

The Seed

Edited by Stacie Thomas



Word of Light
Community Church

Note from the Editor:

So this intro is gonna be a bit different than usual. I don't have any 'cute' antics about my life, or a comparison of Superman to Christians... The message on Sunday was lo-o-o-o-ong one, but a good one! (If you haven't listened to it yet...I suggest you get comfy on the couch and make some popcorn and get a drink, because it'll take some time... and probably plan for a bathroom break...) But it will soooooo be worth it. Doug's personal 'best' (?) at one hour, twenty-four minutes and nineteen second long sermon... (Maybe since it's November and 'election' time- we should vote on selling concessions and installing recliners in the sanctuary... All in favor?...)

(And just for those who may have said (or even thought) that a sermon of that length is 'ridiculous' and too much to ask of the congregation... need I remind you that Jesus died on the cross for your sins, so a couple of hours on a Sunday really isn't too 'ridiculous' of Him to ask for...)

In lieu of an actual introduction- I'm just outlining some of *my* favorite key points- that really drove the message home. I don't expect them to hit you like they hit me (we're all on our own journey with Christ)—but I'd love to hear what you're 'take away' message or verses were... (post them on Facebook or message me back)

Matthew 9:13: "...I desire mercy and not sacrifice..." Your sacrifices don't mean anything if you don't have real love and mercy for those you're sacrificing for. [This hit me because I really am not a people-person. I am much more of a loner; a home-body. If a 'broken person' showed up at my door, I'd help... but I'm not one to go looking for them. (Probably why my 'serving' is done more through cyber space than physical space...)] (I suggest reading James 2:14-26. It'll drive this point home.)

"It's not about self-preservation, it's about reaching through the threat and [loving people]." [Huh- another sermon about how it's not about 'me'... – go figure...]

Reminder message about being 'lukewarm': "You're not getting all you can get with the world and you'll never experience what you can have with God—boy how miserable are we?!" We have to take that last step and say "I will live for God!" Ask yourself: "Is what I am doing dishonor my God in thought or action?" [Maybe we need to reread Revelation 3:16- Jesus despises those of us who are 'lukewarm']

"Honor God and love God in sacrificial choice." Romans 12:1-2. There is so much more (to life, and ultimately to eternity) if you get away from the world's view and focus on God. "Protect yourself from the things around you so you can do God's work while you're in the world." The problem is that one of the biggest things that you need to suit up against is coming from within churches. [This is so sad. Besides Jesus, we are all we have people! We need each other for encouragement and assistance to get through this world. No wonder the rest of the world won't take us (and consequently our Jesus) seriously—if we can't show love to our brothers (and the world sees that), why would 'they' bother to believe our love for them is any better or even real?]

Acts 20:30 hit me: "Even some men from your own will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following." [This was more of a personal reminder. It's not about me getting recognition or glory... it's about making sure I give all the glory to God.]

Why would you want to follow a God that is named in 'imperfect' Scriptures? How could you believe any one verse if others are fallible? How can you have peace about which Scriptures you can keep and which 'no longer apply'? "God's Word is full of reason beyond ours and it's perfect and it's eternal...No matter the cost, you follow it, you teach it; in love and in boldness and in unbending conviction. You do not back off... **A real God ought to cost you something.** And if it doesn't- who wants him?"

Face up to the truth on where you are with God right now. (Not whether you believe in God or not- 'demons believe and they shudder' James 2:19) "Salvation is a free gift and you can't earn it. But if you love the God that used His Own blood to purchase your soul—it will show through or it was fake. Nothing you do will earn your Salvation, so if you know who God is and you appreciate what He's done and you understand who you are in Him, and it doesn't change the way you live... then [you don't really love Him]." [Again, read James 2:14-26] "Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

The sum of the sermon is... Nope- I'm not gonna tell you. Listen to the message online, or read the recap in this newsletter. Each of us falls prey to these points at some time or another. (We're human after all, and live in a fallen world.) But it's acknowledging our errors, and then doing something about them that gets us closer to where we need to be. "It's not that God doesn't want you if you have these problems... it's that you don't want God." So do you really want God? Or are you just 'playing Christian'? (It's like playing possum- you're just as ugly and might as well be dead...) Christianity isn't for wimps (or possums)... **Get up!**

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Pastor Doug Doss

Christianity is Not for Wimps

There is a rapid shift of our entire cultural view towards Christians, Christianity and Christ. We need to be preparing ourselves in the midst of the changes, as discrimination and persecution are here. The days of 'playing church' and 'easy-believism' are over; there is no room for weak, half-hearted or timid believers in Christ anymore. From these days forward, you need to choose 'in or out', 'serving or not serving', 'Christ or no Christ'. With the world changing so drastically, we can't believe that we can continue on our paths and make a difference or even survive. There are imperative things we must do to continue as Christians.

Consider the Ebola virus: would it be logical to treat victims without wearing protection suits? Or to isolate infected people from all the healthy workers, leaving them to heal themselves? Both answers are ludicrous. But they are directly comparable to how many of us are treating the spiritual disease that has gone viral in our culture and world right now. Many are so close to and unprotected from what is happening spiritually that they are becoming infected quickly, while others are so fearful or downright angry about the shift in our culture that they don't want to have anything to do with the spiritually affected. We are the only people that can aid the spiritual victims. John 3:16-17, Matthew 9:9-13. We aren't called to hate or isolate ourselves from this uprising anger and hatred for our Christ; they are the very people He wants us to reach out to in love. We aren't just called to endure hardships and persecution as it increases; we are called on a mission to work harder than ever, to heal as many sick people as possible before the door closes. It's not about self-preservation, but reaching out through the threat. But we must be well protected (Suit Up!) to keep from becoming infected with their spiritual disease, since we will be exposed to them constantly. John 1:14-16, James 4:4-5. God doesn't call us away from many of the things in the world because He is strict; He does so because He knows the selfish mentality that is behind most of it; He knows it steals your heart and ruins your relationship with Him and others; He knows the darkness and the attitude that comes with much of it. 1 John 3:2-3, 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8, 2 Corinthians 6:17-18. God calls things of the world 'filthy' and they defile the body and spirit. Our mind records everything we hear and see—it becomes a part of us in some minute way. So much that we do conditions us to lust, makes us numb to hatred, disrespect and attitude, perversion and immorality, selfishness... Ask yourself: "Does it dishonor my God in thought or action?" (how many movies, tv shows, internet, music, clothing, relationships, habits would you have to change or stop?) We've got to protect our minds and hearts from the world and honor and love God through each sacrificial choice. Romans 12:1-2. Is God the center of your life or not? And sadly, one of the biggest things we need to 'suit up' against is coming from within many churches of all denominations. Romans 16:17-18, Acts 20:29-30, Galatians 1:6-8. Dangerous, blasphemous lies are being told in churches (God's will is to bring you health and wealth; positive



SUIT UP!

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 (NLT)

¹⁷ Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. ¹⁸ And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

¹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

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2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God...

Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Psalms 12:6-7 (NKJV)

⁶ The words of the LORD *are* pure words, *Like* silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times. ⁷ You shall keep them, O LORD, You shall preserve them from this generation forever.

Matthew 24:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Psalms 119:160 (NKJV)

¹⁶⁰ The entirety of Your word *is* truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.

CHEER UP!

Acts 5:40-42 Philippians 3:7-11 Matthew 5:11-12

FACE UP!**1 John 1:6 (NKJV)**

⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

1 John 4:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 2:3-5 (NKJV)

³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

SUIT UP!

Sanctify yourself even more from the crazy ways of the world, so that you may WORK INTIMATELY WITH THEM to save the sick!

**CHEER UP!**

Understand what Christ really did... Know this is the chance to show love back and embrace it - Realizing you are earning incredible eternal rewards!

FACE UP!

Evaluate your true devotion to God based on how far you are willing to separate yourself from the world's ways, and on how much His Name may cost you... And acknowledge where you really stand!



thinking and language will bring favor and blessing; Scriptural interpretations change with the times and cultures; Scriptures are man-made attempts to express God). These attempts are to change your focus from God to self; to doubt God and His plan; to indulge in any life you want with approval; to draw in large groups of people more interested in religion than God. 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Matthew 4:4, Psalm 12:6-7, Matthew 24:35, Psalm 119:160, Matthew 5:18. God's Word is full of wisdom beyond ours; it's perfect and eternal- no matter the cost. We are to follow and teach it, in love, with boldness and pure unbending conviction- wherever the chips may fall.

After you protect yourself, learn to 'Cheer Up!' as the persecution levels rise. Everyone has a mentality of wishing we were in different times- we're miserable, fearful- but we have the wrong view of the times in which we live. Acts 5:40-42, Philippians 3:7-11. Peter and Paul were honored to lose all for Christ. It was a coveted change to truly show their gratitude and love for Jesus. Matthew 5:11-12. Jesus says to literally be happy when we are persecuted because He is totally eternally minded and sees what we earn in the world to come. If we could see these times of increasing persecution in the eyes of what is truly important in our world as our chance to show our love and devotion to Christ; or as our chance to earn rewards in eternity; or as our chance to win broken people to Christ- we could begin to have some joy in these tough times- instead of having fear and anxiety.

After we protect ourselves joyfully, we need to 'Face Up' to the truth of where you may really be right now in your faith. Not whether you believe in God or not; but whether your belief and love are visible. Salvation is a free gift that can't be earned, but if you love God, it will show through. When thinking of 'Suiting Up' to protect yourself- do you find things you're not willing to let go of? Things that the world has impressed on you so deeply that you don't want to let go of them- even for God? (improper relationship, lifestyle, habit, attitude of anger, control, lust, apathy, lack of love for others) 1 John 1:6, 1 John 2:3-5, 1 John 2:15-17, 1 John 4:7-8, 1 John 4:20-21. It's not that God doesn't want you- it's that your actions show you really don't want Him. You have so much to lose by not changing your lifestyle! 2 Corinthians 6:6-10.

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John 3:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

2 Corinthians 6:6-10 (NLT)

⁶ We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love. ⁷ We faithfully preach the truth. God's power is working in us. We use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defense. ⁸ We serve God whether people honor us or despise us, whether they slander us or praise us. We are honest, but they call us impostors...⁹ We are ignored, even though we are well known. We live close to death, but we are still alive. We have been beaten, but we have not been killed. ¹⁰ Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.

To submit pieces for publication to or for questions regarding The Seed, please contact Stacie Thomas: info@wordoflightcc.com



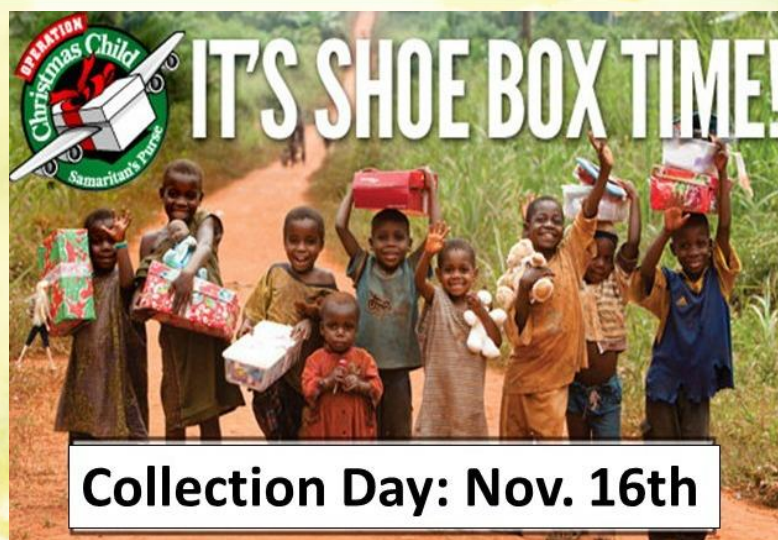
We need more than just actors so won't you please share your talents?

Contact Pastor Doug Doss to volunteer!

(Set Up starts at 5:45)

LIVE NATIVITY:

December 4, 5, 6 & 19 6:30p-9:30p



Collection Day: Nov. 16th

130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan's Purse works with local churches and ministry partners to deliver the gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ.

<http://www.samaritanaspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

November Birthdays

1- Carrel Prince
16- Jim Thomas
29- Hayli Blankenship

November Anniversaries

11- Daniel & Shari Hardwich

November Events

8- Steph Davis & Ryan Childress' wedding
16- Shoeboxes due
16- Nativity Meeting
16- Fellowship Lunch
26- FLOCK's Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving 6:30, \$5

Steph Davis & Ryan Childress

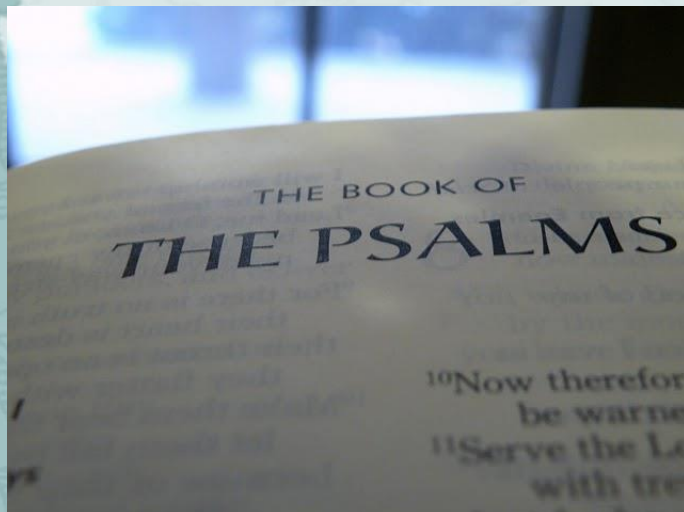


November 8: Their wedding!

**Don't forget to bring food pantry items on Sunday*

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P.A.C.T. (Prayer Accountability Commitment Trust)
(9:30am Sundays) Adult Sunday School class



PACT resumes studying the book of Psalms; looking at the Hebrew writing styles, the authors, and the many purposes of the Psalms. The Psalms give us everything from prophecy, to history, to learning how to worship, to learning how to pray, to learning righteous living, to learning expressions of every heartfelt emotion to God!

Next Chapters: 48 - Read ahead
& be prepared to discuss!

MINISTRIES:



The Women's Bible Study meets every Monday evenings at 7:00.

W.I.N.G.S. (Women In Need of God's Strength)
 Women's Bible Study (Every Monday 7:00pm)
 All women aged 18 and over are invited to join the ladies with unique bible studies. They are studying the book of James.

<http://www.wordoflightcc.com/women.html>

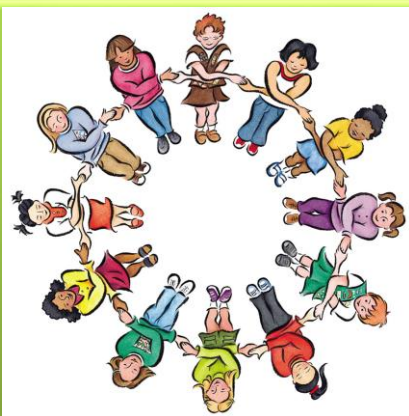
For information regarding the group, please see Ginny Blankenship.



The Youth Group meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 and Wednesday evenings at 6:30.

The F.L.O.C.K. (Faith, Love and Obedience to Christ the King) Uth Group (Sundays 10:30am and Wednesdays at 6:30pm)

Youth in grades 6-12 are encouraged to join in the activities of our Youth Group, focusing on the core values of the Christian Church: Fellowship, Missions, Worship, Evangelism and Teaching.



Children's Sunday School meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 and Children's Church during the sermon.

Children: Sunday School and Children's Church- boys and girls in kindergarten through sixth grade. The goal of these classes is to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4)

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West Side Story Project

As you've probably heard by now, our Church has taken the step in purchasing land that came upon us during our Church-wide fasting... With donations and our savings included, we now have a total of over \$50,000 towards our building and land fund goal. Our goal to buy the land outright and start the ground breaking

HAS BEEN REACHED!!!!

Won't you join us in our Building Pledge Drive!?!?!?
We've reached our goal to start- but we need your help to keep it going!

KEEP PRAYING FOR THE BUILDING!

<http://wordoflightcc.com/WSSP.html>

\$50,000

\$25,000

\$0

Looking for a previous version of The Seed? Find it on the website along with its' corresponding sermon link- Now you can catch up on any sermons you missed, or review them when you need it. <http://www.wordoflightcc.com/nLarchive>



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SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Sunday School-9:30 a.m.
Worship-10:45 a.m.

Wednesday

Adult Service-7:00 p.m.
FLOCK Uth Service-6:30 p.m.



**S
P
R
O
U
T**



or get OUT

Matthew 13:1-23