

WELCOME TO



# BELL CREEK

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## Community Church



**SEPTEMBER 21, 2025**

### **UNTOUCHABLE**

1 JOHN 5:18-21

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

# UNTOUCHABLE

1 JOHN 5:18–21

**The Son of God Protects Us**

**Keep Yourselves from Idols**

**He is the True God and Eternal Life**

## FOR NEXT WEEK

For Next Week read the letter of 2 John.

## DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

SEPTEMBER 21: ZECHARIAH 1–7  
SEPTEMBER 22: ZECHARIAH 8–14  
SEPTEMBER 23: ESTHER 1–5  
SEPTEMBER 24: ESTHER 6–10  
SEPTEMBER 25: EZRA 7–10  
SEPTEMBER 26: NEHEMIAH 1–5  
SEPTEMBER 27: NEHEMIAH 6–7

# UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

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## **MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR SEPTEMBER 21 & 28**

Do you want to learn more about Bell Creek? Do you consider Bell Creek your church family? Are you interested in becoming a member of Bell Creek? Join us for our three week membership seminar, offered during each service, to learn more about who we are and what we are about! If you plan on attending but cannot make one of the dates, contact [dylan@bellcreek.org](mailto:dylan@bellcreek.org).

## **NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY CLASS**

Join Pastor Dylan to explore the history literature and theology of each book of the New Testament on Sunday evenings, starting today at 6:00 PM. Started in March, took most of the summer off and continues most Sundays, as we move through all of the New Testament.

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Ladies, the Wednesday morning class invites you to join us as we begin a new study in the Gospel of Matthew, beginning on Wednesday, September 24. The class runs from 9:30-11:00 AM in the prayer room and is open to all women. We hope you will consider joining us as we spend time digging into God's word together and learning what the Spirit reveals. For more information, please contact Mari at 734-293-6903 or Renee at 313-522-3127.

## **BAPTISM**

Our next Baptism opportunity will be on Sunday, September 28. If you are interested in being baptized as a believer, please contact Pastor Adam ([adam@bellcreek.org](mailto:adam@bellcreek.org)).

## **ART OF MARRIAGE CLASS**

Mike & Mary King and Alex & Elyse Quint will be leading a 3-day Marriage Class in November. The class will consist of a series of videos, work together as a couple, and group discussions. This is the same series as the class we hosted in May, so if you already did the class, you do not need to repeat it. The class will meet on the following dates: Friday, November 14, 6:30-9:00 PM; Saturday, November 15, 6:30-9:00 PM; Sunday, November 16, 6:30-9:00 PM. To register for the class, you can do so by visiting [www.bellcreek.org](http://www.bellcreek.org). If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to Pastor Dylan ([dylan@bellcreek.org](mailto:dylan@bellcreek.org)) or Elyse Quint ([elyse@bellcreek.org](mailto:elyse@bellcreek.org)).

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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## **PRAYER MEETINGS**

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

## **PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY**

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

2ND, 3RD & 4TH SUNDAYS

AFTER WORSHIP

## **AWANA**

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

## **HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY**

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES  
AND EVENTS AT [BELLCREEK.ORG](http://BELLCREEK.ORG)**

# OUR MISSION

## **MATTHEW 22:37–40**

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments.”

## **MATTHEW 28:19–20**

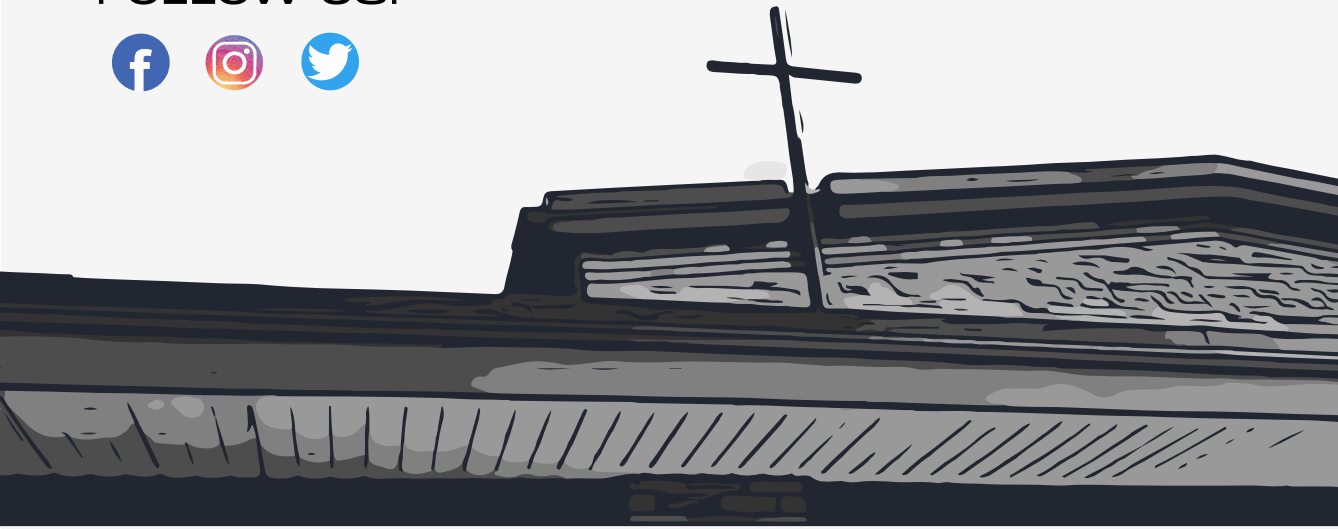
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

# STAY CONNECTED

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!**

[WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US](http://WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US)

FOLLOW US!



**BELL CREEK**  
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.  
LIVONIA, MI 48154

## Sermon 09.21.2025

### 1 John 5:18-21 - "Untouchable"

#### Scripture Reading

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday." (Psalm 91:1-6, ESV)

#### The Son of God Protects Us

"We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him." (1 John 5:18, ESV)

"We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." (1 John 5:19, ESV)

We are going to look at the second verse, 1 John 5:19, first!

Is the "World" under the power of the evil one?

The "world system" under the power of the evil one is the realm of human life with its values, beliefs, and practices that are in rebellion against God. This "world system" is blinded by Satan, under his influence, and opposed to Christ and His kingdom (cf. 1 John 5:19; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2).

It's not creation itself, but the sinful order of things - the mindset and structures that resist God's truth and exalt idols in His place.

John 12:31 - "Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out."

John 14:30 - "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me."

John 16:11 - "Concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

2 Corinthians 4:4 - "In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

Ephesians 2:2 - "...in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience."

Ephesians 6:12 - "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

Revelation 12:9 – “And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

### Jesus Protects Those Who Are Born of God

John 17:14–16 – “I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

Romans 8:16 – “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,” (Galatians 1:3–4, ESV)

“He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13–14, ESV)

1 John 4:4 – “Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

“We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.” (1 John 5:18, ESV)

Back to 1 John 5:18 – It Has Two Parts:

First Part: “Everyone born of God does not keep on sinning.”

It is important to remember that in 1 John, the way John talks about those who are “practicing sin,” and those who “keep on sinning” suggests a distinction between:

1. Ongoing, willful, unrepentant sin (characteristics of one who is not a believer in Jesus).
2. A believer’s struggle with sin (marked by conviction, confession, repentance, and walking in the light).

Second Part: “The One born of God (Christ) protects him and the evil one does not touch him.”

What does it mean that a believer cannot be “touched” by the evil one?

The Word “Touch” in Greek is ἅπτομαι (haptomai), meaning: “to fasten to,” “to lay hold of,” or “to cling to.” But it means more than a light touch. It often implies taking hold of something to capture or harm it.

For example: John 20:17 – Jesus says to Mary, “Do not cling (haptou) to me...” So, this is not just “don’t brush against me,” but “don’t hold on to me.”

So here in 1 John 5:18, “the evil one does not touch him” carries the sense that the evil one cannot lay hold of him to destroy or master him because Jesus Himself keeps the believer safe, and because of that, Satan cannot get a grip on him.

“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.” (John 10:28, ESV)

“But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.” (2 Thessalonians 3:3, ESV)

Does this mean a believer will never be troubled by the enemy? No!

It does not mean Christians will never face temptation or attacks from Satan. John himself says: “the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19).

Look at what the Apostle Paul endured!

“Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.” (2 Corinthians 11:23–27, ESV)

But it does mean the whole “world system” lies in the power of the evil one, we should not be surprised when we face temptation, opposition, or spiritual attack. But we must never lose sight of the greater reality: Jesus Christ Himself protects us. The enemy cannot ultimately seize us, enslave us again, or undo our salvation. That assurance should lead us not into complacency but into confidence, courage, and perseverance. It should free us from fear of Satan’s schemes and compel us to fight against the schemes of the enemy by clinging to God’s Word, by prayer, by dependence on the Holy Spirit, by walking in the light, confessing sin, resisting temptation, and resting in Christ’s faithful protection.

Now, listen to the confidence of the Apostle Paul in Christ:

“But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” (2 Timothy 4:17–18, ESV)

Application Question:

Since Jesus keeps us secure and the evil one cannot lay hold of us, how will we put aside fear and live with greater confidence in Christ’s protection — and what steps will you take this week to resist sin and stand firm in Him?

## Keep Yourself from Idols

“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.” (1 John 5:20, ESV)

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols.” (1 John 5:21, ESV)

What’s an Idol? Here’s a Biblical Definition

An idol could be anything – a person, a physical object, a spiritual power, or an inner desire that takes the place of God in receiving worship, trust, love, or allegiance.

What are Some Characteristics of Idols in Scripture?

They are man-made and powerless: “Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.” (Psalm 115:4–5 ESV)

They are worthless and deceptive: “They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save.” (Isaiah 45:20 ESV)

They are demonic at root: “What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God.” (1 Corinthians 10:19–20 ESV)

Idols seek to rob God of His glory: “I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.” (Isaiah 42:8 ESV)

## He is the True God and Eternal Life

“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols.” (1 John 5:20–21, ESV)

John closes his letter by paralleling the statements he made in the first verses:

“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding...”

“the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—” (1 John 1:2, ESV)

“so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ.”

“that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.” (1 John 1:3, ESV)

“He is the true God and eternal life.”

“the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—” (1 John 1:2, ESV)



John's closing words, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols," may strike us as abrupt, but that is precisely the point. The brevity is intentional, a final command delivered with sharp urgency. Just as John himself saw, heard, and touched the One who is both fully God and fully man, and entered into fellowship with the Father through Him, so now do we. And because we share that fellowship, we must reject anything - whether a person, a created object, a spiritual power, or even a hidden desire of the heart - that dares to claim the worship, trust, love, or allegiance that belongs to God alone.

#### Application Question:

If Jesus alone is the true God and eternal life, our only hope of salvation and the only source of joy that is full and everlasting, why cling to false gods or idols that cannot deliver? He alone is the One of whom it is written: 'You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore' (Psalm 16:11). Let us turn from worthless idols today and trust in Jesus - the One who loves us, who died to save us, and who leads us ever deeper into the path of life! Will you turn to Him today?

## BENEDICTION

"Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.""  
(Revelation 11:15, ESV)