

“Greeting Team”

For Sunday, March 31

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:

EASTER is the 5th SUNDAY!

EVERYONE’S A GREETER!

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

Small Groups @ MBC

Seek To Balance
Worship,
Study In The Word,
Fellowship, Prayer and
Witnessing

Announcements

1. A Great New Book For Your Next Purchase? “Ask Pastor John” by Tony Reinke, Crossway Books
2. Looking For A Good Podcast? Checkout “Q Ideas” by Faith Radio, with Gabe Lyons

Sustaining Spiritual Momentum Part I

There’s a saying; and, I’m sure most of you have heard it— that, “*Insanity Is Doing The Same Thing Over & Over And Expecting Different Results.*” In other words, if you’re looking for different results, you’ve got to change the way you’re doing things! The American church is desperately in need of a “paradigm shift” in the way we do things! The old way isn’t working! It’s broken! You’ve heard the statistics— 9 out of 10 churches, in America, are in decline! And, of that, in 10 experiencing growth (many are “Mega Churches”), 9 out of 10 have grown— NOT by adding new converts— but, by TRANSFER growth; or, people leaving the 9 out of 10 churches in decline! As for me, I’m unwilling to accept some sorry excuse that people just aren’t seeking God these days! The same God, who worked the sweeping revivals in the book of Acts, is alive and well today! The Bible offers us hope! And, there is a grassroots movement that is effecting change in the Church across our land. God is raising up modern-day “prophets” who refuse to preach the pragmatic “self-help gospel” with its self-absorbed, man-centered appeal to consumerism— *that false gospel will not endure the coming persecution!* It’s a movement that’s slowly building, gaining momentum, and, returning to “ground zero”— to where Jesus said, “*I will build My church.*” He would build His Church— NOT by appealing to the fleshly lusts of the world & the unregenerate heart; but on the WEAKNESS of man & the POWER of God! “*Not by man’s might or power; but, by MY Spirit, says the Lord*” (Zech. 4:6). Jesus built that early church, in the book of Acts, out of broken men who were empowered by HIS Holy Spirit to simply obey His “commission” to make disciples! This post is about sustaining the spiritual momentum necessary to continue making new disciples. In Hebrews 10:24-25, the writer is addressing a falling away of some of the believers. Somehow, the momentum of the early church, in Acts, had stalled! Earlier, in the letter, the writer had warned them that they needed to learn, all over again, some of the elementary truths of faith— *so, this is basic stuff!* If it was a class it would be “Basic Discipleship 101.” The text says, “*And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from our gatherings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*”



Don’t Do Life Without It

If you had only 2 words to summarize those verses, they would be “relationships” & “gatherings”; and, that’s Church! The writer is saying, “*Church: Don’t try to do the Christian life without it!*” And, his 1st point is to “*be concerned about one another.*” If the Church is to sustain the momentum necessary to make disciples who make disciples we have to quit making Church about ourselves! God calls us to look after one another! That Church is attractive to unbelievers! Can you point me to one like that? The narcissism that defines the current culture will not produce spirituality, nor does it have the ability to sustain any kind of spiritual momentum. This comes from the Spirit of God alone! And His Spirit tells us to concern ourselves with “relationships” & “gatherings.” May God help us move away from our self-absorbed selves!