

Navigator

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

DOERS OF THE WORD

I got my first speeding ticket in December of 1988. (Now before you get too self-righteous, let me point out that it is highly likely that many of you reading this have received a speeding citation somewhere along the way as well.) But what made my ticket a bit unique is the fact that in December of 1988 I had only had my driver's license for about a month. Not exactly the way that you want to start out your driving career. The road that I was stopped on was one that I had literally travelled my whole life and I knew exactly what the speed limit was. And as I pulled my truck off to the side of the road I stopped about ten feet in front of a sign that read "Speed Limit 45."

So when the officer came up to my window and asked the age-old question, "Do you know what the speed limit is on this road son?" I could do nothing but answer, "Yes sir I do: it is 45." I knew exactly what the speed limit was: I could read and I could understand how fast I was supposed to go. The problem was not with my understanding or my intelligence, the problem was with my obedience. I could read the truth, that the speed limit was 45, but I did not heed the truth, and instead was traveling 72 miles per hour. The problem was that even though I knew the truth it did not change the way that I acted or the things that I did.

God in His grace has given to us a book that is full of truth from cover to cover. The inspired Word of God, the Bible, stands as our highest authority and to disbelieve or disobey the Bible is to disbelieve or disobey God. Thankfully, it is written in such a way that all things necessary to become a Christian, live as a Christian, and grow as a Christian are clear and understandable to its readers. This is great news for all those who desire to live godly, Jesus-honoring lives: the Bible comes from God, is understandable, and tells me all that I need to know to be a relationship with God and live a life that is pleasing to Him.

Yet it is possible to affirm all of those things about the Bible, yet still not obey the truths of the Bible. God's expectations for His people are far greater than that. He expects that as they come to know truth that it will impact and change their lives. That is why

God says through James, "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22). Unlived truth is wasted truth.

Knowing truth is imperative for it is truth that sets a person free to live for Jesus (John 8:32). But mere knowledge does not lead to a life that is pleasing to God anymore than knowing the speed limit can keep a lead-footed teenager from getting a ticket. That knowledge must lead to obedience and action. God's Word demands a response; it demands a change in us and in our lives. The first question that you should ask yourself after hearing or reading God's Word is how now should I adjust my life so that I can obediently live out that truth.

James says in 1:22 that if we are only hearers of the word and not doers of the word that we are deceiving ourselves. The word "deceiving" in verse 22 was used in mathematics to refer to a miscalculation. James is saying that those who are hearers and not doers of God's Word have made a grave spiritual miscalculation about themselves because God's people will desire to obediently live out truth.

It is not enough just to say you read your Bible every day or that you go to church once a week and hear a sermon. The question is, how is the truth of God changing your life? It is interesting that the ever-practical James does not lay out a plan for our Bible reading or give us a schedule for daily devotionals. Instead he goes much, much deeper. Because he realizes that it is possible for us to advance the bookmark in our Bibles without advancing in holiness and right living because we are inattentive and unyielding and disobedient to God's Word.

God wants to change your life and He wants to use His Word to do it. He does not just want you to know more truth; He wants you to live more truth. When you become a doer of the Word of God then God is glorified and you will live life in a way that will be pleasing to God, and your life will never be the same!

† Pastor Matt



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9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays

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Navigator PDF

To receive the newsletter as a PDF in email, please send a request to newsletter@nrfellowship.org and you will be added to the Navigator email list.

Children's Ministries

Helping Children Become God-Focused Believers Through Essential Christian Truth

Children's Ministries: F/S Wednesday evenings, 6:30pm to 8:00pm
Sunday School 9:15am-10:15am Bible Builders During the 10:30 worship service

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words!

- OUSL _____ EGIHONBR _____
OYUR _____ DGO _____
NGSTRETH _____ LAL _____
ATREH _____ LVEO _____
DAN _____ OUYR _____
SA _____ ORLFSUYE _____
HET _____ HITW _____
OYUR _____ NIMD _____
ORLD _____ OLVE _____

Now, try to put the words into the correct order—they make up a very important Bible verse. (Answer at bottom of page.)

VBS Prep Friday, March 5, 6:00 pm Bring a snack to share!

T2G TRANSFORMED TO GLORIFY
Teens transformed by Christ, to transform the world, for His glory.

But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having a promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8

As youth, you spend a great deal of time in study, either reading authors who want you to know things or hearing lectures from teachers who want you to know things or wisely submitting to the astute teachings and observations of your all-knowing parents. (: The majority of your time is spent absorbing. It's important to know what pi is and the distance to the moon and why Oliver asked for more in Oliver Twist and what made Karl Marx detest the struggle to live so much. In the study of profound human truths, we can see the reflection of God's absolute truths.

Exercise yourself toward godliness. Reject profane and old wives' fables.

We all know how to exercise our bodies. We can stretch, run, and strength train. Yet, God places greater value on stretching our understanding of Him, running our hearts and minds in prayerful conversations with God, and strength training in the sound doctrines God has written in His Word. How can you reject profane fables, unless you are grounded in the absolute truths of God?

You can't rely on some passive gaining of God's truths, as if He is pouring His truths into your mind and heart while you are sleeping at night. No—God asks you to exercise yourself, to exercise your heart and mind in the study of Him and His truths. A muscle ill-used deteriorates. Your heart and mind were designed with a purpose, and to let your heart and mind either sit idle or be filled only with the partial truths of this world is to dim their functioning into a shadow of what God intends.

If you truly want to love the Lord with all your heart, all your strength, and all your mind, and all your soul, you need to actively pursue God in His Word and in prayer and fellowship with other believers. You must exercise your spiritual muscles.

Have a blessed March as you pursue God with your whole being!



Meet

Brian Bizik

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in California but raised in Salem, Oregon.

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

My father died when I was in fifth grade and my mother was very ill so her parents as well as my aunt and uncle stepped in and help to raise me, and thus were very influential. All of these family members were strong Christians and they helped me so much. My wife, mother and father-in-law became my extended family once I was married and I consider myself beyond blessed to have had so many people in my life that have loved and cared for me.

What is one of your favorite passages and/or books of the Bible?

I memorized Isaiah 53 in high school and that is one that I have gone back to time and time again.

Aside from the Bible, what are your favorite books?

I enjoy science fiction so I will have to show my nerdy side and say the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy books.

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

Fig Newtons, some Thai food, Diet Coke and . . . well, a toothpick.

Who in the Bible do you most identify with?

Samson.

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

Boston; Washington DC; Tijuana Mexico; and Frenchglen, Oregon.

How did you come to know Christ?

While I became a Christian as a child, it was not until I moved in with my Aunt and Uncle in Salem, Oregon that I committed my life to Christ. The example set by my extended family has cemented in me the desire to serve the Lord for a lifetime!

An Excerpt From The Classics



From the sermon, "St. Patrick was a Baptist," at the Calvary Baptist Church of New York City by the pastor, Dr. John Summerfield Wimbish, on March 12, 1952.

Patrick, in his own "Confession" tells us that he was a Briton, not an Irishman. He first saw the light of day in the town of Dumbarton on the River Clyde in the south of Scotland about the year 389 A.D. His father was a Christian deacon and his grandfather a clergyman in the ancient church of Britain, which had never come under the yoke of Rome.

At sixteen years of age, our hero was captured by a band of Scottish slave-dealing pirates who sold him to the Druid chieftain, Milcho, who reigned in the north of Ireland. For six years Patrick herded the cattle of this ruthless pagan chieftain. In his "Confession" he tells us: "When I was a youth, I was taken captive before I knew what I should desire or seek, or what I ought to shun."

It was during this time of servitude in the bleak forests of northern Ireland that Patrick turned from his frivolous ways and came into a knowledge of Christ as his own personal Saviour. Of that period he says, "Frequently in the night I prayed and the love of God and His fear increased more and more in me." Possibly it was while a hidden onlooker of the weird Druid ceremonies that he was inspired of God to become a missionary to these heathen people.

He relates how, after six years, he managed to escape from his master and, after a tortuous journey over sea and land, returned to his people in Britain.

Like the great apostle Paul, he received a clear and personal "Macedonian call" from the Lord of harvest to preach the Gospel in the land of his former captivity.

At forty years of age, the amazing Patrick began his magnificent work on the Emerald Isle. His mission field was wild and primitive. The people who inhabited its primeval forests were animists and they worshiped such things as trees and stones and wells. They believed that spirits dwelt in these idols and they sacrificed their little children on heathen alters to appease the gods and to secure, so they thought, better harvests.

About a year after his arrival in Ireland, Patrick did something that called much attention to his ministry. The Encyclopedia Britannica tells us that he challenged the "royal authority by lighting the Paschal fire on the hill of Slane on the night of Easter Eve. It chanced to be the occasion of a pagan festival at Tara, during which no fire might be kindled until the royal fire had been lit."

Ah, this should put iron in our blood! Glorious, audacious Patrick challenged all the forces of hell. Not a little flame did he kindle, but a bonfire! All the people were transfixed and King Loigaire was amazed.

When the flames of the great conflagration on Tara's hill, ignited by Patrick, illumined the countryside, the king was curious to see what kind of mortal this Patrick could be, and he sent for him.

But in the dim light of that Easter morn, in the year 428 A.D., the valiant hero of the Cross and his assistant missionaries marched boldly into the presence of the monarch and told him that Christ was the light of the world and preached Jesus crucified and risen from the dead with such persuasive eloquence that the king was born again by the Spirit of the living God.

After the king believed, Patrick won and baptized multiplied thousands of converts and ere his thirty-three years of ministry were finished, all Ireland was evangelized.

The real Patrick was a Bible-reading, Bible-believing, Bible-preaching missionary and it was the unadulterated Gospel of the Son of God that lifted the Irish out of the darkness of paganism into the glorious light of the Truth.

The late Dr. Ironside reminds us, "Whatever others may have thought of him or may think of him today, Patrick knew himself as a sinner and found salvation where only sinners find it, in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ."

"Dyson and Tolkien were the immediate causes of my conversion. Is any pleasure on earth as great as a circle of Christian friends by a good fire?"

C.S. Lewis



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

9:15 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship

Sunday Services

www.nrlfellowship.org
314 West Ave J
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Place
Stamp
Here

To The Ends of the Earth



Who is Jesus to the Chinese?

When you think of China what do you see? Before I went to China I must admit my answer would have been tea, gun powder, communism, or even Jackie Chan. Since I have been to China, however, my answer has changed. Now I think of China and see millions of college students searching for answers with no one to tell them the truth, a god shelf (place where idols and incense are kept) at the entrance of every home or shop that I visit, or the blank look on many faces when the name of Jesus is mentioned even in Chinese.

In China today there are 1.5 billion people with an estimated 40 million Christians. 40 million seems like a big number until you put it into perspective with all of China. In reality less than 3 percent of all Chinese people claim to be followers of Jesus.

A Chinese baby is born into a world filled with confusion. The people around them have many religions but very few are serious about what they believe. As the child grows they learn about Buddhism and the teachings of Confucius but their parents rarely teach them that one way is right over the other. So the child grows up not knowing what to believe. As they go into upper elementary and high school the education system becomes very hard. They learn to forget religion and focus only on their studies and making their parents proud.

In China a child is not allowed to seek their own religion or their own beliefs until they turn 18. Like in America, 18 is the age that

many Chinese go to college. College for a Chinese student is very different than high school—it is much more relaxed. The students have time to spend with their friends and maybe even get a part time job. They also have time to start thinking about things that matter to them. They start to think about their future, what job they are going to have, who they are going to marry, and even what is going to happen to them after they die. In America we try not to think about death too much but in China it is a very serious thing. They search and try to find answers but many find only false hope in religions that offer only eternal death. They settle into their lives and are content to just try and do good, raise their child, and take care of their parents.

There is simply no one to tell them about the good news of Jesus Christ. On a campus of over ten thousand students it is not uncommon to find that there is not one follower of Jesus. Some may have heard the name, but very few if any at all know of the salvation that name offers.

China is just one of many places in the world where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not widely known. Act 26: 17b-18 says “I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” The call is there, the need is there, the only question is, *will you answer?*

MARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come join us for prayer as we continue to seek God's leading at NorthRidge Fellowship, **Sunday, March 7.**

Ladies' **Esther Bible Study** is every Tuesday from 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NorthRidge Fellowship. Babysitting is provided. Contact Alison Arreaga at 944-4950 or 650-8127 for more information.

MEN's LEAD Bible study meets **every Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** All men are invited to study and eat lunch with us at the Wok and Grill in Twin Falls.

HEY KIDS! Memorize John 3:17. Recite it to Mrs. Brockway, and you will get a prize!

Coffee for your soul



*Tuesdays and Thursdays
6:00 am*

Jolly Bean
Bible Study, Isaiah

What are you doing with the dash?

This week while driving, I was listening to the radio and not paying much attention. I was caught up with the stresses of the day: too many things to do and not enough time to do it. I was about to change the channel when something the gentleman said caught my attention. He was speaking about a tombstone. He said there are two dates on a tombstone but what really is important is the dash in between. The first date is the day of your birth and the second date is the day of your death, but what really defines your life is that little dash of time in between. I do not recall what his message was because I was so caught up thinking about what I was doing with the dash that God had given me. It occurred to me that life really is short and it really comes down to a matter of stewardship. What was I doing with what God had given me? Are the things I have been spending my time on bringing glory to God?

Psalms 24:1 reads, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." Because God created everything, God owns everything, including everything you possess—especially your time. "The whole earth is mine" (Exodus 19:5). "Everything under heaven belongs to me" (Job 41:11). If we believe these scriptures then we need to recognize that we are just managers of what God has given us. To use Biblical terminology, we are just stewards of what God has given us.

The world we live in makes it difficult to be good stewards of our time. In this day and age, we have endless new high-tech ways of being distracted. These could include surfing the web or watching the 105 high definition channels on the satellite. This is nothing new, however. Paul warns us in Ephesians 5:15-16, to "walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." We each have a limited amount of time on this earth. Paul

urges us to use as much of that time as possible to further Christ's purposes in this world.

As good stewards we need to recognize that our time here is short. We may only be a heartbeat away from eternity. Therefore we need to make every moment count. "You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (James 4:14). The world tells us to "play hard, life's short." Life is not too short. It is just that you are dead for so long. Our focus should be on the eternal things not the temporal.

Just as a business manager is accountable to the business owner, we are accountable to God for the use of our time. Romans 14:10-12 says, "...For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: 'As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.' So then each of us shall give account of himself to God." At the judgment seat of Christ every believer's life will be evaluated to determine their reward.

Time is different than many things we have in life. Once it is gone we can never get it back. But the great thing is we can make the best of the time we have in spite of how we have misused it in the past. The words of Paul in Philippians 3:13-14 are a great encouragement: "...forgetting the things that are behind and reaching to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Paul refused to let his past stop his progress toward his goal. Paul was not working for his salvation but rather for a reward.

I pray that we all may live our lives as good stewards, so in the end we can hear our Lord's words: "well done good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).

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