

Navigator

Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You. Psalm 143:8b

Something Worthy To Boast About

The Bible is filled with thousands of amazing and thought-provoking statements as it conveys to us the thoughts and heart of God. Since the Bible is God's very own Word to us we would assume that this would be the case. One such statement was penned by the Apostle Paul as he wrote to the church at Galatia. He said, "But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Galatians 6:14). On first glance Paul's pronouncement does not seem to shock us as it should, but upon deeper reflection this simple remark mines the depths of God's intense love for sinners such as us.



they hung nailed to the cross onlookers would hurl insults at the dying victim who hung naked and helpless. Many, if not most, of those that Paul wrote to would have seen the ugliness of crucifixion first hand. Yet Paul says he is determined to boast in nothing but the cross. Paul's boasting is not simply in the cross, however, but in "the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." And that makes all the difference in the world because it is what Jesus did on the cross that makes the cross all together glorious and lovely, because it was at the cross that Jesus bore our sins.

The Apostle Paul had a singular focus: the cross of Jesus Christ. He wrote to the Corinthians saying, "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). This surely did not mean that the only thing that Paul knew about was Jesus and His crucifixion, as Paul addresses numerous topics throughout his writings such as marriage, love, employment, relationships, actions, speech, etc. But what it did mean was that Paul saw all of life in light of the truth that the Son of God died for him. This truth permeated all that Paul was in such a way that his only boast was in the cross.

There were many things that Paul could have boasted about. He planted churches. He led people to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. He was the greatest missionary of his time, and indeed the history of the church. Yet his boast was in the cross. And that was the case because all that Paul did as a servant of Jesus Christ flowed from what occurred at the cross. It was at the cross that the sinless Son of God became sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21). In an amazing exchange the innocent Jesus took upon Himself the sins of those who would trust in Him and was punished in their place.

Isaiah prophetically wrote about this glorious event over 700 years before the

time of Jesus and said, "But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:5-6). Jesus died in the place of His wandering sheep as He took upon Himself their sin and their punishment.

A few years ago on the way to church my children, at the time around the ages of 3 and 4, were having a deep theological discussion in the backseat. My daughter asked her older brother why Jesus had to die on the cross, to which he answered rather matter-of-factly, "Because Jesus knew that someone had to die for our sins, and Jesus picked Himself."

That fact is what makes the horror of the cross the supreme demonstration of the love of God (Romans 5:8). God expressed His lavish love for sinners in that Jesus died for us and was punished for our sins in our place (1 John 4:9-10).

On the cross God treated His perfect Son as if He were the sinner that I am so that now and forever He can treat me as His child (Galatians 4:5). That truth surely makes the cross worthy of our boasting!

Pastor Matt

At first glance it seems odd that Paul would choose to boast in the cross. The cross was a horrific device of torture in the ancient world. To be crucified was to be the object of a hideous and painful death that was reserved for criminals. As

“ . . . Jesus knew that *someone* had to die for our sins, and Jesus picked Himself.”

Staff

Pastor	Matthew Boyd 293-2841
Youth Pastor	Shannon Pharaoh 329-0159
Worship Leader	Chris Myhre 644-6421
Treasurer	Kim Flick 536-4643
Men's Ministry	Robert Kohler 324-3545
Women's Ministry	Mandy Auclair 324-3668
Education Leader	Kevin Bickel 324-2654
Children's Leader	Gina Bickel 324-2654
Nursery	Laurena Parish 324-2517
Webmaster	Greg Peasall 837-6003 webmaster@nrfellowship.org
Bulletin	Jolleen Kohler 324-3545 thekohlerfive@msn.com <i>Have bulletin items to Jolleen by Wednesday</i>

Leadership

Elders

Matthew Boyd	293-2841 pastor@nrfellowship.com
Travis Flick	536-4643 tkflick1@netzero.com
Rich Henry	736-5025 rich_henry3@hotmail.com

Deacons

Kevin Bickel	324-2654 whispermtn@yahoo.com
Jeff Hanni	539-4079
Chris Myhre	644-6421 ccmyhre@msn.com
Brian Parish	324-2517

Schedule

Sunday

8:15 a.m.	First Service
9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
10:30 a.m.	Second Service

Tuesday

6:30 p.m.	Youth Ministry at NorthRidge Fellowship
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Wednesday

6:15-7:45 p.m.	Kids 4 Truth at NorthRidge Fellowship
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Thursday

6:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer at NorthRidge Fellowship
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Children's Ministries



The Lord blessed our Children's Ministry Event on March 8th . We had a wonderful time of learning and fellowship. The following is a brief summary of the vision for our children's ministry:

NorthRidge Fellowship Children's Ministry exists to cultivate a passion within children to know and love God and love others.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (ESV)

Cultivate ~

Prepare children's hearts to hear the Gospel

- By our example - Live a life that honors God – Phil. 1:20
- By our demonstration of God's love – Treat each child as a unique creation of God – Psalm 139:14

Plant ~

Make disciples – Evangelism - Matthew 28:19

Nourish ~

Train disciples by teaching them God's Word – Matthew 28:20

Harvest ~

Young people living their lives for God and reproducing themselves in others, as evidenced by: spiritual growth, rooted, fruit

Colossians 2:6-7

⁶ And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. (NLT)

Jeremiah 17:7-8

⁷ But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. ⁸ They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit. (NLT)

Cultivating small seeds, bearing big fruit!
Gina Bickel

H₂O Youth Ministry

John 4:13-14

Ski & Share 2008 went very well for our Youth Ministry. I think everyone that went had a good time. We listened to James Lankford, our guest speaker from Oklahoma. He really got down to the kids' level and revealed to them how Christ could impact their life. We saw a few decisions made and we ask that you keep them in your prayers, as there will be challenges in their lives due to their decisions, whether it be salvation or re-commitment. Thank you for your prayers during that time, as we know God's hand was upon each youth as they went down the mountain and their lives were changed.

Would you like to help? There will be more youth events coming as the summer comes near. If as an adult you would like to help with these events please contact me (Shannon Pharaoh) for more details. As our youth ministry grows, we will need your help!

Parent's Night Out Don't forget to be looking in the bulletin and calendar each month for Parent's Night Out. This is a great ministry for the youth and it can be a great way for you and your spouse to have some well-needed alone time.

**A God-size challenge for our youth ministry is for us to take 30 youth to Sonfest 2008!
Please keep this in your prayers. Sonfest is August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.**

Shannon Pharaoh

Meet Sabrina Bennett

Every month you will be introduced to a fellow attendee at NorthRidge Fellowship.

Where were you born and raised?

Dillon, Montana.

Who are (or have been) the most influential people in your life?

Definitely Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

What is your favorite passage and/or book of the Bible?

This is a torturous question that I can't answer! There are too many to even narrow it down to the top 10!

Aside from the Bible, what are your favorite books?

I'm a reference nerd. I'm drawn to anything educational.

If you were stranded on an island, what four foods would you most want to have?

Lindor Truffles for times of crisis, Burrito Jalisco with fresh salsa, Chili's Chipotle Chicken Strips (with sauce!), and the entire dessert tray from the Garden Café (does that count as one food?).

Who in the Bible do you most identify with?

Well, I have...a foot-shaped mouth like Peter; been shipwrecked like Paul; suffered anguish like Elijah; hidden things in my heart like Mary; said, "Let the children come to me," like Jesus; identified with the thief on the cross, and I often feel that David and I are best friends.

What are the four most interesting places you have been to?

In deep conversation with anyone, inside the colorful world of a child's imagination, Target on Black Friday, within the fascinating pages of Scripture.

How did you come to know Christ?

Through God's patient love. Early on I asked God to prove Himself to me and learned I could trust this God, and soon fell in love with Him. I came to know Christ through God's love and still tear up imagining *my* only son brutally dying to suffer *my* sins and the sins of *every other creep* in the world; past, present, and future. I come to know Christ more every day, mostly through the trenches of my sufferings. Hallelujah!

Books Worth Reading

Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Romans 14:19



***Shepherding a Child's Heart*, by Tedd Tripp**

Do you ever feel like you are getting nowhere when you're trying to change your kid's behavior? You've tried everything: reasoning with them, time out, spanking—but all you get is a temporary fix. In a few days time, *if* that long, things are back the way they were. You may have a child who doesn't want to share, or one who is defiant, or one of the many other challenges that come up. Have you ever thought that maybe you're not getting to the root of the problem? Where do all these problems come from in the first place? Mark 7:21-23 says "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, and evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within..." We try to implement the things we read in God's Word as well as other resources that are available, but once again, we just aren't getting where we want to be.

When we went through a small group study of *Shepherding a Child's Heart*, we gained many insights into what we weren't doing right. Tedd Tripp leads you through a biblical foundation of child rearing. He constantly refers to Scripture throughout his book which helps you put God's Word into action. You will learn how the heart determines behavior and that is why we must learn how to work backwards from bad behavior to the heart. Until this study we had spent our time disciplining bad behavior and not a lot of time trying to find out just where this behavior was coming from, what was triggering it, or what is actually going on inside our child's heart. The heart directs behavior. Luke 6:45 says "For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks".

In this book you will learn why it is so important to fully follow God's Word in nurturing and correcting our children. God has only temporarily entrusted these children to us and it is our job to be about His agenda, *not* our own. God has given two methods for childrearing: communication and the rod. Using the Bible as the guide, Tedd Tripp will lead you through the steps necessary to develop good communication with your children as well as the authority and firmness they need. You will help your children see the logic and wisdom of being a person under authority, and even though submission is hard, it is the path of blessing and peace.

You will learn: how to get to the heart of behavior, what *Godward orientation* means in child development, what your goals are and what are unbiblical goals, what communication is and what it is not (as well as different types of communication), when and how to discipline, and how to temper unwavering firmness with kindness and gentleness.

We not only learned the biblical way to train our children, but we were also taught many things about heart submission ourselves. If our children don't have a sweet harmonious humble submission to God then we are in disobedience to God's Word. Even though all this information is in the Bible, it is nice having help putting all these principles into practical use in our lives.

We highly recommend this book to anyone who has children from infant to teen—it's never too late to make biblical changes in child rearing. We found it very beneficial going through this book in a small group setting, rather than just reading the book, as we were all able to share our thoughts and ideas. Going through this process of sharing information helped us figure out what would work best for our family.

Greg & Peggy Peasnell



Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

8:15 a.m. First Service
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Second Service

Sunday Services

www.norridgefellowship.org
314 West Ave J
Jerome, ID 83338



Place
Stamp
Here

To The Ends of the Earth

Praying for an Eternal Impact



The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome saying, "Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me" (Romans 15:30). Paul begged the Roman Christians to pray for him as he carried the Gospel to the ancient world. In doing so Paul was inviting them to take part in God's plan to reach the nations with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Prayer is an excellent way for you to impact eternity through the spread of the Gospel without ever having to leave your own country.

Jerry Rankin, the president of the International Mission Board writes, "Prayer is not peripheral to missions strategy. It is the heart of our strategy to reach the nations and fulfill the Great Commission. Someone has said that the battle for the nations will be won on the knees of God's people." Join me in praying for these requests as our missions team (Pastor Matt, Gayle Boyd, Candy Myhre, and Dennis Cornwell) spreads the Gospel in Senegal, Africa, from **Monday, April 14 to Thursday, April 24**. Pray for:

- Spiritual strength/protection/health for the team
- Unity among the team members
- Safe travel to Africa and while in the country
- Boldness in sharing the Gospel / open doors for ministry
- Patience as they wait for God's direction and leading while there
- That they would have a servant heart and demonstrate the love of Christ

- That God would give them the words to say in all situations
- Pray that God would bring across their path the people He desires them to speak to
- Pray for the salvation of these people in Diouloulou:

Aissatou Sane	Mr. Ceesay	Miss Mindi
Mactar Sane	Mrs. Marite	Willie Badji
Lundean Sane	Pierre Diatta	Mrs. Portfi
Fatu Sonko	Lie Diallo	Mr. Jiba
Pape Sanko	Richard	Moussa
Mr. Sane	Ansamana	
Mrs. Sar	Ti-rue	
- Pray that the team would have the words to say as they speak in the high school and that the students would be receptive
- Pray that many people would want to take a Bible
- Pray that they would be able to show the Jesus film numerous times
- Pray for their families while they are away

Also, while the missions team is in Africa read through the book of Acts and use God's Word and the things that you are reading each day to guide you as you pray for the team. As you read, ask God to instruct you from His Word as to how you should pray for them. Allow the Spirit of God to use the Word of God to prompt you to pray for the team as they spread the Gospel in Diouloulou, Senegal. Above all "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Pastor Matt

APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ladies Scrapbook/Craft night on **April 4th** from
6:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight.

Ladies—on Saturday, May 10 at 1:00 pm,
“**Day of Joy**” is being planned just for you!

A special luncheon will be provided, and concert performer Janis Walton, with some of her friends, will be giving us a concert you won't want to miss! Fun and surprises are in store, so plan now to be there! **Tickets (\$8.00) will go on sale Sunday, April 6th.** This is a great time to invite your friends and relatives to enjoy this day with you, and all ladies are welcome. (You will need to arrange for a babysitter.) If you have any questions or special concerns call Myrla Plant at (208) 324-2406.

Men—Plan to attend the Men's Retreat from **June 26th - 28th.**

HEY KIDS! What kind of wood did Noah use to build the ark?
Tell Mrs. Brockway and get a prize!

— *A Message From Your NorthRidge Elders* —

Biblical Leadership for the Church

What is biblical eldership?

NorthRidge Fellowship follows the biblical model of an elder-led church. This is not the common form of church government in Southern Baptists churches. Most follow a congregation-led model where church members vote on all important issues. These are implemented by a board of deacons and can be contrary to the vision of the pastor (elder). So why are we different?

The apostle Peter writes in 1 Peter 5:1-3, “The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder... Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly, nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”

According to the New Testament concept of eldership, elders lead the church, teach and preach the Word, protect the church from false teachers, exhort and admonish the saints in sound doctrine, visit the sick and pray, and judge doctrinal issues. In biblical terminology, elders shepherd, oversee, lead, and care for the local church.

The biblical image of a shepherd caring for his flock—standing long hours ensuring its safety, leading it to fresh pasture and clear water, carrying the weak, seeking the lost, healing the wounded and sick—is precious. Thus when Paul and Peter directly exhorted the elders to do their duty, they both employed shepherding imagery. It



should be observed that Paul and Peter assign the task of shepherding the local church to no other group or single person but the elders. Paul exhorts the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:28-31, “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember...”

As a shepherd, New Testament elders are to protect, feed, lead, and care for the flock's many needs. I will discuss each of these briefly.

A major part of the New Testament's elders' work is to protect the local church from false teachers. Paul said guard the flock, wolves are coming. According to Paul's required qualifications for eldership, a prospective elder must have enough knowledge of the Bible to be able to refute false teachers: “For this reason I left you in Crete,... and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you- ... holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.” (Titus 1:5,9).

According to Acts 20 and 1 Peter 5,

9Marks That Stand Out Today

9Marks is an organization devoted to helping the church today be more biblical. While they recognize that there are many biblical marks of a healthy church, there are nine marks that they believe are most lacking in many churches today:

1. Expository Preaching
2. Biblical Theology
3. Biblical Understanding of the Good News
4. Biblical Understanding of Conversion
5. Biblical Understanding of Evangelism
6. Biblical Understanding of Membership
7. Biblical Church Discipline
8. Promotion of Christian Discipleship and Growth
9. Biblical Understanding of Leadership

Visit 9marks.org for further explanation of each of these marks.

elders shepherd the church of God. So to shepherd a local church means, among other things, to lead the church. To the church in Ephesus Paul states: “Let the elders who rule (lead, direct, manage) well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.” (1 Timothy 5:17).

Elders are stewards (household managers) of God's household, the local church. Therefore all elders must be, to some measure, leaders and managers. They must clarify the direction and vision of the congregation. Biblical eldership is dependent on men who seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt 6:33), men who have presented themselves as living sacrifices to God and slaves of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 12:1,2), and men who love Jesus Christ above all else and willingly sacrifice self for the sake of others.

Furthermore, the deacons are the church's ministers of mercy. Like the elders, they are to attend to the people's many practical care needs (Acts 6:1-6), so the elders need to delegate to the deacons many of the practical needs of the congregation.

Like the apostles, the church elders must remember that although they are involved in ministering to practical care needs, their priorities must always be “prayer, and ... the ministry of the Word” (Acts 6:4).

Rich Henry, with excerpts from Alexander Strauch, *Biblical Eldership* (Colorado Springs: Lewis & Roth Publishers, 1995)