The Purpose

November 15,

From here to Heaven…
following God wherever He leads us.

Westview's wireless network password: 9703303716

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Women's Bible Study group on Tuesday

The *Women's Bible Study* group will meet this coming Tuesday, November 17th, at 10 a.m. We meet in the home of Barb Henderson. The address is available through the church office. The group meets every first and third Tuesday of the month. All the ladies are encouraged to join us!

You Are the Words and the Music
He Is Exalted

Meet & Greet

Announcements & Reminders

Awesome In This Place

Prayer

Scripture reading:
Luke 22:14-20

In Christ Alone

We remember Christ's sacrifice

Contribution collected
As the Deer

Elder blessing & prayer

To God Be the Glory

Sermon
Serve…or be served?

Hosanna! You're My King

Unison Reading
Philippians 2:9-11

All Hail the Pow'r of Jesus Name

Men To Serve (today)

	Communion
Scripture reading – Todd Zwetzig	Ian Sebold
Prayer – Doug Blount	Tyler Wade
Communion prayers – Troy Wallace	Dean Weber
Contribution prayer – Brandon Adkins	Tyler Blount

News Notes Events

Thanksgiving Banquet next Sunday, the 22nd

Our annual Thanksgiving Banquet will be one week from today, November 22nd. There is still time for you to sign-up as well as invite guests! It will be at 1 p.m. in the auditorium. The sign-up is in the lobby. ***Invite friends, family, and neighbors.*** There is no set cost but is a donation-only event. We will need several to help us get things ready as well as put things back together afterwards.

- After our classes next Sunday, we will set up tables and chairs in the auditorium (we will need to wait a few minutes until the Hispanic group moves out).
- If you'd like to help decorate, check with Christy Hegarty.
- We will need everyone to pitch in and put the auditorium back together after the banquet.
- We need someone to manage the donations. Let Terry know if you'd like to help with that.
- Very important – so very important!! – we need a couple folks to go to Loveland and pick up the food. Again, check with Terry if you'd like to help.

This is always a joyful time together as we enter this recognized season of thankfulness. We do not *find* our gratitude at this time of the year…we express it!

If you are serving at the Hispanic banquet today….

Several have indicated you will help today at the Hispanic Thanksgiving Banquet. Thank you! You need you to be at the building at about 12:30.

Ladies' Prayer Group meets on Thursday

The next meeting for the *Ladies' Prayer Group* is this coming Thursday, the 19th. The group will meet at 10 a.m. in the home of Margy Lininger. The address is available through the church office. All the ladies are urged to join us.

No classes on Sunday morning, the 29th

We will not have our regular classes on Sunday, November 29th. Instead, we will have an extended fellowship time in the fellowship room following our worship together. Plan now to stay and enjoy this time together.

Families Discovery Group meets today

The *Families Discovery Group* will meet this afternoon at 5 p.m. in the fellowship room. The menu is a deli sandwich bar. Check with Cory & Katie for more details and info.

Calendar notes

- Thursday, November 19th Ladies' Prayer Group 10 a.m.
- Sunday, November 22nd Thanksgiving Banquet 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 24th NO Men's Coffee
- Wednesday, November 25th Women's Coffee 9-11 a.m.
  Wednesday, November 25th NO Bible study group
- Sunday, November 29th NO Sunday morning classes
- Friday, December 11th Adult Christmas party 6:30 p.m.

Classes today: The fellowship room class is studying the book of Hebrews, taught by Tom.

Terry's class (room #14) is studying *Great Words & Themes*. Today – ***Full.***

The *Children's Worship Bulletin* is on the table at the back of the auditorium.

Be sure to grab some *Westview cards* from the lobby to distribute this week.

Every week:

- **Men's Coffee** - each Tuesday morning in the fellowship room from 6 to 8 a.m.
- **Women's Coffee** - each Wednesday morning in the fellowship room from 9 to 11 a.m.
- **Singing with the worship leaders** every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. at the building.
- The **Wednesday night study group** meets at 6:30 p.m. We are currently studying the book of II Peter.

Selfishness is when we pursue gain at the expense of others. But God doesn't have a limited number of treasures to distribute. When you store up treasures for yourself in heaven, it doesn't reduce the treasures available to others. In fact, it is by serving God and others that we store up heavenly treasures. Everyone gains; no one loses.

~~Randy Alcorn~~

Commentary from a Common Terry by Terry Newton

Either/Or faith in a Both/And world 8

So, what exactly is our strategy to please and serve God *and* be protected from the spiritual dangers of this world? We need a plan! Do we make the plan? Does someone else put it together? Does God make it clear? I can think of nothing more important than recognizing the source of our spiritual foundation and blueprint.

Unfortunately, many people have shown a tendency to wander *away* from God in their spiritual schemes. And we're back to the either/or both/and conversation. Man has shown a desire to design his own spiritual approach and rationale…while at the same time counting on getting the full benefit of God's blessing, presence, and power, even though He has been altered, adjusted, disrespected, misrepresented, and, sometimes, outright ignored.

The Israelites wanted the presence of idols and still be treated like God's covenant people. They wanted both. When you read through the narrative in the Old Testament of the Jews after they leave Egypt but before they enter the Promised Land, they often provoked God to anger. The tipping point quite often was when they'd tell Moses they wanted to go back to Egypt. Back to the enemy. Back to slavery. And back to idols.

When Joshua delivered his famous *"…choose this day whom you'll serve…. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."* speech (Joshua 24) he indicated that they were *still* plagued by the presence of the Egyptian "gods," about *sixty-five* years after leaving Egypt.

Take one to two minutes and read II Kings 17:7-23 as the writer there moved from reporting events to spiritual analysis. This was when the ten tribes to the north were carried away into Assyrian captivity. Beginning in verse 7, the writer quilled, *"This occurred because…."* In the following seventeen verses, their idolatry is mentioned at least ten times, as well as descriptions of what that led them to do.

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Jesus came into a Jewish religious world that had wandered far from the intention of the Law of the Covenant God had given through Moses at Mt. Sinai. The leaders through the centuries and changed, edited, added to, and complicated the Law to such an extent that Jesus not only condemned their rules, but condemned the rule makers.

In Jesus' spectacular *Sermon On the* Mount, in Matthew 5-7, the reality of *either/or vs. both/and* dominated His teachings. The truths He presented in that sermon were not simply faith vs. the world choices, but righteous choices vs. the dangerous religious teachings of the movers and shakers of 1st century Judaism. Jesus fired a shot across the bow of their rules-laden ship when He said, *"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."* That one statement set the agenda for His teaching that day. Everything He would present would be a contradiction to the way the religious leaders had taught the masses. But, in the process, Jesus also made it clear that there would be choices to make. Either/Or moments, and often.

I'm gonna mention several of these over the next couple of weeks in these articles. So, I will jump to the punchline. Maybe the strongest "either/or" moment in the sermon is 7:13-14. *"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those that enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those that find it are few."* If I'm right that Jesus was primarily talking to His huge audience about the difference between His righteousness they were to take up and the religious rules of the Pharisees and scribes, then the two gates are not just spiritual vs. worldly. They are righteousness vs. man-polluted religion. The easy way out is to go the religion route, separated from God's standard. The harder way…is the right way.

Love one another.

