



*Watch therefore,
For you know neither
the day nor
the hour.
Matthew 25:13, ESV*

Faithful and true would
He find us here,
If He should come today?
Watching in gladness
and not in fear,
If He should come today?
Signs of His coming
multiply,
Morning light breaks
in eastern sky;
Watch, for the time
is drawing nigh:
What if it were today?

What If It Were Today?
Leila N. Morris (1912)



5680 Stetson Hills Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO 80917
www.vgbc.org

“Faith by the Eleventh Hour”



Sunday, April 17

**Dinner Service
5:30 pm**

**Performance
6:00 pm**

Reservations required

with Dessert Auction

This fundraiser will help support our youth! The youth will serve dinner and your generous tips will assist them as they raise funds for camp.

Suggested dinner donation: \$10/person

Visit the info booth on Sunday to make your reservation.



As we approach the final chapter of Galatians, I have truly enjoyed our time together in this book. I have been reminded of the importance of

the gospel in the church. The Galatian churches were abandoning the gospel; therefore, they were abandoning Christ (Gal. 1:6). Paul wrote this letter because he was extremely concerned for them, and he uses strong and shocking language to get their attention. The gospel is not one problem among many for the Galatians. Their abandonment of the gospel is THE problem. Once the gospel has been abandoned, nothing else matters.

We must learn this lesson. I believe we are tempted to alter the gospel, and I believe we are guilty of ignoring the gospel. If we ignore the gospel, then we ignore Christ. One of the common ways we ignore the gospel is we think of it solely as a set of propositional statements that a person must affirm to “get into heaven.” The gospel is so much bigger and so much more than this. When we reduce the gospel to this minimal understanding, we ignore the gospel in our lives and we abandon Christ. The gospel is just as much for Christians as it is for unbelievers. The gospel is

needed just as much for our growth in Christ (sanctification) as it is for our initial conversion (justification) (see Gal.3:1-5).

The gospel should be central in every ministry of our church, beginning in the pulpit and extending out to the conversations that take place in the hallways and every ministry in between. If the gospel is not central in our ministries, then what is? Let’s learn from Galatians and make sure we keep the gospel central. Let’s make sure we’re talking about GOD, the loving Creator with wonderful standards and expectations. Let’s make sure we’re talking about MAN, the rebel who sins against the Creator and has rightfully incurred God’s wrath and judgment. Let’s make sure we’re talking about CHRIST, who willingly identified with us and died as our substitute and gloriously rose again. And let’s make sure we talk about the need for a RESPONSE that involves continual repentance and faith in Christ. May we be faithful to keep the gospel central in all things!

Blessings in Christ,

All God’s blessings go together, like links in a golden chain. If he gives converting grace, he will also give comforting grace. He will send “showers of blessing.” Look up today, O parched plant, and open thy leaves and flowers for a heavenly watering. - Charles H. Spurgeon



Fools for Christ

April Fools’ Day isn’t a religious holiday, though it may date to Pope Gregory XIII and his new calendar. In 1582, he shifted New Year’s Day from April to January, and people who didn’t believe the change were called April fools.

April Fools’ Day may also be connected to the lightheartedness that comes with warmer weather, as well as to medieval Christian festivals that involved pranks, disguises and a temporarily inverted social order.

Yet, in Scripture, such reversal characterizes the kingdom of God. In 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, Paul writes that the Gospel seems foolish to people who don’t know Christ, that God uses the “foolishness of our proclamation” to offer salvation to all and that God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Jesus “foolishly” inverted the social order, saying the last will be first and the first, last.

So if on April 1—and every day—we live as “fools for Christ,” we’re precisely what he calls us to be!



LITERARY

Feature

Keep in Step with the Spirit: Finding Fullness in Our Walk with God

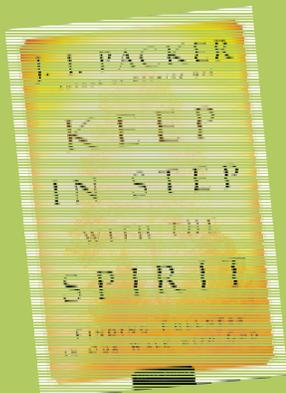
by J. I. Packer

In Galatians, Paul tells us to walk by the Spirit, live by the Spirit, and keep in step with the Spirit (Gal. 5:16 & 25). What does this mean? How do we do this?

Some of us would prefer to not talk about the Holy Spirit as it seems strange to us. Some of us love talking about the Holy Spirit, but our understanding is not very informed by God’s Word.

In his book, *Keep in Step with the Spirit*, Packer helps us understand how to think biblically about the Holy Spirit and His role in our lives. Also, he provides a helpful evaluation of the charismatic movement.

If you are interested in a challenging book about the Holy Spirit, I recommend this one. - Pastor Chris



Annual Ladies Tea

Theme: *LegaSea*

Saturday, April 23

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.,
in the Worship Center

\$5/person



Visit the info booth Sunday for details!

Just Keep Swimming

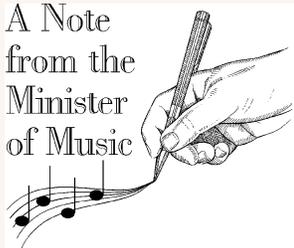
In Athens, the apostle Paul responded to the people's worship of an "unknown god" by declaring, "[God] is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being'" (Acts 17:23, 27-28, NIV).

Author Diana Butler Bass echoes that sentiment: "If the water is invisible to the fish, is God, as the One in whom we swim, also invisible?" (*Grounded: Finding God in the World*, HarperOne).

I, in turn, am reminded of Dory, the blue tang fish in *Finding Nemo*. Feeling overwhelmed and alone, she chants to herself, "Just keep swimming, just keep swimming." When we feel alone and can't see God, it's not that he doesn't exist or can't be known; rather, he surrounds us so closely that sometimes we miss the fact. God is the Living Water in which we swim. Sometimes we need to just keep swimming until we become aware of that again.

-Heidi Mann

A Note from the Minister of Music



As Easter approaches, a brief reminder seems in order. Worship is the central activity of the church and we gather for corporate worship on Sunday for a reason. That reason is the Resurrection. Jesus rose on Sunday morning and although we put special emphasis on the yearly Sunday designated on the calendar as Easter, every Sunday morning is Resurrection Day. Had Jesus not suffered and died and rose of His own power, we would not know each other nor would we meet each Sunday. So come celebrate, affirm, and give testimony to the Power of Christ through His Resurrection on Easter and every Sunday!

be limited to one special day each year. We have the liberty to acknowledge God together each week - together, each Sunday, to give testimony to one another as we sing, to minister to one another as we fellowship, and to humble ourselves side by side as we sit at His feet when the Word is preached. This is corporate worship. This is what we exist for. Let this Easter launch us into renewed commitment to celebrate each Resurrection Day of the year together. God is seeking worshippers. Do not fail to be among His people wherever you are on a Sunday.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Mann', is written in a cursive style.

Our response to God's self-revelation through His word and through The Word should not

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 5
4 - 8 p.m., North Youth Wing

Join us for a come & go event where we will pray in small groups.



Prayer Room

Longing for five minutes of peace and quiet, a moment alone with God? Visit the Prayer Room (just off the lower level foyer in room 162) and breathe. Help yourself to free books, prayer cards, and mini-books.

Join the Prayer Team on Monday mornings, 10:30 - 11:00, to pray for our church and missionaries.



The Handcrafters

April 2 & 16
10:00 am, Room 204

We have knitting, crocheting, quilting, counted cross stitch, embroidery, and more. For more details, contact Linda Schneider at myjesusbike@yahoo.com or Sandra Holmes at sholmes77@hotmail.com.

(We will not meet May—August.)



News!

Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, April 3 & May 1, 8-8:30am, Youth Wing

HS Seniors Banquet

Saturday, May 21, 5-8 pm, Youth Wing

2016 HS SENIOR RECOGNITION DAY!

Sunday, May 22



F.A.I.T.H. Riders

Colorado always brings beautiful days no matter what time of year. The VGBC F.A.I.T.H. Riders continue their treks and the latest one was attending the Men's Prayer Breakfast on March 12. The devotion, presented by Devin Knuckles, was on based on 1 John 2.

Following the breakfast, they went for a short ride through Elbert, Elizabeth, and Sedalia,

where they stopped for lunch at O'Brien's Café. Along for the ride was Terry Nummer from the Christian Motorcycle Assoc., who is also a member of several other motorcycle ministries. The F.A.I.T.H. Riders plan to attend some of the CMA events and rides this summer.

For more info on this ministry, visit www.vgbc.org/faith_riders.

A Shepherd's Role

While traveling in Iran, writer Eric Bishop asked a villager about an earthen enclosure with dry thorns. The man said sheep stayed in the round space at night for safety. "What are the thorns for?" Bishop asked. "If a wolf tries to break in and attack the sheep," the man replied, "he'll knock against the thorns, and they'll make a noise, and the shepherd will wake up and drive off the wolf."

Pointing out the enclosure's doorless entrance, Bishop asked why a wolf wouldn't just enter there. "Because," replied the villager, "that's where the shepherd sleeps; the shepherd is the door."

Suddenly Bishop understood why in John 10 Jesus calls Himself first the door, or gate, for the sheep and then the Good Shepherd. Because Jesus is the shepherd, He's also the door that keeps us, His sheep, safe within His care.



MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 9 & May 14, 7:00 am, Fellowship Hall
Coffee & fellowship begin at 7 am and breakfast at 7:30 am.

Other Event Highlights

- ❖ Hymn Sing Worship, Sunday, April 3, 6:00 pm
- ❖ Art of Marriage, April 15, 6 pm (registration at 5:30); continues April 16, 8 am - 4 pm
- ❖ Passover Seder Dinner, April 30, 3 - 6:30 pm
- ❖ Concert of Prayer, May 15, 6 pm



Welcome New Members

- ❖ Bella Baca
- ❖ Scott & Kendra Back *Regina
- ❖ Joseph & Helen Brunelle
- ❖ Lew & Sandy Davis
- ❖ Fred & Louise Deherrera
- ❖ Choon Dickinson
- ❖ Mark & Jody Engesser Justin, Megan
- ❖ Carter & Linda Frey
- ❖ Katie Fromuth
- ❖ Jon & Leah Gingery
- ❖ Gary & Diana Hamacher
- ❖ David & Amy Harris *Micah
- ❖ Michele Hayes
- ❖ Daniel & Callie Jacobs Alexyss, Dylan
- ❖ Nick & Carly Lazos
- ❖ Adelynn Miller
- ❖ Nina Trim

* non-member



Campaign to Date:
\$2,241,178.87

Balance Owed
(through February 2016):
\$2,085,400.47