

A monthly publication of Christian Church of Mountain Home in the interest of promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ and goodwill among His people, our friends.

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Central Christian College of the Bible
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**Current Sermon Series
 From Ecclesiastes**

We stand at the crossroads of “Futility” and “Fulfillment” and must choose which path to follow. The Preacher in Ecclesiastes has traveled both roads and submitted a record of his findings that should spare us the agony and disappointment many experience in life. He is wise who heeds his counsel.

His assessment is expressed with the oft-repeated phrase, “Vanity of vanities. All is vanity.” That sounds so negative until we understand that he is reporting on life lived “under the sun.” That is to say from a purely earthly standpoint and outside the context of God. In this world everything is fleeting and temporary. Fulfillment is an illusive dream.

The conclusion, after all the experiments have been completed, is that true fulfillment is to be found by those who fear God and obey Him. The focus of our current sermon series is how we may avoid futility and enjoy fulfillment in our journey down life’s road.

WOW!

People living “under the sun” look for one new and exciting something after another, groping and hoping that they will find the key that unlocks the door releasing them from the prison cell of “Futility.” But they discover the truth that there is nothing new under the sun (1:9). Only the pursuit of God gives purpose and meaning to life.



WORK

Many people — especially men — immerse themselves in their work only to see their accomplishments unappreciated, and even undone by succeeding generations. Work that is done as unto the Lord and with heavenly goals in mind is fulfilling, meaningful and satisfying.

WORDS

A foolish man is known by his many words, but a wise man listens to the words of God. Heeding the words of God leads one along the pathway to fulfillment.

WINE

The key to fulfillment is not to be found in worldly parties, pleasure and possessions. The wise person, however, knows the value of his possessions and of life in the context of eternity and is sober in his stewardship.

WEALTH

Jesus makes the contrast vivid by relating the foolishness of laying up treasure in this life and the wisdom of investing in and for eternity (Matt. 6:19-21).

WORTH

He is foolish who lives to make a name for himself in this life. Fame is fleeting. What we do and who we are will someday be forgotten — sooner than we would like to think. But what is done in obedience to God will hold its value throughout eternity.

WISDOM

Worldly wisdom disappoints, but wisdom from God is reliable and leads to freedom and fulfillment. Consider the wisdom of God through this series of Bible messages.





Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

For other articles and information about our congregation, go online www.ccmhar.com

Condolences

to the family of **Jim Willming**, who departed this life on Tuesday, August 21

Baptism

Harold Gillihan was born on August 28, 1936. He was born again on August 28, 2012! Happy birthday and happy re-birth day to Harold.

Kudos

to **Rick & Brett Schmeski** of Mountain Home Street Rods upon various awards at the huge car show in KY. One of their cars won the Mopar Award, which is judged on overall appearance and workmanship. There were 10,000 cars in this show — several hundred in the Mopar division! Rick has won the prestigious PPG Paint Award more than once for his quality paint job. We celebrate and commend Rick & Brett for their Christian commitment to excellence.

After attending a funeral a group of friends reflected on the things various people had said to eulogize the deceased. One of them waxed philosophical and started a conversation about what they would like to have people say in eulogizing them. After several had offered their ideas of what they would most like to be said about them, one very realistic and honest chap said, "I'd like someone to say, 'Look! He moved!'"

When speaking about the Holy Spirit some people have made remarks that are very curious. Such comments may display sloppy theology or incorrect doctrine. Neither is acceptable when speaking of the other Comforter sent to walk alongside us.

One of the most common expressions regarding the Holy Spirit relates to His alleged "movement." After an inspirational or convicting time of corporate worship it is not uncommon to hear someone exclaim, "The Spirit really moved today." People will petition God in prayer, asking that the Spirit will move among His people.

This language is curious to me, as is the underlying concept from which it springs. My search for such terminology in the Bible produced scant results — actually only one (the NIV at Lk. 2:27). None, however, seems to parallel the use we are discussing. Not only is the language foreign to Scripture, so far as I can see, but the foundational idea that He somehow responds to man is the reverse of what we see in Scripture, where man responds to Him — His leading, His convicting, etc.

When visiting a zoo people will do many interesting things to coax an animal to move. When the animal doesn't move, the crowd moves to the next cage. But they are drawn back when someone cries in excitement, "It's moving!"

That is apparently how many people regard the Holy Spirit. Except they treat Him, not as a Person, but as an impersonal force that is active only when conditions are right — conditions created, in fact, by men. They go to church and are elated when the Spirit "moves" and disappointed when He doesn't. It is as if we are waiting for Him to do something and that we must



somehow coax Him. Many times His alleged movement corresponds to the emotional appeal of the music or the fervor of the preaching. This seems to portray the Holy Spirit as somehow being in subjection to human stimulation.

Is there ever a time when the Holy Spirit is not active? His testimony and revelation — the Bible — is "living and active" (Heb. 4:12).

Does the Holy Spirit lie dormant and inactive until awakened by man's emotional stimulation? Is He negatively implicated in our emotionless and lifeless rituals? Or is it true that we are the ones He is hoping to move; that He is the One trying to coax us to move? Movement we witness is actually that of people responding to the Holy Spirit when they are convicted by sin and inspired to action.

Other phrases bantered about are equally curious and strange. People say, "I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit." Where in Scripture did anyone feel the Holy Spirit or His presence? In describing an especially inspirational atmosphere some will say, "The Spirit was present today." Really?! Is there a place we may escape His presence? Not according to the Psalmist (Ps. 139:7).

Maybe I'm being too picky. Perhaps this is much ado about nothing. Is it sufficient to say, "Well, you know what I mean?" Or should we take greater care in how we express ourselves knowing that careless words can lead to sloppy theology, which results in false doctrine that leads people away from God to an eternity separated from Christ?

Is the presentation of thought regarding God worthy of great care and accuracy in the very words we employ? Should it not concern us that careless language will give birth to false teaching and the perversion of the Holy Spirit's revelation of God's will?

It is a sound principle to use Bible words and to use them the way the Bible uses them. One who is intent upon expressing Bible truth as clearly as possible will be meticulous in selecting Bible words. The catch phrases invented by men must be avoided in favor of Bible terminology. 

New Ideas in the Wind

by David Benedict, Elder

Do You Feel a Draft?

Do you feel a draft? Maybe it's the wind of change.

Of course, until lately we mostly felt hot summer winds and unseasonably high temperatures. But the weather has begun to change and we know we can look forward to relief.

Just as change is a feature of the weather, change happens in the life and ministry of the church as we try to share good news in the community where God has placed us. The difference is that we can plan for and control the change with the goal of ministering more effectively as the world around us changes, too.

Hopefully the three change-ideas I mentioned in the July CONTACT are still on your minds. (Blank stare from the reader. *What three ideas?*) Okay, let me remind you.

First, I mentioned that as elders lead the church we need to direct most of our energies toward "the big picture." That means focusing our time and effort on 1) ministry of the word, 2) pastoral care, 3) establishing church policy, and 4) building a praying church.

The elders can focus on the "big picture" by delegating specific day-to-day tasks to gifted and committed servant-leaders. This approach was established in the New Testament church (Acts 6) when the Apostles had the people select spirit-filled practical leaders to make sure food got properly distributed to widows in need, whether they were of Jewish or Greek background. As believers, they were all to be treated the same. So while the seven "deacons" (Greek: "diakonos" – "servant") handled the specific need, the apostles continued focusing on preaching, teaching and prayer.

Today we continue this approach with a system of elders and "ministry managers." We want to enhance that ministry by developing a clear and flexible set of policies and procedures to help all our ministry teams carry out a broad range of ministry tasks.

The second thing I mentioned in July was the idea of **making it easier to choose and maintain a strong eldership by allowing the church to recommend qualified men for leadership at any time**, not just by a calendar-driven annual election. And the third idea was to reaffirm the position we

have always held--that **what it means to be a church member is the same as what the Bible teaches is required to be a Christian. Obedience to Christ trumps a formal list of names. And emphasizing this more biblical view of our fellowship** will give us the opportunity to influence more people with the Good News about Jesus in our worship and programming at CCMH.

Since the July article appeared, your elders and staff have continued to work on two projects to help us realize the ideas mentioned above. One project is to propose a change to our By-Laws which will make that document simpler but still biblically solid. That proposed document is being drafted now.

The second project is to develop a Policy and Procedure Manual for the church which supports the By-Laws by providing clear guidelines for doing ministry. We are drafting significant portions of this guidebook now. Of course, we already operate with some policies in place. But we hope to unify and expand this tool for ministry.

We are eager to inform the whole church about the changes we envision and will propose.

For that reason, we ask each of you to plan to attend at least one of **three Informational Meetings** we will hold in September. The dates for these Informational Meetings will be 1) on **Sunday, September 16** (after a potluck lunch), 2) on **Tuesday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m.** and 3) on **Thursday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m.** The same information will be presented at each of the three meetings, so you need to attend only one to learn about the projects.

No business will be conducted at these three September meetings. They are just for the purpose of letting you know details of proposed actions, and to hear your feedback. We want you to have the chance to discuss and reflect on the ideas. Then on Sunday, October 14, there will be an officially called special congregational meeting. At that meeting we will ask you to decide on the proposed changes.

Your elders sincerely believe these proposed changes will help us all minister more effectively. They are not radical changes, but well thought-out approaches to being the church in the changing culture in which we find ourselves today.

There are many winds of change about us. Our goal is to be a New Testament church serving an unchanging God, but which is always aware of, and able to keep on effectively reaching a community and world in need of Christ.

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

- 4 Willing Workers
- 4 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 5 Finance Ministry Team
- 10 Elders
- 16 Congregational dinner & meeting
- 20 Property Ministry Team
- 20 Outreach Ministry Team



Dollar Day
Sunday, September 30

Thanks

to Dave McQueen and painters:

A great big thank you to all the painters that Dave put together — including Brett Schmeski and the young people he brought — to paint my house.

It looks marvelous—like a brand new house.

THANKS again to the angels of Christian Church of Mountain Home.

Kay Bolinger



a Bible study for serious students

Begins Wednesday,
September 12

9:30-11:00 a.m.

This year's study:
The Synoptic Gospels
(Matt., Mark & Luke)



Fri. & Sat., Nov. 9 & 10
Columbia, MO

PRESENTERS

- Lee Mason**, Exec. Dir., Christian Restoration Association and Editor, the Restoration Herald from Mason, OH
- Gareth L. Reese**, Professor of New Testament, Central Christian College of the Bible in Moberly, MO
- Ben Merold**, well-known preacher and revivalist from St. Charles, MO
- Seth Wortman**, preacher, Glendale Christian Church in Springfield, MO

REGISTRATION (incl. catered meal)
\$25/individual \$45/couple

SCHEDULE

1:00 p.m. Friday to 12:15 p.m. Saturday

PURPOSE

To refocus attention on Restoration Movement principles and ideals with applications for today

Main sessions and Round Table Discussion Groups



Please attend one.

- Sun., Sept. 16 luncheon
- Tues. eve., Sept. 18 dessert
- Thur. eve., Sept. 20 dessert



Contact Rick & Jan Schmeski if you want to participate in the joy of victory in this capital campaign.

Not equal gifts but equal sacrifice



The LORD'S COMMISSION is OUR MISSION

Matthew 28:19-20

Meeting Schedule

- Wednesday Evening
- 5:30 Supper
- 9:30 Worship
- Sunday Morning
- 6:30 Bible Classes
- 11:00 Bible Classes

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