

# Norwood Christian Grapevine

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

## *Pastor's Promptings...*

### **JUST LIVE IT IN UNCERTAIN TIMES**



In the month of February I preached a sermon series titled, "Just Live It – In Your Stewardship." I spent four weeks on the various things God has given us that we are to be good stewards of for Him. The four areas covered were the stewardship of our time, body, family, and finances. If you add my message from January 11<sup>th</sup> into the mix, "Just Live It! - by remembering God is the artist, you are the brush," you'll have the fifth thing God has given us that we are to be good stewards of: our talents. (By the way, if you missed any of these messages you can listen to them on the church website at [www.NorwoodChristian.com](http://www.NorwoodChristian.com))

Making the most of our time, talents, body, family, and finances depends upon how we view them. What we believe about these five things determines what we do in regard to each of them. We can either believe that these things are ours and we are free to do with them as we please or we can realize that they are all gifts from God and we need to be

good stewards of them. Our belief about our time, talents, body, family, and finances will determine how effective we utilize them. As Christians we are called to just live it, to live out our beliefs in the stewardship of all God has given us.

The definition of "stewardship" that I used in this series is: From a Christian's perspective, "stewardship" is the responsibility we have to God to take care of what belongs to God that He has entrusted to our care.

God has entrusted to our care time, talents, our body, family, and finances. They do not belong to us, they are His. He has given them to us to use for Him. We have a personal responsibility and accountability to God to use wisely and productively every second of the time He has given us. How are you doing in this area? Are you being productive for Him with the time He has given you? There are a lot of timewasters around us. The two biggest timewasters we all wrestle with are the TV and the internet. It is so easy for us to pop down in front of either one and before you know it three or four hours have gone by, never to be regained again. Capture every moment and use it wisely for the building up of the Lord's Kingdom.

God has only given us one body. It must last us our entire life. If we truly believe that this body of ours is the temple of the Holy Spirit would we feed it what we do and let it get into the shape that it is in? To just live it in our body means to take back this body that we have abused with unhealthy food and unhealthy living and get it back into the best shape possible. Our body is not truly ours; it was given to us by God to be a dwelling place for His Holy Spirit and a tool for us to use to accomplish His purpose for our life.

Likewise the talents we have and the finances those talents generate are given to us as a gift from God. He promises that if we seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness with the way we use these gifts, He will meet our needs in every way. But far too many of us seek first our kingdom, our needs, our comforts, our wants and then if there is anything left we might think about God and His Kingdom.

Economic times are very tough right now. In difficult times it is easy to justify to ourselves that we need to take care of ourselves first. But I ask you. "On whom would you rather depend – upon your own talents

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and financial prowess or on the wealth and wisdom of the Creator of the Universe who loves you beyond measure?”

Finally, how you view your family will determine the fruitfulness of your home life. Children are a gift from God. So is your spouse. When life gets difficult it is easy to go home and take it out on the family. Many of us tend to vent our frustrations with life on our family. It doesn't make sense that those who love us the most we treat the worst. But if we view our family as the precious gift from God that they are and realize that He has brought us together as a team for a special purpose, we will be able to just live it in our family and accomplish great things together.

God has brought together each family as a unit to accomplish a special purpose in this life for Him. Not just in this generation but for generations to come. Just live it and look beyond yourself at how you can work together with your family to find that special purpose and be the best you can be at accomplishing it.

As life around us becomes more and more uncertain it is time to draw closer and closer to God and His ways. The best way to weather the storm of uncertain times is to be good stewards of all that God has given you. Follow the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:31-33

*“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”*

Trust in the Word of the Lord. Seek first God's Kingdom and God's ways. Acknowledge that He is your provider and just live it especially in uncertain times.

Serving Christ and His family,  
*Pastor Ken*



## THE RIDE

By Davis Watson

Oh, that first rollercoaster ride – what an experience! I had been keeping my eye on the Big One! The Big Rollercoaster at Lake Side in Denver, I knew what it would do! As I watched from the ground, I knew there was a long steep incline slowly taking you to the top. And once reaching the top there was no turning back; no means of escape. You were there; you had to see it through to the finish or the alternative would be worse than the ride!

Today, we are all on the rollercoaster of life. In my lifetime, I have seen good times and bad times. I have experienced life's thrills and chills. The thrills of winning a football game, skiing fresh

powder, making money, making a sale, falling in love, getting my first job, getting married, having children and baptizing them unto the Lord. I've also seen the chills of life: the broken nose, the broken leg, losing money, losing a sale, losing a job, fighting with my wife, seeing myself and my children waiver in our belief in God.

Life is a rollercoaster. No matter what your belief system, you will have good times and bad times. You will experience the times of climbing up the hill only to see the ground fall out from under you.

Unlike your first rollercoaster ride, the ride of life you do not choose. No one chose to be born. In fact your parents did not choose you. You are a unique individual with traits from both your mother and father making you a very special person. You are the best at being you. Since you are you and only you can do what you can do, no one can be you.

If you are the best at being you, why do you want to be someone else? The reason is we have been sucked into the world's belief system that we should never experience the chills of life. The world has made us believe that life is all thrills and no chills are allowed. To avoid chills, the world has made us to believe that we should be someone we are not.

The world wants you to believe that “You are okay and I am okay.”

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Well, "You are not okay and I am not okay." God has created you to be you and me to be me, each with free wills to choose the things of this world or the things of God. If we choose the things of this world, you will experience the thrills of life and will blame others for the chills of life. If we choose the things of God, we will experience His thrills of life and will blame ourselves for the chills of life. "You mean that I'm to blame for my chills?" Yes!

This life is quite simple. We have all fallen short of what God has created us to be. He created us in His image to be unique individuals and we choose to be created in the image of this world. This world is corrupt. Therefore, we are corrupt.

The only way to get off this rollercoaster of life is to be born again. As Jesus says in, John 3:5, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."

To learn more about this new birth in Christ, please call, write or attend our services.

### IT IS BABY BOTTLE TIME!



Once again this year we are collecting loose change for the Pregnancy Center of Montrose. Pick up a baby bottle at the church and fill it with loose change, paper money, or a check and return it to the church by Easter Sunday.

## MISSION MEETING & IFYE PRESENTATION BY ASHLEY WATSON

On Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> after church we will be holding a multipurpose potluck luncheon. Ashley Watson has just returned from her six-month cultural exchange in Germany and Luxemburg as part of the International Foreign Youth Exchange (IFYE) program through the Colorado State University International Program. The purpose of IFYE is to increase global awareness, develop independent study interests, and improve language skills. As part of the program, Ashley is traveling around Colorado sharing her experiences learned and emphasizing cultural awareness and diversity. She will be sharing her presentation with us at the luncheon on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

After Ashley's presentation we will hold our annual missions meeting to determine our 2009 mission giving. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend the luncheon.



## SUNDAY SERVANTS

### MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>

Communion Preparation  
John Oliver  
Greeters  
Thomas & Robert Lawrence  
Communion Servers  
Dick & Kathy Nelson  
Communion Mediation  
Dean Boehler  
Childcare  
Kathy Row  
Sound Booth  
Heather Lawrence

### MARCH 8<sup>th</sup>

Communion Preparation  
Ernie & Zack Calvillo  
Greeters  
Ernie & Zack Calvillo  
Communion Servers  
\*\* open \*\*  
Communion Mediation  
Rich Benintendi  
Childcare  
Chris Lawrence  
Sound Booth  
Heather Lawrence

### MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>

Communion Preparation  
Davis & Mary Watson  
Greeters  
Davis Watson  
Communion Servers  
Davis & Mary Watson  
Communion Mediation  
Ernie Calvillo  
Childcare  
Cathy Carlson  
Sound Booth  
Zack Calvillo

### MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup>

Communion Preparation  
Betty Greager  
Greeters  
Howard & Betty Greager  
Communion Servers  
Howard & Betty Greager  
Communion Mediation  
Davis Watson  
Childcare  
Heather Lawrence  
Sound Booth  
Zack Calvillo

### MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>

Communion Preparation  
John Oliver  
Greeters  
Dick & Kathy Nelson  
Communion Servers  
Ernie & Zack Calvillo  
Communion Mediation  
Ken Lawrence  
Childcare  
Mary Watson  
Sound Booth  
Heather Lawrence



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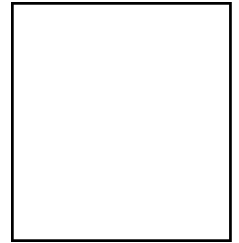
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**10 AM ~ Bible Study**

**11 AM ~ Worship Service**



## LOVE & RESPECT MARRIAGE STUDY

*7-Week Study*



We will wrap up our 6-week Fireproofing Your Marriage study on March 11<sup>th</sup>. We've enjoyed this study so much that we don't want it to end! So we are going to continue our Wednesday night couples study with the Love & Respect Marriage Conference. This video series is taught by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs and his wife, Sarah. The basic message of Love & Respect is this:

A wife has one driving need – to feel loved. When that need is met, she is happy.  
A husband has one driving need – to feel respected. When that need is met, he is happy.  
When either of these needs isn't met, things get crazy.

Love & Respect reveals why spouses react negatively to each other, and how they can deal with such conflict quickly, easily, and biblically.

What do you want for your marriage? Want some peace? Want to feel close? Want to feel valued? Want to experience marriage the way God intended? Then why not try some Love & Respect. This is a free marriage study open to all in the community. We begin on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> for seven weeks. Every Wednesday night we will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck meal. The video will begin at 6:30 p.m. We will dismiss around 8:00 p.m. To sign up call the church office at 327-0201 or via email to Ken@NorwoodChristian.com



*He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.*  
*Titus 3:5-6*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM <i>Rich &amp; Jan Benintendi-Annv.</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Fireproof Your Marriage Class 6PM	<b>5</b> Praise Team 7:30PM  <i>Grizz &amp; Vickie Parker-Annv.</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Elder's Meeting 4PM	<b>11</b> Fireproof Your Marriage Class 6PM	<b>12</b> Praise Team 7:30PM	<b>13</b>  <i>Shera Nuttall            Joyce Hodges</i>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	<b>16</b>  <i>Tammy Miller</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Love & Respect Class 6PM	<b>19</b> Praise Team 7:30PM  <i>Shiloh &amp; Lisa McGuffey-Annv.</i>	<b>20</b>   <i>Ernie Calvillo</i>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Love & Respect Class 6PM  <i>Thomas Lawrence</i>	<b>26</b> Praise Team 7:30PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	<b>30</b>  <i>Mary Watson            Cindy Klement</i>	<b>31</b>				