

“Greeting Team”

For Sunday, August 11

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 The Primary Means
For Carrying Out
“Pastoral Care” In The
Body*

Announcements

1. Going To The “Women’s Retreat”? Sept 13-15. See the insert in THIS Sunday’s bulletin!
2. Going To The “Men’s Retreat”? Sept 27-28 Camp Assurance. See the bulletin insert THIS Sunday!

Abraham’s Faith Crisis

If you follow Jesus by faith & trust Him for your eternal salvation, then “sanctification” is the work God is presently doing in your life. We all want to be “SANCTIFIED”; but, rarely do we enjoy the process God uses to get us there. On several levels, Abraham presents us with a picture of a sanctified life. In Genesis ch. 11, v.30 it reads: “...Sarah was unable to conceive; she did not have a child...” So, Abraham loved a woman who could not conceive a child! That presented Abraham with a crisis of faith because God had promised to make of Abraham a great nation, through his offspring, with Sarah! After reading the entire account, we come away with this— God uses the hardships in our lives to sanctify us! This crisis of faith would provide God the perfect opportunity to stretch Abraham’s faith & trust in Him; and, it’s in the stretching, of our faith, that we grow! Jesus taught His disciples: “I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have to suffer in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world” John 16:33. Jesus already overcame all the suffering that this world had to dish out! And, He conquered it! Notice, “...you will have suffering in this world,” Jesus said, “in part, so we find peace in Him!” God uses pain, trouble & suffering to loosen our grip on the stuff in this world! That’s part of our sanctification—part of the spiritual growth process! We only grab hold of our future “GLORIFICATION” as we let go of this life! Let go of your dreams & aspirations! Let go of your attempts to control your circumstances & your environment! And, give it all over to Jesus! That’s NOT what the world tells you! The world tells you to live out your dreams! Do whatever you want! To go after it with gusto & determination! Jesus says, “If you hold onto your life you’ll lose it! But, if you lose your life for my sake & the Gospel you will find it” Matthew 10:39. We grow, in our sanctification, as we desire to live out God’s “dreams” & “plans” for our life; and, relinquish our own! The sanctified life grabs hold of Paul’s words: “We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose” Romans 8:28. He doesn’t promise to make all things good! He promises to work them together for our good—for our sanctification!



Trusting A God Who’s Not In A Hurry

Abraham is a picture of the sanctified life because he trusted a God who did not hurry! God wasn’t in a hurry to fulfill His promise to Abraham about moving to Canaan land. He wasn’t in a hurry to follow through on His promise of a son, to Abraham, through Sarah. Abraham waited 25 years for Isaac—the son of promise! In His perfect time, God came through! Because God is never in a hurry, we can become impatient with Him & try to provide our own fulfillment to His promises. Abraham tried to make Ishmael acceptable to God—the product of his liaison with Sarah’s handmaid; but, God refused him. Abraham would learn to trust in a God who was never in a hurry! Ask God to make you willing to wait on Him!