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His study of the Bible has been dominated by an approach that seeks answers. Not answers to life problems, but a searching for Bible doctrines, and now his Bible study is failing him.

The neat little packages of Bible answers have tattered bows and frayed ribbons. The lofty platitudes sound hollow and meaningless to him.

We spoke about God wanting the “broken you” as fervently as he wants the “got it all together you”. That is really hard for him to believe. He wants to give his best to God, feels ashamed that he is a “failure” at so many things. He knows the Scriptures as well as any of us. He knows God sent Jesus “while we were yet sinners”, and understands that we enter heaven by God’s grace.

But he has this idea that before he dies, he needs to get it “fixed”. He thinks that if a disciple is following God properly, his life will be respectable, successful, and noteworthy. See, somehow he thinks he has to be “good enough”. I would never suggest that we shouldn’t be doing our best, that is what discipleship is... trying to look like God.

But, it isn’t having it all fixed or being good enough. We will fail at that one.

*Grace and Peace,
Carl*

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

**St John Church of Christ
609 N Pearl
St John, KS 67576
620-549-6146**



Today, as you are hearing, Zeb Carter is here to speak. I’ve taken Janet out to meet her brothers in Colorado for the weekend. I appreciate Zeb’s willingness to fill in for me when I am gone. I trust his heart for Jesus and desire to do God’s will. I have every confidence in his thoughtful presentation of God’s word today.

I spent a number of hours this week with a friend struggling to hold on. There is no question that this person believes in God. You have to believe in God to be mad at him. He is mad... mad, confused, confounded, and feeling like he is out of options. Things haven’t gone according to his plans. In fact he is living his worst nightmare. Relationally, things are a mess. Unwanted, unneeded, unapproachable are all words that might be part of his self description.

He is a praying man often, deep and earnestly... but he feels the words don’t get out of the room. At least he can’t see the impact of his prayers in his day to day life.

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SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
 Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
 Worship Service—10:45 am
 Afternoon Service—1:15 pm

WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm

ELDERS: Richard Brensing, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,
 Terry Sallee, George Shelton

DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

TREASURER: Richard Brensing

Worship Order for August 31, 2014

SONG LEADER: Gary Hornbaker
 GATHERING SONG: No. 38—Awesome God
 WELCOME: Tom Turner
 SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 68:32-35 (Chris Mansel)
 SONGS: No. 508—A Wonderful Savior (vs 1,2)
 No. 509—I Will Sing the Wondrous Story
 No. 266—Majesty
 No. 286—Wonderful Story of Love
 No. 781—Thank You, Lord
 PRAYER: Garland Mansel
 SONG: No. 287—There is a Redeemer
 COMMUNION: Richard Brensing
 Orrin Feril
 Fred Johnson
 Ben Sizemore
 SONG: No. 853—When We All Get to Heaven
 LESSON: Zeb Carter (*Children's Bible Hour*)
 SONG: No. 902—Nothing But the Blood (vs 1)
 PRAYER: Terry Sallee

(CCLI #2440129)

Welcome Visitors

We are pleased you have joined us in worship—please come again!

Upcoming Events at Silver Maple Camp

- **Ladies Retreat:** Sept 19-20 [hosted by the ladies of the churches in Penalosa and Pratt; theme is “You Are the Light of the World.” Registration forms are available.]
- **Men's Retreat:** Oct 19-21 [the guest speaker will be Richard Oster, of Harding University; he is considered an expert on Ephesus and the book of Ephesians]
- **Adult Retreat:** Nov 15
- **Teen Retreat:** Nov 21-23

Ladies Bible Study

The Bible study for the ladies here will begin again on Saturday, September 27th, at 9:30 am. There will be more studies from the same book used last year. There are still extra copies if anyone would like one. A volunteer is needed to bring food for a light breakfast (brunch). See Pam or Janet if you would like to do this.

Garden City Ladies Day

Saturday, October 4th; the theme will be “Dancing in the Rain.”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Gladys Hornbaker 9/2
 Laura Wyatt 9/5 (100 yrs old!)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Jerry & Kay Kinnamon 9/2
 Garland & Dena Mansel 9/3
 Chris & Marisa Mansel 9/4

Prayer Requests

(Please provide updates to Janet)

Gladys Hornbaker—had eye surgery on Friday
Shirley Brensing (Richard's mother) - is still in the hospital in Wichita recovering from surgery
Nick & Kara Neidig, Easton and Landon—continue to keep this family in prayer as little Landon undergoes additional heart surgeries
Fidellas Loy (coworker with Joy in Macksville) - procedure last week; home and doing well
Kay Kinnamon—recent partial hip replacement
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother)—HomePlus in Stafford
Don Hornbaker—Kenwood Plaza
Baylee Sizemore's Aunt Suzanne—Leukemia
Dennis Lyons (Chet's brother)—health concerns
Charlene Lyons (Chet's sister-in-law, Dennis' wife) - health concerns
Diane Manilla (Meagan's sister-in-law's mother) - cancer
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - health concerns
Danny Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - health concerns
Theo Birkett—Tara's mother
Barbara Schuette—Marla's half-sister
Jim Sorensen—Tara's brother-in-law; brain tumor
Jim Soukup—Gingrich's son-in-law (Shari's husband)
Vic & Phyllis Staub—Kenwood Plaza
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Wilbur Kinnamon—Leisure Homestead—Stafford
Margaret Marks (Ned's mother) - declining health

Thanks to Zeb for preaching in Carl's absence today, and to others who made it possible for Carl & Janet to be gone for the weekend!

Church Website - www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org