

River of Love

CROSS CREEK
BAPTIST MISSION
Moving Mountains!

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Pastor Ray Gurney

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? by Pastor Ray

Sometimes we are so convinced that we are right that we'd just about bet our life on it. I hear people say things like that all the time. "I'll bet my life on it", they say. Would a person really bet their life on a statement they'd made? I doubt it because when it boils down, they'd want to stop and think really hard about it and make sure they were right.

In the past I have been convinced that I was right about something; so, convinced in fact that I've embarrassed myself when shown I was in error. That's always hard to swallow but I'll do it again, I'm sure. When it comes to the Word of God, we can convince ourselves that we are right about a matter yet find that we are wrong. If you want proof of that just look at some of the world's religions. My goodness! I just wonder where in the world they get some of their ideas that absolutely go against the truth of the Bible? I suppose the devil; to answer my own question.

This is what I've discovered over the past 40 plus years of reading the Bible regularly. Perhaps the first time I read the Bible through I retained a small portion of it. The second time a little more and so forth.

After 5 or 6 times reading the Living Word of God front to back, I retained a lot of the truth I found there. When someone made a statement or gave an opinion that went against God's Word, I knew that that someone was deceived and needed correcting. In the beginning I was timid and often kept to myself. Now, however, I will most likely interject on behalf of the truth. Sometimes it has gone well and other times not so well. Normally we don't like being corrected about anything but especially about the Bible beliefs Grandma passed down to mom and she told us...and we are telling our kids; even though it's wrong. It makes some people want to scrap. My point is, it's important to read the Word of God so that you'll be armed with the truth that corrects error.

My daily Bible reading this morning in 2 Chronicles talks about King Asa, a man devoted to God, who had 350,000 foot soldiers and 280,000 Benjaminite's who carried the bow. He and his army was facing King Zerah, the Ethiopian who had with him a million man army. King Zerah was in the wrong for attacking King Asa and Asa him told so. He repeated the truth of the

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Ladies Day Out

February 21, 2023 will be our next scheduled Ladies Day Out. We'll meet at the church on **TUESDAY** at 11:00 AM . We will go to China Town Super Buffet in Blue Sprigs. February calls out for **CHOCOLATE!** Maybe we can find something on the way home. Hope to see you there!

Forgiving Challenge

Forgiving Challenge is a journey that will lead you to more freedom than you ever thought possible. Even though the offer of freedom is available to all, many still live in bondage. The key to unlocking your freedom is the forgiveness that Jesus has already won for you. His forgiveness not only assures you of eternal life with Him but offers you an opportunity to live with purpose today. Bring all of your sin, your guilt, and your shame to Jesus and experience this gift of grace in your life. A forgiven person is a forgiving person. So come. Be free on Wednesday night!

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of the Word of God and told Zerah he was in the wrong and that God would not allow him to win the battle. Zerah sent a large portion of his army behind King Asa, setting him up for an ambush. However, when Asa saw what was happening, they cried out to God to save them and that was what He did! In chapter 14 verse 12 the Bible says the Lord struck the Ethiopians and they fled from the battle and Asa chased them until they were overthrown and could not recover from the defeat. As we can see, it's very important that we know the truth of God's Word and that we stand on it, live by it and tell others what truth is. The Joy of the Lord is our strength! Not numbers. He can and will use the small things to accomplish the big ones.

I received a funny little note from one of the car guys at lunch today. He has been traveling a hard road this last 5 years battling cancer that slowly took his leg all the way to the hip. He is a few years younger than me and do you know he is still working for his antique car customers. This man is really something. He also has wisdom and a sense of humor that he blends to make

you contemplate. Me being a preacher, I took a deeper look into this little short note he slid across the restaurant table in my direction. With a grin he looked over the top of his dark tinted, round lens glasses and said; here is today's wisdom. I think you'll see what I mean. It read, *Be decisive. Right or wrong, make up your mind and do it. The road is paved with flat squirrels.* I read, I laughed, I pictured a highway with dead squirrels. Then tears tried to fill my eyes because that is how Satan works my friend. Whatever you think is right, whatever you think is wrong. Don't worry about it just make up your mind and do it. The highway to hell will be paved with soul's the devil and demons have destroyed because they made up their mind and did it; even though it was wrong.

Stay connected to the truth of God.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY please bring a couple of cans of soup or canned goods for the Grain Valley Assistance Council on **February 5 to Celebrate! Go Chiefs!**

Valentine's Banquet

Sunday, February 12, 2022 @ 11:30 PM

\$12.00 per person *kids free*. Please have your money in by **Feb. 5th**. Make checks to Cross Creek Baptist Mission. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet and number of people coming with you.

Menu: Lasagna, Spaghetti & Meatballs, Country Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Garden Salad, Cottage Cheese, Tea, Coffee & Dessert.

REASONS TO HAVE GREAT JOY IN YOUR SOUL *by Chrissy Kirkman*

JOY! The deep kind— how do we have it? The One who made our hearts reminds us of these things:

God— the One, true God who made Heaven and Earth— He is with you and always in pursuit of you! When you imagine yourself entering any scenario today, remember you don't walk in alone.

This day, with this particular setup and these circumstances, has never happened before. That means no matter how stuck or weary you may have felt, NEW ground can be taken today.

Be the you that tomorrow you will be grateful for. If this chapter of your life has felt exhausting or stressful, trust this: The wilderness never lasts forever. As you put one foot in front of the other today, let His promises carry you.

You know what brings GREAT joy? Remembering that you get to spend your life being loved and loving others. The more you allow your heart to receive, the easier it becomes to overflow. What an HONOR!

Crafted for eternity. Deliberately designed for divinity. Don't let the fleetingness of this world and your body take your joy— let it fuel it! You are being renewed from the inside out.

If contentment feels far away, try

docking your boat in gratitude today. When you immerse yourself in the blessings of what already surrounds you and you spend your mental energy counting those, pure JOY and thankfulness will turn what you have into enough.

Joy is one of your greatest and sharpest weapons amidst life's storms. It cuts through the fearful chatter and reminds your heart, "Hey, God is at work here." Joy is the posture of standing on the rock and still lifting your hands.

Joy can be a workout at first— the exercise of reaching deep and walking in faith— but the more you work that muscle, the more naturally it will come. Happy people are those that choose joy over and over.

People of joy are strong and effective in every space; it means your eyes are open, your mind is rested, and your spirit is engaged with the Creator. When you operate from fulfillment, you become available to be used by God.

JOY— it's yours, it's tangible, and it's life-changing!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS FAMILY NIGHT!

Wednesday night dinners begin at 6:00

PM. The cost is \$6.00 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.

- **Feb. 1, Chili & Grilled Hot Dogs,** crackers, corn bread, veggies, cheese & dessert
- **Feb. 8, Beef Stroganoff,** mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.
- **Feb. 15, Chicken Gnocchi soup & Tuscan Tortellini Soup,** corn bread, chips, salad & dessert
- **Feb. 22, Sloppy Joes,** Mac' & cheese, corn, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.

CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

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“Just as iron sharpens iron, so does one man sharpen another!” Proverbs 27:27

From the Finance Committee

In the 2022-year end budget report it was noted by the finance committee that the church has one item in the budget that has gone unpaid for several months. In the October 2021 business meeting the Deacon body made a motion that the church pay \$50.00 weekly for the Lawncare and snow removal on the property. Due to reduced income over 18 months or more, this expense has not been paid. Now that the fence expense is paid in full the finance committee is asking that the church members contribute until the debt is satisfied. This is money that will be above and beyond the tithe. The church cannot afford to have God's tithe money directed to anything else.

Each week the bulletin will reflect progress made along with the remaining balance. The beginning balance is \$1300 from 2021 and \$2600 from 2022. Your envelope should be marked to pay toward Lawncare/snow removal debt.

Men's Breakfast

Men; you will have your monthly **Breakfast Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 8:00 AM at IHOP**, in Blue Springs. Please invite your neighbor or a friend to join us. It's a good time to fellowship with other men in our community.