

The Vistoso Voice

BIBLE CONFERENCE THEME: DEATH—THE FINAL ENEMY

You are invited to this year's Bible Conference February 8 and 9. It is our privilege to welcome back our speaker, Pastor Dennis Rokser from the Duluth Bible Church. The conference title this year is: *Death—the Final Enemy!* As always, this is a great opportunity to invite others, and you can be certain there will be an evangelistic thrust. Conference invitations are available to make it easier to invite friends and family. I trust our entire church fellowship will take advantage of this great opportunity to get a concentrated dose of excellent teaching from God's Word, and to enjoy the fellowship of other believers.

The conference will consist of four sessions over two days. This is the schedule.



Saturday, February 8

- 8:30 Coffee fellowship
- Session 1: 9:00 -10:00 am, *The Brevity of Life, the Certainty of Death*
- Session 2: 10:30-11:30 am, *What Happens After Death?*
- Lunch following Session 2
- Session 3: 5:00 - 6:00 pm, *Why Do Christians Die?*

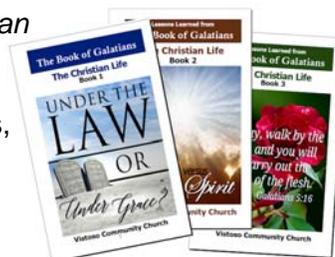
Sunday, February 9

- Session 4: 9:30-10:30 am, *What Will Heaven Be Like?*
- Fellowship and Conference Q & A

Pick up invitations to our 2020 Bible Conference in the church foyer and sign up in the Fellowship Hall if you are staying for lunch.

NEW SERMON SERIES IN FEBRUARY

A new three-book sermon series on *The Christian Life* will be in the VCC literature racks the first week in February. The three books cover ten topics from sermons from the Book of Galatians, including titles such as "Choosing between Law and Grace," "Walking in the Spirit," and "How to Walk in the Spirit."



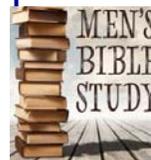
The books also begin a process of re-titling our books of sermons so they better reflect the Biblical source of the materials. At the top of the cover page, these three books state that these are *Lessons from the Book of Galatians*. The books do not cover an exhaustive Biblical study on *The Christian Life*, but reflect what we learned from our study in Galatians. In the same manner, we will be changing the covers on previously published sermon books to identify the source of the material.

February Activities

Regular Activities

Saturday Evening Services at 5:00 pm continue until Easter.

Upper Room Discourse Study Tuesday February 4 and 11 at 9:30 am. The study takes a two-week break February 18 and 25, resuming Tuesday, March 3.



Men's Bible Study meets at 7:30 am for an hour on Friday February 7, 14, 21, and 28.

HeartCall Ladies Bible Study resumes on Thursday, February 13 at 9:30 am and also meets on February 27.

VCC's Midweek prayer and Bible study services on Wednesdays at 5:00 pm are scheduled for February 5, 12, 19, and 26.

Choir practices. Regular practices are Wednesdays at 3:00 pm. Saturday cantata practices this month are Saturday, February 1 and February 22 from 1:00-3:30 pm.



Special Activities

VCC's Annual Bible Conference is February 8 and 9. See the details on this page and mark your calendar for this enriching annual event.



Widow's Valentine Dinner, Friday, February 14 at 4:00 pm.



A Teaching Moment

From Pastor Kevin Redig

WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE WE?

Continuing the topic we began last month, we are going to spend some time pondering the Church in general, our local church in particular, and what the Lord wants us to be. To continue that thread, this month I want to spend some time answering the question, *What kind of church are we?*

To begin, we are not part of any particular denomination. Perhaps the easiest way to state it is to say that we are an independent Bible church. The term *Community* in our name simply invites those from our surrounding area to come and investigate what God is doing in our midst.

One of Our Core Values



Although there are many different ways to proceed from here, I would like to focus the answer to our question today in terms of our attitude toward God's Word. One of our Core Values states the following:

The Bible is the inspired Word of God.
(II Timothy 3:16)

The expanded explanation of this simple statement continues as follows:

We view the Scriptures as authoritative, since they are "God breathed." We hold them (the Scriptures) as reliable, since in the original they were both inspired and inerrant. In fact, we consider them to be the final authority for the child of God in matters of faith and practice. We recognize Biblical truth is under relentless attack and false teaching abounds. Through study and the teaching ministry of the Spirit, we strive to avoid false teachings of every kind while holding steadfastly to Biblical truth and a clear Gospel message.

The Final Authority

Let's focus further on the statement, the Scriptures are **"the final authority for the child of God in matters of faith and practice."** This means that when the Bible expounds on a particular subject, it

speaks the truth. If our culture, academic institutions, or political entities come to a different conclusion, they are in error. This means that when we gather together, there should be an expectation for God's Word to be opened and teaching to occur.



All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17

Why do we place such a premium on Bible teaching almost every time we gather? As an answer, consider the following passage from Ephesians 4:

It was He (Jesus) who gave some to be . . . pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men. . . Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:11-16

Expected Outcomes

Let's review the expected outcomes from the accurate and faithful teaching of God's Word: the local church is built up in the faith, the church is united around the truth and its knowledge of Jesus Christ, the church is prepared to do good works, the church is protected from being *tossed to and fro* by false teaching, the church learns to function in love under the headship of Christ, and it attains the whole measure of fulness in their Savior. Wow! With that as a possible outcome, is it any wonder we are so focused on the teaching of God's Word?

Continued on Page 3

MISSIONS REPORT

PHILIPPINES MISSION TRIP BY PETER TRANVIK

Romans 3:28 states:

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

It has been reported that Martin Luther wrote the word *sola* next to the word *faith* in his Bible—only faith or faith alone!

The Purpose of This Trip

The primary purpose of our nine-member team on this initial trip was to teach Romans 1-5 in various cities in the Philippines, trusting the Lord that those attending come to understand clearly what it means to be justified by faith alone in Christ alone apart from works. The response was very positive. Praise God.

Our target audience was pastors who love the Lord but are ill-equipped to study the Word of God and pass it on to others

effectively because they don't have the basic tools that come from seminary training. The purpose of our teaching seminars was to bring them the tools that would better equip them for pastoral ministry. All of these seminars and the associated teaching materials are free of charge to the pastors thanks to the gracious giving of the saints at VCC and other US churches.

What's Next?

The response to this first teaching trip will be carefully evaluated to determine what is the next teaching step in the Philippines.

The desire of the teaching team is to return to the Philippines to continue to see if the response is favorable just like this past trip. If the responses continue to be positive, the goal would be start a seminary training school in the Philippines. To God be the glory.

Thanks so much for all of your prayers. Traveling mercies were abundant (with one slight *interruption*). It's good to be home.



Some of the students that responded positively to the message of the gospel of grace. Praise God.



The Philippine Mission Team

The nine members of the team were together for the first two days of teaching and then split up into smaller groups to travel to teaching and outreach assignments in several parts of the Philippines. Pastor Peter and Pochie Jones (seated next to Pastor Peter) flew to the northern part of the Philippines to continue their ministry in the City of Loaog, which is on the North China Sea.



PASTOR KEVIN'S TEACHING MOMENT, CONTINUED

As we study God's Word, we are naturally going to intersect with the subject of theology (our understanding of God, His plans and purposes). For our theology is the collection of our religious beliefs. This brings us back to our original question, "What kind of church are we?" We are a church that seeks to build its theology solely from His Word. We reject theological systems which far too often distort the Scriptures to fit some preconceived

agenda, and instead seek to build an ever fuller understanding of what God has preserved for us in His Word by a systematic approach to interpreting what God has spoken. And what is our systematic approach to interpreting what God has preserved for us in His Word? Now you know the subject we will tackle next month—the normal, grammatical, historical, contextual and rhetorical approach to interpreting Scripture. Let's just call it interpreting Scripture normally! We'll pick it up from here in March.

THERE ARE NUMEROUS MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT VISTOSO COMMUNITY CHURCH

VCC is blessed with a range of ministries and committees that offer members and friends opportunities for service. This article provides a brief summary of the VCC committees and who you should see to explore service options that interest you.

Deacon Army

Our Deacons are always seeking volunteers to aid them in their service outreach in the Church—driving, meals, visiting, to name a few of their services. See Deacon Chair Bill Studt to learn more about enlisting in the Deacon Army.



Music Ministry

There are many ways to minister through music: sing in the choir for services, sing with the choir for cantatas, play organ or piano for services, provide an occasional solo ministry. If you are interested in exploring the musical options, see our Conductor Dan Detloff.

Communications

The Communications team provides publication, AV, and library service opportunities. For more information, see Communications Committee Chair Dee Bethke.



Vistoso Community Church
 Telephone: 520-825-0652
 e-mail: vistosocc@icloud.com
 Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday:
 10 am-2 pm;
 Friday: 8 am-12 noon
Pastor: Kevin Redig
 Emergency: 520-403-4088



Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee is always looking for volunteers for a range of hospitality services. For more information on how you can serve, see Fellowship Chair Carolyn Carson.

Missions

The Missions Committee manages the distribution of all VCC's missions support as well as doing many direct missions projects. If you have a heart for missions, see Missions Chair Michael Galyen for more information.



Discipleship

Outreach activities, such as our Tuesday morning Bible Studies, are coordinated by the Discipleship Committee. See Chair Dorothy Smith if you have an interest in helping with our Bible studies.

Church Office

The Church office is staffed by either Jan Galyen or LuAnn Detloff. See Jan Galyen, if you would be willing to answer phones occasionally when Jan or LuAnn are not available.



Property

The property team manages our building and grounds. If you are handy, love to garden, especially tending roses, or you can help with projects around the church, see Chair Darwin Thornton.

Worship

This committee recommends ways we can improve our worship at VCC. See Chairman Bill Hallier for more information on worship support.



Columbarium

In addition to managing the sale of columbarium niches, this committee has taken on the responsibility for the maintenance and plantings in our prayer garden. For more information, see Chair Bill Von Fabric.

Safety and Security

Pastor Kevin is the interim chair of this committee. See him if you are drawn to service in the area of security. The committee also coordinates the ushers and greeters. See John Sellers if you would like more information about the duties of the ushers and greeters.



Strategic Planning

If you have experience in long-range planning, you may be interested in talking to Planning Chair Darwin Thornton about their work developing strategic and facility plans for the church.

New Ministries
 If you have an idea for a new ministry and feel gifted to implement that ministry, see Pastor Kevin to discuss your ideas.