

Missionary Messenger

North Manchester Missionary Church
806 State Road 114 East
North Manchester, IN 46962
Phone: 260-982-6012
manchestermessenger@gmail.com
www.nmmcl.com



The Lost Biblical Principle

*¹So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Now it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³I care very little, however, if I am judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴My conscience is clear, but that does not vindicate me. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will **expose the motives of men's hearts**. At that time each will receive his praise from God. ⁶Brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us not to go beyond what is written.*

***Then you will not take pride in one man over another.** ~I Corinthians 4:1-6 (BSB)*

I have been going through a verse by verse study of I Corinthians in our Sunday morning service. This has been rewarding but extremely challenging. This article is based upon the phrase "Do not go beyond what is written". When I studied in depth what scholars believed this to say I was bewildered that not many could say for sure what it meant. Most assumed that it was referring to the written word of God. When I looked at the passage itself, it seemed that this interpretation was partially true, but it didn't fit the context at all.

The context of this passage is local church disputes in which sides are being drawn between leaders and their particular followers. In this case, it was Paul verses Apollos. In verse 5 Paul states that judging between two leaders like this is to be left to God. This continues to say that when Christ comes He will reveal the hidden and will expose the motives of men's hearts. Then Paul goes on to state that he mentions this to teach them not to go beyond what is written. Then, in verse 6 he concludes that the result of learning this principle will be that we will not take the sides that they were taking. These sides tend to cause church wars and church splits.

I am going out on a limb now, through extensive study of this passage I am convinced that there is a lost principle here. The principle of not going beyond what is written means that we are not to judge another believer's motives or guess about their "hidden agenda". In other words, if you don't know it to be absolutely true we are to keep silent. Now this is why I said that not going beyond what is written is partially true when it is interpreted as Scripture because we do know that Scripture is true. We can apply Scripture to our leaders, but we cannot guess their motives. I am amazed at how many times I hear, "I know why they are doing this..." or "Their real intent is to...". I want to state that these statements violate the principle of going beyond what is written. If we don't know that something is absolutely true about another brother or sister we are forbidden from guessing. Motive judging is for God alone when it comes to our interpersonal dealings with others.

In conclusion, we as Christians must rediscover this principle and apply it in dealing with one another.

In Christ, Pastor Ken



September 11th Homecoming Sunday

NMMC was dedicated on September 12, 1954. We are going to have a Homecoming including a "Birthday Shower" and a carry-in meal after the morning service. We want to invite all the former members/attenders to join us that Sunday. You can help us spread the word. More info will be coming.

PRAYER FOCUS

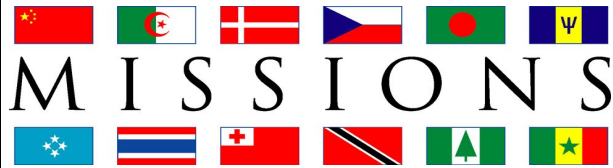


We have been singing a closing song lately called "Move My Mountains". It is a prayer for Jesus to move the mountains, but the line that got me was "even when the mountain is me". We often think about mountains being our struggles outside of us, but we don't always think about us being the mountain. The first thing I thought of was the lies that are in our heads from our traditions, culture, or experiences. My son's first thought was when God tells us to do something and we hesitate to do it, we are the mountain God needs to push. Sometimes the mountains we face when dealing with people who disagree with us can also be a mountain that we create.

In the introduction of the book "When Christians Act Like Christians" by Jeff Rosenau, he shares his journey of how he realized he was the problem (mountain). He had been working with several school districts about their sex education curriculum for young children. The Holy Spirit was working on him through Scripture to change his approach from being combative to having Christlike dialogue with people. He asked to meet with a director of health education. "I explained that my purpose was simply to see if we could find some common ground, and learn together where we clearly disagreed." They ended up meeting for about 2 hours a month for a year. Each time giving each other time to express their thoughts and listening to each other. At the end of the year, this person went to her board of directors and they rewrote the curriculum.

This is a hard prayer to admit "the mountain is me." We need to grow and stretch ourselves and tear the mountain down with God's help and bring Him the glory.

~Joanne



What a beautiful summer season we are heading into and with so much to be thankful for. God is still on the Throne and doing many great works.

Sixteen new believers! Yes, you read that correctly. Pakistan staff members just recently baptized 16 new believers!

Colombia is giving praise that they are having a great growing commission. They just had a meeting with fifty Colombian pastors.

There are several World Partners prayer requests:

*Dave Mann and a few other individuals are returning back to the states from a short mission trip.

*Pray for Miguel and Carmenza Arias as they are serving a network of people in Columbia and Venezuela wanting to change their communities by making disciples of Jesus.

*There is a Staff couple and their children returning from Asia back to the states to begin their Home Ministry Assignment. Pray for their transition from their life from Asia to Indiana.

*Bill and Debbie Jones would like prayer as they meet with individuals they disciple, coach and counsel.

*Pray for Zoltan and Vegal's children, Anastazija and Viktorija, as they deal with various struggles.

*Pray for the World Partners Staff on Home Ministry Assignment; for physical, emotional, and spiritual health; for safety as they travel, and for financial provision as they speak in churches and to individuals.

*Pray for World Partners office staff as they prepare for the World Partners staff retreat taking place in July for those on Home Ministry Assignment.

And finally, don't forget about our penny jug in the back of the sanctuary. We are still collecting pennies, I would love to cash them in by August.

Debby, Missions Director





CONNECTION NOTES:

No Neutral Side

July is always a special month for me. It is my birthday month, it's the middle of summer, the grass is green (normally) and we celebrate Independence Day. I enjoy the celebration of the old Red, White, and Blue!

When it comes to my citizenship there is no uncertainty, no questions — I am an American citizen and I am proud of that fact. I am so blessed because of it. There is no neutrality when it comes to my allegiance.

And that is how it should be when it comes to my faith in Jesus Christ and my walk with Him. I am a citizen of Heaven and that should impact all that I am and all that I do.

I read an article from Newspring.cc titled "Six Things Satan Wants for Your Life". It was a good article describing ways Satan tries to steal, kill and destroy us, as John 10:10 speaks about. But the comment that hit home in the article was that Satan has a plan for my life.

Now Jer. 29:11 is one of my favorite verses. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future". I was lead to think deeper about the opposing plans that God and Satan have for me. How every day, in every way and in everything my decisions, my actions and my thoughts lead me toward one plan or the other. And that I have to intentionally choose whose plan I want to follow. I also thought of how, if I take the wrong path, Jesus will forgive me, but the action will still create an impact.

I have been reading the book of Ezekiel and one thing I am gaining from this reading is how God keeps telling Israel that His judgments are valid and that it is the status of the heart that matters for redemption, that evil people who repent will be redeemed. This is good to hear! We all have things that we need Jesus Christ's



redemption for. He has a good plan for us. He gives us salvation and a hope of a future in Heaven.

And yet...I need to continue to remember and to intentionally act as if there are two opposing plans for my life because there are! There is no neutral side. Which side do I choose? Whose plans will I follow? Join me in evaluating which side we are on.

Sue, Outreach Director

CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

Gather @ the Fire:

July 10 and 24 @ 5:30pm at the fire ring east of the church behind the garage. Grab a chair, bring a friend and enjoy building up yourself and one another. Let's show our love for one another during this time of fellowship.



Who Are We?

Pastor: Ken Sistrunk 260-229-5949 (cell)

PastorKenNMMC@gmail.com

Elders: Dave Jackson (vice-chairman),

Tim Baker, Jon Gnagy

Directors:



Education: Denise Baldacci

Missions: Debby Gatchel

Outreach: Sue Howard

Stewardship: Tim Baker

Worship: Jon Gnagy

Secretary: Joanne Sistrunk

manchestermissionary@gmail.com



Memory Verse of the Month!

1 Corinthians 4:5 (BSB)

"Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God."