship is our opportunity to engage with God. We make a choice each Sunday whether or not we will be fully present when we come to worship.

The choir recently sang an anthem entitled Here for You. The theme of the song is that when we engage in worship, the reason we are present there is because of our desire to praise and encounter God. Everything should be all about God. I wonder how often we are physically present in a worship service but are not mentally and emotionally present? When this happens are we really there for God?

This idea really convicted me. As we meet together on Sunday mornings, there are many times that my mind is not focused on worship. I am thinking about the details of the music, what key to play, how many verses, are we repeating the chorus, etc. Then there is the question of why I come to church? Is my motivation to offer praise and worship to God or are other things involved?

What is the real reason we gather on Sunday morning? Do we come to see our friends and socialize? Do we gather because of tradition and habit? We can count on distractions and struggles, but if we come for the purpose of worship, shouldn't we worship with our whole self and not just be physically present?

I am convinced that if we commit ourselves to being fully present when we gather for worship, we will be richly rewarded in our spiritual life. God knows when we are truly there for Him. When we are really present in the moment of worship, God meets us there and we will leave our time of worship refreshed and renewed. The next time we enter into a time of corporate worship, let's say to the Lord, we are here for you and really mean it. "I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart." Psalm 138:1



THE CHURCH ON MISSION: KNOWING AND DOING MISSIONS

Prayer & Ministry Group

The Prayer & Ministry group will meet on Thursday, June 28th, 2018 at 10:45 am in the Conference Room. Ladies, please bring \$1.00 for Rohingya refugees, 4 cans of tuna & 4 cans of corn for Urban Ministries. We will assemble snack bags for the Youth Mission Trip at our meeting. Becki's group will provide lunch after the meeting. All ladies interested in missions and ministry are encouraged to join us!

JUNE

WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00AM

3rd (Babies & Toddlers)

Donna Burton
Georgia Gaines
(Two, Threes, & Fours)
Sarah Caldwell

10th (Babies & Toddlers)

Felicity Gordon
Darlene Daniel
(Two, Threes, & Fours)
John Small

17th (Babies & Toddlers)

Barbara Seay
Logan Lipford
(Two, Threes, & Fours)
Tracy VaLeu
Shana Leggett

24th (Babies & Toddlers)

Dare Tinnin
Susie Doss
(Two, Threes, & Fours)
Johannah Welch
Gina Johnson

Office Door

Paul Curry

Fellowship Door

Kathryn Curry

Door Keeper

Johannah Gaines



JUNE MINISTRY SCHEDULE

USHERS

3rd Jimmy Davis
Diana Davis

Ed Moody

Team 2

10th Susie Doss
Bobby Doss
Brandon VaLeu
Ed Hubbard
Tom Smith

17th **Team 3**

Bobby Daniel
Darlene Daniel
Ron Gordon
Paul Curry

24th **Team 4**

Craig Navey
Barbara Seay
Alton Roberson
Kathy Roberson

Deacons

3rd Chad Burton
Sarah Caldwell

10th Charles Greer

17th Dare Tinnin
Darlene Daniel

24th Darlene Daniel
Norris Davis

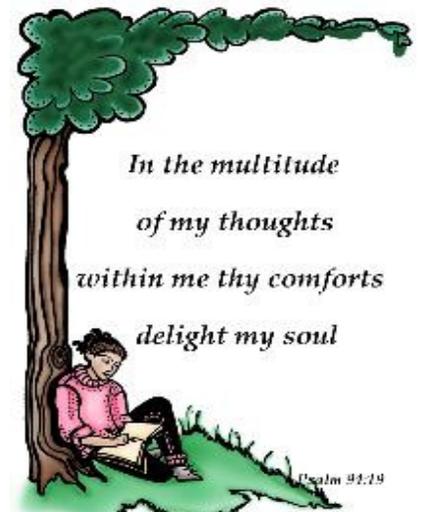
Silent Meditation

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers: but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. Psalm 1



6/1 John Henrickson
6/1 Brooke VaLeu
6/2 Jim Chandler
6/6 Jim Carter
6/6 Paula Collins
6/9 Bobby Doss
6/10 Jeremy Avers
6/12 Margie Lamm
6/13 Joyce Carothers
6/13 Randy Barnes
6/16 Erik Huffine
6/17 James Howell
6/21 Elizabeth Kimbro
6/21 Darlene Daniel
6/26 Edith Badgett
6/27 Jimmy Davis
6/28 Julia Murphy
6/28 Jerry Goodwin
6/30 William Teague
6/30 Dianne Messick

Please notify the Church Office if we have omitted your name or have your birthday listed Incorrectly.



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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 24-28
6:30-8:30 PM

For Grades:
Completed K thru entering
6th grade in the Fall
Register:
www.myvbs.org/parkwaygso