

Weekly Update

September 2, 2020

CHURCH THIS SUNDAY!

Pastor Mat tested negative for Covid-19. We will return to church with our social distancing rules this Sunday at 10:15! Pastor Mat will be sharing our church plans for the fall semester!

Church Fall Calendar to be Sent in September Christian Visitor this Friday!

Daily Reading Plan through September 11th:

Wednesday September 2nd - Galatians 1:1-5

Thursday September 3rd - Galatians 1: 6-9

Friday September 4th - Galatians 1: 10-12

Monday September 7th - off (labor day)

Tuesday September 8th - Galatians 1: 13-24

Wednesday September 9th - Galatians 2: 1-5

Thursday September 21th - Galatians 2: 6

Friday September 11th - Galatians 2: 7-10

TIPS:

- *Begin and end with a prayer*
- Ask yourself, "how can I apply this to my life today?"
- Have a conversation with God while you read.
- Journal your thoughts immediately after

NEW DAILY DEVOTIONAL SERIES

Last week we finished our study through the book of Jonah. Jonah was an eye-opening reminder of our duty to answer God's call in our life. Our next series will be through the book of Galatians. Please send your email to gfcddoc@yahoo.com to be added to the daily study list.

Daily Devotional for September 2nd:

I Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—² and all the brothers and sisters^[a] with me,

To the churches in Galatia:

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. - Galatians 1:1-5

The academic world, even the biggest skeptics, does not question the authorship of the book of Galatians. Some call Galatians the “Declaration of Independence of Christian liberty.” Martin Luther, the father of the great reformation, especially loved this letter. He even likened the letter to his wife because he jokingly was “married” to the book of Galatians. Leon Morris, an Australian New Testament Scholar wrote, “Galatians is a passionate letter, the outpouring of the soul of a preacher on fire for his Lord and deeply committed to bringing his hearers to an understanding of what saving faith is.”

Galatians was written in the late 40’s or the early 50’s. The context of the book seems to point that Paul wrote this letter before the Jerusalem Council which is mentioned in Acts 15. The Jerusalem Council of Acts 15 addresses very similar questions addressed by Paul in this letter. It would seem strange if the Council had already happened and Paul did not mention it. This puts Paul’s Christian age around the age of 15 years old. In other words, by the time Paul wrote this letter he had been following Christ’s example for 15 years.

The confusion surrounding the early church was vast. A particularly important confusion was that of apostleship. Some in the church of Galatia did not accept Paul’s apostleship. Paul had strong words for these Galatians, and they had to understand that he wrote with authority; indeed, *apostolic* authority. Paul understood that without authority these letters would not be received with the spiritual urgency that was necessary to correct some of the early church teachings that began circulating.

Importantly, this book wasn’t written to a *single* church in a *single* city. For example, 1 Thessalonians is addressed to *the church of the Thessalonians*. But this was addressed to the churches of Galatia, because Galatia was a *region*, not a *city* and there were several churches among the cities of Galatia. During the third century before Christ some Celtic peoples migrated to this area and settled in northern Asia. Eventually the Romans conquered this area as they did most of the world. Galatia was divided into a northern and southern region. This work was intended for the entire region.

This region was experiencing a war. This war was not physical, it was spiritual. This is why Paul’s opening includes “*to rescue us from the present evil age.*” This explains *why* Jesus gave Himself for our sins. In many ways, the Galatians battled with and sometimes lost against “this present evil age.” They needed to know that Jesus had ALREADY saved them. They were tired, afraid, and confused.

As we begin our study through the book of Galatians, I challenge you to put yourself in the shoes of a Galatian. It shouldn't be too hard as we too fight against the powers of evil ourselves in the form of addictions, atheistic teaching, hedonism, and the like. Remember though, God is not coming to save you. This may be shocking to hear. That is because God has ALREADY saved you. As Paul was reaffirming the Galatians commitment to Jesus, he was simultaneously affirming their victory in Jesus. Our world is scary, but come journey with us at First Christian Church as we find hope in Christian liberty as we are reminded that we are ALREADY saved by the grace of Jesus.

RISE YOUTH GROUP

Our Rise Middle School Youth Group will begin meeting again for the fall on September 9th at 6:30pm.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Our High School Ministry will meet on Sundays beginning September 13th at 5:00pm.

SMALL GROUPS

There will be more information to come on small groups in the near future.

CHURCH BOARD

The church board will meet on Tuesday, September 8th at 6:30pm. If you have items to add to the agenda, please send them to the office.

SMART RECOVERY

Gibson Area Hospital hosts SMART Recovery meetings on Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:30pm at the Gibson Hospital Education Center: 209 E 8th St. SMART Recovery is a self-help program for those looking to end addictive behaviors such as a dependence on alcohol, drugs, gambling, etc. For more information, visit smartrecovery.org or contact Sue Emberson at Family Health Care of Gibson City: 784-5500.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We invite anyone with a prayer request to drop it into the offering plates on Sunday morning.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Gibson Area Hospital Auxiliary is hosting a blood drive on Monday, September 14th from 12:00-5:30pm at the Presbyterian Church. To schedule an appointment, call Sharon at 217-249-8103 by Wednesday, September 9th. All donors are asked to wear a mask and all donations will be tested for Covid-19 antibodies.

PRAYER LIST

Harold Stimmel

Harriet Farney

Patty Benz

Evelyn Fawver

Irene Schaefer

Mike Lorenzen

Chet Goodrich

Phil Walker (Sue Walker's brother)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

(September 2-8, 2020)

September

3: Harold Baize

Audrey Iverson

5: Adam Elder

7: Bonnie Schutte

Please send us (gcfccdoc@yahoo.com) additions or corrections of birthdays, anniversaries, or email addresses.

ATTENDANCE

Weekly Attendance						
	1	2	3	4	5	AVG
July 2020	46	44	33	-		41
Aug 2020	-	44	41	47	-	44

Average Monthly Attendance				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
July	30	40	53	41
Aug	35	44	56	44

LINKS

Website: fccdocgc.com

