



## Pastor's Message—*Pastor Jonathan Micheel*

*Do I know more about God and his Word than I did one year ago?*

*Has my understanding of God's Word grown since I finished Basic Christianity or Confirmation class?*

**"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18)**

Am I doing what God tells me in this verse? Am I growing "in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior"?

The questions above help me—and hopefully they will help you—evaluate this part of my life in Jesus. Am I growing? Am I getting to know my Lord better? Am I growing in my knowledge and understanding of the Bible?

Let me share three things I've learned about growing in God's Word.

### **I can always learn new things about God's Word.**

I used to wonder how pastors who had been preaching for 40 years still found anything new to say about the Bible. "Haven't they said everything that can be said?" I wondered.

Then as I served as a pastor for a few years I realized some things. One was that there are numerous truths in every part of the Bible—more than I can pack into one sermon or one Bible class. It's like watching a favorite movie again; you see new things each time you watch. I'm still amazed now that each time a preach a sermon based on a part of the Bible, even if it's a section I've talked about many times before, God always opens my eyes to new insights.

I realized also that even though God's Word did not change from year to year, *I* was changing. I might have heard Revelation chapter 7 many times before (the section that describes believers in glory, free from all sadness and pain). But when I heard that after my grandmother died, it struck me in a new way. I realized that heaven was not just populated by people who believed in Jesus; it was filled with *many people I knew and loved* who believed in Jesus. God's Word hadn't changed since the last time I heard it, but I had changed.

Share this amazement with me. Keep listening to the Bible and looking for new insights. Let the same familiar words impact you in new ways.

### **I need to keep reviewing what I've learned.**

Did you learn a foreign language in high school? Take a couple semesters of Spanish, maybe? If you did, do you still remember what you learned? I bet your answer will be one of two things: either, "No, I don't remember it because I didn't use the language much after I learned it," or, "Yes, I do remember the language because I use it frequently."

See what I'm getting at? Things I have learned about the Bible don't tend to stick with me unless I keep reviewing them and using them.

What we hear in church and discuss in Bible study—we might have learned these things already. We know these Bible stories. We know these concepts. But unless we keep reviewing them, they get blurry in our minds.

Keep learning the Bible—even the parts you've learned before. Then they'll stick even better, and you'll be able to remember God's Word and use it in your life.

### **My understanding of God's Word grows when I discuss it with people.**

One of the reasons I enjoy teaching Bible classes is that I learn from the people in the class. Yes, I also hope they're learning something from me! But I'm just one person, with one set of experiences. When other people in the class contribute their perspectives and relate how God's Word has intersected with their unique experiences, I gain new insight.

Maybe you're different. Maybe you don't gain tremendously from other people's comments. Okay. But then your role can be *to give and share* your thoughts with others. In other words, your role might be to serve others with the Word, in addition to being served. Your gift might be to encourage others, rather than simply being encouraged.

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Come to Bible class so that other people have the opportunity to help you grow in God's Word. Come to gain new perspectives on God's Word and to share your insight with other Christians.

***If I completely stop watering my lawn, will it stay alive?***

***If I completely stop exercising, will my body stay in the shape it is now?***

We're either growing in God's Word, or we're dying. Like a lawn. Like a human body. There is no such thing as effort-free staying in place when it comes to our lives in Christ; we are constantly in motion. The Holy Spirit is constantly active through his Scriptures and Sacraments to nurture our faith. Are we receiving that food for our souls and growing? Or are we saying, "No thanks," and regressing in these new lives God has given us?

I need forgiveness for not actively pursuing growth in God's Word as I should. Do you need the same forgiveness? We have it! Freely our God is giving his grace. Each day he is speaking through his Word. Often our sisters and brothers in faith are gathering to learn and grow together. Let's join them.



**"The Last Things"**

***Sunday mornings, beginning Sept. 25***

The world is going to end on October 12, according to Internet preacher Harold Camping. Or maybe the end of the world is 12/21/2112—when the ancient Mayan calendar ends. Really, what does the Bible say about the Last Day? Just as important: What does it *not* say? We will study God's Word about the Last Day and End Times, and we will also look at related questions: What happens when a person dies? What about heaven and hell? and other valuable questions.

**Confirmation Classes** *For those in 6th-8th grade (Note: adding 6th graders is new this year).*

***Sunday mornings, beginning Sept. 25 (Meeting for parents: Sept. 11)***

6th-8th (and sometimes 9th) graders learn the basics of the Christian faith. They learn from the Bible, using the classic Small Catechism as an outline. See Pastor Bater for more details.

**NEW Teen Bible Study** *For those in high school—grades 9-12*

***Sunday mornings, beginning Sept. 25***

Anyone in high school is invited to this new Bible study opportunity. Watch for more details!

**Early Morning Bible Study**

***Tuesdays, 6:30AM at the Coffee Club on Redwood Road***

We gather at a coffee shop on Tuesday mornings to discuss the parts of the Bible we'll be hearing the following Sunday in church. This is a great way to start your day, and to get a few extra days to think about the Scripture readings in church—many people have said that they understand the Sunday readings much better if they've pre-viewed them on Tuesday.

**Basic Christianity**

***Current session meets Wednesday evenings at 7:00 ~ Watch for new sessions beginning this fall***

This class is a great opportunity to learn and discuss the basics of the Bible. Geared for those who are new to the Christian faith, Basic Christianity is perfect for those who would like to know more about the Bible and what our church believes.

**"Who Is Jesus?"**

***Wednesday evenings, beginning Sept. 14***

This title sounds so simple. "Of course we know who Jesus is!" Yes, we do. He is our Savior and Lord. But in this class we will delve deeper into what God teaches us about who our Savior is and what he has done for us. We will tackle questions like these: Did Jesus have real human emotions? Is the body of Jesus present everywhere (how could that be)? Is Jesus 50% God and 50% human? What does it mean for me every day that Jesus is the ultimate High Priest? These questions and more, far from being useless religious information, affect our lives every day. Come see how, and get to know your Lord even better.

## Spiritual Welfare Board- Gary Cain, Elder

When I first came home after Navy boot camp, it seemed as though nothing had changed in my home town since my leaving. And over the years, it was the same, nothing seemed to change. So this time I certainly did not expect to see what was in store as I pulled into town after so many years.

My first turn after entering town would lead me to our old high school, so majestic it had looked standing there waiting for students to arrive. But as I made the turn, I was soon to see Jefferson Grade School was now gone and old Lincoln High was now a long stretch of dirt, the building long ago removed. How could that be? What were the town's founding fathers thinking to have let such a splendid building be reduced to such a sight?

With saddened heart I drove further up the hill to where the football field and track were located, hazarding to guess what might remain. Looking down I could see the grassy field. The grandstands were gone; there was no rope barrier that separated the crowds from the players. Cars that used to park above the field were now nowhere to be seen. No noise, only stillness hung in the air.

I left and began to drive down to Main Street and passed spaces in the ground where buildings had previously stood. The LDS Church, Billy Ramon's Texaco station and the Sugar Bowl had been demolished and removed. I drove past the old Congregational Church where I once sat staring out of majestic windows, now only boards remained in their place.

The more I drove the sadder I became. Where is the green and white Court House which had so proudly stood? It was now replaced by a modern new building housing all of the city business activities including the jail.

The old Catholic church was gone and along with it the former Post Office, which still stood but now as a museum. Down the street used to be the ISIS Theatre where as kids we spent hour after hour on Saturday mornings viewing the latest Roy Rogers and Gene Autry movies. Now only the façade with the clock remained and it stopped in time.

I parked the car and slowly began to walk around what had been the heart of our little town. Where was Model's drug store? It had been replaced by a law office, no chance to order a fountain drink from there.

I wished I could make it all like it used to be. If only I could blow off the hands of time and restore the town to what it had been... but I can't. I can't do anything but God can. "He restored my soul," wrote the shepherd. He may not restore the old town the way I remember it to be. But, rather He blows new life into the old. And in doing so, promises to stay with me forever; "I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28 v 20).

## Evangelism - Ali Salem, Chairman

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



The last couple years at Prince of Peace has been a testament to the blessings received through the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Record weekly worship service attendance; record Bible study participation; many children and adult baptisms and confirmations; and the recent amazing increase in enrollment at our day school. To our God be the Glory for this wonderful growth.

To be sure our church body as a whole, as well as individuals, still have many crosses to bear—all part and parcel of the earthly struggle it is to be followers of Christ. In his word, God makes it clear that during our struggle we should strive for a balance between feeding our new life in Christ with his Word and Sacraments, and sharing the message of the Gospel with the world. Matthew 28:19 says "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

This past month I was able to rejoice in the washing of rebirth in Holy Baptism of my youngest daughter. While standing at the baptismal font I could not help but think about the multitudes who have yet to know their Savior. Since we as Christians in service to Him share the undeserved love of God among each other as well as with our families, we should also desire to do so with everyone "all nations." These truly are not mutually exclusive. Sharing the Gospel message with others is another contact point for us with the saving word, to strengthen our new self. Also being in the word with Christ's righteousness reflecting in our lives is a witness to the world.

We have a unique opportunity in this valley to share the saving message with many who have not died to the law through Christ. Evangelism is something we all as believers do in professing Christ, however, we can never do it enough. I know many of you have a real zeal to get out and share, others may have feelings that they are not blessed with the gifts to witness, and still others may feel they are better suited for serving in other ways. But we must remember it is God who works through all things.

### Invite Someone



As the newly elected Evangelism Chairman I pray God will help me assist our congregation in visitor follow-up and outreach opportunities. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can help or have ideas to share, please contact Pastor Bater or myself. In the meantime, we have our annual Praise in the Park (continued on top of page four)

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(probably "Praise in the Parking Lot" at church this year) approaching, so invite your family, friends, co-workers, and anyone else you have the opportunity to tell. Join with me in thanking God for the many blessings God is pouring upon our church, and for him to continue to make Prince of Peace a welcoming home for new faces, so that many may rejoice in our future final home.

**Ali Salem**  
**Evangelism Chairman**  
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**W.I.S.H. - Nancy Ah Chong, President**



Join us for our September WISH Women's Activity

**Utah Gardening Secrets**  
 by Donna Carter  
 Master Gardener

**Saturday, September 17th**  
 3:00--6:00PM

Please bring a favorite snack!

Activity at Donna's:  
 1924 W. Kirkham Way  
 Taylorsville 801-834-3964

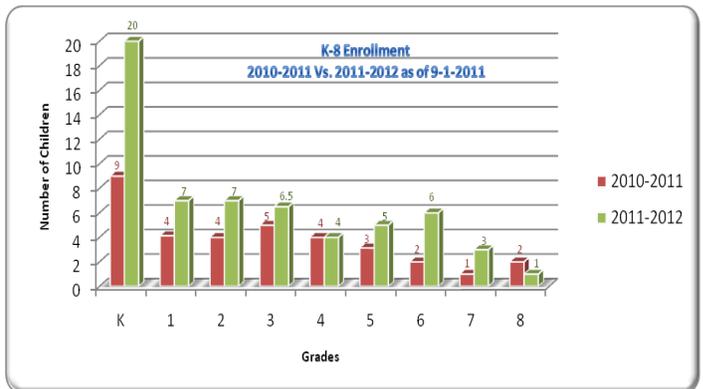
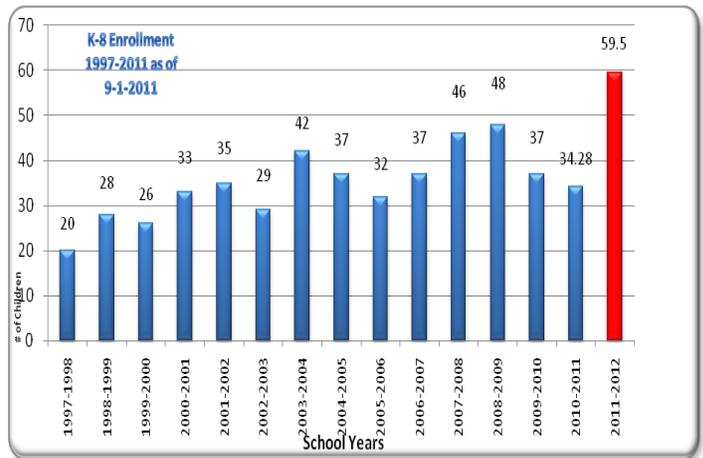


**Principal's Update- Jeff Sell**

**School Enrollment Update-** As of today, there are 59.5 children attending our school in grades K-8! The breakdown of students in the classrooms is as follows: Kindergarten=20, 1-3<sup>rd</sup> grades=20.5, 4-8<sup>th</sup> grades=19. Along with the blessing of a large grade school, we are also seeing higher than normal numbers for the preschool. Last year we had about 16 children in all our sessions while this year we have about 30. So, in all, the Lord has seen fit to increase our numbers by close to 80% growing from 50 to 90 children in preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. There are numerous possibilities why we are where we are: First and foremost is God's goodness and His ability to answer the prayers of His people, Trunk-or-Treat, the WISH yard sale, Taylorsville Dayzz (continued on next column)

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booth, word of mouth by school families and our congregational members, a dedicated staff, increased advertising, more congregational members making use of our school, lower tuition, summer program etc. As you can see, there are various ways the Lord has blessed us. He has allowed us to get out in our community and touch base with many people that were guided to us by Him. May we continue to make use of every opportunity to work while there is time and daily give thanks for the lavish blessings which we have all witnessed. To God be the Praise!



**Want to help but you don't know how? Here are a few ways you could do that:**

1. Right now we have one item times four on our Make a Wish Board located on the west wall of the gym. If you would like to purchase a replacement chime for our Tone Chime Choir, please speak with Mr. Sell. We are in need of \$55 x 4 (four cracked chimes needed to be replaced.)
2. Our goal is to raise enough money to replace our play structure and add some more swings! Please stop in the office today to set up a recurring order for your monthly purchases—grocery and gas...and maybe a few out-to-eat spots. If you have any questions about the SCRIP program, speak with Mrs. Sell or one of the secretaries.
3. Collect and bring in Box Top\$ for Education and Campbell's labels.