

news letter



Psalm 23:1-3 (NIV)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
³ he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

This is the second article of our journey through the 10 Commandments. Last month I shared with you regarding the first two Commandments. Today will be commandments 3,4; Exodus 20:7-8

Commandment #3: "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God." In his book, Children's Letters to God, Stuart Hample shares what kids say. This is one of my favorites: "Dear God is it true my daddy won't get in heaven if he uses his golf words in the house?"

God's commandments are intended to protect our dignity, self-esteem and self-worth. Because how we treat God directly affects us. The 3rd commandment deals with what we say about God and what comes out of our mouths in regards to true reverence for him. How we use God's name has a great deal to do with the quality of our relationship with him. Here are three common misuses of the name of the Lord: **(1) Expressing surprise.** For example: "Jesus that was awful. Good Lord did you see that?" **(2) As a filler in the gaps of our speech.** "I told her, God, I hope you don't do that." **(3) Confirming something false.** This is using God's name to verify that what we're saying is true, when in fact it is false. This commandment does not exclude legitimate oaths using God's name.

Misusing the Lord's name means taking his name lightly, ignoring him, or making him insignificant by what we say. When you honor the name of the Lord God you bring honor to yourself and to others around you. Look up Psalms 19:14.

Commandment #4 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. This is the slow down and listen to God speak to you day. Jesus said the Sabbath was not created for its own sake; it was a gift from God to people to give them an opportunity to worship him. Sabbath means to "rest or cease from work." Simple, just not easy. So let's get down to where we live. Is it wrong to mow the grass, or wash the car, clean the house, do the dishes, cook, go shopping, fishing or hunting on Sunday? No. Is Sunday the only day you can relax, retreat, regroup? If so, do what you need to do in order to do that. Your Sabbath may not be on Sunday. In other words can you do a Psalm 23:1-3 on your Sabbath? Many of you have to work on Sunday either taking care of chores or the boss schedules it, or a work emergency comes up, or you work at the church.

Is the issue having a Psalm 23:1-3 time on Sunday only? Or is the real issue to set a time that works best for you where you can relax, retreat and regroup with God – having a Psalm 23:1-3 time.

The Sabbath: The slow down and listen to God speak to you day. God wants you to have peace of mind, to be refreshed, and to be in harmony with him. That takes time to spend with him. That's your Sabbath. You'll be amazed how channels of communication with God and with your own soul and heart will be opened, cleared and made clean.

Thanks for reading this. Now go and honor God with your words and with your time.

In His Grip,
Pastor Tim



Tell Me What the Truth Is



Randy Lind

Will Somebody Please Tell Me What the Truth Is

If you have been watching the news lately, you can probably guess why I decided on the above title for my article. Regardless of which side you come down on, related to the Judge Kavanaugh controversy, I think we can all agree on one thing: would somebody please tell us what the truth is.

In our fallen state the unwillingness to tell the truth is one of mankind's most besetting sins. There are all kinds of reasons to lie, and let's face it, we have all done it at different times in our lives. However, I am sure I am not alone in thinking how much easier it would be to make sound judgments if there was a way to know the absolute truth about a situation or action in question. But alas, at this point in human history we do not have that ability.

Our culture seems to be one that understands the importance of telling the truth but in practice we seem to be a culture which has "the end justifies the means" philosophy. If we have to lie to get the outcome we want, then so be it. To make things even muddier, I am also convinced that there are times when two people will give vastly different accounts of the same event and both are fully convinced that they are the one telling the truth. It is only by the grace of God that our society functions at all.

All Christians take great comfort in the fact that our God knows what the truth is in every situation and in every heart. He cuts through all the smoke, mirrors, perceptions and nuances and knows what the absolute truth is. Not only does He know the truth, He is the truth. John 14:6 is a familiar scripture where Jesus proclaims that, "I am the way, and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me".

I know that mankind, in our fallen state, will continue to be cursed and perplexed by our willingness to lie. I encourage us all to continue to petition our Heavenly Father to allow truth to win, even in this sinful world, knowing that one day God will make all things right. The brilliant light of our Heavenly Father will make truth known in every life. This event could be awfully scary but thank the Lord, the gift of Jesus's sacrifice takes away all our sin. Praise the Lord.



Discovering Hutchinson

Glenn Koster

Have you ever truly discovered something different, something no one else has? Although I cannot honestly say yes to this question, neither could Christopher Columbus. Columbus “discovered” a new world, which was only new to those from Europe. I did participate in a unique study in my sophomore year of high school, trying to prove a new algebraic theorem. When we finished, much to our chagrin, our teacher was able to show us where it had already been proven before. Nevertheless, he was impressed with our dedication and determination. Now, in this modern age, we would have probably just Googled it before we started.

This is the reality of life. In Ecclesiastes 1:9, Solomon wrote, *“What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.”*

But have you ever really discovered something different for yourself? The past year has been filled with discoveries for me. The most astonishing was that I truly could walk more than 2,550 miles and survive. I discovered new places, places like Alabama and North Dakota, where I had never been. I also discovered new Biblical truths as our Sunday evening Bible study group continues to explore passages that many have read, but never studied.

More importantly, I have discovered some things about myself in the past year. I have learned that even though I loved being retired, I did not like being idle. While I loved walking, I also loved talking to people. While I love learning, I enjoy teaching even more. Consequently, our lives have changed – and so will my newsletter column content. Instead of hearing about my walking, the special God moments, and beautiful scenes, you will be more likely to read about things that may make you scratch your head and go, “Hmmm...” Well, at least I hope so.

I have been amazed at some of the numbers that I have discovered in the last few weeks as well. Did you know that 60% of your neighbors do not go to church on a regular basis, a number that is slightly higher than the national average? Were you aware that nearly half of those who attend church regularly (defined as every other week) never open their Bibles outside of church? Most surprisingly, nearly 40% of all believers see no value in prayer!

As we move forward, I hope that we can work together, as a church and with other churches in the area, to change these numbers for Hutchinson. One of the first things we will do is remind people that we are still here. How? For starters, we will participate in the Third Annual Trunk or Treat, which will take place on the Fairgrounds on October 31 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Candy donations are essential and may be dropped off in the church office any time during October. They are anticipating a crowd of 8,000 – 10,000 kids this year! We’ll follow that by participating in the annual Hutchinson Thanksgiving / Christmas Parade on Saturday, November 17. We have a truck and trailer donated already. We will prepare a float on November 10. We look forward to having everyone participate!

L.I.F.E. Outreach has also reached out to the community by participating in Back to Church Sunday on September 16 and having a hymn sing on September 30. Starting November 1, we will hold a weekly “Read the Bible” group every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. (Anyone interested in participating as a reader can simply contact me for details.)

Let’s work together and truly make a difference in Hutchinson!



Are In The Works

You're probably looking at this page and wondering, "What? Why does Glenn have two articles in the Newsletter this month?" I'm taking this opportunity to bring everyone up to speed on some changes you might have already seen (or will see in the very near future). Where do I start?

If you haven't seen the visitor bags in a while, you might want to peek in one. There is a brochure about our church which has been updated recently, highlighting our core values, our worship times, and opportunities to get involved. You know what? These are also excellent for handing out to friends to let them know about our congregation as well. If you would like one (or five) to give to your friends, just ask. We'll be glad to oblige!



In the past year, you have probably also noticed that the web site for the church has changed (from "praisegodsharehislove.org" to "fcoghutch.com"). The new website is easier to remember and very closely resembles the church email address, which remains fco-ghut@sbcglobal.net. In the coming weeks there will be changes to bring the staff directory current, reflect the current calendar, and recent sermons. Please be patient as these changes occur.

If you are on social media, you might have also noticed a change in our presence there. On Facebook, our church now has an active page (<https://www.facebook.com/FCOGHUTCH/>). This page will be updated on a regular basis, particularly with information that might be helpful for those not a part of our congregation (special activities, sermon information, special speakers, calendar events, etc.) You can also send messages to the church via this Facebook page, such as requests for prayer that need to be passed on or praises that we might want to share.

There is also a Facebook group under the name "First Church of God – Hutchinson". This is a closed group, but it is one where we as a congregation can come together to talk about what is happening with our church. This will be monitored regularly, and posts will be made about special notices and events as well (in case you miss it on the Facebook page).

We are also working diligently on updating the information we have for everyone, including birthdays, anniversaries, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. If no one has asked you yet, feel free to call the office and talk to Laine or Charlcie so we can make sure the information is current.





October

2018

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:45 <i>Common Ground</i> 1:00 LIFE <i>Outreach</i> Tanner George	8  Columbus Day Tim Kraft	9 Prayer Group 9:30 am.	10	11	12 Shelli Nisly	13
14 9:45 <i>Common Ground</i> 1:00 LIFE <i>Outreach</i> Tammy Lind	15	16 Prayer Group 9:30 am. Council 6:30p.m. Mona Kidney Fundraiser Spangles 4th St Cindy Hogan	17	18	19	20
21 9:45 <i>Common Ground</i> 1:00 LIFE <i>Outreach</i>	22	23 Prayer Group 9:30 am	24	25	26	27 Carol Heironimus
28	29	30 Prayer Group 9:30	31  Russell Smith			

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Tim Kraft, Pastor

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Charlcie Koster, Administrative Assistant

Tim Nisly, Custodian

Happy Halloween



All Hallows' Eve (Halloween) is a time in the church year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed.

Since the time of the early Church, major feasts in Christianity (such as Christmas, Easter and Pentecost) had vigils that began the night before, as did the feast of All Hallows' – hence All Hallows' Eve.

It is claimed that in the Middle Ages, churches that were too poor to display the relics of martyred saints at Allhallowtide (All Hallows' Eve) let parishioners dress up as saints instead – hence the custom of costumes for All Hallows' Eve.