

news letter



Ephesians 6:2-4 ESV

2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise),
 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”
 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

When God gave the 10 Commandments it wasn't to take freedom out of life, but to free us from the things that will. God is all about protecting us from the shame we do to ourselves, and he's about preserving our dignity, self-esteem, and self-worth. The 10 Commandments do just that.

Commandment #5: “Honor your father and mother.” The 5th commandment has been called the centerpiece of God's law. Because it is in the family setting that children are to be given love, care, protection and discipline. The children then learn to love and respect their parents and in the same way they later learn to love and respect God. This commandment is the only one with a promise. The promise of a long life in the land refers to Israel. For us today, the promise means the kind of life God wants us to have through our love and obedience to him. This commandment also means that parents must be honorable. And I know that isn't always the case. You may be thinking that there is no way you could honor your parents because of what you've been through. And the thought of God as your heavenly Father makes no sense at all. In this brief time I cannot address this issue to its fullest extent, but here are some things to consider. God gave the commandment, I didn't. Your issue is with him. Find someone you trust that can help you. What God asked you to do isn't impossible. If you can't obey with the right feelings, then obey in faith to honor God. You obey the commandment for your sake not your parent's sake. Your obedience is first to God and that is key to your self-esteem, self-worth and dignity. What you do with this commandment will make or break your relationship with God and with others.

Commandment #6: “You shall not murder.” This commandment can be easily misunderstood. The Hebrew language has 7 words for kill – each meaning something different. The word used for murder or kill in this commandment is when someone premeditated it and then intentionally carried it out. This commandment does not mean: the killing of animals, or defending one's home, or protecting one's self or someone else, or accidental killings, executions by the state, or military service and acts of war. This commandment does mean all acts of premeditation and deliberately carrying out the killing or having it done, or being an accessory. It does include terminating or aborting life. And it includes suicide.

This commandment is meant for us to reverence life and to respect life. God is in the life business and he wants our full cooperation. Remember that the commandments are to free you and keep you from the things that will destroy your dignity, self-esteem and self-worth. Trust God even when you don't understand him.

Jesus fulfilled all the Law of the Old Testament. Therefore by believing in him we too fulfill all of that Law. As a believer in Christ you are not under the law. Your obedience is to Christ. The Ten Commandments are not rendered useless, but they are incredible guidelines for living.

In His Grip, Pastor Tim



For Such a Time as This

Randy Lind

While I drive to work each day I catch a portion of Chuck Swindoll's radio show. For the last couple of weeks, Dr. Swindoll has been preaching a message from the book of Esther. Many of you know the story but I will provide a quick synopsis.

Esther and her older cousin, Mordecai, were among the many Jews in captivity and the ruling King at that time was Ahasuerus. Haman was an official in the court of King Ahasuerus. Haman hated the Jews and manipulated the king into ordering the genocide of the Jewish people. Through a series of unlikely circumstances, Esther was wed to the king and became queen. The fact that she was a Jew was unknown to the king.

Esther and Mordecai became aware of the king's order. Mordecai asked Esther to intercede for the Jewish people with the king. This may have seemed like a relatively easy thing to do since Esther was the queen, however even the queen herself did not dare enter the king's court uninvited since doing so may cost her life. An individual who entered into the king's court, uninvited, would be put to death, unless the king held his scepter out to them.

In communicating to Esther about his desire for Esther to intercede with the king, on behalf of the Jews, Mordecai made a statement that is recorded in Esther chapter 4, verse 14. The last part of that verse states, "And who knows whether you have attained royalty for such a time as this?" As the remaining chapters reveal, Esther does make intercession for the Jews, the king does hold out his scepter to her, sparing her life, and the Jewish people are saved.

The vast majority of us will live out our lives and never have the fate of an entire race of people dependent on our willingness to put our lives on the line. But I do believe that as we live out our lives serving our Lord, that there will always be "For Such a Time as This" moments. In other words, God has a reason for you being alive at this point in time. He has a reason for the relationships that exist within your life and He desires your involvement in the carrying out of His plans. My prayer is that I, and all those reading this article, will be granted the wisdom, the courage and the strength to be obedient to Him when God places us in a situation for such a time as this.

God's blessings to you.

Randy



Discovering Hutchinson

Glenn Koster

In my early years Thanksgiving was not much to celebrate. There is something about being dirt poor that takes the joy out of Thanksgiving for a child. We rarely had enough food to eat on a daily basis. Thanksgiving, with the mounds of food often prevalent, was something we simply could not relate to. If that was not enough, when I was 9 and living in a foster home, I lost my foster father to a heart attack a few days after Thanksgiving. Consequently, Thanksgiving was not on my list of days to look forward to.

All of that changed in 1965, the year of my second adoption when Thanksgiving truly became something special. My Mom's family always rented a church for the afternoon after the entire family came together for worship in the morning. We would often overwhelm the small church of 44th Avenue in Grand Rapids when my Mom's family arrived on Thanksgiving morning!

Shortly after the Thanksgiving service ended, we gathered in the basement for games, food, fellowship, and football. My grandparents provided chicken or turkey based on their finances. Grandpa always made garbage bags of popcorn. The coming of age for the grandkids was marked by being asked to join the Scrabble table where Grandma was playing! (I was initiated into those ranks the year I was 13.)

The "crowd" was small my first year joining in because there were only about 50 people. As time went on, the gathering became large enough that we had to move to Lee Street Christian Reformed Church as we had outgrown the customary gathering point. There were only so many fellowship halls at the time in Grand Rapids that could accommodate nearly 100 people.

As the grandkids began to grow up and move away, the number of people coming together began to shrink. The last gathering occurred the year after my Grandma passed away. Although I lived in Texas by that time, we made a special effort to make it back for one last moment. My Mom's brothers and sisters still try to get together every year, but the grandkids are rarely there. The old guard has passed with none to pass along the heritage.

Throughout it all I learned several things that I have carried with me.

First, it is important to come together as a family to thank God. Everything we have is from God, a fact often forgotten in our culture. Worshipping together on Thanksgiving morning was always a special recognition of those blessings.

In addition, I learned the importance of family for establishing the lessons of life. By celebrating as a family, we pass along to the younger generations that very critical message. In many ways, I long for those days of joyous celebration when generations come together in singular purpose.

Finally, I learned the value of family heritage. We bonded while marking milestones and making memories. As I look around most Thanksgiving celebrations today, we have moved from the joyous celebrations to simply a long 4-day weekend.

Oh that we could give back to God what He deserves – our praise, our thanks, and our families!



Just A Thought

Falling From Grace

By
Cindy
Hogan

Many of you may remember the NFL football quarterback who fell from grace after he was exposed for running an illegal dog-fighting ring for six years. Michael Vick was an amazing football player — he was one of Scott's favorite because he was so athletic and versatile, and fun to watch. I even liked watching him. It was so disappointing when the news of his inhumane treatment of dogs hit the news. That's actually a mild understatement to the public's reaction to his behavior.

Recently I read Michael Vick's autobiography — ok fine, I listened to it — *Finally Free*. Vick talks about his modest beginnings, when he slept with the Bible under his pillow, to his rise to fame and money and "me-ness"; and his ultimate crash-landing in the Leavenworth Penitentiary, where the Bible again made it under his pillow.

Much of Vick's professional story mimics Forrest Gump's famous quote, "Stupid is as stupid does." It emphasized once again how most of these young athletes are not prepared to be good stewards of the money that is literally thrown at their feet. As his fame grew, Vick's discipline starved. He could be great and successful and rich without even trying, so why bother?

Then he stepped over that line, and began delving into the abusive, cruel, and heartless world of fighting dogs.

Most of you know I'm an animal lover. I love my critters, I admire wildlife, and the rule of our farm is that everyone gets along. There is no fighting allowed on the ranch. I don't like the idea of dog fights, cock fights, cat fights. Unless a line has been crossed over, I'm a live and let live individual. So I was certainly disgusted and indignant about Michael's egregious behavior and actions. But that didn't even begin to describe the nation's outrage.

Vick describes a Fox News commentator's fury in his book, where the commentator claimed — on the air — that Vick did not deserve forgiveness for killing dogs, and he should have received the death penalty instead of the 18 months he spent in prison. He killed dogs and he should die! The clincher is that the commentator claimed to be a Christian. Whaaaat?? Okay, I don't know his heart, but that sounds like someone who claims Christianity because they were born in America.

The thing is, Vick really *didn't* deserve forgiveness. But guess what, buddy, neither do you! Neither do I! That's kind of the foundation of the Gospel of Christ. Undeserved, unmerited grace. Any one of us could be tossed in the pot if we had to earn God's forgiveness — I don't *even* want you to know how badly I've fallen, but thank God Michael Vick didn't have to deserve His forgiveness, His grace, His mercy. And neither do you or I.

When we're held by our heavenly Father's hand, we cannot fall from His grace. If that's not something to give thanks for, beloved, I don't know what is!



November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Katie Arpin	3
4 No Bible Study	5 Brittany Warner	6 Prayer Group 9:30 am. 	7	8 Juan ♥ Marsha Rodriguez	9	
11 5:00 Bible Study Charles ♥ Candy Reeves Blake ♥ Brittany Warner	12	13 Prayer Group 9:30 am.	14	15 Council Meeting 6:30p.m.	16	17 Yvonne White
THANKSGIVING POTLUCK @ NOON 5:00 Bible Study Claudette Smith	19	20 Prayer Group 9:30 am Barb Renner Josh ♥ Angela Martinson	21		23 Tony Arpin	24
25 No Bible Study		27 Prayer Group 9:30 am. Fundraiser for Mona Smith Spangles on 4th 5:00—8:00pm	28 Juan Rodriguez	29	30	

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Terry George, Administrator
Tim Yates, Young Adult Pastor
Glenn Koster, Associate Pastor
Laine Alex Moore, Administrative Assistant
Charlcie Koster, Administrative Assistant
Tim Nisly, Custodian

Dear friends:

Many of you may know that a member of our body, Mona Smith, is hoping to have a kidney transplant as soon as possible. Would you prayerfully consider whether the Lord might be leading you to donate a kidney? If you are willing to be tested as a possible match, please get in touch with Mona or the church office.

Mona greatly appreciates your prayers during this time. It's good to be part of the family of God!

Sincerely, Your Church Council