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May 3, 2026

The Purpose

From here to heaven... Following God wherever He leads us.

Commentary from a common Terry **Amazing!!**

I was maybe ten-years-old and my brother and I were visiting kinfolk one town over. My uncle owned a tv and appliances shop. He sold the latest models, but I think the steady money was in repairs.

It was at his little shop that I got a look at the newest innovations in the electronics world. Multiple color televisions on display. New console stereos (remember how big those were?). The mesmerizing tv remote control. The latest in appliances—washers and dryers, fridges, portable dishwashers, freezers. That little place had it all.

But nothing astounded me like the day when my older cousin told us he had something brand new to show us in his dad's store. It was something called a "microwave." This was not just some new way to heat food. It was a true *luxury!* The going price for a microwave back then was around \$500. That's the equivalent of more than \$4,700 today! It's no wonder my uncle continuously told us to get away from it, don't touch it...don't even look at it!

But, of course, my cousin had to demonstrate this new kitchen magic. He put a Styrofoam cup with cold water in it...and we watched it fairly quickly come to a boil. In about one minute, a full-blown, true-blue **boil**!! To say we were amazed is an understatement. That's pretty much as far as the demonstration got as my uncle ran us off and, besides, we didn't have anything else to put in to see what it would do.

It would be another 15+ years before LaNelle and I would buy a microwave. And even then, it felt a bit self-indulgent. Now, they are everywhere. *Everywhere!* Today, we can buy a countertop unit for less than a hundred bucks. If you want a better one, maybe bigger and more functions, you might have to spring for \$150.

What was amazing was also unreachable and then became a consideration and then a reality and then useful and now, common and run-of-the-mill. Who thinks once, much less twice, about the amazing, remarkable, magical microwave oven?

Amazing is an overused word. Just about anything and everything can be described as an amazing experience or vision. But, the very idea of amazement should be reserved for that which

truly brings awe and marvel to our hearts. It isn't normal. It's not common. It's rare and exceptional.

God is amazing.

God *should* provoke wonder, awe, marvel, and *amazement*.

We occasionally try to explore the depth of God's reality in our songs. "I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus, the Nazarene...." (*I Stand Amazed* by Charles Gabriel, 1905) "I'm forgiven because You were forsaken...Amazing Love." (*You Are My King {Amazing Love}* by Billy James Foote, 1997).

And, of course, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like...." (*Amazing Grace* by John Newton, 1772).

The word *amaze*, or some derivative of it, is in our Bibles, but not excessively. The Greek word is more usually translated *marvel* or *wonder*. The apostles thought they were going to die in Matthew 8 because of the storm on the sea. At His word, Jesus stilled the storm. "*And the men marveled....*" (verse 27 in the ESV) In the NIV, they were *amazed*.

It's easy to be amazed when we see something we've never seen before, can't imagine, or cannot do ourselves. How in the world we can so easily become casual about God is beyond me! And yet, I am as guilty of it as the next believer. I get *comfortable* with the Bible narrative. The astounding becomes a bit stale.

I don't just need to revisit the text. I need to reengage with the *reality* of the text. The universe is by His hands. The miracles announce His power and dominion over nature. The heavens proclaim the wonders of His creation. And the cross? It is not just a symbol or a piece of jewelry. It's the ultimate, "God can do what I can't do," declaration of the Bible. God saved you and me from certain death. Not from *near* death or *possible* death. **Certain** death. *Amazing Love. Amazing Grace. "I stand amazed in the presence...."*

A new technological innovation can stop us in our tracks. But are we guilty of doing a little side-step around the eternal truth of Jesus' blood and our spiritual rescue?

It will always be amazing.

Love one another,

Terry



Men's Breakfast moved one week later this month

The monthly *Men's Breakfast* in May will be on the *third* Saturday instead of the second Saturday this month. We'll meet in two weeks, on Saturday, May 16th, at 8:30 a.m. So, men, make a note on your calendars!

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are thankful you are with us today as we worship our God and Savior. Our prayer is that you will encounter Him today.

A nursery for small children is available in the east hall off the lobby.

What will you experience at Westview?

- **Praise through song.** It is the tradition of our heritage to sing a cappella (without instruments) as we encourage everyone to be involved in uplifting praise.
- We value the **Bible**. You will hear God's Word read and all sermons will give the utmost respect and priority to Scripture.
- We share the **Lord's Supper** every week remembering Christ's sacrifice that provides us forgiveness as we celebrate our salvation through Him.
- **We do not expect our guests to give financially** to our work. We depend on the generous and godly giving of all Westview members to provide the funds needed to implement God's plans for this church.

We invite you to stay for Bible classes following our worship time. We hope you have been blessed today!

The will of God is not something you add to your life. It's a course you choose. You either line yourself up with the Son of God...or you capitulate to the principle that governs the rest of the world.

~~Elisabeth Elliott (20th century missionary to Ecuador)~~

God's plans for you are better than any plans you have for yourself. So don't be afraid of God's will, even if it's different from yours.

~~Greg Laurie (20th–21st century American minister)~~

Today's Order of Worship

To Him Who Sits On the Throne

We Fall Down

To Him Who Sits On the Throne

Meet & Greet

Announcements & Reminders

Prayer

Here In This Place

Near To the Heart of God

We Remember Christ's Sacrifice

Contribution Collected

Rock of Ages

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 4:17-24

Sermon

The Invasion:

God's Church God's Way (3)

Embracing the Cause

Knowing You

Unison Reading:

Ephesians 5:20-21

How Beautiful Heaven Must Be

Upcoming events, opportunities, and reminders:

The kids' worship handout is on the table at the back of the auditorium.

CONGREGATIONAL MEAL ON THE 31ST We will have a congregational meal on Sunday, May 31st. No details yet as to where, exactly what time, or the menu (other than that, we are ready!). Mark your calendar and plan on joining us.

Doug & Kristi Blount will be honored by Primerica Financial Services at a reception next Saturday morning, May 9th. It will be at the Best Western Plus in Loveland from 8 to 9:30 a.m. This recognizes that Doug is now a Regional Vice-President. The address is 5542 E-US 34 (just west of I-25 on US 34 on the south side of the highway). All are invited.

Servers for Worship today (3rd)

Scripture Reading Taylor Wikum
Prayer James Pascoe
Troy Wallace (communion prayers)
Steve Sebold (contribution prayers)
Tyler Wade
Tyler Wallace
Dean Weber
Tyler Blount



The Westview Men's Coffee is every Tuesday morning from 6 to 8 a.m. in the fellowship room.

The Westview Women's Coffee is every Wednesday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. in the fellowship room.

Thursday, May 7th, is *National Prayer Day*. We pray every day for our country, but it is a special day when Christians throughout the land join together.

UPDATE BYLAWS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Because of Westview's incorporated status, we must establish bylaws and have a Board of Directors to address the legal protections and guidelines we follow. *These do not dictate* the spiritual formation of the church, our beliefs, or practices. This week, you will be receiving an updated version of the bylaws as well as the Elders' recommendations for additional members of the Board of Directors.



Prayer reminders

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

We do not include personal information, such as the prayer list in our online bulletin. If you would like that information, it is available in the hard copy bulletin at the building. Or, you can contact the church office to receive a copy.

Sunday morning classes: The fellowship room class is a verse-by-verse textual study, led by Randy and Tom. Tom is currently leading a study of the book of **John**.

Terry's class, which meets in room #14, is entitled *What Am I Supposed To Do?* We will be in this study for a few more weeks.

The **Wednesday night Bible study group** meets at 6:30 in the fellowship room. We are currently studying the book of *Galatians*.

The Kitchen is a ministry to the homeless. We cook burritos on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and take them to the homeless shelter. You can help cook, deliver, or both. **It varies each week if we're meeting.** This week, on Wednesday, May 6th, *The Kitchen* is **OPEN**. See you there.

The May Bible study plan guide handout is in the lobby on the table.

Time is running out for camp registration. See the flyer in the lobby for all the details. Or you can check with Terry for more information.