

# The Main Thing

## This Is God's Will for You

by Pastor Todd

The apostle Paul writes some hard things at times. We are approaching the 2020 Thanksgiving Holiday. It hasn't been a good year for most of us. There is a lot of tension, frustration, anger, and anxiety circulating in society. We are experiencing a plague, financial insecurity, and heightened racial tensions. Church life is still unsettled. This aggravates problems in our personal lives. To top it off, we are in the midst of a divisive presidential election. It's a perfect storm. Our natural inclination is to vent, to grumble, and to complain. It is hard to stop thinking about all the problems we are facing.

Yet Paul shares some hard words with us. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 he tells us to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." We can understand his encouragement to rejoice, but to rejoice ALWAYS is on another level. Certainly, we should be a thankful people, but to give thanks in ALL circumstances seems a bit much. Paul concludes by telling us "this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Paul can't be serious, can he? Surely 2020 is an exception, right?

The Thessalonians knew Paul was serious. They also found his strong exhortation very compelling because Paul lived it. He was a man acquainted with much suffering. He was beaten many times, stoned, imprisoned, survived multiple shipwrecks, was stranded for a night at sea, was bitten by a venomous snake, slandered, experienced hunger, thirst, cold, etc. He records his trials in 2 Corinthians 11:23-29. This list of suffering makes 2020 seem mild. How did he rejoice and give thanks amid such difficulties? Paul's writings reveal three reasons he was able to practice what he preached.

### 3 Keys to a Joyful and Thankful Disposition in All Circumstances

1. We need an eternal perspective. One reason we struggle is because we have a temporal perspective. We live too much in the present. Paul placed his life in the context of eternity. He writes, "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."  
2 Corinthians 4:17-18.
2. We need to understand God's purpose in afflictions. When we trust that God is faithful and good even in trials, we can find spiritual joy in them. Paul writes, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28
3. We need to know that God sovereignly rules over all the earth. Nothing happens (plagues, economic collapse, elections, etc.) apart from his will and purpose. In Colossians 1:16-18 he writes, "For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things and in Him all things hold together."



Main Street  
Christian  
School

Fall has arrived! The Fours are loving the cooler weather. The playground is filled with fun and laughter. I am so blessed to have eleven sweet children in my class this year. In spite of COVID-19 we are having a very productive year. It has definitely put a different spin on the way we go through our day. We have all adapted really well to our masks and social distancing. I have been really impressed how well all have worked together to stay safe and stop the spread of this virus.

Because of COVID-19, we have had to adjust our curriculum for October. We postponed our "Community Helper" unit until spring. We really missed our field trips to the fire station and Sunflower. Instead of learning about our community, we turned into little Paleontologists and dug for dinosaurs and learned about these majestic creatures.

Our letter and number study continues. Before the school year ends, each child will be able to recite a Bible verse for all the letters of the alphabet at our Farewell to Fours program. We also have started learning the Books of the Bible. We look forward to discussing our many blessings for which we are thankful. We wish everyone a very blessed and happy Thanksgiving. Thank all of you for your continued support and prayers.

In His Love,  
Gaines Gaskin



## Children's Sunday School at Main Street

by Colleen Meek

"*Show Me Jesus*" is the motto of Great Commission Publications' Sunday school curriculum, which we teach from here at MSPC. Much Sunday school teaching has had as its focus moralism. Instead of teaching Bible stories in the context of the whole Bible, there are many curricula that aim at enforcing good behavior. Bible characters are studied as models for telling children to be good or as warnings not to be bad. In so doing, Sunday school neglects to teach the way of salvation from the Bible. In "*Show Me Jesus*" children learn that all of Scripture is the unfolding story of salvation and Jesus is its focus. It shows how Jesus, revealed throughout the Bible, came to seek, and save the lost. Children are pointed to Jesus to know and trust him.

The Toddler curriculum is the foundational department in the "*Show Me Jesus*" Sunday school curriculum. Because two- and three-year-olds are learning basic vocabulary and concepts, repetition reinforces the contents of the lessons. The average vocabulary of a two-year-old is 200 words. This grows into 1,500 words or more during the third year. We have an exciting opportunity to teach historical, redemptive Bible truths to two-year-olds who are learning the words of faith and three-year-olds who are learning the stories of faith. Toddlers and preschoolers use mainly *hearing* and *memorizing* to learn the stories of Jesus. They also begin to learn to "sight read" the name of Jesus and other words of faith through repetition in visuals and activities such as coloring. As teachers and parents ask their little ones to tell them about the stories they hear and to recite the verses they memorize, our children are learning what it means to meditate on what they hear and memorize.

When children move into first and second grades, reading becomes a major activity, so they add reading to hearing and memorizing, and meditating on Bible truths. As they memorize the

books of the Bible, they discover how to find references, and learn to read simple verses. In so doing they add another layer of hiding God's Word in their hearts. Along with each Bible lesson, they are encouraged to meditate on what the truths mean by applying them to their lives.

In the middle and older elementary grades, reading is a growing skill, so studying God's Word takes a major focus. Students open their Bibles, and read key passages aloud, learning to note key words, major themes, and put together chronological sequences. They meditate on the Word as they think through what the text says, what it means, and what it means to them as they apply it in daily living. The teaching style shifts in this age group from telling a story to interactive discovery by the students. The teacher becomes a facilitator and instructor-enabling students to actively find out Bible truths on their own, learning Bible study skills as they read from the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit works in their hearts and minds as they discover what God's Word says.

The Toddler fall quarter is entitled "God's Family." At two and three, there is starting to be an awareness of what it means to be in a family. New baby brothers and sisters may be joining their families. They visit grandparents, uncles, and aunts. During this quarter toddlers study how God created everything and everyone, and began His own family, the family of faith. The quarter covers the book of Genesis, including Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Esau and Jacob, and Joseph. The lessons show how each of these people were a part of God's plan of salvation. The goal of this curriculum is to provide these little ones with a firm biblical foundation for the years to come. In every lesson they are pointed to Jesus and their need for Him.

Our preschoolers (four and five-year-old children) have as their theme this quarter, "Jesus Is the Savior." The children find out about Jesus' love for His people, His death and resurrection,

His ascension, the promised Holy Spirit, and the Lord's return one day. The children discover that Jesus is the loving Savior who forgives sinners and changes their hearts. They learn that God's children are helpless and must depend on Jesus, thanking Him for His goodness to them.

This quarter's theme for our younger elementary children (Grades one and two) is "Studying God's Word." Using stories and passages from both the Old and New Testaments, the children are studying the importance of God's Word; they are learning about those who followed God's Word and those who failed to obey it; they are discovering what it means to hide God's Word in their hearts and live by it. At the end of this quarter, your students should be able to explain why God's Word is important and what it means for their lives.

The theme of this quarter for our middle elementary children (Grades three and four) is "Trusting God." The first few lessons focus on God's provision for us - He made and rules over everything and supplies the needs of all His creation. They learn that God is merciful, and as they see God's hand in the lives of Noah, Job, and the Israelites, they find out that God is powerful and faithful to His Word. In the lessons that follow, our children learn that God cares for His people. As they look at the lives of Elijah, Elisha, David and Joash, they find that God is always in control and can always be counted on. The last three lessons emphasize the saving power of God. Children are confronted with their own sinfulness and their need to trust completely in God's salvation. Through stories of Peter and His relationship to the Savior, learners are faced with their need of forgiveness from Jesus to be able to serve Him. Finally, students find that their heavenly Father has promised His people eternal life and a wonderful home with Him in heaven.

Words cannot express how thankful I am to the Lord for each of our children's Sunday School teachers here at Main Street! It is abundantly

clear that it is a joy and the delight of their hearts to be doing something that will reach all the way to eternity as they serve our Lord in discipling and teaching this generation. Our hearts are drawn to the children God has put in our classrooms, and we pray that we are reaching the hearts of these that the Holy Spirit is drawing to Himself. We seek to be faithful and fervent in this calling to teach Christ's little lambs, knowing that as we sow the seeds of God's Word, it is only the sovereign God who works this to change hearts.

When next you see your child/ren's Sunday school teacher(s), and have the opportunity, may I encourage you to express your gratitude to them.



### The Teacher

To touch a little hand,  
To hold it close to me;  
To love and guide and understand  
The trust and joy I see.

To touch a little mind,  
To teach and help and show  
A little person how to find  
The things he needs to know.

To touch a little heart,  
To talk and laugh and share;  
And just to have a little part  
In a moment brief and rare.

To touch a little life,  
To show a child the way,  
Is what I ask, O Lord, of life;  
To teach, to touch, today.

Janice H. Stroup  
Dordt Press





## Women in the Church

It is so exciting to have events on the calendar for WIC again!

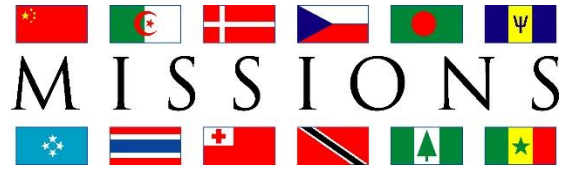
WIC in the morning resumed in October! Their next meeting will be November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am. Nursery is provided, but please let us know if you need it so we can be sure to have adequate care. Alice Talley is continuing to go through “God’s Grace in your Suffering” by David Powlison.

WIC at night will meet November 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> this month. We are still meeting at the home of Janie Williams at 7pm. The group is reading through “Let Me Be a Woman” by Elizabeth Elliott. If you would like a copy of this book, there are a few available in the church office for purchase.

The Main Street Ladies Dinner will meet at the Grill on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. RSVP to the church office.

We will not be having a monthly Grill gathering in December. Instead we will have a Ladies Christmas Party at the home of Kathyryn Matocha on the 8<sup>th</sup>. More details will come as we get closer. The Christmas Party has been such a wonderful time of fellowship for the women in our church, and we look forward to this year being another blessing.

Tracy Elgersma



## Mark Your Calendars for the 2021 Missions Conference Saturday-Sunday February 27-28, 2021

The Missions Committee will be meeting  
on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 6 pm for a  
conference planning meeting.





The nursery at Main Street is open for infants –4-year olds. If you wish to be added to the list of volunteers, please contact the church office at 662-328-2523 or by e-mail at [mainstreetpres@gmail.com](mailto:mainstreetpres@gmail.com).

## November Volunteers

- Nov. 1 Amber Henson, Emily Krohn, Karmel Crandall
- Nov. 8 Dustin & Callie Baldrige, Camille Pittman, Jelaine Fondren
- Nov. 15 Katie Singletary, Margo Allgood, Laurie Flora
- Nov. 22 Kathyryn Matocha, Jennifer White, Alice Talley
- Nov. 29 Tracy Elgersma, Ivy Harris, Meryl Fisackerly

## Budget Report

October Offerings

\$ 22,035



You will be enriched in every way to be *generous in every way*, which through us will *produce thanksgiving* to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11



## Prayer:

MSPC Elders and Deacons

*Our Shut-Ins:*

Louise Armstrong  
Tommy Glenn, Robby Glenn's father  
Phillip Goodwin  
Jane Rogowski  
John Mark Russell  
Billy Swedenburg  
Robin Weaver and Family  
Faith Whitlock

-----  
President Donald Trump  
Officials in Washington  
Governor Tate Reeves  
Mayor Robert Smith  
Police Chief Fred Shelton  
Sheriff Eddie Hawkins  
State, City, and County Officials

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Helping Hands  
Life Choices Pregnancy Center  
Palmer Home  
All Churches and Pastors in Columbus


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Coronavirus  
The financial pressures of small business owners, our congregation, and local businesses  
The financial needs of the Church

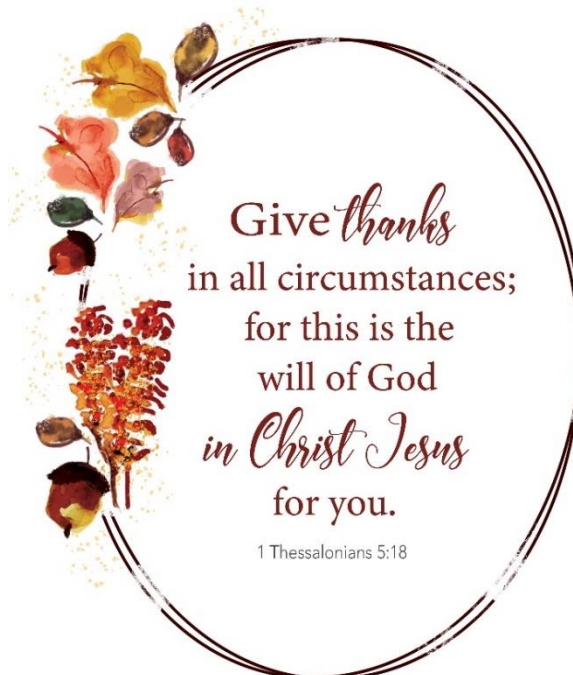




# November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <i>Communion</i>	<b>2</b>  Gee Allgood	<b>3</b> WIC in the Morning 10 a.m.  Turner Kilpatrick	<b>4</b> WIC at Night 7 p.m.  Bess Swedenburg	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Bethany Hairston Russ Russell	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Grover Allgood	<b>10</b> Main Street Ladies' Dinner at The Grill 7 p.m.	<b>11</b> <i>Veterans' Day</i> Men's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Reed Williams	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Bill Laws Mike Meharg Doug Yelverton
<b>15</b>  Edna Mae McCoy Ed White	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> WIC at Night	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection Week</b>						
<b>22</b>  Will Russell	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Louise Armstrong	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Office Closed <i>Thanksgiving</i> 	<b>27</b> Office closed  Ann Chilcutt Oliver Fondren Shirley Swoope	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Pulpit Guest Dr. James Shull  Clarity Fondren	<b>30</b>  Landon Kilpatrick					



## Main Street Presbyterian Church

701 Main Street  
P. O. Box 26  
Columbus, MS 39703



November  
2020

**Main Street Presbyterian Church**  
(A Presbyterian Church in America Congregation)

**Sunday Schedule**  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:40 a.m. Morning Worship