

Navigator

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

The Worth of the Slaughtered Lamb

I get extremely excited when I read the book of Revelation because it shows us the Lord Jesus Christ in all of His unveiled glory and splendor. After all, it is the “Revelation of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 1:1)! While Revelation is to be read with an eye to the future events that it describes, the focal point of the book is Jesus. This is because the focal point of all of human history, past, present, as well as future, is Jesus Christ.

Even the casual reader of Revelation is at once hit with the magnitude of the heavenly worship that is described there. In Revelation we get a unique perspective and vantage point as we get to see real worship being carried out. We are transported, as it were, to the very throne room of heaven and are allowed to peak in and glimpse inside and view the Lord Jesus in a magnificent way.

John seems to be grasping for words to describe this heavenly vision as he employs simile to paint a picture for his readers. When Gayle and I went to the Grand Canyon for our honeymoon and returned home to Florida our family was asking us what it looked like and we found ourselves at a loss for words. We usually ended up saying, “Well it was like this. And it was like that” because words could not do justice to what we had seen and every description felt inadequate. Such was the way that it must have been for the Apostle John, only magnified billions of times over, as his eyes saw the King of the Universe seated upon His throne (4:1-3).

But after John describes the scene in and around the throne room of heaven (4:1-11) his attention is drawn to a scroll that rests in the hand of God (5:1). The scroll was sealed with seven seals and was written inside and on the back; it was so full of writing that nothing more could be added. The scroll likely represents the plan and purpose of God for the future because beginning in chapter 6, as the seals are opened, more and more of God’s plan for the earth is revealed.

The problem with the scroll, however, is that there is no one worthy to open it (5:2-4). John wept because it seemed that the plans and purposes of God had been

thwarted as the scroll remained sealed. The scene comes to a startling halt as no one “in heaven or on the earth” is found who is worthy to open the scroll and all of creation seemingly hangs in the balance.

At that moment one of the elders speaks to John and says, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals” (5:5). With powerful Old Testament imagery from Genesis 49 and Isaiah 11 the elder refers to Jesus Christ and brings to mind the imagery of the Messiah’s fierceness, strength, power, and victory.

Yet when John looked toward the throne, standing in the midst of the heavenly assembly was a Lamb (5:6). John turned expecting to see the awesome and conquering Lion of Judah, but instead sees a Lamb. The Greek word that John uses for lamb is one that means “little lamb” or could even be translated “pet lamb.” And the Lamb was standing there “as though it had been slain.” The word literally means “slaughtered” or “violently slain.” There stood this little lamb, still bearing the marks and the scars of its slaughter, yet it was alive.

It is this slaughtered Lamb that is worthy to take and open the scroll. It is not Jesus as the conquering Lion that takes the scroll; it is Jesus as the Lamb that was slaughtered who is worthy to unfold the plan and purpose of God. This highlights the divine and central paradox of the Gospel: the victory of God was the death of Jesus. The Lion assumes the meekness of the Lamb and His triumph and conquest is carried out as He is slain. He is the victor, because He became the victim.

The slaughtered Lamb then becomes the focal point of worship (5:8-14). Worship in heaven centers around Jesus’ work on the cross as Jesus’ death is what God chooses to highlight about His Son. Nothing, and I mean nothing, impresses God more than Jesus’ work on the cross where He chose “to give His life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). And the only response to the Lamb that was slain is to fall at His nail scarred feet and worship Him.

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Pastor Matt

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

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Matthew Boyd	293-2841 pastor@nrfellowship.com
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Deacons

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Jeff Hanni	539-4079
Chris Myhre	644-6421 ccmyhre@msn.com
Brian Parish	324-2517

Schedule see calendar for more!

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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Thursday

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

We've just finished up our Ramblin' Road Trip VBS. We had an awesome week! The Lord blessed us with great weather, good kids and super workers. Each night we had between 50 and 60 kids and over 30 workers. It takes a lot of work and planning to have an exciting road trip, and we want to thank all the people who helped make this year's VBS a success.

As the children arrived they were taken to the Ramblers' License Photo Center where their picture was taken. Later that evening they would receive a license to ramble with their name and photo on it.

Each night we started out at the campground where we sang songs and learned Bible verses. Then Bill and Ted



shared with us all the cool places they had been on their Ramblin' Road Trip and also told us an exciting Bible story. The next hour was spent ramblin' with their Tour Guides to three different stations:

Missions- where the children saw the importance of sharing the gospel in Senegal, Africa, and also learned how they

could tell others about Jesus in their own neighborhood. The children brought in over \$560 to help buy school supplies for the children in Africa.

Games and Snacks- where the children enjoyed a delicious snack and played a game that corresponded with each night's Bible theme.



Crafts- where the kids created a souvenir to remind them of that night's adventure.

Then we all headed back to the campground where we finished the night with songs, a short video and a review of that night's theme.

During the week, while we were traveling on Route 254, we learned about making good choices and choosing the right roads in life by using God's Word.

Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation. Psalm 25:4-5

Gina Bickel

Ongoing Children's Ministries

Sunday School 9:30am-10:20am, **Bible Builders** During the 10:30 Worship Service

H₂O YOUTH MINISTRY JOHN 4:13-14

SONFEST

SonFest will be August 1-3 in Layton, Utah for youth 7th grade through 12th grade. Pray for the volunteers and the youth who will be attending this trip. If you have any questions contact Shannon Pharaoh.

Please continue to pray for Cassidy Kohler who is traveling this summer with the Young Continentals. Pray for her safety and that God will give her boldness and the words to share Jesus with people.

There will be no parents' night out for July.

Shannon Pharaoh

Meet Rich Henry

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

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Oxnard, California, and was raised in Southern California near Palm Springs.

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

My parents. My father was a very hard-working man, frequently working 2 jobs to support my mother and the 5 children. He loved the Lord and shared that love with us. He also worked hard for the Lord and His church. When he retired as a grocery clerk, he made plans to be a missionary in Kiev, Ukraine. He died there on his return visit. My mother shared her encouragement and compassion to help each child succeed. She is still active in her church in Yucca Valley, California.

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

Acts- which shows the power of ordinary people empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit, turning the world “upside down”, and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Aside from the Bible, what are your favorite books?

The “Rich Dad, Poor Dad series” and John Grisham novels.

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

Beef, potatoes, corn, and Frappuccino drinks.

Who in the Bible do you most identify with?

Barnabas for his exhortation of Christian leaders and willingness to serve.

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

Israel, Northern Thailand, the seven churches of Revelation (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, and the isle of Patmos), and Kiev, Ukraine.

How did you come to know Christ?

At a “Good News Club” meeting at a neighbor’s house when I was in third grade.



NEHEMIAH TEAM

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for in YAH, the Lord, is everlasting strength. Isaiah 26:3-4

Since many have been asking about the status of our building enlargement, we will try to bring you up to speed. The Nehemiah Team began meeting together back in February. After spending time in prayer asking God for guidance and patience, we began to make a list of the things that were most needed to be able to carry out the ministries that God has given to our church.

Our first concern was the matter of more space in the auditorium. Having two services tended to inhibit the fellowship of our congregation, and the second service is many times at capacity.

Secondly, we considered the need for more and larger educational rooms. Our auditorium currently contains four Sunday School classes, one of which is an upper elementary students’ class. Also, the rooms that currently house the younger children’s classes are many times filled to capacity.

Along with these areas came the obvious necessity of more restroom accommodations (since we will have the potential for more people) and there was concern for the ability to have room for various fellowships. Also, the need for additional storage was addressed.

With these foundational needs came the matter of what type of structure would best allow for these areas to be improved. The team was unanimous in the desire to utilize our current structure to help reduce overall costs, but also wanted the building to be aesthetically pleasing. Of course, building codes also had to be addressed as well. After meeting with the architect, and after much discussion, a plan that seemed to meet all the requirements was developed.

Our team hopes to be able to share this plan with the congregation in the next few weeks. We are currently waiting for another meeting with the architect, who in turn is meeting with our local building inspector. We are aware that, like all building plans, not everyone’s ideas can be utilized and there are things that might be nice to have, but due to the cost, we can function without them. We have endeavored to meet the most pressing needs and to keep costs to a minimum.

The Nehemiah Team would ask you to keep us in your prayers. God has greatly blessed our church, and our prayer would be that His blessing would continue throughout this time of physical expansion. Here are some prayer requests concerning the building process:

- Pray that God would receive the glory for all that is accomplished.
- Pray for our congregation to grow in their walk with Christ through this experience.
- Pray for wisdom for the those on the Nehemiah Team.
- Pray that the funds will be raised to see this project completed.
- Pray that through this time of expansion, we would be a light to our community.

Finally, ask God how he would like you to participate in this exciting time for our church, so that you will be able to say with the psalmist in Psalm 145:1-3, “I will praise you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. I will bless you every day, and I will praise you forever. Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! His greatness is beyond discovery.” (NLT)

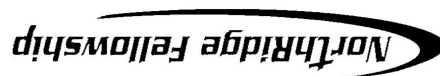
Kevin Bickel

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

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

Sunday Services

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



Place
Stamp
Here

To The Ends of the Earth



On Mission with a Sovereign God

There is great comfort and hope in the sovereignty and providence of God. The Bible bears out the truth that God is in control of all things, at all times, in all ways. God’s sovereignty shows us that there are no mere coincidences or meaningless events, but rather God is weaving together all the events of our lives to accomplish His will in the world. And this is true even when we cannot see “behind the scenes” to know exactly what He is doing.

Gayle and I had always been passionate about missions and always desired to go (I planned to go to Honduras in 1998, but Hurricane Mitch had other plans!), but the timing had never been right. But in the winter of 2004 God opened up an opportunity for us to take a two-week volunteer trip.

Our planning consisted of praying and seeking God’s direction as we combed through the myriad of volunteer trips available through the International Mission Board. Our hearts had always been drawn to Africa, as we knew a handful of missionaries scattered throughout the continent, and we felt drawn to a request for volunteers to come and pray among an unreached people group known as the Jola-Fonyi in southern Senegal.

The next step in the process was for us to send an e-mail to the missionaries, Lee and Donelle Kauffman, stating our interest in coming and serving with them for ten days. And then we waited to hear back from them. And we waited. And we waited...and over four weeks passed without our hearing a word from them. In the meantime we began researching other options (including a mission trip to Pakistan), but still felt lead in the direction of Senegal and the Jola-Fonyi.

After another week or two I contacted the International Mission Board in Richmond to see if there was a problem with our request. I found out that the e-mail address that I had for the Kauffmans was no longer active and was given their new address. I quickly contacted them and they replied saying that someone had already applied to go on the trip, but there was still room for two more people. The problem was that the trip had been scheduled for the time of my seminary final exams.

Upon explaining our situation to them and the fact that we could only come around the middle of December they committed to pray about it and let us know soon. In their next correspondence, a week or so later, they said that they felt God wanted them to add the additional trip and that they would love for us to come.

God was surely at work in all of these events as He used that first trip to give us a heart for the Jola-Fonyi people that resulted in another trip in 2005, NorthRidge’s adoption of the village of Diouloulou for prayer and evangelism in 2006, our two trips in 2007, and our latest trip in April. The fruits of what God was doing then are being seen in NorthRidge’s mission work today.

As Donelle was recounting the details of this story to Candy she commented, “If God had not orchestrated all of those events the way that He did in 2004 then you might have never gone to Diouloulou.” I thought to myself, “If God had not orchestrated all of those events then *no one* may have ever gone to Diouloulou.” It’s times like those that make you thankful to be on mission with a sovereign God!

Matt Boyd

JULY ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be no Ladies Scrapbook/Craft night in July. Enjoy your Independence Day celebrations!

Men, join the LEAD Bible Study! We meet every Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Wok and Grill in Twin Falls. LEAD stands for Leadership, Evangelism, Accountability, and Devotion. Come whenever you can!

New Ladies Bible Study—*Breaking Free: Making Liberty In Christ a Reality in Life* by Beth Moore. Contact Mandy Auclair at 324-3668 for more information.

HEY KIDS! Find the hidden Praying Mantis, tell Mrs. Brockway where it is, and get a prize!

NorthRidge is prayerfully planning to be part of the Jerome Parade and Fair from July 29 to August 2.

First we will participate in the **Jerome Parade on July 29th**, where we hope to hand out over 3000 bottles of water. Each bottle has a tag attached with a scripture and information about our church. That's a lot of water, folks! To help, bring cases of bottled water to the church. Who knows—one of those bottles of water may lead someone to the real life-giving water of Jesus!

During the **Jerome Fair**, we will host a booth where we hope to hand out **over 3000 Bibles!** Watch for the schedule soon in the foyer and sign up to help at the booth.



Back to the Heart of Homeschooling

hosted by NorthRidge Fellowship

Saturday, July 26th, 2008 from 10 AM to noon

Back to the Heart of Homeschooling is the first in a series of mini-conferences purposed to encourage, uplift, and recharge the hearts of homeschooling moms in the Magic Valley area. Moms will have the opportunity to get “plugged in” with other moms or homeschooling groups while being in a Christ-centered atmosphere.

There is no fee for this conference and childcare will not be provided. All homeschoolers or those who are interested in homeschooling are invited to come!

**Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you? Psalm 85:6**



For more information contact Sabrina at 324-2627 or by email at backtotheheartofhomeschooling@hotmail.com

It's A Good Time to be A Christian

A couple of months ago a friend of mine was going through a very difficult time. He was having trouble with his children, his work, his church and even with the IRS. It would appear from my point of view that one problem was just piling up on top of another and I was concerned about how he was handling his cumulative troubles. When I asked him how he was doing he said in an almost joyful tone that it was a good time to be a Christian and if he did not have his hope in Christ it would seem as if his whole world was falling apart. It reminded me once again, that without Christ this world would be our whole focus and we would have no hope beyond our own strength.

He was completely correct; it is *always* a good time to be a Christian, but especially when we face times of trouble and suffering. As a Christian, we have hope, comfort and strength in Christ. We know that no matter what we are going through it is only temporary compared to eternity. Romans 8:18 says: “For I consider that sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”. In 1000 years the only thing that will matter is if we are saved or not.

Many people, even in our church, are struggling with all sorts of hopeless situations, just like my friend. All it takes is turning on the radio to hear about high fuel

prices, human suffering, and numerous depressing situations. But as a Christian, all we need to do is open the Bible to see hope in such hopeless situations. Like the Book of Job, the Book of Lamentations addresses human suffering. Unlike Job, Lamentations focuses on national suffering. We see the broken heart of Jeremiah as he expresses his grief over the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians. Chapters 1 and 5 provide summaries of the siege and fall of Jerusalem while chapters 2 and 4 provide a more detailed and explicit description of that devastation. Yet in the middle of all this, we see the hope we have in the Lord. Lamentations 3: 21-26 says: “This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion’ says my soul, ‘therefore I hope in Him!’ The Lord is good to those who wait for Him. To the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”

As long as we dwell on our own troubles, the

more convinced we will become of our hopelessness and our inability to extricate ourselves from our present troubles. But when we focus on the Lord, we are finally able to rise above our troubles rather than suffer under them.

The comforting part is that we are not alone: the Lord lives with His people. Consequently, God is a refuge for His people. Psalm 46 tells us that “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling”.

We need to be in prayer for many people in our church as well as our nation and world. We do live in troubled times but we have a hope that the world is missing. **We**

have Christ! As a body of believers we should share that hope with those around us. It *is* a good time to be a Christian.

As a
Christian,
we have
hope,
comfort
and strength
in Christ.

Travis Flick