



Women of the Word

Welcome

Do you ever find yourself feeling stuck? Maybe nothing is really wrong, but somehow it doesn't feel like everything is really right either. I think the Bible would call this discontentment. When I find myself in that spot, I ask myself where my eyes are. Am I looking at the world—the latest fashions (that I don't have)? Everyone else's vacation pictures? The little stuff that seems to keep going wrong in my life?? Sisters, God has so much more for us!! Ask Him to help you fix your eyes on things above, on blessings, on opportunities to serve others. A little change of perspective can go a long ways!! Remember: *But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 1 Timothy 6:6-7.*

In Christ,

Melanie Woltje

Women's Ministry Team Leader

Mission Statement

FBC Women's Ministry exists to empower our ladies to use their God-given gifts in accordance with God's will.

April Guest Column - Vanessa Wisdom

In Colossians chapter 3, Paul is contrasting the “old life” of the unbeliever and the “new life” of a follower of Christ. He says to the believer, you have died to the old way of life, and your new life is in Christ, so put to death sinful earthly things. Stop being angry, selfish and greedy. Have nothing to do with impurities, sexual immorality, hurtful speech and evil desires. This new life in Christ produces a new way of living. As God's chosen holy people, scripture states that we are to clothe ourselves with mercy, kindness, patience, forgiveness and love. In verse 13, Paul instructs the believer that ***“whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus.”***

Dear sisters, I pray for you and ask you to pray for me as we fight this battle to die to the flesh and live each day rightly representing Christ our King! I love you all and I count it all joy to walk through life with you. I am always available if you need anything!

Love, Vanessa

Enjoy this bookmark to print!

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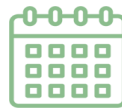


Bible Studies

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM - Joan Little's House (26675 P Road) - Topic Varies

Upcoming Summer Bible Study

Watch for Details!



Upcoming Events

2nd Tuesday of each month - Jhett's lunch at 11:30

Thursday April 23rd - Girl's Night Out Trails Café, 6:15pm

Saturday June 13th - Summer Event

More details to come soon, but plan for a morning of fun and fellowship!

****These dates are subject to change****

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The Heart of Christ: Pursuing

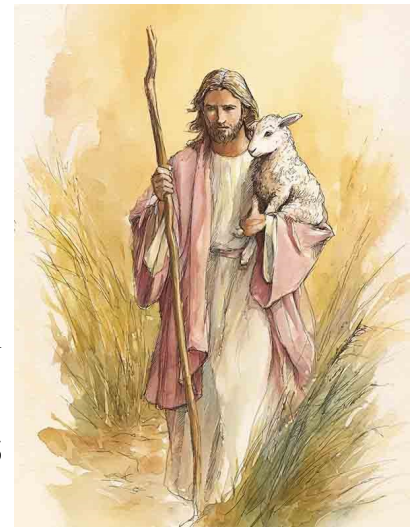
There is no place we can go where Christ will not travel. His eyes scan the earth, seeking the hearts of His people. Pursuit was a part of God's character from the beginning, as God pursued Adam and Eve when they sinned. He walked in the garden, looking for His children, while they hid from Him.

Even when we try to run through the dark forest of our sin, we cannot escape the Lord's love. Such a forest is only full of things that are destructive—the reality of living outside of a relationship with God. There are jagged rocks and broken branches. There are creatures, lurking in the shadows and peering with their yellow eyes from caves. Evil thought it had us trapped in the forest of sin, but by His saving work, Jesus radiated His light of salvation through the trees.

Jesus came to earth as the eternal Word, the eternal Son of God, wrapped within human bones and sinews. Though truly Man, Jesus did not compromise His divinity. The Son's holiness and glory still shone through His perfect obedience. With this light, Jesus came after us—we who put our faith in Him. Jesus heard the cries of the faithful, like a shepherd knowing the voice of his lost sheep. We wandered, not knowing the right direction in life and always choosing the wrong path. But our Savior brought us direction and comforted us with His presence. When He found us on our life's journey, Jesus rejoiced in this reunion. His nearness to us was His concern and mission.

God's pursuit in Jesus shows that we are His children and Christ's bride. Parents chase after their missing children and do not rest until they are safe in their arms. They search day and night for their little ones. Jesus embodied the Father's search for His endangered sons and daughters. In addition to being children of God, we are also the bride of Christ. Jesus is the Bridegroom who pursues our hearts. Like the man who woos and sacrifices for the woman of his affection, Christ softened our hardness and laid down His life for our sin. We can now rest, for God's chase brought us to an eternal place in His hand.

Additional reading... John 1:11-14, Matthew 18:10-14, Isaiah 62:5
(The Heart of Christ from The Daily Grace Co.)



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The Threefold Use of the Law

Every Christian wrestles with the question, how does the Old Testament law relate to my life? Is the Old Testament law irrelevant to Christians or is there some sense in which we are still bound by portions of it? As the heresy of antinomianism becomes ever more pervasive in our culture, the need to answer these questions grows increasingly urgent.

The Reformation was founded on grace and not upon law. Yet the law of God was not repudiated by the Reformers. John Calvin, for example, wrote what has become known as the "Threefold Use of the Law" in order to show the importance of the law for the Christian life (Institutes 2.1.304-10).

The first purpose of the law is to be a mirror. On the one hand, the law of God reflects and mirrors the perfect righteousness of God. The law tells us much about who God is. Perhaps more important, the law illumines human sinfulness. Augustine wrote, "The law orders, that we, after attempting to do what is ordered, and so feeling our weakness under the law, may learn to implore the help of grace" (Institutes 2.7.9). The law highlights our weakness so that we might seek the strength found in Christ. Here the law acts as a severe schoolmaster who drives us to Christ.

A second purpose for the law is the restraint of evil. The law, in and of itself, cannot change human hearts. It can, however, serve to protect the righteous from the unjust. Calvin says this purpose is "by means of its fearful denunciations and the consequent dread of punishment, to curb those who, unless forced, have no regard for rectitude and justice" (Institutes 2.7.10). The law allows for a limited measure of justice on this earth, until the last judgment is realized.

The third purpose of the law is to reveal what is pleasing to God. As born again children of God, the law enlightens us as to what is pleasing to our Father, whom we seek to serve. The Christian delights in the law as God Himself delights in it. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). This is the highest function of the law, to serve as an instrument for the people of God to give Him honor and glory.

By studying or meditating on the law of God, we attend the school of righteousness. We learn what pleases God and what offends Him. The moral law that God reveals in Scripture is always binding upon us. Our redemption is from the curse of God's law, not from our duty to obey it. We are justified, not because of our obedience to the law, but in order that we may become obedient to God's law. To love Christ is to keep His commandments. To love God is to obey His law.

(ESV Reformation Study Bible; Theological Notes)

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