

**Faith
&
Family**

Connecting the Community to the Christ

Connect

A Ministry of Victory Baptist Church

"An Old Sweet Song"

"Give thanks in all circum-stances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Back in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Lawrence Welk Show was the Saturday night choice of the former children of the Great Depression, the ones truly who knew what it meant to be thankful. Whether it was sung by Joe Feeney or Jimmy Roberts, this generation who grew up with nothing, loved to hear the that old sweet song of Thanksgiving named "Be Thankful".



Always sung as a part of the Thanksgiving Show, and either staged and sung around a thanksgiving table, or performed before a full chorus, the lyrics carried a message that defined God centered people who had seen good times

and bad, and who were thankful for all that God had given them:

"Be Grateful, be grateful and know He will always be caring, Be Thankful, be thankful and know you'll be repaid with his love.."

A song that spoke to a generation that had a sense of gratitude and love for God that we will probably never see in those numbers again. (90% of Americans were Christian in 1955)

Every generation has good cause to be thankful to God, and hopefully some of the traits of the "Greatest Generation" will carry on with time and inspire some to realize that God has blessed them far beyond what they realize. True thankfulness to God brings that realization, and it will allows them to know that, like the song says, "He will always be caring."

May the Word of God settle upon their hearts and bring them the joy of a personal and eternal relationship with Christ, and may they always be thankful.

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Mike Ennis – Senior Pastor

Morris Starkey - Editor

The Law of Reflection

“As in water face answereth to face [reflects], so the heart of man to man.”
Proverbs 27:19

When I was a little girl my very old and wise grandpa took me bush-walking. One particular incident remains vivid in my mind to this day. Once, after what seemed like a long walk for my young legs, we came to a cool, deep pool and rested quietly there at the edge of the water. “Lean over and smile into the water” he said.



So I did. “Now make a face of anger.”
So I did. “Now open your hand and stretch it over the water as if giving a gift.”
So I did. “Now do the opposite.”
“What’s the opposite?” I asked.

“Stretch your hand to the water, close it, and withdraw it, as if taking something away.”

“I’m not seeing the point of this grandpa” I objected.

“Oh, but there is a point,” he replied. “As we do, so it will be done to us. If we bless others, we will be blessed. If we withhold blessing, our blessings will be withheld. If we live by taking, it will, in the end, be taken from us. If we live a life of giving, it will in the end, be given to us. Condemn others, and we will be condemned. Forgive others, and we too will be forgiven. That is the law of reflection.”

Through this simple lesson, we learn that the most joyous way to live is to live a life of love, of giving, of blessing, of compassion, of an open hand and heart. Let’s live each day giving to others the very thing we seek for our own life.

J. Woodley

For the wages
OF SIN is death
but the gift of God
IS ETERNAL LIFE
through
JESUS CHRIST
our Lord.
ROM. 6:23

Freedom in Christ

We no longer habitually think “the law of sin is within my heart, I must obey it,” but “I delight to do thy will, O my God; yea Thy law is within my heart.” Psalm 140:8

It’s been said Satan likes to keep us thinking like slaves. Which begs the question, how does a slave think? Powerless, chained, and subject to the whip all come to mind - certainly not a



picture of living in the grace and freedom of the gospel. But there are two sides to the devil’s scheme. The opposite tact is to convince Christians anyone who preaches repentance from sin is preaching heresy. That to risk preaching full surrender to Christ is to invite legalism and a false gospel.

I believe Jesus came to cancel out both misconceptions. He said, “...ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make

you free, John 8:33 . Free from what? Free from the condemnation and power of indwelling sin. We are not miserable slaves or licentious libertines. Those who know and love the Lord are joyful servants of Christ. We are not forced to cower under a legalistic whip, nor are we hopelessly chained to our miserable sins. We want Jesus to be Lord because a new principle has been born in our hearts through faith in the gospel of Christ. Deliverance from sin may be a struggle, but through the Spirit it is always in process.

T. Babcock



Come join us every First Sunday of the month in the 10 am service for our series on Biblical Creation. You might be surprised at just how accurate the scriptures are regarding how all of creation came about. A Christian's faith can be strengthened by this series.

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The Perfect Wardrobe

“Put on, then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.” Col 3:12

As the cool mornings and evenings of the [cold] season leave us and the warmth of summer sunshine beckons us outdoors, it’s time for a wardrobe change! It’s time to put away light jackets and sweaters and bring out more appropriate attire to bear the summer’s heat. For some, of course, that always brings up the dilemma of what is the latest fashion for the new season.

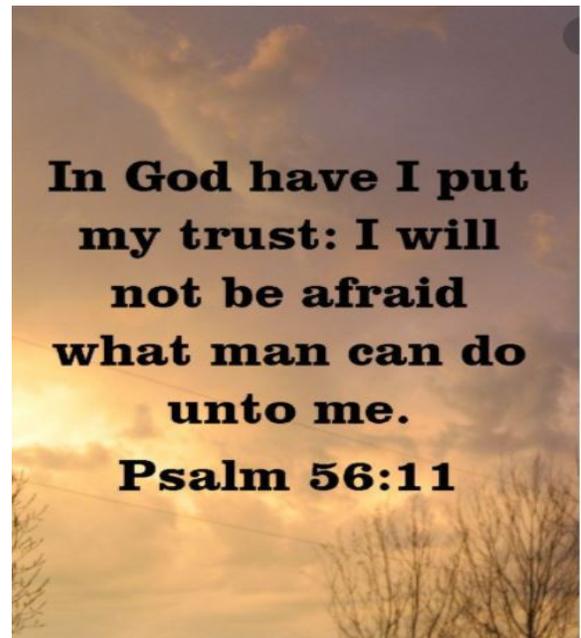


Have you ever stopped to wonder what God wants us to put on? He has written it clearly in His Word in the third chapter of Colossians. After advising us to put away things such as immorality, greed, anger, slander, and abusive speech, the apostle Paul gives us God’s answer in Colossians 3:12-14:

“Put on, then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.” (verse 12) If we then clothe ourselves with these attributes, what will that accomplish? Verse 13 explains that we will have the ability to bear with one another and forgive each other just as the Lord forgave us.

Paul makes a final admonition to the church in verse 14: “And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.” Love is the most important wardrobe component for the well dressed disciple of Christ. As you search your closet pondering your clothing selection for the day, remember that God has provided us with the perfect wardrobe for a successful and abundant life.

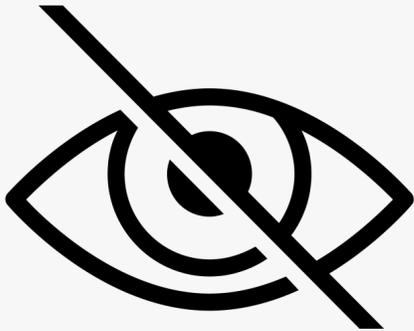
K. Pourbabaee



“When You Cannot See The Light”

"And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was. ."
Exodus 20:21

We know the truth of God's word that tells us the He will never leave us nor will He forsake us but when there are seasons that are hard and painful we wonder in all our desperate humanness, "Where is God?".



But maybe there are times when God asks us to approach this thick darkness because He IS there waiting for us. Maybe, just maybe, there hovers an encounter like no other we have ever experienced, something that will change us forever. We can take encouragement from Moses. He walked straight into the darkness not knowing and not seeing a step ahead. There Moses had an encounter with God in such a powerful way that changed the course of his future.

God is God whether there is light or dark.
You may not see with your natural eyes

but your heart will know that He is there. You may not feel that you can "fly" or you may not even see light for the next step at this time, however, you are never alone. He is with you and you can put your hand securely into His.

Maria Egilsson



Pleasing Father God

“The Son can do nothing of Himself. He only does [and says] what He sees the Father doing [and saying].” John 5:19.

Jesus is the greatest teacher in the school of obedience. His desire was to please the Father. Before the foundations were created, God’s plan was ordained. Jesus was sent to give His life for the whole world.

Jesus loved Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus of Bethany. He and His followers often found refreshment in their home. However, when Jesus received word that Lazarus was gravely ill, He didn’t rush to heal him. In fact, He stayed two days longer where He was ministering and during that time Lazarus died.

Why? Why did Jesus allow Lazarus to die? The Father’s plan from the outset was to raise Lazarus from the dead. “This illness will not end in death but it will bring glory to God” (John 11:4). Even though Jesus knew He would raise Lazarus from the dead, “He wept”. Jesus cried bitterly as He felt the family’s sorrowful grief but gave honor to God with Lazarus’ resurrection.

As Christ-followers we often fail miserably. Yet, we desire to please the Giver of Life. He understands. He always works within us, “both to will and to do of His good pleasure” Phil 2:13

D.F. Edmondson

Honesty

"What draws people to be friends is that they see the same truth. They share it."
CS Lewis

In today's society where pretty faces, prominent social standings and all way of influences are so greatly admired, honesty is the reset that invites us to take a second look at just how small we truly are. It matters little as to whether you are a hero or a zero during our short time here in this reality, because you exist only for the sole purpose of being loved by God. That is truth.

Honesty is also the truth that binds agreements. It is within the faith that two people have in each other as they share their pasts and futures together in marriage, or It is the foundation for the trust between two parties in contract with each another. It shows in the face of a true believer who will share with others what Christ did for us, regardless of what he is called by others for doing so. Such caring and honest attempt builds a strong character and a heart for Christ. Both yield the far better reflection of what people could become when God's Holy Spirit of Truth resides within them.

For those who have either avoided or have never dealt with the truth that the Holy Spirit "hounds" [Martin Luther - The Hound of Heaven} them with have

led many to a lifelong unhappiness and will remain so until they yield to God's love for them. Like fallen runners, Father will pick them up if only they would choose to believe it, and your heart goes out to them but until they surrender their will to the One who loves truth and honesty, they will stay upon that winding trail of many disappointments.

Honesty is even respected by the skeptical observer when presented with God's Plan of Salvation, as the latest polling indicates that most have already judged you as being a typical judgmental and uber overbearing insensitive stuck in a faith that will not change with the times he relates to. If you are the kind of Christian that no one wants to meet, you confirm that, but if you are the kind of Christian who is forthright in your way and example, they may reject the message, but they will not forget the meeting.

There is hope through honesty and it is the better ground that we hold as we stick to our beliefs and defend the truth within.

" I am not bound to win, but I am bound to live up to what light I have" ..
Abraham Lincoln"

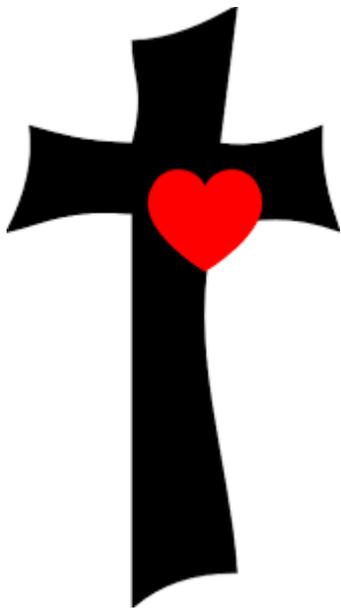
"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."
1 John 3:18
(Via Free Share)

My Time with You

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” Psalm 46:10

Shut out the intrusive noise around you!
Shh!

Be quiet, be still, listen to the Lord, put your focus on God, and all else will fall into place with His blessings. Spending time with God, helps reinforce our ability to cope with “the world” and the challenging circumstances that we all face from time to time.



We are strong “through Christ” who leads, directs and guides us every day. Although the path and road are “narrow,” if we focus and keep our minds on the LORD, it will become easier each day we spend with Him. Our minds will start to

think in spiritual ways, our hearts will grow in spiritual ways, as our love for the LORD, which will increase tenfold.

Reliance on His power and His guidance, become our tools of survival in a world of “darkness.” His light is a force to be reckoned with and the darkness won’t be able to stand up to it, so therefore “it’s banished” forever!

Trust Him. Speak to Him. Allow His will in your life.

And most important, LOVE HIM.

“LORD, thank You for Your light, love, and Word, in Jesus name, Amen.

C D Swanson



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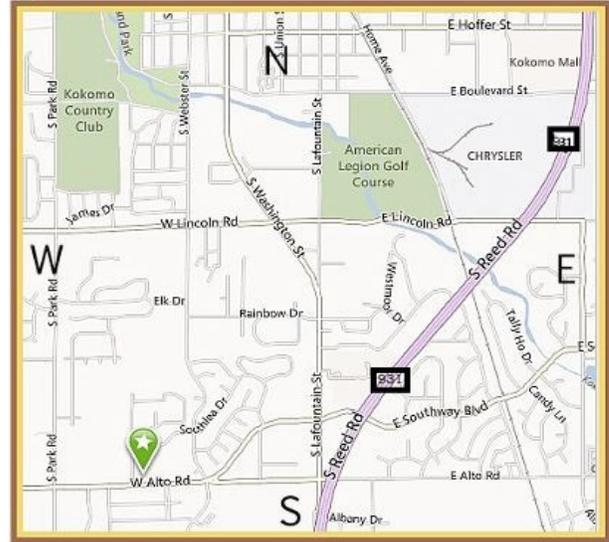


Do you need counseling?

Victory Baptist Church offers **FREE counseling** to families and individuals.

Call 453-9768 for information or to set up an appointment.

Map to Church



610 West Alto Road. Kokomo.



Victory CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

CHRIST-CENTERED CURRICULUM

<https://vcakokomo.com/contact>

NEW SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Prayer Time 9:00 am
Sunday School 10:00 am
Worship Hour 11:00 am
(Early Worship is at 10:00 am)

Come out, bring your friends and family and worship the Lord with the people at Victory!

Faith & Family *Connect*
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