

CONGREGATIONAL CHRONICLES

Declaring the Good News to all.



Notes from the Undershepherd's Heart

By Pastor Ben Spera

The Preaching of the Word lies at the very heart of our worship service, but sometimes listening to a sermon can be hard work. But believe it or not, there are things you can do to have a better sermon listening experience.

Here are five things you can do to help get more out of the sermon:

1. **Pray** - In Ephesians 6:19, Paul writes, "Pray also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel." The Apostle Paul asks people to pray for his preaching; how much more do I need it? So, pray that whoever is preaching is both clear and bold with the gospel.
2. **Read The Passage** - It also helps to read the passage the week before. Psalm 1 says, "Blessed is the man... who meditates on the law of the L-rd both day and night". Reading the passage and meditating on it helps you prepare to hear the word preached.
3. **Follow Along** - The Bereans (Acts 17) examined the scriptures to make sure Paul's teachings were true. A good sermon will explain and apply the scriptures. If I am doing my job well, I am getting my main points from the text. Keeping the text open and following along helps you see where the points come from and examine if they are true.
4. **Take Notes** - Another great way to make the most out of sermons is taking notes; studies have shown that notetaking helps improve recall and comprehension even if you never look at them again. In the Bible, many kings kept notes so they could go back and remember what had happened (ex. Esther 6:2).
5. **Discuss it later** - One last thing you can do is discuss the sermon afterward. Ask people what they got out of the sermon and how they plan to apply it. I provide three discussion questions every week that can be used to facilitate discussion with family and friends, that we may "encourage one another and build one another up" (1 Thess 5:11)

Sunday Service

Every Sunday
10:00-11:00 am

Ministries for Youth

Every Sunday during service,
from September - May.
For children PreK - 5th grade.

Ministries for Teens

Every Sunday during service,
from September - May
For teens 6th - 12th grade.

Women's Fellowship

A gathering of women to share
in service to God. Meetings are
held monthly on the third
Tuesday, at 10:15 am.

Upcoming Scripture Readings

- **June 1st:**
Genesis Chp 1-3 - Isaiah 48:1-11
- **June 8th:**
Genesis 4:1-16 - Isaiah 28:12-22
- **June 15th:**
Genesis 4:17-5:32 - Isaiah 49:1-7
- **June 22nd:**
Genesis 6:1-8 - Isaiah 49:8-21
- **June 29th:**
Genesis 6:9-7:5 - Isaiah 49:22-50:3

Prayer Emphasis

This month, let us join together in
praying for our Church Council
as we meet to discuss a new
statement of faith.

Hymn of the Month Great is Thy Faithfulness #39

Thomas Chisholm was born in a log cabin in Kentucky. A very bright young man, he became a school teacher in his late teens. At age 27 he came to faith in Jesus. Young Chisholm was an ordinary fellow who loved to read and write poetry. In his 30s his church encouraged him to pursue ministry, and he did. At 36 he became a pastor, and shortly after he came down with some crippling health problems. After only a year in pastoral ministry, he stepped down due to poor health. Medical problems brought more expenses and made work difficult. Within a couple of years, Chisholm found himself in financial trouble... for many people that would have broke them, but Thomas Chisholm looked at it all with hope. Despite all the problems of ordinary life, he saw G-d was faithful. Even though he wasn't a pastor anymore, he had more time to write hymns. Even though he was sick, he had a loving family who cared for him. And he was able to get an ordinary job, selling insurance, to pay the bills. Great is Thy Faithfulness is a reminder that even when life is hard, and things don't always work out the way we might want them to, G-d is always faithful.



Test Your Knowledge!

Father's Day Edition

The names of our Heavenly Father & their meanings.

~ Match the Name to the Meaning ~

Names:

1. Abba
2. Adonai
3. Elohim
4. El Roi
5. El Shaddai
6. Immanuel
7. Yahweh or YHWH

Meanings:

- God who sees
- Father
- God with us
- God Almighty
- My Lord, referring to YHWH
- I AM
- God

Psst! You can find answers at the bottom of the last page, or your Bible!

A Word From Women's Fellowship

By Marlys Colyn

Seven ladies were present for the May 27th meeting. Devotions were given by Diane H. Her message was in regard to spring cleaning, not only the household type, but cleaning of your soul and spirit.

In recent weeks, we planned, prepared and served lunch for the family and friends of Wayne Poage, following his funeral. We also provided refreshments for the PC Partner annual meeting.

It was decided to begin a collection of deodorant and other personal hygiene items for Discover Hope during the month of June. Please watch for more details on this!

We also voted to send \$200 each to the Ronald McDonald House at Blank, and also to Mercy, to help with food and housing costs for families of hospitalized children.

The garbage disposal is in need of replacement. We will be researching this problem and will provide an update soon.

There was also some beginning conversation regarding serving lunch for Baxter Fun Days. As well as a possible float for the parade that will tie in as an announcement for the 140th Anniversary event.



A Father's Day Prayer

By Scott Dickson

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we come to this day dedicated to celebrating the fathers in our lives, we want to thank You for those in our lives who have modeled Your fatherhood to us: fathers, grandfathers, mentors, pastors who have cared for us, taught us, provided for us, and put our needs above their own. May You fill us with fresh appreciation for them and let that appreciation be expressed in words of encouragement to them.

Father, this can also be a day of pain. Today brings to mind faithful fathers who are sadly no longer with us. God, we thank you for their influence and for placing them in our lives.

Lord, we lift up the fathers in our lives to You now: our own who continue to father us into old age, husbands who father our children, and spiritual fathers You have placed into the lives of our family. Help them to model Your own fatherhood. Help them to put the needs of their children above their own, to protect them, to be patient with them, and to be a wise and reliable guide to them as they walk through this life. And let them do this joyfully, not under compulsion. Let them see their task as a privilege and an opportunity to demonstrate Your care to others. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.



Baxter Congregational to host Baxter Fun Day's Worship Service

This year Baxter Congregational will host the town's church service during Baxter Fun Days. Service will be held on Sunday, July 13th in the Community Building. There will be refreshments starting at 9:30am, with service beginning at 10:00 am.

The music group SaltLight will be leading our Fun Days Worship this year. They are a gospel music band from the Cedar Valley area, in Iowa. They play, sing and create songs to glorify and lift up the name of Jesus. None of them are related, but together they have become a family. They love to sing the old songs, new songs and just enjoy their time of praise together with old and new friends.

You can check them out at saltlightmusic.com or on their Facebook page. Please mark this on your calendars and plan to attend!

"Matthew 5:13-16 calls us, as Christ-followers, to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, which we hope to display through our music."



What makes a strong Statement of Faith?

As the council works towards creating a Statement of Faith, it might be helpful for the congregation to know what a Statement of Faith is and what makes a good one. A strong statement of faith accurately reflects key biblical truths, clearly articulates core beliefs, and serves as a guide for the church. It should be concise, biblically sound, and address essential doctrines.



1. Accuracy & Biblical Foundation:

- A statement of faith should accurately summarize biblical truths, affirming key doctrines without misrepresenting scripture.
- It is not meant to be a comprehensive interpretation of every verse, but rather a concise reflection of core beliefs.
- Many churches include scripture references to support the statements and help readers understand the concepts.

2. Clarity & Conciseness:

- A good statement of faith clearly states what the church believes and who they are.
- It should be easy to understand and avoid ambiguity.
- They are often organized into sections that cover specific topics, such as God's nature, the authority of scripture, and salvation.

3. Defining Core Beliefs:

- A statement of faith identifies the core doctrines that are essential for church unity and peace.
- It should outline the boundaries of acceptable belief, preventing the church from falling apart due to disunity.
- Examples of core beliefs often include the nature of God, the divinity of Christ, and the means of salvation.

4. Purpose & Function:

- A statement of faith serves as a guide for the church, clarifying what is believed and expected of its members.
- It can also help to protect the church's ministry and message by defining what the church stands for.
- It can be used to address critics, clarify teachings, and provide a general understanding of the church's beliefs.

Sunday School Sessions

Summer Activities Books of the Bible Scavenger Hunt

1. What book is *LAST* in the Bible?

2. What are the *FOUR GOSPELS* in the New Testament?

3. Which book starts the Epistles in the New Testament?

4. What is the *FIRST* book of the New Testament?

5. What is the *LAST* book in the Old Testament?

6. What book has only three letters in its name?

7. What is the *FIRST* book in the Bible with a woman's name as the title?

8. What book comes before Amos?

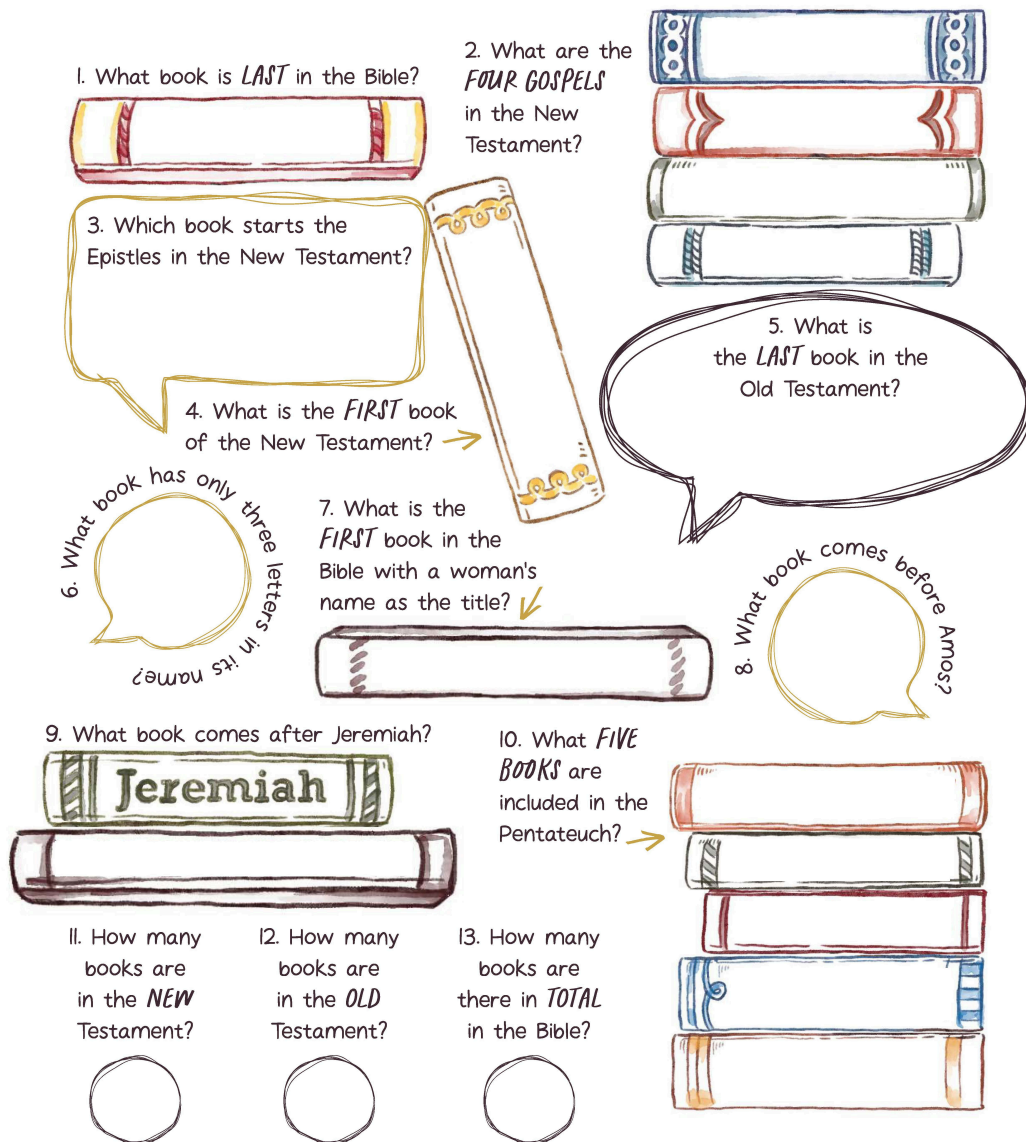
9. What book comes after Jeremiah?

10. What *FIVE BOOKS* are included in the Pentateuch?

11. How many books are in the *NEW* Testament?

12. How many books are in the *OLD* Testament?

13. How many books are there in *TOTAL* in the Bible?



Upcoming Meetings

- **Women's Group:** 6/17/25 at 10:15 am
- **140th Committee:** 6/22/25 at 9:00 am
- **Council:** 6/24/25 at 6:30 pm
- **Women's Group:** 7/15/25 at 10:15 am
- **Council:** 7/29/25 at 6:30 pm

Talk To Us

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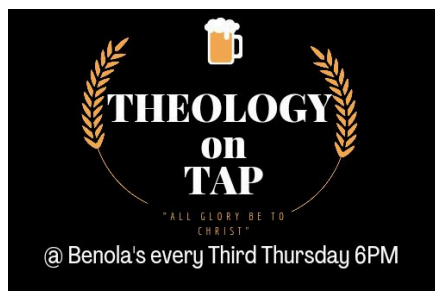
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Upcoming Events



Midweek Bible Study

With Pastor Ben
Every Wednesday at the Church
6:00 - 7:00 pm



Theology on Tap

With Pastor Ben
Every Third Thursday at Benola's
6:00 - 7:00 pm



Friday Prayer Meetings

With Pastor Ben
Every Friday at the Church
10:30 - 11:30 am