



Norwood Christian Grapevine

I am the vine; You are the branches... John 15:5

Pastor's Promptings...

GETTING BACK TO BASICS

“We’ve got to get back to the basics.” Have you ever heard someone say that before? When a football team doesn’t play very well the coach will say, “This week in practice we’re going to get back to basics – tackling, blocking, and holding on to the football.” When a company has a bad year financially, upper management will say, “We’ve lost our focus. We’ve got to get back to the basics that made this company great.”

Even politicians will campaign about turning this country around by getting back to the basics our country was founded upon. Getting back to the basics has become a metaphor for realizing that you’ve taken your focus off of what is truly important and have gone astray.

Maybe it’s trying to be too fancy in the way you play the game of football. Maybe it’s trying to do too many things instead of focusing on your strengths as a business. Whatever it is, when you do something in life that doesn’t work out the way you planned, that failure can cause you to go back to the basics of life and try again.

In chapter 2 of the book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible, that is exactly what Jesus tells the Christians in Ephesus.

He tells them that although they have some good things going for them, like their patience, not tolerating those who are evil, and recognizing false teachers, they need to get back to basics.

In Revelation 2:4-5 Jesus says, “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.”

Jesus told them that they had left their first love (the basics of their relationship with the Lord). They had lost their focus on what was truly important and were doing all sorts of things that looked good, but really did not amount to anything of lasting value. He then tells them to “remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works....”

In other words, Jesus tells them to “get back to basics.” That was good advice for the church in Ephesus and it is good advice for us today. The world we live in today is so full of distractions. It is easy to get caught up in activities that seem important at the time. Eventually, though, we end up feeling empty and wondering where the time has gone and why we haven’t accomplished the things we really wanted to.

Have you reached an empty spot in your life? Are things not going as planned for you? Maybe it is time for you to get back to basics. I’m not talking about tackling, blocking and holding on to the football. I’m talking about getting your life right with God. Admitting to Him that you have been running your life by your rules, the way you thought was best, instead of letting Him lead you.

Once you get your relationship with the Lord back to where it should be – getting back to the basics – you’ll be amazed at how well life will go for you. You will be better equipped to tackle the problems that life throws your way. You will be better able to block out life’s little distractions and keep focused on what is truly important. And the more you focus on your relationship with the Lord and keeping it strong, the better you will hold on to the ball called your purpose in life.

Your friends at Norwood Christian Church would love to help you get back to the basics. Come visit with us this Sunday and start rebuilding your relationship with the Lord. We meet at 10 a.m. for Bible Study and 11 a.m. for worship. I hope to see you Sunday.

Serving Christ and His family,

Pastor Ken

CHASING GIRLS

BY DAVIS WATSON

I started chasing girls when I was a young boy in grade school. The truth is I wasn't very good at it because I wasn't very fast on my feet and those girls I could catch were short. When you are in grade school who wants to catch a short girl? At the age of twelve, I stopped chasing girls because the girl across the street broke my heart when she beat me at playing jacks. Girls are not supposed to beat boys at games!

I picked up the "game" of chasing girls in my twenties and stopped again when a short girl named "Mary" won my heart and we made the decision to get married!

The truth is this article is not about "chasing girls" but about making decisions. It's the old bait and switch game. By placing the bait of chasing girls on the hook, I appealed to your heart and got your attention and now I am going to discuss How to Make Decisions. BORING!

Is there anything more boring than an article about How to Make Decisions? But how, when, where, and why make decisions will affect the rest of our lives.

We have all read numerous articles and books on how to make decisions and I am not going to bore you to death by rehashing those theories. The truth is decisions are made in the heart.

When I was chasing girls in my twenties, I made the decision to move to Norwood and become a banker. During my first week on the job, my boss told me that a banker knows more about the people of Norwood than anybody else because we can look at how they spend their money.

At that time, when a person came in for a loan, we wouldn't need them

to fill out a loan application. All we needed to do was look at their checking account and determine how they spent their time making and spending their money. If they spent their money wisely, they got their loan. If they didn't, they were turned down. How one spends their time to make and spend their money when no one is watching demonstrates where their heart is.

If you decide to spend your time and money chasing girls or in hobbies or wealth or retirement, that is where your heart is. The key to making the good decisions is in the heart. What your heart desires, that will be your decision. The question is, "What does your heart desire?"

The most important decision I ever made was near the time when the neighbor girl beat me at the game of jacks. I was attending a church with my family and I decided to become a Christian. I went to the front of the church and the preacher asked me the question, "Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the ever living God?"

I said, "Yes!" and, I was baptized that afternoon. I didn't know the full meaning behind that decision until years later. I didn't know that as I was being baptized that the Creator of the world came to live in my heart. The all-knowing, the all-powerful, the Creator of this world and everything in it now lives in my heart.

God was ready to take control of my life! The problem was I wasn't ready to give him control. I still wanted to chase the "girls" of my life. This is where most Christians are today. We only give God the part of our heart that we want to give him and keep the rest for ourselves.

The decision we must all make is, "Are we ready to stop chasing the

girls of our lives and surrender our life's decisions to God?"

The Church, the local body of believers, is your place to give your heart to God. Once your heart is given, the local Church will help guide and encourage you in your heart's continual surrender to His control.

FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK WITH REDVALE CHURCH

We are invited to join the Redvale Church for a potluck right after service on Sunday, February 7th. Bring whatever dish you would like to share with everyone.

FOURTH FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Join us on the fourth Friday of each month for a time of fun, fellowship, and food. Bring your favorite game board and a snack to share.

This month's game night will be on Friday, February 26th beginning at 7 p.m. in the church basement.

CONFIRMATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

On Sunday, February 14th the congregation will be asked to confirm elders and deacons for a three-year term. The current board of elders is recommending the following men for these positions:

Davis Watson – Elder
John Oliver – Deacon
Ernie Calvillo – Deacon.

The qualifications for the office of elder and deacon are found in 2 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. If you know of a biblical reason any of these men do not qualify for the position, please inform the Chairman of the Elders, Dean Boehler. Please continue to keep the church leaders in your prayers.



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10 AM ~ Bible Study
11 AM ~ Worship Service



SUNDAY SERVANTS

February 7th

Communion Preparation

Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Greeters

Jerry & Sharon Pike

Communion Servers

** open **

Communion Meditation

Jerry Pike

Sound Booth/Slides

Heather Lawrence

February 14th

Communion Preparation

Ken Lawrence

Greeters

Kate Davis & Thomas Lawrence

Communion Servers

Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Communion Meditation

Davis Watson

Sound Booth/Slides

Zack Calvillo

February 21st

Communion Preparation

Betty Greager

Greeters

Howard & Betty Greager

Communion Servers

Howard & Betty Greager

Communion Meditation

Ernie Calvillo

Sound Booth/Slides

Zack Calvillo

February 28th

Communion Preparation

Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Greeters

Davis & Mary Watson

Communion Servers

Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Communion Meditation

Jerry Pike

Sound Booth/Slides

Heather Lawrence



February 2010



Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:4

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 Praise Team 7:30PM	5	6
7 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM <i>Potluck after service at the Redvale Church</i>	8	9	10 <i>Davis Watson</i>	11 Praise Team 7:30PM <i>Kathy Row</i>	12	13
14 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16 <i>Bill Row</i>	17 <i>Jeremy Calvillo Lee & Evelyn Barrett—Annv.</i>	18 Elders Meeting Praise Team 7:30PM	19	20
21 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	22	23	24	25 Praise Team 7:30PM	26 4 th Friday Fellowship 7 PM	27 <i>Nick Calvillo</i>
28 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM						

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

February

Week	<u>The Law</u> MON	<u>History</u> TUE	<u>Psalms</u> WED	<u>Poetry</u> THU	<u>Prophecy</u> FRI	<u>Gospels</u> SAT	<u>Epistles</u> SUN
5	<u>Genesis</u> 16-19	<u>Josh</u> 21-24	<u>Ps</u> 12-14	<u>Job</u> 9-10	<u>Isaiah</u> 23-28	<u>Matthew</u> 11-13	<u>Romans</u> 9-10
6	<u>Genesis</u> 20-23	<u>Judges</u> 1-6	<u>Ps</u> 15-17	<u>Job</u> 11-12	<u>Isaiah</u> 29-33	<u>Matthew</u> 14-16	<u>Romans</u> 11-12
7	<u>Genesis</u> 24-27	<u>Judges</u> 7-11	<u>Ps</u> 18-20	<u>Job</u> 13-14	<u>Isaiah</u> 34-39	<u>Matthew</u> 17-19	<u>Romans</u> 13-14
8	<u>Genesis</u> 28-31	<u>Judges</u> 12-16	<u>Ps</u> 21-23	<u>Job</u> 15-16	<u>Isaiah</u> 40-44	<u>Matthew</u> 20-22	<u>Romans</u> 15-16