



Pastor's Message— *Pastor Bater*

Happiness

"God just wants me to be happy" seems to be the latest motto among American Christianity. I'm hearing more Christians say it, and I'm reading more Christians write it than ever before. It implies that above all else, God's will for my life here on earth is to pursue, find, and enjoy whatever it is that makes me happy. But, and hear me out before you dismiss it, this is nothing more than the devil's oldest and greatest lie.

It's true, God's will for your life is to: "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16). But there's a difference between being "joyful always" and "being happy." Let me explain. If there was ever anyone who had a reason to always be joyful, it's us. As Christians, especially during the season of Lent, we see most clearly "how wide and long and high and deep" the love of our Savior Christ is. We, of all people, should spend our days, praying, "O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, His mercies endure forever."

But that isn't what Christians have in mind when they utter the phrase: "God just wants me to be happy." Doing whatever makes me happy will most often mean doing what is contrary to God's will and command. Above I said that this mentality is the devil's oldest and greatest lie because it's exactly what he used to convince our first parents to fall. He convinced them "God wants you to be happy. Eating the forbidden fruit will do that. (Notice that we also read it was "pleasing to the eye.") After all, God wouldn't have put the fruit here in the Garden if he didn't want you to enjoy it!"

Unfortunately, his lies continue to be effective in getting us to disobey God. And so many of the things that make us happy in life, do just that. But what happens when I make my happiness my ultimate goal in life? I turn my happiness and really myself into my own god. I follow it, listen to it, and trust it above all else, including the One true God. It really boils down to the misunderstanding that, as a Christian, my life should be easy. If we have and follow the true almighty God of the universe, then it should come with perks in life. It should be smooth sailing here on earth with no worries, struggles, or cares with which to concern ourselves. And if that's your impression of true Christianity, I would encourage you to read the New Testament epistles (especially the ones Paul wrote while he was imprisoned for his faith: Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, and Philemon) and consider how "easy" or "fun" it was being a first century Christian.

So, does being a Christian simply mean that I am supposed to be miserable all the time? Not at all! Paul wasn't writing tongue-in-cheek when, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he penned those words above in 1 Thessalonians. Be joyful! even as you suffer and struggle here on earth, because "our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18). He is risen. He is risen indeed! My Savior lives and has conquered all my foes. The eternal mansions of heaven await you! If your life is lacking in the happiness department, pray continually! Not that God would artificially make you happy, but because the omniscient God who knows all things invites us to do so as simply as children would ask of their dear Father. That the God of all mercy and power actually invites us to "Call upon me in the day of trouble" and promises to deliver us! Therefore, you also have reason to give thanks in all circumstances! Through the suffering of Christ, you have received God's grace, which is sufficient to give you strength when you suffer (see 2 Corinthians 12). Don't avoid suffering in favor of happiness. Rather, "rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed" (1 Peter 4:13).

As we begin the most holy week of the year, my prayer is that through the death and resurrection of your Savior, you will see that you have every reason to "be joyful always; pray continually; and give thanks in every situation." You may not always be able to feel the trite human emotion of happiness, God never promised that we would. But in Christ, you have more than enough of a reason to "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

Don't buy into the "God just wants me to be happy" bologna. Instead, know that God just wants you to be saved. That's all he's every cared about and he proved it on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. That was his will and desire all along. And thankfully, Christ our Savior set aside his happiness, made himself nothing and endured the cross, to make that salvation our reality. Isn't that something to be happy about?

President—*Eric Myers*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Just a quick update this month as to what your leaders are working on. Over the next month or so, different boards and committees will be putting together their budget needs for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2012—June 30, 2013). Leadership will review those line by line and then have a recommended budget to present to voters for approval in late June. The members of these groups look



at what was spent last year as well as ministry needs overall to come up with the most effective way to manage God's gifts. I thank everyone in advance for this effort.

Also as we approach the end of the current fiscal year, there will be openings on boards and committees. It is our goal to get descriptions of the open positions out to people and encourage those equipped with the gifts to consider filling any open positions.

The school staffing needs are still at the forefront and I look forward to the next round of candidates the Lord will present to us. While no one likes to be rejected, we, as much as any congregation, have been shown God's wisdom in leading call candidates to return our call. The last list had so many qualified candidates, I know the Lord will provide.

I see other items that leadership needs to address as part of our continued growth. A compensation committee has been formed to create staff policies that a larger organization needs to have in place. We are reviewing more detailed accounting practices. We are considering the resurrection of the endowment committee. We are looking to more fully detail our long range plan. Please contact me if there are other items leaders should be considering. Our goal is to stay consistent with our mission statement; simplified in our vision statement:

PEACE THROUGH JESUS | GROW AND TELL!

In His service,

Eric Myers – Chairman
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Board of Christian Ed—*Matt Rohrer*

The 6th annual Men's Retreat will be April 27th–29th 2012. This year we have a group campsite reserved at Escalante Petrified Forest State Park. There is room for up to 50 people and 14 vehicles. We will leave Friday morning, however, men are welcome to come down Friday night or Saturday as well.



MEN'S RETREAT

Saturday and Sunday morning we will have a group breakfast cooked by teams. Teams will be determined once everyone has signed up. There is no charge for camping—we just ask for help with breakfast one morning (item donation and help preparing) and a couple of firewood bundles. Meals other than breakfast are on your own and we will be eating in town on Saturday night. A signup sheet is on the hall bulletin board at church. If you have any questions, contact Matt Rohrer @ 605-430-1500.

Evangelism—*Ali Salem*

Brothers and Sisters in the Living Christ,

The season of Lent is drawing to a close, and we will soon focus on our Lord's death, resurrection, and ascension! Our Holy week and Easter services are a reminder of our real home with our God for eternity! Jesus' perfect life and punishment in our place on the cross made us justified in the sight of God. Faith in that and in His empty tomb bring us comfort and peace beyond any other gift! The work he finished ensures we also will not remain in our Earthly tomb.

How fitting that during Easter services at PoP we are hard pressed to seat all our members and visitors comfortably. His tomb is empty that heaven would be filled. Three things I want to urge members to consider.

- **First, pack them in:** invite everyone you have a chance to speak with this week to join us in hearing this message of comfort.
- **Second, thank someone:** take an opportunity to thank or follow-up with anyone who worships with us for the first time! We have a new program starting for follow-up, so let me know if you are interested!
- **Third, sit uncomfortably:** what I mean is be flexible. If you have a favorite pew—you may need to sit in another place or consider sitting up front, or if necessary, sit in the gym chapel extension. We all need to hear the comforting message of Easter, but what a great blessing to welcome and share with those who may be hearing it for the first time!

As always I thank all of you for continuing to make Prince of Peace a warm and inviting church home to new people!

Grace and Peace to you in our Risen Savior!

Ali Salem

Spiritual Welfare Board—*Gary Cain*

THE ONE WHO STAYED

One can perceive John as a follower who viewed life simply. Right is right and wrong is wrong, and things aren't nearly as complicated as we make them out to be. For example, defining Jesus might be a real challenge for us; but John handles the task with ease. The Messiah? In a word, was the Word. And Life? Life can be divided into two sections, light and darkness. If you are in one you are not in the other and vice versa.

Next question, The devil? He is the father of lies. And the Christ? He is the father of truth. God is love and you are in his corner if you love, too. And sometimes, when Christ's parables get a bit heavy, John pauses just long enough to offer a word of explanation. Because of this patient storytelling, we have the classic sentence of "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son."

I like John most of all for the way he loved Jesus. His relationship was, again, rather simple. As far as he was concerned, his closest friend was in trouble, and he came to help.

John teaches us that the strongest relationship with Christ was not necessarily a complicated one. He also teaches us that the greatest of loyalties comes with friendships—stubborn, selfless, joyful friendships.

After witnessing John's stubborn love, we are left with a strong desire to have one like it. We are left feeling that if we could have walked in anyone's shoes that day, it would have been in John's.

"We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

(Portions there-of taken from Max Lucado's book, No Wonder They Call Him the Savior)

Reminders for Easter:

- **Bring Easter breakfast food items to the church kitchen (except bakery/fruit) before Sunday if you can.**
- **Set up for Easter breakfast will be Saturday morning at 9AM, if you want to help.**
- **On Easter Sunday, if possible, please park on the street or in the back rows of the parking lot, so our guests can park easily.**
- **We still need men to help cook/serve Easter morning. Sign up at church.**
- **If anyone can help clean up after Easter late service, it would be appreciated.**
- **Basic Christianity and Mid-week Worship will be held, but the church office and school will be closed the week after Easter.**



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**MAUNDY THURSDAY
7PM WORSHIP**

**GOOD FRIDAY
12 PM MEDITATION
7PM TENEBRAE SERVICE**

**EASTER SUNDAY
8AM & 11AM WORSHIP**

*Easter breakfast will be served
from 9:30-10:30*

W.I.S.H.—*Jamie Schultz, President*

Although the election and transition of new WISH officers is now complete, we would like to recognize and sincerely thank Nancy Ah Chong for her leadership the past four years as President of WISH. We also thank Kris Gollon and Sheena Finnigan for serving as secretary and treasurer during that time. A new office of Vice President was created to assure smooth leadership transitions for the future; Chantel Johnson was voted in as our new V.P. Catherine Henstrom was elected Secretary and Paula Fraser as Treasurer. Nancy Brandt will remain WISH Mission Chairman.

WISH met to discuss plans for the rest of 2012. One upcoming event is the annual church yard sale which will be held one of the first weekends in June. If you would like to help be on a planning team for this, please contact me. We ask everyone to start collecting items you no longer need or use as donations for this sale (tell your friends, too).

Funds from the yard sale go to provide mission project funding, as well as numerous ongoing needs at PoP requested by the pastors and other committees. One recent request we were able to fulfill was to purchase new acolyte robes for children for the enhancement of our worship.

In Christ,
Jamie Schultz

Technology Update—Jeff Austin

Security, security and more security... like God's word in the Bible, we just can't have enough of it!

Mr. Sell and I are working on a easy access method on the PoP website to make available all the current and archived computer security articles.

In the meantime please check out these current ones from the F.B.I.

Current SCAMS

<http://www.ic3.gov/media/2012/120327.aspx>

This one has a 6 minute video that's really worth watching:

http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2012/march/shawn-henry_032712/shawn-henry_032712?utm_campaign=email-Immediate&utm_medium=email&utm_source=fbi-top-stories&utm_content=82950



Principal's Update—Jeff Sell

Playground

Thanks to the countless hours of volunteering, the many years of saving and buying Scrip, the dedication of CPA members, the multitude of gifts from individuals as well as various groups within the church and the congregation itself, a donation of concrete from Geneva Rock, and awesome weather provided by God, the playground has been successfully finished. Please take a few minutes to read all the children's Thank You cards that are hung inside the front entry. The children love the equipment and have made great use of it already.



General School News

It's truly hard to believe, but the school year is quickly coming to an end. We are in the 4th quarter and will finish on May 25.

Although we will experience some changes in staffing next year, we remain confident that the Lord has all things under His control and will work these changes for the good of His kingdom. Please keep our ministry to young and old in the Salt Lake area in your prayers.

Fine Arts Fair



This year's Fine Arts Fair for the school will be April 20, from 6:30-8:30PM. Once again, we are inviting children of the congregation in grades K-8 to participate in the musical portion of the fair. The guidelines for the music are:

(continued on top of next column)

1. All participants will select a piece to perform according to their level of ability.
2. All entrants are to dress neatly.
3. Participants may be in grades K-8.
4. All students must check their performance piece with Mrs. Sell **at least** one week prior to the Fine Arts Fair.
5. Types of performances allowed
 - a. Instrumental
 - i. Student may perform one solo per instrument.
 - ii. Solo or duet pieces are allowed.
 - iii. Students may perform a maximum of two instrumental pieces.
 - b. Vocal
 - i. Pieces may be performed a cappella or with accompaniment.
 - ii. Solos, duets, trios, and quartets are allowed.
 - iii. Students may not do more than one solo and one group piece.

In addition to music, the school children will display their art and take part in forensics—something similar to giving a speech. The evening promises to be one of great entertainment. Come and enjoy!

<u>YOU SAY</u>	<u>GOD SAYS</u>
"It's impossible"	<i>All things are possible</i> (Luke 18:27)
"I'm too tired"	<i>I will give you rest.</i> (Matthew 11:28-30)
"Nobody really loves me"	<i>I love you</i> (John 3:16 & 1 John 3:1)
"I can't go on"	<i>My grace is sufficient for you</i> (2 Corinthians 12:9)
"I don't know what to do"	<i>I will direct your steps</i> (Proverbs 3:5-6)
"I can't do it"	<i>You can do all things</i> (Philippians 4:13)
"I'm not able"	<i>I am able</i> (2 Corinthians 9:8)
"It's not worth it"	<i>It will be worth it</i> (Romans 8:28)
"I can't forgive myself"	<i>I forgive you</i> (Romans 8:1)
"I can't manage"	<i>I will supply all your needs</i> (Philippians 4:19)
"I'm afraid"	<i>Do not fear</i> (2 Timothy 1:7)
"I'm worried & frustrated"	<i>Cast all your cares on me</i> (1 Peter 5:7)
"I feel all alone"	<i>I will never leave you</i> (Hebrews 13:5)