

River of Love

CROSS CREEK
BAPTIST MISSION
Moving Mountains!

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Pastor Ray Gurney

NEW CHRISTMAS SERMON SERIES "PRINCE OF PEACE"

When the time comes for me to walk through the gates of glory, I hope the first face I see is that of Jesus Christ, my Savior, the One who took my penalties upon Himself and rescued me. My life was ruled by an evil spirit and I was a habitual sinner. Out of the billions of people who've walked this earth, only one person was capable of buying me back from the enemy and that is exactly what He did. It's all in the Christmas story; the birth and life of little baby Jesus Christ, Son of the living God. Just how amazing is this story? I don't know, but when we enter the gates of glory, I have a feeling we'll instantly know. We will see the lights of glory for the first time. No wonder the saints of heaven cast their crowns at the feet of Jesus for He alone is worthy to receive such praise. If you have children or grandchildren read the Christmas story to them each year. Our grown nieces and nephews still today say they looked forward to hearing me read about the birth of Jesus before opening gifts. Our Father, in heaven; thank You for Jesus, Your only Son.

I read a sobering statistic today. People who have not accepted Christ as Savior by the age of 19 will find themselves in a category of humans that only 6% will become a Christian after turning twenty years old. Forty years ago, those statistics said that someone who had not accepted Jesus Christ in their life by age 65 had a 35% chance of becoming a Christian before death. The success of the enemy is apparent. We live in the age that people call evil good and good evil (Romans 1:18-23); they think evil thoughts all day long and follow after their lusts leading them down the broad road of destruction. Who will receive the Word you share? No one knows, so we have to be constantly speaking the truth to people we know and even those we meet by accident.

Volume 24, Issue 12

December 1, 2022

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Special points of interest:

- Ladies Day Out to be announced
- Christmas Day Service at 10:00

MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Saturday, December
17th, 2022 at 8:00 AM**

at IHop in Blue Springs, MO. Please invite your neighbor or a friend to join us.

IF by Mark Batterson**Trading Your If Only Regrets, for God's What If Possibilities**

If is a powerful little word. Some people are stuck in "if only," trudging through lives marked with regret. But God wants us to live lives marked with possibilities, with the "what if" attitude that looks forward to the future with confidence. Why? Because the answer to "If God is for us, who can be against us?" is "No one." God is always on our side. Every day, in every way.

We will be unpacking the promises of Romans 8, Mark shows us that we are more than conquerors—right now and forever. And because of that, the possibilities for our lives are limitless.

Join us Wednesday night at 6:30 PM.

NEW CHRISTMAS SERMON SERIES "PRINCE OF PEACE"...continued from page #1**Operation Christmas Child**

Linda and Paul just keep having a driving passion to get these gift boxes to as many kids as possible from our church. Cross Creekers have filled **256** boxes to send this year. As of the first part of November, you have given \$2000 for the shipping costs. I'm amazed and I feel that these gifts are a pleasing aroma to our Lord God who sees all that we do.

Christmas Dinner

We are celebrating Christmas with our church family the second Sunday in December. We love our church family and always enjoy the meals we have together. I love it when no one's in a hurry to leave and we just sit and enjoy the time we have together. I hope that you will be able to join us that day; I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, November 6 Cross Creekers gave a handsome amount of money for Vickie and me. We are very grateful for your generosity and kindness toward the two of us. The cake prepared for the occasion following the morning service was a fun and unexpected treat. Thank you for the kind appreciation cards you gave and signed; they were touching and encouraging. Again, thank you to each of you who gave.

I will be presenting a Christmas series titled, "**Prince of Peace**" beginning **November 27th at 10 AM**. In this series we will be drawing from Isaiah 9, focusing on the remarkable names of Jesus Christ. Each Sunday we'll become more excited as we reflect on the birth of our Lord and Savior. The joy of the Lord at Christmas time is really what this Holiday is all about because God brought into this world a gift for us that is life changing.

THANK YOU!!!

I and my family want to thank you so very much for the wonderful meal and thoughtful cards that have been shared with my family in my father's passing. I was surprised how emotional I was, thought I was ready but that was not so. The Lord and the church meant a lot to Dad and he taught me to do the same. I thank you Lord for my dad's 96 years on earth and know he's saving me a place next to his house in heaven.

Vickie

WITHSTANDING DESTRUCTIVE FORCES by *Chrissy Kirkman*

One of the most powerful forces of nature is wind. That's why the Bible uses wind as a metaphor for so many things. There are winds of testing, trouble, conflict, and temptation. But God makes it possible to withstand each one!

Ephesians 6:13 says, *"Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm"* (ESV).

The word withstand means "to remain undamaged by a destructive force." One of the best ways to remain undamaged by the winds of life is to stay connected to your spiritual family.

God never meant for you to withstand difficult days by yourself. One of the first things God said was, *"It isn't good for man to be alone"*, Genesis 2:18 (TLB). Whether or not you ever marry is irrelevant. You need a spiritual family for support so you can stay connected when hard winds blow in. One of the main reasons Jesus created his church was to be a family of support. We certainly experience this at Cross Creek.

Look at this passage from Ephesians 4:11-12, 14 (NLT): *"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ: then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth"*.

We learn from this passage that God's church is His tool for building His people up in the better life. He's gifted certain people to do this. Another thing we learn is that it's the job of "the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers" to keep his church from being blown away by false ideas and "every wind of new teaching."

People's beliefs can easily shift. They believe one way this year and another way the next year. Not only do people's ideas and beliefs shift, but so does information.

But the truth never changes. If it was true 2,000 years ago, it will also be true 2,000 years from today. Isaiah 40:8 says, *"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever"* (ESV).

There are many shifting winds in our culture today that are simply wrong. They're deceptions, lies, and half-truths. Don't get *"tossed and blown about."* Stay connected to your church family instead!

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE AT 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS FAMILY NIGHT!

Wednesday night dinners begin at 6:00 PM.

The cost is \$5.00 a person for ages 7 years through adult. 6 years and under are \$3.00.

The menu for the month is listed on the right.

Please sign-up on the list on the information table each week. If you are running late that night, please call the church so we can set aside the proper number of meals for you.

- **Dec. 7, Chili & Hot Dogs**, corn bread, chips, cheese & crackers, salad & dessert
- **Dec. 14, Chicken Pot Pie**, cottage cheese, sweet potatoes, salad & dessert.
- **Dec. 21, Beef Stew**, biscuits, cheese and crackers, fruit & dessert.
- **Dec. 28, Lasagna**, green beans, cottage cheese, garlic bread, salad & dessert

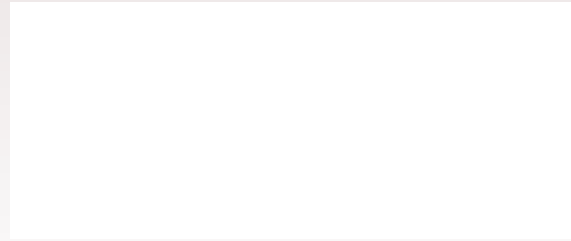
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GOD LIVES IN HIM AND HE IN GOD. 1 John 4:15

CROSS CREEK CHRISTMAS DINNER

December 11th after our Sunday morning service we'll have **CROSS CREEKS CHRISTMAS DINNER**. Please come and bring your favorite casserole, salad, veggie dish, or dessert, as well as a friend! Ham, brisket, mashed potatoes, gravy and drinks will be provided.

Hope to see you there!

Ladies Day Out

will be announced later!

**HUMBLE YOURSELVES, THEREFORE,
UNDER GOD'S MIGHTY HAND, THAT
HE MAY LIFT YOU UP IN DUE TIME.
CAST ALL YOUR ANXIETY ON HIM
BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU.**

1 PETER 5:6-7

