

“Greeting Team”

For Sunday, January 7th

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go “welcome” people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

Greeters this week:

Curt Mastbergen Noon;

Josh Tackett Sunday Night

- 1st— Odin Dart Thursday Night; Ladies Group Thursday Night
- 2nd— Justin Taylor Sunday Night;
- 3rd—Randy Ehlers Monday Night;
- 4th—Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon; Tackett Sunday Night

Small Groups @ MBC

*Are Committed To
Multiplying— While Numeric
Growth Alone Does Not
Make An Effective
Small Group, Failure To
Grow Can Be A Sign Of An
Ineffective Small Group*

Announcements

1. On The Church Calendar: A new “*Servant Equipped*” class begins Wednesday, Jan 10th
2. Looking For A Good Novel? That’s not smutty or sinful? Consider: *Dead Sea Rising* by Jerry Jenkins

More Like Jesus, Less Like Me

Have you ever tried asking someone, “*How are you doing spiritually?*” They always say, “*Good, Good,*” right? Probably not a very good question. It’s not likely to get the real answer you’re looking for! Next time, try this instead: “*So, where are you at in your walk with the Lord? And, on what criteria do you base your answer? How are you measuring your walk with Christ?*” When we enter into that kind of conversation with someone, we need those “qualifying” or “follow-up” questions too! On what basis can we say we’re doing “good” when someone asks us how we’re doing spiritually? Do we measure our spiritual progress by the things we DO? Be careful! Don’t quickly dismiss the things we DO & SAY, that, “*it’s only what’s in the heart that matters!*” If our heart is right with God, it will impact the things we DO, right? Jesus said, “*If you love Me, you will KEEP my commandments.*” At the same time, we can DO all the RIGHT things for the WRONG reasons, can’t we? We can DO things to be SEEN of men; and, Jesus called that hypocrisy! I received a phone call, some time ago, from a young man who was saved years ago in my youth group in Colorado. He was on the pastoral staff of a church in Oregon; and, he called to ask if he could conduct an interview with me for a seminary class he was taking! The interview was based on how I lived my life according to the “*spiritual disciplines.*” If that’s a new term to you, suffice it to say that “*spiritual disciplines*” are practices found, in Scripture, that can promote spiritual growth. They are “*habits*” of devotion, like prayer, fasting, public & private worship, meditation & making disciples— all activities that we’re commanded to do, right? Jesus practiced them! But, I prefaced my answer, in the interview, with this caution: “*We are NOT GODLY just because we practice certain spiritual disciplines!*” That was the great error of the Pharisees! They believed they were godly BECAUSE they did certain things! You can’t separate what you’re DOING on the OUTSIDE by who you ARE on the INSIDE! What you do matters! But, WHO you are matters even more! Here’s the point— spiritual growth happens as you become more like Jesus; and, less like you!

Become Like Your Teacher

It is our goal, as a local church, that our community of believers would become mature disciples of Christ in their personal spiritual development. That’s a core value! That we’d all grow in spiritual maturity! As disciples of Christ, that we’d all become more like Him! That’s what a disciple does! He becomes like his Teacher! And, we believe that individual spiritual development occurs BEST in the context of a local church! Faith grows best where it is challenged, not isolated! And, crucial to that is the realization that being a disciple of Christ does not begin with something we DO; but, with something that Christ already DID! He redeemed our broken relationship with the Father by His death on the cross! He took my sin! And, He paid the penalty that I should have paid so that I might receive forgiveness! That’s the Gospel! And we never graduate from the Gospel! We will always need a Savior! I have been a believer for 53 years, and I still need a Savior! Not until we have our resurrected, glorified, spiritual bodies will we be complete in Jesus!