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BETHEL

church

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FROM THE HEART OF THE PASTOR

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" In response, Jesus quoted the Shema: Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."
—Matthew 22:35–40

These two commands encapsulate the entire covenant made between God and His people in Deuteronomy. "Heart," "soul," and "mind" aren't meant as separate categories: We are to love and obey God with our entire being.

What does it mean to love God with your heart, soul, and mind? Why did Jesus say this was the greatest commandment?

Jesus identified this as the greatest commandment—our highest calling, central purpose, and ultimate goal. That seems like a tall order. It can feel like an overwhelming challenge or just an abstract idea.

In Deuteronomy 6, we find the command to love God with "all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (v. 5). The Israelites were preparing to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land (v. 1). Just one chapter earlier, the Lord had given Moses the Ten Commandments, containing instructions for His people. They were to observe these commandments and teach them to their children. If they obeyed, God would give them prosperity and longevity (vv. 2–3).

In the center of today's reading, verses 4–5, is what is known in Jewish tradition as the Shema. This prayer, one of the most important to Jewish people, begins with a call to "hear" (or "obey"). The supremacy of Israel's God is proclaimed, as is the communal life of His people (v. 4). The Shema also asked people to listen and to respond with love. This love would be marked by their obedience to God's commands. "Love" and "obey" are interchangeable in the Shema. To love is to obey. To obey is to love.

Listen, early in the life of His people - God revealed His supreme will for man: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart" (Deuteronomy 6:5). The same revelation was given to John: "for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7). Paul declares: "The fruit of the Spirit is love" (Galatians 5:22). Jesus himself tells us His Father's will for us: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart ... and thy neighbor as thyself" (Luke 10:27). Is it any wonder that John Wesley declared of the doctrine of perfect love: "I tell you, as plain as I can speak, where and when I found this. I found it in the oracles of God, in the Old and New Testaments, when I read them with no other view or desire but to save my own soul"?

In answer to the question, "What is Christian perfection?" Wesley replied: "Pure love, reigning alone in the heart and life, this is the whole of scriptural perfection ... The loving God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. This implies that no wrong [attitude], none contrary to love, remains in the soul; and that all the thoughts, words, and actions are governed by pure love." When asked, "Is there no danger of a man being deceived about being sanctified?" Wesley answered: "So long as he feels nothing but love animating all his thoughts and words and actions he is in no danger." As you read this today, "Do you truly Love God with your whole being and do you obey His Word to us today? If we truly love God this way, we will also love our neighbors – this is what it means to live a holy life!

~Pastor Weldon Shuman

Church Events

- April 2 - Ladies' Bible Study starts
- April 3 - Lunch Bunch
- April 6 - Men's Wild Game Dinner
- April 7 - Missions Service; Grandparent Class starts again
- April 10 - Pinewood Derby Clinic
- April 12 - Dinner Melodrama Fundraiser
- April 14 - Baptism Service; House of Prayer
- April 16 - 50-UP Fellowship
- April 17 - Board Mtg
- April 19 - Pinewood Derby
- April 24-26 - District Assembly
- April 25 - Ordination Service
- April 26 - Game Night
- April 28 - Pastor Kym's Ordination Celebration

Look what's happening...

Lunch Bunch - ALL WOMEN (young, old, married, single) who want to have fellowship together are invited to join in on the 1st Wednesday (April 3) of every month at 11:45am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a sack lunch and come meet new people! Call Bertie @ 208-800-7541 if you have any questions.

50-UP April 16 @ 5:45pm - Entertainment this month will be Sisters Promise! Our meal this month will be "Breakfast for Dinner" and it will be provided. Please signup at the Welcome Desk if you can come. Also, mark the sheet if you need a ride.

Game Night - April 26 @ 6pm - EVERYONE is invited to join in. Please bring a favorite game and a snack to share. Just table games in the Fellowship Hall this month. Don't prefer games? Come for the fellowship!

Men's Wild Game Dinner April 6 @ 5:30pm - men of ALL ages are invited to this fun night of fellowship! The main event will be in the Fellowship Hall; axe throwing will begin promptly at 5:30pm in the parking lot. Bring a wild game dish or a dish that is "wild" to share. There will be a special speaker.

Ladies' Bible Study - starts Tues., April 2 @ 9:30am "As For Me" by Adrienne Camp. Books are \$21. Signup for childcare in the foyer.

Don't mind our mess! During the month of April we will be working on updating parts of the main building. Certain areas will look a little rough for a bit and there may be times you are re-routed to a different entrance than you are used to for ministry. Be patient with us! The end product will be lovely.



Intermountain District Assembly

April 24-26, 2024 at College Church

Wednesday, April 24: Celebration Service at 7pm

Thursday, April 25:

8:30am to 5:00pm - Missionary speakers, Assembly business, workshops, reports

7:00pm - Ordination Service

Friday, April 26:

8:30 to Noon - Workshops, Assembly business, Message from G.S. Dr. David Busic

*All delegates have been notified...please let us know if you can't attend. Anyone is welcome to just attend.

Pastor Kym's Ordination

We are so excited and proud to announce that our very own Pastor Kym Slater will be ordained this month!

The Ordination Service will be Thursday, April 25 at 7pm at College Church. Then on Sunday, April 28th at 7pm we'll have a special reception with light refreshments following the evening service.

Join us in celebrating with Kym & Scott!



Dinner Melodrama Fundraiser

Friday, April 12 @ 6:00pm ~ Teen Center

Join us for the theatrical presentation of "The Dastardly Villain of Prickly Heat".

Dinner will be a Potato Bar & Dessert.

Tickets are \$10 adults / \$5 for kids 12 & under. (We're using tickets to help plan enough food.)

All donations go to the Teen Guatemala Work & Witness Trip.

3D KIDS Pinewood Derbys!

Friday, April 19 @ 6:30pm

In the Teen Center

The clinic will be held Wed., April 10 @ 6:30pm.

Parents must attend with their children.

The derby cars & kits are free to the kids this year; parents can purchase a car for \$7 each.

Contact Pastor Kym with questions.

Young Adult Ministry

New! Monday nights @ 6:30pm come hang out with Pastor Des and study the Word!

There are 2 Sunday school classes that meet at 9am & 10:45am.

Thursday night Bible Study at the Nielsen home. They serve free dinner! Come find a place to plug in.

SUMMER CAMP AT TRINITY PINES!

The Intermountain District is excited to announce they will host camps this summer! Registration is OPEN and **Early-Bird pricing ends April 15**. We will be offering scholarship funds for campers this year. You MUST fill out a Bethel Scholarship form (available in the foyer) and turn it into the office by May 1st for pastoral approval to receive scholarship funds. There are also scholarships available through the District. Mark your calendars! www.tpines.org

Genesis Camp - Girls: June 10-12; Boys: June 12-14

KIDS Camp - June 24-28

Sr. High Camp - June 17-21

Jr. High Camp - July 15-19