

“Greeting Team”

For Sunday, July 14

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:

Justin Taylor Sunday Night

- 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

Are Committed To
Developing New Leaders
Through Apprenticeship—
Small Group Leaders Are
Intentional About
Reproducing Themselves

Announcements

1. Going To
The “Women’s Retreat”?
Sept 13-15. Cost, details,
sign-up at:
www.hacamps.org
2. Going To
The “Men’s Retreat”?
Sept 27-28 at
Camp Assurance. Special
speaker & details to come!

Finish Strong

That’s the message I get from Paul’s words to the Church of Colosse—
“*When the Messiah, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory*” Colossians 1:4. Jesus is returning! So, **FINISH STRONG!** Paul says that Jesus, the Messiah, “...**IS YOUR LIFE...**” Not the rest of your life that consumes your time, causes you stress, and wears you out! No! **JESUS IS YOUR LIFE!** Make Him your life; so that when He returns— when He “...*is revealed...*”— you can share in His glory! In other words, that day will be your day of **GLORIFICATION!** That defines who you are— NOT your job, your education; or your possessions! Not even your family members! If you know Jesus Christ, as your Savior, your identity is all wrapped up in Him. Later, in the same chapter, Paul adds that “...*He might come to have FIRST PLACE in EVERYTHING*” Colossians 1:18. So, chase hard after Him; and, “*finish strong*” in your life pursuit of Him! Are you so in love with Jesus that you’re looking & hoping for His return every day? For His “revealing”? Paul challenged Timothy with a life that finishes strong: “*There is reserved for me in the future the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved His appearing*” 2 Tim 4:8. It’s impossible to look up & **LOVE** His “appearing”— in the clouds— if you’re always looking down, at the “stuff” on planet earth! Your spiritual growth & **SANCTIFICATION** are attached, in part, to a mindset that is “stuck” on thoughts of Jesus’ return! The Holy Spirit’s work to help us purge sin from our lives is attached, in part, to a mindset that is “stuck” on thoughts of Jesus’ return! We **CAN NOT** finish strong on our own! Please, don’t miss that! You will not defeat sin by yourself! Your flesh is corrupt, depraved; and, powerless to deliver spiritual victory over sin! The Apostle Paul asked the Church of Galatia, “*Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now going to be made complete by the flesh?*” Gal 3:3. “*Don’t be foolish*” he’s saying, “*You can’t be JUSTIFIED by the SPIRIT; but, SANCTIFIED & GLORIFIED by your flesh.*” That’s an impossibility! Our flesh will never help us draw close to; and finish strong in Christ! Paul taught the believers in the Church of Rome: “*For if you live according to the flesh, you will die. But if, by the Spirit, you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live*” Romans 8:13



Where Does Victory Come From?

Your flesh offers you no hope for spiritual victory! Only “by the Spirit” are we able to “put to death the deeds of the body” and live! Your victory, over sin, begins with your **IDENTITY**— don’t forget who you **ARE**, in Jesus! See your position in Christ! You need to identify in His death, His resurrection; and, His glory in heaven, even now! He is **IN YOU!** **YOU ARE IN CHRIST!** You’re an adopted child of the Father! When you forget that, you’re temporarily blinded to your true identity! This world will always fail you! When the Spirit opens your eyes to your backsliding, then return to Jesus, repent of your sin; and, be revived! Someone said it like this— “*The only way to identify with your true identity is to let go of all other competing identities.*” Your spiritual growth & your **SANCTIFICATION** depend on your willingness to renounce all competing identities! May God’s indwelling Spirit help you do that; so that you might finish strong!