

# CPC THIS WEEK

## THE E-NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### March 1, 2019

#### 5 Things Every Christian Should Be Doing with God's Word

Psalms 119 is an amazing Psalm. Not only is it the longest Psalm (176 verses!), but it is also the Psalm that deals the most directly with the topic of Scripture. Virtually every verse, in one way or another, refers to God's Word.

David (who is most likely the author) uses a variety of terminology to describe God's Word: commandments, law, statutes, precepts, ordinances, rules, words, testimonies, etc. These all refer to the Scriptures as they existed in David's day (essentially the Pentateuch).

Thus, Psalm 119 is one of the best examples of Scripture speaking about Scripture. It is the Word about the Word.

And in it, we find David interacting with the Word of God in five ways that should be paradigmatic for all believers:

1. *Trusting the Word of God.* Time and time again, David expresses his belief that the Scriptures are true (v. 151). He believes in them (v. 66). He trusts in their reliability (v. 42). He states: "The sum of your word is truth" (v. 160).

This first step is key. If a believer doesn't *really* regard the Word of God as being fully and entirely trustworthy, then none of the other steps below will follow. This is why the church needs to be quick to deal with the repeated criticisms of the Bible that so often permeate our culture.

2. *Studying the Word of God.* David doesn't just believe the Word, he is a student of the Word. He learns it (v. 73), he seeks it (v. 155), he has memorized it (v. 153), and regularly meditates on it.

This step ought to naturally follow from the first one. If God's Word really is true, then we ought to commit ourselves to being diligent students of the Word. We need to embrace it with our minds, as well as our hearts.

3. *Using the Word of God.* It's one thing to believe and know the Word. It is another thing to rely on it. To look to it as a guide during the difficulties and challenges of life. To lean on it for encouragement and hope.

David repeatedly affirms that he uses the Word of God as a "counselor" (v. 24), to give "strength" (v. 28), and to bring "comfort in affliction" (v. 50). He states, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (v. 105). In short, the Word of God is the very source of life for David (v. 156).

This reminds us a very important attribute of God's Word: it is alive. It is powerful and active. When we talk about the attributes of Scripture we must remember that it is more than just a true book (encyclopedias can be true). It is also a living book. It is the place where the God of the universe meets us and manifests himself.

4. *Delighting in the Word of God.* What is amazing is that David takes things one step further than we might expect. It's not just that he trusts, studies, and uses the Word of God. He actually has affection for it. He has a deep emotional affinity towards it.

He "loves" God's Word (v. 159), he "rejoices" at His Word (v. 162), the Word is "wondrous" (v. 18), it is "better than thousands of gold and silver pieces" (v. 72), and "sweeter than honey to my mouth" (v. 103).

I am convinced that this is the missing piece for most believers today. For many, the Bible is viewed almost in a utilitarian fashion – it is a mechanical, sterile tool that Christians are supposed to use. It's like taking your medicine.

In contrast, David has passion, zeal, and excitement for the law and commandments of God. And the reason for this is not hard to find. David loves God's law not because he is a closet legalist. He loves God's law because the law reflects God's own nature and character. He loves God's law because he loves God – and who God is and what He is like.

Any Christian who says they love God but then despises God's law is living a life of contradiction. Indeed, they are living a life that is the opposite of Psalm 119. To love God is to love His law.

5. *Obedying the Word of God.* Not surprisingly, the prior four characteristically naturally lead to this last one. David repeatedly expresses his desire to actually obey God's law. He wants to follow it, keep it, and fulfill it.

In our world today, the concept of "obeying the law" is not a popular one. Many see this as contrary to grace. However, two things should be kept in mind. One, David is not keeping the law in order to earn salvation – he is obeying out of love for God. He is obeying out of a heart of faith.

Second, we should remember that Jesus Himself was very much about "obeying the law." Before we too quickly despise the concept of law-keeping, we should remember that Jesus delighted in keeping His Father's law. And He kept it absolutely perfectly – for us. He obeyed on our behalf, and His righteous status imputed to us by faith.

Indeed, Jesus embodies all five of these characteristics. He trusted, studied, used, delighted in, and obeyed God's Word. In fact, he did all these things even more than the first David. One greater than David has come. And he loved God's Word.

Michael J. Kruger

canon fodder: Exploring the origins of the New Testament canon and other biblical and theological issues "5 Things Every Christian Should be Doing with God's Word" | February 18, 2019  
<https://www.michaeljkruger.com/5-things-every-christian-should-be-doing-with-gods-word/#more-7236>

*Associate Pastor Jeff Schrage chose the article this week to feature Dr. Kruger, president at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, N.C., where he went to school. Kruger has written books on the New Testament and why we can trust God's Word.*

# CPC MINISTRY INFORMATION

## SUNDAY'S SERMON

**Title:** *“What In the World Are We Doing?”*

**Text:** Luke 24:44-49

**Pastor Bob Clark**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Sunday School resumes for all ages today. Our Adult classes are *“Living in Grace”* led by Elder Jim Roszell (Library) and *“Biblical Theology 101”* led by Pastor Bob Clark (Sanctuary).

**DEACONS' FUND OFFERING** – Next Sunday, March 10, we will be collecting the Deacons' Fund Offering for the Mercy Ministries of the Church.

**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST** – Will meet on Saturday, March 9, at 8:00am at the church.

**WOMEN'S RESTROOM RENOVATION** – The restroom will not be available this week. However, the Family Restroom across the hall is available. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience.

**TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' STUDY** – If you would like to join us for our new study of 1 Kings we will begin next Tuesday, 8:30 – 10:00 am in the church foyer. Study guides are available at the welcome center

**A MOVIE OPPORTUNITY** – On Wednesday, March 20, at 7pm we will show the movie “GOSNELL – The Trial of America's Biggest Serial Killer” at CPC. The movie chronicles the activities of the inner-city Philadelphia abortion clinic in that led to Dr. Gosnell's trial in 2010. Because of the topic and some language, the movie is rated, appropriately, PG-13. We would encourage parents to consider that regarding their youth; even those 13 or older. Given the recent developments in our nation, we believe this movie will encourage the sanctity of life. Flyers for friends are available at the Welcome Center.

**CIRCLE U** - We have food pantry at Circle U (19 N. 13th St.) on Saturday, March 9 from 1:30-4pm. Mark your calendar. Bring some friends and come and help! Contact Lance or Lori Fowler if you can make it or need more information.

**YOUTH PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER** – Sunday, March 10, at 9:30am at the church. Join us for a Pancake Breakfast followed by Morning Worship at **10:30am**. Donations will gladly be accepted. See this week's bulletin insert for your RSVP. (No Sunday School) Please note that this is *“Spring Forward”* Sunday.

**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE** - SING! Books from the most recent Getty Sponsored “Sing Conference” are available at the Welcome Counter for \$5 each. The book was written to remind us why the Church should sing, when the Church should sing, and how the Church should sing.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

*Tuesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study, Old Testament Survey, 1 Kings* led by Pastor Bob Clark, meets in the church fireplace area from 8:30-10:00am.

# **SUNDAY CPC VOLUNTEER INFORMATION**

## **THIS WEEK, MARCH 3**

Worship Nursery: Emily Fredrick, Ryan Davis, Conner Miller  
Sunday School Nursery: Kathy Anderson, Mark Harrington  
Pre-K/K Children's Church: Jane Robinson, Jeff Schrage

## **NEXT WEEK, MARCH 10**

Worship Nursery: Jane Robinson, Brad Wood, Jacob Kehlenbrink  
Sunday School Nursery: No Sunday School  
Pre-K/K Children's Church: Lori Fowler, Roger Golden

## **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

This Week: Melissa Owens, Laura Kehlenbrink  
Next Week: Pat Bane, Beth Allen

## **WELCOME/GREETERS**

This Week: Les & Jane Hunt  
Next Week: Mark Harrington, Pat James

## **DEACON ON DUTY**

This Week: Bob Foust  
Next Week: Aaron Fredrick

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANCE**

February: Projection/Sadie Steinfort; Sound/Jodi McKinney  
March: Projection/Jacob Kehlenbrink; Sound/Chris Moore

## **THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD**

### THE ONE WITH THE BEEF BIRYANI

*“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”*  
(Leviticus 19:33-34)

Let me set the scene.

My friend invited me over to her house for a casual dinner at 7:00 on Thursday evening. I had never been to her house for dinner before, and this was the first time that I had gone to one of my South Asian Muslim friends' homes for dinner.

Because I can't arrive anywhere on time to save my life and because the unspoken polite American culture is to arrive slightly after the official party start time, I arrived at 7:10 p.m., hoping that my lateness wouldn't be a problem.

My friend opened the door in her bathrobe. “You're early,” she said, stepping back slightly.

“You said that it started at 7:00, right?” I clarified, hesitating at the door.

She confirmed my suspicions with a smile and a chuckle. “Yes, 7:00 Bengali time.”

Despite my attempts at apologizing and excusing myself to come back at a better time, she ushered me inside, directed me to take off my shoes, and to make myself comfortable in the living room where her son was watching cricket on television.

My friend hustled back to the kitchen, where she continued preparing the cooking for the evening. Since I have hardly a clue what goes on in a game of cricket, much less when the broadcasting is in a different language all together, I followed her into the kitchen, asking if I could help.

She shook her head at me. “No, you should go in the living room and rest.”

“I don’t need to rest,” I informed her, “I want to help you with dinner and talk with you.”

“You are the guest. Go to the living room and watch cricket.”

After watching the cricket game for an hour and pretending like I understood what was going on, the other guests began to arrive. The men wouldn’t look at me or shake my hand, but the women greeted me shyly, pressing my hand or at least nodding and smiling in my direction.

Plates piled high with food were toted into the living room, heaps of vegetable samosas, chicken kebabs, chickpea salad, lentils and roti, and curried eggs. The female relatives and my friend prepared plates of food and distributed them to the men first, then to me and the other guests. I offered to help again, but they told me to sit.

After I stuffed myself with the delicious food, surreptitiously avoiding the meat products because of my vegetarian eating habits, I sat back and basked in the sleepy, post-dinner conversation over spiced, milky tea. Granted, most of the conversation was in my friend’s heart language, of which I know about 20 words, so most of this conversation-basking on my part was done with a vague, slightly confused yet friendly smile plastered on my face.

Since my friend doubled as my language teacher, one of the other guests would often ask me a question in Bangla, to test my progress and my friend’s teaching success. Without fail, I pronounced something wrong or dropped an important word ending, which everyone else found hilarious. You’re welcome.

As the conversation lulled, I glanced at the clock, noted that it was about 9:30 p.m., and drew the conclusion that the party would probably be ending soon. This was convenient, considering that I had work the next day and lived about an hour away from my friend by train.

Then, my friend stood up again and announced that she would be making beef biriyani for dinner, a traditional rice and meat dish, and that it would be ready in about 30 minutes. Everyone in the room nodded appreciatively, but my well-made plans came to a screeching halt.

I had been duped.

The generous spread of food hadn’t been dinner; those had been the appetizers. I had completely eaten my fill and now I was expected to find room in my stomach for a gigantic pile of flamingly spicy rice and meat. (Meat! I silently bade farewell to my vegetarian ways, as to not refuse the food and reject my friend’s hospitality.)

The joy of being welcomed.

When the dinner party gracefully ended after the biryani course, I bade everyone goodbye and thanked my friend for hosting me. She took my hands in hers and said, “Thank you for coming over to my home. It makes me very happy. You bring me honor.”

Me? Bring her honor? Did she miss the part where I got to her house stupid early? Did she notice when I dropped an entire handful of biryani into my lap because of my inability to eat with my right hand, thanks to being left-handed? Was she aware of how painfully out of place I had felt the entire night, playing nervously with the hem of my jama and trying to mentally decipher what in the world the guests were talking about, a soft, vague smile plastered on my face?

Apparently this didn't matter in her perspective of hospitality. She was honored by my presence, clumsy and clueless as I was, and I had the joy of being welcomed into her home and her family. Praise the Lord.

When I moved to the field, I inwardly wrestled with the hope that I could center my ministry around hospitality and a deep-seated fear that my new friends would have nothing in common with me. I worried that they wouldn't accept me into their homes or come to mine.

We all come to the table with our own cultures, backgrounds, faiths, and languages. How can you break bread together when you don't even know how to ask them to pass the bread to you?

The concept of hospitality is often discussed in the Christian faith, and as we ponder and practice the mandate of "loving foreigners" (Deuteronomy 10:18-19) and showing "hospitality to strangers" (Hebrews 12:2), Jesus promises that it is a valuable, necessary practice. But what does that look like in reality.

The art of hospitality, I'm learning, is much more than any perfectly-curated Pottery Barn dining room or a delicious feat of a curried fattened calf and vegetables.

Hospitality is the practice of welcoming in another human being and connecting with them on the baseline of their humanity – the need for food and for shelter.

You don't need someone's entire life story to know that their bodies crave nourishment and comfort and you don't even need to know the vocabulary in their heart language to communicate these things.

During the past year, I've been humbled and encouraged to learn that my Muslims, South Asian students are far better at hospitality than I am. My friends have opened their arms and welcomed me in, teaching me that I don't need to know all of the vocabulary or cultural nuances to break naan with them.

They fret over my vegetarianism and lack of a husband, so they welcomed me into their homes, lovingly cook yellow daal and vegetable curries, and ask me about my job and my family back home.

I have learned to forever have snacks and tea on hand for friends who drop into the community center where we work, and to always be ready to talk about a stressful parent-teacher conference or a fiasco with in-laws visiting from South Asia.

The door is open. You are welcomed.

Hospitality is a messy, unorganized, beautiful snapshot of heaven, where we'll all be welcomed together at the throne of our Creator to worship Him for eternity. Until then, we Christians practice welcoming others to that idea because we want them to be welcomed with us there too.

So we navigate the awkward, beautiful, confusing dinners, breathe deeply through cultural faux pas, and trust that Jesus will change hearts and bring more of His creation to His banquet table.

And I'll work on figuring out Bengali time so I don't show up an hour early to future dinner parties.

Ginny serves with MTW in Global Muslim Ministry. | GINNY Feb 21, 2019

<https://www.mtw.org/stories/details/the-one-with-the-beef-biryani>

# CONGRATULATIONS!!!

## February Birthdays!

3	Bob Clark	19	Calvin Pfeil
3	Shirley Morgan	24	Charlotte Wood
14	Les Hunt	25	Grace Anderson
15	Nathaniel Cheek	25	Conner Miller
15	Robert Foust	26	Jaimee Allen
16	Val Moore	27	Jensen Davis
17	Sharon Brant	30	Gail Bratton

## March Anniversaries!

18	Bob & Nedra Clark	1978
31	Tom & Mindy Deckard	1984

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Winter Farmers Market**  
Richmond Senior Community Center  
1600 South 2nd Street, Richmond, IN 47374

Saturdays: 10 am to 1 pm

**Event Details:** Find local products EVERY week from 100% certified local farmers and vendors. Produce, meat, eggs, baked goods, jams and jellies, candles, soaps, jewelry, fine art, and so much more!

**Richmond Community Orchestra**  
Seton Catholic High School  
Chuck Mosey Memorial Gym  
233 South 5th Street, Richmond, IN 47374

Hours: Sunday, March 3: 3:30-5pm

The all-volunteer RCO performs under the baton of Musical Director Jay Conard.  
All are welcome. Comfortable seating. Admission is free.

The program includes: **“Brandenburg Sinfonia”** (J.S. Bach), **“Irish Tune”** (Percy Grainger), **“Symphony in D minor”** (Cesar Franck), **“Mission: Impossible Theme”** (Lalo Shrifrin), **“Gold and Silver Waltz”** (Franz Lehar), **“Pavane Opus 50”** (Gabriel Faure), **“Grand March from Tannhauser”** (Richard Wagner), and **“Consecration of the House”** (Ludwig von Beethoven).

*<http://rcoindiana.org/>*

**Mark Pearson “Seeing the ‘Extra’ in the Ordinary”**

Reid Hospital, MacDowell Gallery  
1100 Reid Parkway, Richmond, IN 47374  
612.592.6108

Richmond resident Mark Pearson is currently exhibiting photography. The show, titled “Seeing the ‘Extra’ in the Ordinary,” features landscapes, nature shots and glimpses of the industrial past, as well as scenes from recent travels in Greece. The exhibit will be on display through mid-March (Saturday, Mar 16). Many of the 29 works in the show are black and white images.

<https://www.dailyadvocate.com/features/life/68398/new-exhibit-at-reid-hospital-features-local-photographer-mark-pearson>

<https://visitrichmond.org/visitors/events-festivals/day/2019-02-15>

**2019 Richmond Gem & Mineral Show**

Wayne County Fairgrounds, Kulman Center  
861 Salisbury Road North, Richmond, IN 47374

Hours: Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2: 10am – 6pm. Sunday hours: 11am to 4 pm.  
Adults \$5; Seniors \$3; Children \$1; under 7 free. Scouts in uniform free.

The 46<sup>th</sup> annual Richmond Gem & Mineral Show, hosted by the Eastern Indiana Gem and Geology Society, will be held at the Kuhlman Center at the Wayne County Fairgrounds on March 1, 2 and 3, 2019. Sale items include gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry, lapidary and craft tools as well as books, posters and magazines; Silent auctions held on Saturday and Sunday; Displays; Demonstrators; Children’s Activities.

Food available. Over 25 dealers & demonstrators.

<https://visitrichmond.org/visitors/events-festivals>

**Joseph Moore Museum Open House**

801 National Road West, Richmond, IN 47374  
765.983.1303

Hours: Saturday, March 2: 10am – 5pm.  
Free admission.

Come by the JMM Homecoming Open House for a day of engaging fun for all ages. Venture behind the scenes of the museum to see the hidden treasures in the museum’s collection. Special programs throughout the day led by our students as well as face painting, games, and more. This educational event is free and fun for all ages.

**Morrisson Reeves Library**

***Return Borrowed Books Week:*** March 4-9  
80 North 6th Street, Richmond, IN 47374

Bring back overdue library items with no charge of late fees. Drop your items into the Drive-up Book Return and we’ll take care of the fees. Does not apply to damaged items or materials overdue for more than 12 months. Have questions about the status of your library account? Login to your online account at [MRLinfo.org](http://MRLinfo.org), call 765.966.8291 or email us at [library@MRLinfo.org](mailto:library@MRLinfo.org).

*\*Return Borrowed Books Week has been celebrated nationally since 1953!*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1843229045781759/>