

# BETHEL MATTERS

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### *The Wonderful Christian Life in Three Amazing Verses*

Recently the *Tuesday Men's Bible Study* went through Philippians together. When we got to chapter three it struck me that vv. 9-11 are a nutshell summary of the three phases of our salvation in consecutive order: justification, sanctification and glorification. I thought, *How many places can you go where in three simple verses the entire scope of salvation is laid out for us?* It is amazing the things we learn as we look at Scripture afresh.

**Verse 9 is Justification:** *that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.*

This is the wonderful truth that the gospel proclaims a righteous standing with God that is not earned by law-keeping, but is bestowed on sinners who trust the finished work of Christ on the cross for their salvation. This is the great truth that Martin Luther learned when he discovered that "*the righteousness of God*" in Romans 1:17 is not the righteousness that God demands, but the righteousness that God gives to those who trust in Jesus. That glorious truth relieved all of Luther's anxieties about how he could be right with God and ushered in the mighty Protestant Reformation that has brought salvation to multitudes.

**Verse 10 is Sanctification:** *that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.*

Sanctification is the second stage in salvation and is clearly a process of becoming more righteous in our behavior. It is becoming in practice what we are in standing before God. Note that verse 10 tells us how we grow in this ongoing process. **First**, we grow in our experience of Christ (by getting to *know him* better). This is clearly a life-transforming knowledge because it results in *the power of his resurrection*. Getting to know Christ directly and personally leads to sinning less and obeying Him more as He changes our lives thru our knowledge of Him. **Second**, we *share his sufferings* (which refine us and deepen us). One of God's best tools for cutting away the works of the flesh is suffering because it humbles us and causes us to wait upon God and submit to His purposes. Charles Spurgeon said suffering is the best book in a pastor's library. We learn things from pain we can learn in no other way. **Third**, we grow by self-denial as we take up our cross following Jesus, *becoming like him in his death*. Being conformed to Christ's death is walking the costly way of self-denial by denying what hinders our growth and pursuing what helps it. A mentor once told me that the difference between most students is not ability, but self-discipline. That is true in sanctification also.

**Verse 10 is Glorification:** *that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.* Paul is anticipating the glorious day when in a moment, the twinkling of an eye, we shall be changed into Christ's glorious likeness (see vv. 20, 21). Like justification, this is an event that happens instantaneously and we are just people finally made perfect. The uncertainty in v. 10 is not of arrival, but of means of arrival. Will Paul go by the Rapture or by death before Jesus' returns? He did not know. But he did know it was certain, as it is for us too. PTL!

Your friend, in three amazing verses,  
Pastor Brian (-:-).

## From the Family Life Pastor:

As I write this article, Ann & I are visiting family in Minot, North Dakota. It has been a wonderful visit, and we have had a lot of good times of laughing and good conversations. We are so grateful for family.

Our granddaughter Cara's basketball team played in the North Dakota regional championship games and won - it seems like much to the surprise of the whole area, and even themselves in many ways - beating some very good teams. When you are at a sporting event, it is a lot of fun to watch fans. Many look at things in a variety of ways, and we each see things in our own way.

It made me think of God's Word - in the book of Numbers that I have been reading in my daily reading, it has been interesting to read about how the people react to things. For instance, the Lord had been supplying them with food, security and health all during their journey, and the people would complain about things all the time.

One of the complaints came in Numbers 11:4-6 ***“Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, ‘Oh that we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at’”***. Notice a couple of things, and think about the complaints around you. First, the complaints started with ***“rabble”*** which essentially means that they people causing the problems were trouble makers. This is true in “life”, people who are being blessed in many ways find ways to complain about many things that they should be thankful for instead. For an example, as we were watching the end of a couple of the games, there was a father, who is pretty much supportive of the team and coaches etc, kept complaining because the coach didn't call time out when he had them to use - the team was winning the games, but this father was complaining about the use or lack of use of time outs. A very small and unimportant thing in the big scheme of things.

The next thing that we see is that they were ungrateful for the way God was doing things. They wanted ***“meat”*** to eat even though they had their fill of the manna that God supplied daily. In our lives, we can either complain about the things we don't have, or we can focus on the blessing of having enough food to eat - the things that we need for our daily living - and be grateful to God

for the way we are blessed. It really depends upon what our focus is. Again, and frankly, I can get caught up in this attitude in a basketball game, we start to complain about the “reffing” in a game, while our players are out there working their hearts out we sit and complain about a call or calls that were made or not made while we are watching the game. I'm reminded of what God's Word says in Colossians 3:15 ***“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you are called in one body. And be thankful.”*** Notice the conclusion - and be thankful. These Israelites were being cared for in every way - their clothes were not wearing out, they were in good health, they were being well fed and cared for, and yet all they could think about is what they did not have - the spices, etc that they had in Egypt - where they were SLAVES. Instead of focusing on the positive, they were remembering a negative thing in a way that was not healthy - they were taken from slavery by God and now they wanted to go back to that slavery. Sometimes we were taken out of sin and we are very grateful, but then we start looking back over our shoulders and considering going back to a sinful lifestyle. God wants us to be filled with His peace and to be thankful.

Another even that took place while we were here in North Dakota was that our son Brian got a promotion to Lieutenant. He was very nervous and uncertain but hopeful that he would get the promotion. We prayed very diligently for him over a few days and he said that he could feel the prayer support. We need to pray about things frequently. In 1 Thessalonians 1:2 we read ***“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers”***. We are supposed to do this for one another - pray for one another as the family of God, mentioning each other in prayer, being thankful for one another, being faithful in praying for the real needs for one another. I am grateful that Brian got this promotion, and of course we felt that he was the most qualified and deserving, but in my prayers, I was praying that he would have a peace in the interview, and also that he would have the peace of God to accept things regardless of how it went.

I am so thankful that we have a God who is faithful and is aware of what is good and best for us. He is watching and He is listening! Thank you God!

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Hank

## Youth Events & Activities

### Junior High Youth Group

6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Graders  
Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

### Senior High Youth Group

9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders  
Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

#### Questions:

Chris Mauser, Director of Youth Ministries  
330-550-0141  
[christopher.mauser@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.mauser@gmail.com)

#### Prayer Chain & Official Notices

[bethelemail@gmail.com](mailto:bethelemail@gmail.com)

If you have a prayer request or information that you want shared, please send that to the email address above. If you are not receiving email prayer requests or notices, please contact Ann or Ellen in the church office at 228-7589.

**Items for the April Issue  
of Bethel Matters  
are due in the office  
by, Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Items for the Happenings  
are due in the office  
by Wednesday noon.**

Have you visited our Bethel Website?

Check it Out at:

[www.bethelmarquette.com](http://www.bethelmarquette.com)

Audio Sermons are posted weekly  
along with items of interest,  
Bethel Matters, Calendar,  
and Happenings.

#### March Birthday/Anniversary to:

5. Jedidiah White
6. Patti Lingle
7. Myrna Peters
9. Silas Loewen, Kyla Loewen
12. Joy Oberg
13. Susan Moore
14. Dorothy Patrick
16. Tim & Judy Larson (A)
18. Dan Johnson, Pete Glover, Karl Kytta, Scott Loukinen
19. Violet Hallberg
20. Sandra Paul
22. Allyson Kytta
24. Lowell Hintsala
25. Shelley Gould, Kathy Millin, Delaney Nye
26. Madison Kytta
27. John & Irene Janofski (A)
28. Laura Ferris, Laurel Perko, Mary Norton, Judy Taylor
30. Vicki Purdon

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#### In Sympathy To:

**Darla Leonard** on the recent death of her daughter-in-law.

#### Congratulations To:

**Brian Steede** on his promotion to Lieutenant with the Marquette County Sheriff's Department.

**Siena Lingle** on a successful downhill ski racing season so far this year. She has won several ribbons.

**Ryan & Stacy Giroux** on the January 26<sup>th</sup> birth of their son Gabriel James. He weighed in at 7 lbs 15ozs and was 21 inches long.

**Brianna Steede** and **Aiden Edge** on a successful Killer Whale Swim Meet in Escanaba recently. They each bettered their time in several swim events.

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## Ministry or Mission Moments

Thinking about requesting some time in our Sunday services for a ministry or mission moment? We have forms on the church website ([www.bethelmarquette.com](http://www.bethelmarquette.com)) to begin the process.

Once at the website:

- \* click on "about us"
- \* select "documents & request forms"
- \* fill out "Bethel's Ministry Moments Presentation Request"
- \* return the completed form to the church office.

This will begin the process of scheduling your Ministry or Missions Moment. Please try to plan ahead and give multiple dates as our services are full and fill up quickly.

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## Meal Planning Program

If you know of any family or individual that would benefit from the blessing of meals provided by the congregation (new baby, adoptive child, tragedy, illness, etc.) contact Brooke Loewen at [blloewen@gmail.com](mailto:blloewen@gmail.com) or (906) 201-1083. An online meal schedule will be created. The link to the meal schedule will be sent out via the Bethel information and notices ([bethelemail@gmail.com](mailto:bethelemail@gmail.com)) and posted on our Facebook page for anyone interested in providing

a meal. Sign up for the meal involves: clicking on the link, entering your name, contact info and meal. You will be able to see already fulfilled days as well as days still needing a meal. All allergy, food aversion/preferences, and contact information for the meal recipient will be listed. If you do not have access to the Internet, contact Brooke to be added to the schedule. The Congregational Care Board is so appreciative of Brooke's willingness to oversee this new program for us. Our prayer is that you will all be willing to participate in providing a meal for one of our families as the need arises.

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## Bible Studies

### For Men

Tuesdays, 6:30 AM, Coachlight Restaurant  
Questions: contact Pastor Hank 228-7589

### For Women

Tuesdays, 6:15 PM at church  
*"The Promised One - Seeing Jesus in Genesis"*  
by Nancy Guthrie.  
Questions: contact Sarah Goupil at 250-6130

Thursdays, 9:30 AM at church  
*"The Best Yes"* by Lysa Terkeurst  
Making wise decisions in the  
midst of endless demands.  
Questions: contact Bethany Jentoft at 458-9310  
Childcare is provided on Thursday morning.

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# Adult Bible Fellowships

Sundays at 10 AM

**Group #1 College - 29 years old**

Meets in the church library  
Topical Studies

**Group #2 Ages 30-42**

Meets in Room #2 in Family Life Center  
Studying the Gospel of John

**Group #3 Ages 43-55**

Meets in Room #6 in Family Life Center  
Studying "30 Life Principles"

**Group #4 Ages 56-69**

Meets in Room #3 in Family Life Center  
Studying the book of Hebrews

**Group #5 Ages 70+**

Meets in the Wheat Room  
Studying "Culture Shock"

Adult Bible Fellowships are a wonderful way to connect and get to know one another.

## AWANA Information

Workers' Meal - Mondays at 5:30 PM

AWANA meets on Mondays from 6:30 - 8:05 PM through April for grades K-6

### Monthly Schedule

- \* March 6<sup>th</sup> - regular club night
- \* March 13<sup>th</sup> - regular club night
- \* March 20<sup>th</sup> - theme night
- \* March 27<sup>th</sup> - regular club night

Questions: contact Josh Vissering at 360-0201

Snow Day Policy: If Marquette Public Schools are closed, we will not have AWANA. If the weather turns questionable after school is out, listen to radio station WHWL for cancellation notice and/or check our website [www.bethelmarquette.com](http://www.bethelmarquette.com) or our Bethel Facebook page for updates.

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## NMU Students

You are invited for dinner and Bible study on Sundays at 6pm at Matthew & Laura Songer's home, 2645 West Grove Street, MQT. The study is from the First Principles "Envisioning Fruitful Lifework". This a great study based on Ephesians, II Thessalonians, and Corinthians. Invite another student for a great meal, great fellowship, and great study. Alternate location is at Cliff & Eleanor Maier's, 1903 Mildred, MQT.

## Men & Boys Breakfast

Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared for you by Pastor Hank. There will be great table conversations and masculinely themed table decorations. A time of singing will be led by David Paul, a testimony relevant to you, and a chance to get to know other men & their boys. Please sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin board so enough food can be prepared.



# FAITH & FELLOWSHIP BETHEL WOMEN'S RETREAT

SAVE THE DATE

May 5 & 6, 2017

at UP Bible Camp

Theme: GOD PROVIDES

Speaker: JAN JANOFSKI. Yes, a favorite relative of Bethel's Janofski families! She's a former missionary, a school teacher, and a wealth of experience trusting in God's providence.

This year a shorter weekend is planned with lots of options, hopefully, to fit more schedules. How great to take a little time to relax, worship, meet old friends and make new friends.

**Retreat starts FRIDAY NIGHT AT 5PM.** Dinner will be served at 6pm followed by fellowship and an introduction session by Jan. You can choose to spend the night at camp or in your familiar bed at home.

**Retreat ends SATURDAY after dinner.** Enjoy a host of fun activities, special workshops and music to nurture your faith.

You can choose to take in all or part of the retreat.

- Friday Dinner plus Saturday (no overnight)
- Saturday Only
- The whole Kit & Kaboodle (overnight at camp)

The retreat committee is working hard to make the retreat a "don't miss it" event for all Bethel women. More details coming soon.



before you go to bed  
on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.



Vacation Bible School 2017

Monday - Saturday

June 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>

Exploring the coolest Book on the planet.

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## Lake Ellen Camp Information

March 16-19

Scrapbooking and Craft Retreat

April 8

Hymn Sing

April 22

Camp Work Day

Go to their website ([www.lakeellencamp.com](http://www.lakeellencamp.com))  
for registration information.

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**Membership Class**

**March 25<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM**

Questions: contact Elder Lynn Miller at 273-1707.  
Childcare is available.