

Where Do We Go From Here?



In short, we need to get back to the Bible.

God told the Old Testament prophet, Hosea, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (**Hosea 4:6**). We are witnessing the same thing in America.

In **Ecclesiastes 12:12**, **Solomon** said, "Of making many books there is no end." But of all the books ever made, from every part of the world and every period in human history, there's no book like the Bible. Never has been and never will be.

The Word of God stands alone as the most unique book of all time and makes claims for itself no other book has or ever can or will make. For example, the Bible says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**). In other words, Scripture is not only inspired by Almighty God, but also extraordinarily sufficient to equip us fully and completely for every good work. The Word of God is perfect and penetrating with the power to revive the soul (**Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 19:7**). It is unchanging and eternal (**Isaiah 40:8**), completely trustworthy (**Psalm 111:7**) and will endure forever (**1 Peter 1:25**).

John the apostle declared, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made ... The Word became flesh and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (**John 1:1-3, 14 paraphrased**).

JESUS said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" (**Matthew 24:35**).

But the Bible does us no good if we don't know what it says, or if we do know but we do nothing about it.

Dr. James Montgomery Boice said, "In Martin Luther's day, sola Scriptura had to do with the Bible being the sole ultimate authority for Christians over against challenges to it from the traditions of the medieval church, church councils, and the pope. The Reformers wanted Scripture to stand alone as the church's true authority. Today, at

least in the evangelical church, that is not our chief problem; we assert biblical authority. Rather, our problem is in deciding whether the Bible is sufficient for the church's life and work. We confess its authority, but we discount its ability to do what is necessary to draw unbelievers to Christ, enable us to grow in godliness, provide direction for our lives, and transform and revitalize society."

"So we substitute such things as Madison Avenue methodology for biblical evangelism, special 'religious' experiences rather than knowledge of the Word to promote and guarantee sanctification, special revelations for discerning the will of God for our lives, and a trust in the power of votes and money to change society. In other words, in the sixteenth century the battle was against those who wanted to add church traditions to Scripture, but in our day the battle is against those who would have us use worldly means to do God's work."

We see that in a number of churches led by clever, charismatic entertainers better suited for a comedy club than the church. And even though they pepper their presentation with verses that support their theme, it would be inaccurate to describe what they do as "biblical preaching." In some situations they would probably be glad to separate themselves from being called a Bible preacher and calling what they do preaching the Bible, to saying they are simply giving a "talk."

If we were talking about a civic club, a country club, parent/teacher organization or even a comedy club, no problem. But we're talking about the church of the Lord Jesus Christ and the absence of the Bible when it comes to our pastors, our pulpits and our people is a HUGE problem.

In too many places, the focus is no longer the preaching and teaching of the Word of God, but rather has become about the one speaking and how good he is doing it. Don't believe me? Just listen to people talk, post and tweet about their favorite preachers and how good they are, etc., instead of exalting Christ or the Scriptures. (Read that sentence again.) We shouldn't be surprised though because telling people what they want to hear and what makes them feel good doesn't move people closer to the **Son of God** or **the Word of God**. In fact, it does the opposite. It mirrors the culture and makes disciples who love, look, and live like the world.

Joseph Stowell said, "Our culture fans the flames of this preoccupation with self by preaching the importance of self-advancement, self-enhancement, and self-fulfillment. It's the old 'Look Out for #1' syndrome, which has led our culture to clamor for personal rights, privileges, and recognition." How many modern-day messages in churches and their social media platforms mimic that very thing?

CONT.

Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse, former pastor of the Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, said, "It is my prayer that no man shall ever stand in this pulpit as long as time shall last who does not desire to have all that he does based upon this Book. For this Book does not contain the Word of God, it is the Word of God. And though we may preach the Word with all the stammering limitations of our human nature, the grace of God does the miracle or the ministry, and through human lips speaks the divine Word, and the hearts of the people are refreshed. There is no other explanation for the continuing power of a church that is poorly located, that is without endowment, but which continues to draw men and women to the capacity of its seating arrangements, morning and evening, summer and winter, and which sends its sons and daughters by the score to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ throughout the world."

Whenever someone, no matter who, attempts to minimize or marginalize the Bible, Christians need to stand up and speak up. Especially when it happens in a church or church-related setting. For those who think we're making too big a deal out of a book or would accuse us of bibliolatry (worshiping the Bible), listen to these words of **Bob Moorehead**...

"This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy. Its precepts are binding. Its histories are true and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's

staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, ruffle the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It's given you in life, will be open at judgment, and remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents."

If we want to have any hope of a future, if we want daily direction we can trust, if we want to anchor ourselves to something that will withstand the test of time, look no further than the Bible. **1 Peter 1:25** says, "But the word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the word that was preached to you."

Paul warned **Timothy** the time would come when people wouldn't want to hear the Word anymore. Literally, they wouldn't "put up with sound doctrine" anymore. Instead, they would surround themselves with preachers who tell them what their "itching ears" want to hear. In spite of that, his responsibility would always be to **"Preach the Word!" (2 Timothy 4:2).**

That's still our responsibility today and still the only hope for our world. We need to get back to the Bible. Preach it. Teach it. Love it and live it.

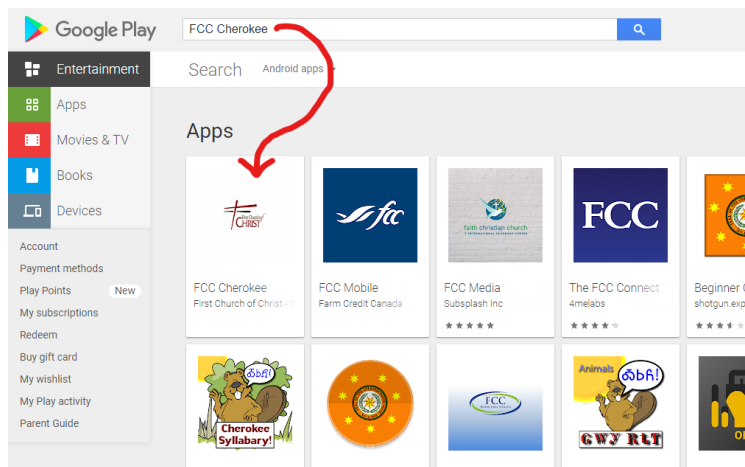
Not the words of men, but **THE WORD OF GOD.**

Blessings,

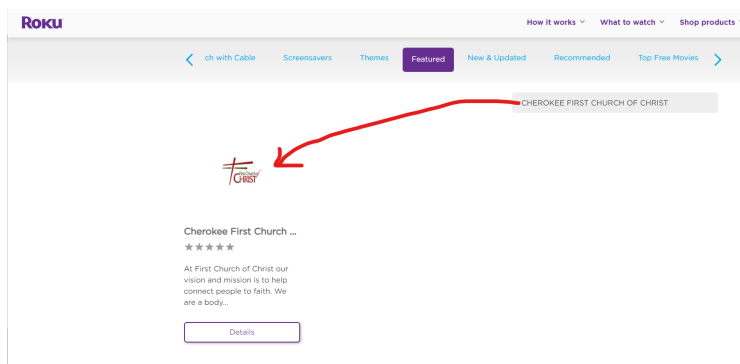
Pastor David

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DEVOTION



Spiritual Healthy Goals

Read John 14:15-17 (ESV)

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."

Reflect

This New Year, how can you resolve to love God more and obey His commands?

Happy New Year! Despite all of the challenges of the past two years, if you are reading this then you have been blessed to see another year. What are you planning to do with this gift? Do you have any resolutions for 2022?

Getting healthier is the most common New Year's Resolution. Many people pledge to eat healthier, exercise more, and lose weight. But what about your spiritual health? What about spiritual fitness? Getting physically healthy is important, sure. But it is temporary. In 1 Timothy 4:8, Paul wrote: "For while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the one to come." In other words, physical health is only of value here and now, but spiritual health is valuable now and forever.

If I were to set a goal to get into better spiritual shape, my goal would say "To know and love Jesus more and to

become more like Him." If you followed along with us as we studied Jesus' life the past couple of months, I hope it has resulted in you knowing Jesus more which in turn has increased your love for Him. In today's verses, Jesus said that those who love Him obey His commands.

If you are a parent, you understand this. Nothing is more disheartening than to have your kids say, "I love you" but then continue to disobey you at every opportunity. You understand that the greatest expression of love your children could give to you is to obey your rules because they are for their own good. Employers also experience this frustration when their employees say "Ok, boss" to their faces but then turn around and disregard their orders.

In Luke 6:46, Jesus said, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and not do what I tell you?" In other words, why do we call Jesus our Master and our God if we don't follow His orders? Why do we call ourselves Christians if we aren't seeking to follow Christ?

Friends, this New Year, I pray that you resolve to make Your spiritual fitness a priority. I pray that you would know Him more, which leads to loving Him more, which leads to increased obedience. The more time we spend with Him, the more like Him we become.

But be encouraged. You do not have to do this on your own. In today's verses, Jesus said that He will send us a Helper who will be with us forever. This Helper is the Holy Spirit! We have been given God's Spirit! He resides in all believers forever. Jesus called the Holy Spirit "the Spirit of truth." Jesus elaborated on the work of the Holy Spirit in John 16:7-15. In John 16:13, Jesus said, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."

As you make plans and set goals for the New Year, pray. Commit to spending time in the Word and in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit for help and guidance. Our spiritual fitness should be our number one priority. But we don't have to go it alone. We have a Helper.

Pray

Lord, thank You for another New Year. As I make my plans and set my goals, keep my focus on You. By the power of Your Spirit, guide me in truth and strengthen my resolve to know You more. May I be more like You at the end of 2022 than I am today. May I continually demonstrate my love for You by obeying Your Word. Amen.



BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS UPDATE

2021 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes January 9, 2022

- Chairman, Mike Sparks called the meeting to order and opened with prayer at 11:15 a.m.
- Nancy Nelson read the minutes from the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting. Karen Weinreich motioned to approve the minutes as read and Rita Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Pastor David Hall presented his Ministers Report mentioning that attendance was up to about 75% of what it was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also mentioned how online sermons are currently prerecorded and there are plans to move into an actual live stream of our worship services. No one had any questions or comments for David.
- The meeting then moved onto the review of the proposed budget. Rita Pearson questioned the amount of interest earned on the savings account and wondered if the board should investigate something with better growth for those funds. The board took it under advisement. Sharon Henkel questioned the proposed income verses the amount on the Profit and Loss statement. She asked if the difference was because the savings amount was added to the proposed income. The answer to that question was yes, the savings amount was added to the proposed income. Kirk Nelson motion to approve the budget as presented, Mark Patten seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- It was mentioned that Mary Hasbrouck is stepping down from coordinating the Prayer Chain and that someone else would need to step forward to continue coordinating the prayer chain. No one stepped forward at the meeting.
- Jerry Clark had a question about having greeters again. The board members also took that under advisement.
- Bonnie Ducommun mentioned that a system needs to be in place for individuals to contact the pastor or an elder in case of hospitalization needs. Several ideas were suggested, and the board will set something up at the next monthly board meeting.
- Members then voted by ballot for their choice of worship and Sunday school times. There were four choices available. The results of the ballots demonstrated an overwhelming preference to hold worship first then Sunday School with the most preferred starting time being 9 a.m. As a result, Sunday services will now be as follows: 9 a.m. Worship with 10 a.m. Sunday School. This will begin on the first Sunday in February to allow for notification of the change in the newsletter.
- With no other business to discuss Larry Heschke motioned to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Barry Nelson. The motion carried.
- Pastor David Hall prayed to close out the meeting.

New Worship and Sunday School Times Begin **February 6, 2022**

At the Annual Congregational Meeting held on January 9, 2022 a ballot vote was conducted for choosing the preferred worship and Sunday school times for the congregation. The overwhelming response was to hold Worship Services first followed by Sunday School and the preferred start time was 9 a.m.

Beginning February 6, 2022 Sunday morning service times are as follows:

9 a.m. Worship
10 a.m. Sunday School

The **worship team volunteers** will need to arrive
for rehearsal no later than **8:15 a.m.**

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

2-Jan	9-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Sholeen Sparks	Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall	-
Children's Sunday	Children's Sunday	Children's Sunday	Children's Sunday	Children's Sunday
Sholeen Sparks	Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall	-
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
Mike Sparks	Guy Fishman	Kirk Nelson	Dennis Smith	David Hall
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
Wren Smith	Sharon Henkel	Wren Smith	David Hall	Wren Smith
Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard
Wren Smith	Eleanor Johnston	Wren Smith	Wren Smith	Wren Smith
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano
-	Wren Smith	Eleanor Johnston	-	-
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Larry Heschke	Angela Hall	Dennis Smith	Angel Jansen	Dennis Smith
Sharon Henkel	Dennis Smith	David Hall	Dennis Smith	Angel Jansen
Angel Jansen	Sharon Henkel	Sharon Henkel		Larry Heschke
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Braella Inman	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks
Janitors	Janitors	Janitors	Janitors	Janitors
Polly Fishman	Polly Fishman	Polly Fishman	Polly Fishman	Polly Fishman
Guy Fishman	Guy Fishman	Guy Fishman	Guy Fishman	Guy Fishman

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

January 1
Timmy Feller

January 5
Alex M. (MCS Student)

January 7
Izabelle Stephenson

January 11
Marcia Nelson

January 15
Veniece Young
Justin J. (MCS Student)
Brandi S. (MCS Staff)

January 16
Marty & Shari Eldredge
Nancy Nelson

January 24
Mark Casey
Myan Hodges

January 28
Marty Eldredge

January 30
Chris Weinreich

January 31
Joe & Dixie Draper

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

February 4
Kirk & Marcia Nelson
Tanner C. (MCS Staff)

February 9
Darlene Nelson

February 10
Tom Mortenson

February 13
Jakim B. (MCS Student)
Carter D. (MCS Student)

February 14
Harold Johnson

February 18
Dillion L. (MCS Student)

February 19
Barry Nelson

February 21
Nicholas M. (MCS Student)

February 23
Anthony Stephenson

February 24
Brenda Miller (MCS Staff)

February 27
Ethan C. (MCS Student)

February 28
Dennis Smith
Marcia Casey

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

6-Feb	13-Feb	20-Feb	27-Feb
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Sholeen Sparks	Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School
Sholeen Sparks	Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
Mike Sparks	Guy Fishman	Kirk Nelson	Dennis Smith
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
Wren Smith	Sharon Henkel	Wren Smith	David Hall
Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard
Wren Smith	Eleanor Johnston	Wren Smith	Wren Smith
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano
-	Wren Smith	Eleanor Johnston	-
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Larry Heschke	Angela Hall	Dennis Smith	Angel Jansen
Sharon Henkel	Dennis Smith	David Hall	Dennis Smith
Angel Jansen	Sharon Henkel	Sharon Henkel	
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Nancy Nelson	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Braella Inman
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke
Janitors	Janitors	Janitors	Janitors
Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke
Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke

ATTENDANCE

December 5		December 12		December 19		December 26	
On Campus	70	On Campus	57	On Campus	61	On Campus	41
Online	36	Online	33	Online	18	Online	31
TOTAL	106	TOTAL	90	TOTAL	79	TOTAL	72

OFFERING

December 5		December 12		December 19		December 26	
On Campus	1838.00	On Campus	2386.00	On Campus	2735.00	On Campus	1269.00
Online	150.00	Online	350.00	Online	150.00	Online	150.00
Special	15612.00						
TOTAL	\$ 17603.00	TOTAL	\$ 2736.00	TOTAL	\$ 2885.01	TOTAL	\$ 1419.00



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*A call to repentance, a call to mission, a call to love
those unlike ourselves and a call to trust in God.*

JONAH

God's Relentless Grace

Winter Sermon Series

1/9 - Running Away From God
1/16 - How God Calls Us Back

1/23 - Running Back to God
1/30 - The Greatest Revival in History

2/6 - What's Really Important to Us?

The Holy Spirit

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him.”

John 14:16–17a

BAPTIZE *Matt. 3:11*

DOVE *Matt. 3:16*

CAST OUT DEMONS *Matt. 12:28*

REVEALED *Luke 2:26*

GIVES LIFE *John 6:63*

HELPER *John 14:16*

COMFORTER *John 14:16, KJV*

ABIDE WITH YOU *John 14:16*

SPIRIT OF TRUTH *John 14:17*

DWELLS WITH YOU *John 14:17*

HOLY GHOST *John 14:26, KJV*

TEACH *John 14:26*

ADVOCATE *John 15:26, NIV*

TESTIFY *John 15:26*

CONVICT THE WORLD *John 16:8*

REPROVES *John 16:8, KJV*

GUIDE *John 16:13*

SPEAK *John 16:13*

THINGS TO COME *John 16:13*

GLORIFY *John 16:14*

DECLARE *John 16:14*

FIRE *Acts 2:3–4*

RAISED JESUS *Rom. 8:11*

FROM THE DEAD *Rom. 8:11*

ADOPTION *Rom. 8:15*

MAKES INTERCESSION *Rom. 8:26*

BEARS WITNESS *Rom. 8:16*

GROANINGS *Rom. 8:26*

CANNOT BE *Rom. 8:26*

UTTERED *Rom. 8:26*

FRUIT *Gal. 5:22–23*

SEALED *Eph. 1:13*

PROMISE *Eph. 1:13*

GUARANTEE *Eph. 1:13*

WISDOM *Eph. 1:17*

REVELATION *Eph. 1:17*

ETERNAL *Heb. 9:14*

GRACE *Heb. 10:29*

GLORY *1 Pet. 4:14*



And I will ask the Father, and he will give
you another Helper, to be with you forever

JOHN 14:16

G Y R N G C A S T O U T D E M O N S J P M D E I G Q S D
R L H R F W Q Q Y H F S F R U I T X E T A C O V D A S M
X W G W B R J O F D A E D E H T M O R F C Y Y G R B P A
A F B I J U W A I U M F X C M Y L V J P I F K I M L I K
D P P H V F J Q T D M Q D T H F M D N D S I G K O R R E
O K U C E E E C S F G F M P S V O T K S V R N Z J T I S
P Q Z O A L S T E H R E T R O F M O C M S O O D Q H T I
T R Q G T N P L T S P E A K O V X W S O R L I E G I O N
I B L W U V N E I K Q V K T E A C H Q R T G T R J N F T
O M O D S I W O R F N Y V S N D G M S U F N A E Z G T E
N S B P N Q D B T U E X N S D E L A E V E R L T X S R R
T E L G I Y B E H B G R A C E X A M P H Q K E T P T U C
I H H M M I K J C I E M A Q Z V R G X X I P V U Y O T E
Y E U O Y H T I W E D I B A V H E R I F W P E D I C H S
R F K H B A P T I Z E S G K L P F A L S L R R O B O U S
O Y L A Q X E E R A L C E D U Q J G D E E X I V C M O I
L K I R H O L Y G H O S T D E Z R H S F S A Z E F E G O
G F G L J P Q S S E N T I W S R A E B F G I L G G Q E N
K D R A I S E D J E S U S G L F L C M Q P U M E S N W T
Y R H Q L Z H J C T K H E W G U A R A N T E E O D H D C
B Y S D C D W E L L S W I T H Y O U I Q S J R N R R W S
B E T E R N A L D L R O W E H T T C I V N O C S K P G R
L U F E C Z I Q G R O A N I N G S T E Z P J L G R O D T
V I S Q B G M N E U I M S Q R E G S E V O R P E R U T Q

BIBLE CLASSES

9:30 a.m.

Christian Standard Curriculum
Chapel

Ladies Class

Room 7 - Downstairs

Men's Class

Room 8 - Downstairs

Children's Class

Downstairs

NOTE New Bible Class Time
Begins February 6, 2022
10:00 A.M.

MISSIONS WE SUPPORT

Nebowa Christian Camp

Midwest Christian Services

Deaf Missions

International Disaster Emergency Services

Rapha International

Voice of the Martyrs

CHURCH INFO

Worship

Sunday Mornings
10:30 a.m.

NOTE New Worship Time
Begins February 6, 2022
9:00 A.M.

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Leadership

Pastor David Hall (641) 638-4762
Mike Sparks, Elder (712) 261-4730
Kirk Nelson, Elder (712) 540-9591
Larry Heschke, Elder (712) 221-7592
Mark Patten, Deacon
Barry Nelson, Deacon
Tom Mortenson, Deacon

Website

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Office Secretary: Nancy Nelson



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