

Navigator

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

Building a Strong and Lasting Marriage

Marriage, just like all of life, is meant to glorify God. It is meant to picture the loving relationship between Jesus and His church (Ephesians 5:32). God created marriage upon the pattern of Jesus and His relationship to His bride the church, so the goal is to live and love in such a way that God is glorified and the relationship between Jesus and the church are portrayed.

We all know that a strong, God-glorifying, Christ-centered marriage takes a lot of hard work and a lot of determination. It takes following the instructions of God, the One who created marriage in the first place. This kind of marriage does not come about by looking at the pattern of the world, but by looking at the pattern of the Word; the Word of God.

The building of a strong and lasting marriage is much like building a strong and lasting house. When you build a house you want to use materials that will make it last a lifetime. You want to work hard so that it will be built into something that will stand up to the test of time. And building a strong, God-glorifying marriage is no different. Psalm 127:1 says, "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." Likewise we can say that unless the Lord builds the marriage, those who try to build it labor in vain.

The building of a marriage, just like the building of a house, must start with a strong foundation, and the foundation that is needed in marriage is Jesus Christ. There is simply no other foundation with which to build a marriage upon. Jesus said, "Anyone who listens to my teaching and obeys Me is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse, because it is built on rock." (Matthew 7:24-25). The only foundation that will stand when the storms of life blow hard is the foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ. A commitment to Him as individuals and a commitment to Him as a couple is the only lasting, solid foundation that can support a marriage. He alone must be the rock.

But a house also needs walls: something that builds upon the foundation and adds structure and support. And in a marriage what adds that support is love. The Bible says, "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Love will last forever" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). And the love that a husband and a wife should show one another should reflect the love that God has shown them in His Son, Jesus Christ, a sacrificial love that seeks the other's good above one's own. It must be a love that is predominantly centered not in each other, but in Jesus Christ where you love one another out of the overflow of your love for Him.

Not only does a house need a foundation and walls, but a house also needs a roof; something to protect the house from rain and acts as a shelter in the storm. In the building of a marriage, grace and forgiveness serve as that roof. The Bible says, "Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32). The grace and forgiveness that the husband and wife show to one another should reflect the grace and forgiveness that God has made available through His Son, Jesus Christ. That is free grace that is not deserved or earned, but is freely and lavishly given. Grace that is not dependent upon each other's performance or worth, but grace that reflects the blessings that we have been shown in Christ. Free and unearned grace must permeate your marriage so that it protects and shelters from struggles within and problems without.

When these things are done, a marriage will be made that will be strong and that will last a lifetime. But above all else, it will be a marriage that will bring glory to God.

† Pastor Matt



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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

F/3 Children's Ministry

Fearless, Faithful, Followers of Jesus

Then He called the crowd to him along with the disciples and said: "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me." Mark 8:34

Exciting new children's ministry starting September 9th!

Wednesday Nights, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

4 year olds - 6th grade

Bring your Bible and a friend!

- ✦ **Memorize God's Word!** Verse cards will be given out each week
- ✦ **Earn Points!** Points can be earned to purchase items from the Redemption Store
- ✦ **Mission Project!** The children will be working on filling Operation Christmas Child boxes

Q & A and verse for September 9th

Q. What is the Bible?

A. The Bible is the inspired Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Note to Parents

There will be no books to purchase.

If you would like to donate any items to the Redemption Store please contact Alicia.

If you have any questions or you would like to register your child talk to **Alicia Pharaoh at 329-0162.**

Children's Ministries: F/3 Children's Ministry Wednesday evenings, 6:30pm to 8:00pm
Sunday School 9:15am-10:15am ♦ **Bible Builders** During the 10:30 worship service

H₂O YOUTH MINISTRY



JOHN 4:13-14

THANK YOU!!!

A word of thanks for those who prayed for our group as we went to Sonfest. All had a great time and were able to learn from the presentations. Also, a special thank you to our chaperons Brian Bizik and Betty Arndt. We greatly appreciate their willingness to help us and their interaction with the teens. Thanks!!!

TIME CHANGE!!!

With the school year upon us and the increase of activity, we are going to change our time on Wednesday nights to start at 7:00 and will still end at 8:00. This time change will begin on September 9th.

Activity Night!!!

Due to the time change and school, most of our activities during the school year will be on Fridays or Saturdays. This month our activity will be on Friday the 18th. More details will be given in youth group.

service opportunity!!!

Any youth who would like to help in the song time for the F/3 program on Wednesday nights, see Mrs. Bickel for information. This would be singing or playing an instrument and would take place before our meeting.

Kevin and Gina Bickel



Meet Patrick Henry

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Stockton California and am being raised here in Idaho.

What year in school are you and what school do you attend?

I am in 12th Grade and I attend Magic Valley High School.

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

My parents.

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

My favorite book of the Bible is Philippians.

Aside from the Bible, what are your favorite books?

I like to read drum magazines.

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

Bread, meat, potatoes, and corn.

Who in the Bible do you most identify with?

I most identify with Zechariah.

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

Canada, Balanced Rock, Snake River, and Yosemite.

How did you come to know Christ?

With the help of my parents and reading God's word I came to know Christ.

A truly humble man is sensible of his natural distance from God; of his dependence on Him; of the insufficiency of his own power and wisdom; and that it is by God's power that he is upheld and provided for, and that he needs God's wisdom to lead and guide him, and His might to enable him to do what he ought to do for Him.

 Jonathan Edwards

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



Just Do Something by Kevin DeYoung

God loves me and has a wonderful plan for my life! I know this because it says so right here in this Gospel tract. God has, from the foundation of the world, preordained a perfect path for Chuck Brockway's life. He has tailored my individualized plan like a perfectly straight highway in the Nevada desert with a bright yellow line down the middle representing all my future decisions about career, marriage, family, and ministry. If I hew faithfully to the line, my life will be overflowing with the spiritual blessings that come from being squarely in God's will. If I veer from the line, the blessings will wither and spiritual misery will result. My life will be a shambles. Now, all I have to do is discover God's secret decoder ring that will reveal the correct answer to all of the decisions – from the minute to the momentous – that I must make until the end of my life.

Kevin DeYoung doesn't think so. His book, *Just Do Something*, should be mildly controversial because a sizable chunk of Christendom adheres to the "perfect God-plan" theory. DeYoung, the senior pastor of University Reformed Church in East Lansing, Michigan, argues that not only is this belief unbiblical, but it has led many Christians into stagnation and even laziness, for fear of making a decision that might be out of God's will. Compared to a few generations ago, we have seemingly limitless choices to make. What career path should I take? Whom should I marry? Where should we live and what church should we attend? Should I take the late flight or the early flight? Should I buy an iPhone or a Blackberry?

DeYoung is in his late 30s, married with three kids, and has an acute awareness that his generation seems to be especially susceptible to the plague of spiritual indecision. His grandfather, a product of the Depression, inhabits a different planet when it comes to "life decisions." In those days you got married in your early 20s, often to someone in the same area that you had known since childhood. You took whatever decent job could support your family, worked hard, and followed God the best you knew how. Choosing a "career path" was a laughable proposition to most Depression-era men. DeYoung argues that the proliferation of endless choices for today's younger men and women is one factor that has caused a sort of paralysis of anxiety among many Christians, leading many to marry later, jump from job to job, and wait endlessly for the "open door" that will be a guaranteed pathway to God's blessings.

Although God's will of decree cannot be thwarted and his ultimate objectives are certain, God has not devised a specific hidden plan for each of us and challenged us to discover it. Instead of overspiritualizing every decision and constantly dwelling on the possibility of making a wrong choice, we should focus intently on those things we know with certainty to be God's will for our lives. Above all, God wants us to be holy. We know that our sanctification is always and ever His perfect will. Everything else in our lives flows from that overarching plan. He wants us to glory in Him and be immersed in his Word. He wants us to pray without ceasing. He wants us to engage in all of the "one anothers" that we find in Scripture. The problem is, in the pursuit of sanctification many decisions will demand an answer and there is no secret decoder ring. God wants us to be so immersed in Christ and His Word and His wisdom that the right decision – if God has a definite preference – will be obvious; or, if God is neutral on the matter, that we would have the maturity to recognize and accept that.

If we are convinced that God is absolutely sovereign and is directing our footsteps for His glory alone, we will be much less fearful of our decisions.

This short, lively, and often funny book is timely and needed. Although most applicable to teenagers and young adults, Christians of all ages should study the book and the many Scriptures DeYoung presents.

Chuck Brockway

“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.norridgefellowship.org
314 West Ave]
Jerome, ID 83338



To The Ends of the Earth



Doing Something for the lostness of the world

A tragedy is currently occurring in our denomination the Southern Baptist Convention. The International Mission Board, which is the entity of the SBC entrusted with sending and supporting 5,563 missionaries who are spreading the Gospel around the world, is experiencing a financial shortfall. Due to the fact that their annual offering was tens-of-millions of dollars smaller than expected some missionaries have had to leave the field, others will not be able to continue their work once their current term on field is completed, and many other men and women who feel God's call to cross-cultural missions will be forced to stay at home. And staying at home means that they are far away from the unreached peoples of the world who desperately need to hear the Gospel.

So how should God's people respond to such a tragedy? First and foremost they must pray. They must pray for God to meet the needs of both current and future missionaries in a way that only He can and in a way where He will receive all the glory.

We must also pray for the peoples of the world with little or no access to the Gospel. There are 11,626 people groups in the world today. A people group is a group of individuals, frequently speaking the same language, who share a common self-identity and worldview. Of those people groups 6,510 of them are considered unreached, which means that they are less than 2% Bible-believing Christians. That number represents a staggering 3.4 billion people! 3,352 of those people groups are unengaged which means that no one is spreading the Gospel among those people at all. Only God can change such startling statistics so God's people must be moved to pray.

But God's people must also be moved to give. According to the International Mission Board it costs an average of \$41,258.77 to support

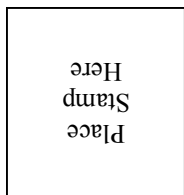
a missionary for a year on the field. This includes such things as housing, food, medical care, children's education, and more. For missions to flourish in a dark world God's people must be more than generous as they sacrificially give so that those without Jesus can have an opportunity to hear the Gospel.

The great missiologist Ralph Winter said, "Obedience to the Great Commission has more consistently been poisoned by affluence than by anything else." The problem is not that God's people do not have the resources to reach the world for Christ. The problem is that many times their resources are not used for Kingdom purposes. God advances the Gospel through sacrifice, so if you want God to use you to shake the nations for His glory in the spread of the Gospel then it will call for sacrifice. Comfortable living does not reach the world with the Gospel.

Every year Americans spend more money in one week on Easter candy than is spent the entire year on international missions. Americans spend 4.6 billion dollars a year on hunting equipment. We drop 4.7 billion dollars per year on golf equipment with an additional 19.7 billion paying for green fees and cart rentals. The point is not that hunting and golf, or even Easter candy, are wastes of resources. The point is that God's people have to live in such a way that it makes it easy for us to give so that we can send others with the Gospel to the world. Not everyone can go, but everyone can pray and everyone can give.

The Gospel is so important and the plight of the unreached peoples of the world is so pressing that every decision that we make in life should take those things into consideration. Because Jesus intends for us, His people, to do something about the lostness of the world. The Gospel is only good news if it gets there in time!

Pastor Matt



SEPTEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN, we are studying *God As He Longs For You To See Him* by Chip Ingram at the LEAD Bible study. Bring a friend and come eat lunch at the Wok and Grill in Twin Falls with your NRF brothers. We meet **every Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Prayer Study: **How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life** will be held the first Sunday of every month. Our study will begin at 6:00 p.m. and it will last about a hour, and then we will spend time in group prayer. Sign up sheet is in the foyer—we need to know how many books to order. For more details please call Dennis at 320-1543, or email Dennis at dnrucking@msn.com. Remember to pray before you come!

Good News Club is starting soon at Summit Elementary School. Contact Gina Bickel for more information.

Two Free Concerts! On September 12, NRF will host the Magic Valley Jubilee at 7:00 pm. On September 24, Josh Rosenthal will be having a free concert at NRF at 7:00 pm.

HEY KIDS! On which day did God create cows? Tell Mrs. Brockway, and you will get a prize!

The Faith Café Women's Retreat

“Without faith it is impossible to please God...”

Hebrews 11:6

September 11-13, 2009

At Camp Sawtooth

To register, contact Mandy

324-3668

or Janis Walton

788-4190

Sponsored by The Magic Valley Baptist Association and
Bellevue Community Church

Journey Through the End Times with Rich Henry

All of us have at one time been intrigued by predictions, the making of a statement about what will happen in the future. This is as silly as fortune cookies, or as serious as consulting a psychic on late night TV for fortune-telling. Some people do not start their day until they have read their horoscope in the paper. How many television programs are there about Nostradamus and his predictions? Or about the Mayan calendars that suddenly end in 2012? Yes, we are all intrigued with the future.

But what if I were to tell you that I can predict the future? Would you believe me? Would you ask for proof? Would you be skeptical? Now I do not want to say that I am a prophet, but starting September 9th, I will be leading an adult Bible study on God's prediction of the future: Revelation.

Revelation in the original Greek means “unveiling, to reveal that which has previously been hidden,” and is the origin of our word “apocalyptic.” This type of writing is found in the books of Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament only in the book of Revelation. It refers to the prophetic visions of the future that use symbols, and figures. Everything in the Bible leads up to this book: Genesis, sin coming into God's perfect creation, God's curse on mankind and the world, the birth of the nation of Israel, the Gentile nation, the church, Satan the adversary of God's people, the

Antichrist, and the plan for redemption.

Revelation 1:1 states, “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John.” In the first verse it is called by John “The Revelation of Jesus Christ,” and is the necessary end of the Bible. It tells us how everything is going to come out. Even a casual reading should be a stern warning to unbelievers to repent and an encouragement to God's people to persevere!

Study the book of
Revelation

Wednesday Evenings
6:45 pm to 7:45 pm

This is the only book in the Bible that gives a blessing regarding the hearing, reading, and obeying of its words: “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near” (Revelation 1:3).

I invite all adults to attend this class each Wednesday night from 6:45-7:45, concurrent with our children and youth activities. We will briefly go over the first three chapters as a refresher for the people from my Sunday

school class, and to allow everyone to start at the same place. We will then dig deeply into each verse starting with chapter 4. We will proceed at whatever pace the group desires. I will be using *Dr. Constable's Notes on Revelation, 2008 Edition*. Dr Constable is a professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, and his notes are available on the internet. I will also be using 4 other commentaries: *Thru the Bible* with J. Vernon McGee, *Believer's Bible Commentary* by William MacDonald, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, an exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty, edited by John Walvoord and Roy Zuck, and the *Wycliffe Bible Commentary* from the Moody Bible Institute, edited by Everett Harrison. I will encourage you to bring your own commentaries for an active discussion. Each week we will begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to open our minds to His instruction. We will end with a time for prayer requests and fellowship. I am sure the time will speed through this difficult study of the end times. I will be stretched and challenged as much as any of you who attend.

Come join me each Wednesday night as we start this journey through the end times. It will be an enjoyable study as we draw on the rest of our Bible training and knowledge to understand the Book of Revelation. As Jesus says in Revelation 22:7, “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

Rich Henry