

September 2020

Main Street Presbyterian Church

# The Main Thing

## A Guide to Studying the Bible

Christians are to be guided in all areas of life by the Bible. It reveals to us who God is, and what He expects of us. Jesus tells us “Man must not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4) Paul writes, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16) The Bible shines the light of the knowledge of God into a world darkened by sin. It is to be greatly valued.

Unfortunately, many Christians struggle to consistently read and study their Bible. Dr. Al Mohler wrote an article titled “The Scandal of Biblical Illiteracy.” He makes the following observation,

“Only half of all Christian adults can name the four gospels. Many Christians cannot identify more than two or three of the twelve disciples...The larger scandal is biblical ignorance among Christians. Choose whichever statistic or survey you like; the general pattern is the same among professing Christians. America’s Christians know less and less about the Bible. It shows. How can a generation be biblically shaped in its understanding of human sexuality when it believes Sodom and Gomorrah to be a married couple? No wonder our culture has so quickly embraced the normality of same-sex marriage. And it’s little wonder that Christians show a growing tendency to compromise on such issues.”

Part of our problem may be an ignorance of the enormous resources available to aid us in studying the Bible. Opening a book in the Old Testament like Leviticus or 1 Chronicles can be intimidating. In the New Testament, Peter tells us some of Paul’s letters contain things “that are hard to understand.” (2 Peter 3:16) How do we even begin to comprehend the Bible? An answer is given to us by the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8. He is diligently reading the book of Isaiah, but not comprehending its meaning. The apostle Peter asks him, “Do you understand what you are reading?” The Ethiopian responds, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” This dialogue perfectly summarizes how many Christians feel about studying their Bible. We need someone to guide us. Fortunately, God has gifted us with many guides. I want to introduce you to some of them. I encourage you to purchase these books and use them as you read the Bible. If you are unable to purchase your own copies, make use of the many Bible commentaries in our church library.

## General Guides to the Bible

### *Taking God at His Word*

by Kevin DeYoung

This is a brief, easy to understand book on the nature and importance of the Bible for every Christian. It argues that God’s word is clear and sufficient for a proper knowledge of God and salvation. You can find it on Amazon for \$9.79.

## ***40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible***

by Robert Plummer

This is a more in-depth study on various Bible study topics. An example of questions explored are: Does the Bible contain error? Who wrote the Bible, Humans or God? What are some general principles for interpreting the Bible? Is the Bible really about Jesus? Do all commands in the Bible apply to us today? How do we interpret the Proverbs, poetry, Psalms, parables? Amazon has this book listed at \$22.99.

## **Introductions to the Bible**

### ***The Old Testament Explained and Applied***

by Gareth Crossley

This book provides a helpful introduction to the Old Testament complete with maps and charts. Each Old Testament book is briefly summarized and outlined. One of the best features of this book is that each chapter contains a section showing how each Old Testament book points to Christ and his Church. Amazon has used copies for \$68.60.

### ***Survey of the Bible***

by William Hendriksen

This classic provides brief summaries on all 66 books of the Bible. Hendriksen is a master organizer and provides some very succinct outlines of every book of the Bible. If you can only get one of these books, I recommend this one. You can find it on Amazon new for \$38.00 or used for only \$8.31.

## **A Commentary and A Devotional Book (there are many good options)**

### ***Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible***

Matthew Henry was an English pastor who died in 1714. His commentary on the whole Bible is a classic and trustworthy resource. Personally, I think every Christian should own a copy of this. When you struggle understanding a passage of Scripture, Henry is a reliable guide. His abridged single volume is on Amazon for \$26.12 and used for as low as \$7.32. His expanded six volume set is \$75.99.

### ***New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional***

by Paul David Tripp

Tripp is a master at getting to the Christian's heart. He provides 365 Bible based devotions for each day of the year. These devotions are very soul searching and provide strong application to daily life. You can find it on Amazon for \$15.29

My hope in writing this article is to get you energized to study the Bible. It can be an intimidating book. We may feel inept to study it. However, we have many resources to guide us and give us life nourishing understanding of the most important book in the world. In the words of St. Augustine, "*Telle Lege*, Take up and read!"

*Pastor Matocha*



*Women  
in the  
Church*

WIC at night has had a few weeks off, but we will soon be ready to resume our study! A new book/study will be started on Wednesday nights, beginning September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Watch your email to see what book we decide on. The Williams family has graciously offered to host us at their home: 120 Lakeshore Dr W, Columbus, MS, 39705. I have greatly missed meeting in person, and I am excited to dig into God's word again with all of you!

*Tracy Elgersma*



**Sunday School at Main Street will resume on September 13, 2020.**

**This will be a work in progress.**

**Please be patient as we  
“navigate these uncharted waters”.**



MSCS has officially started the 2020-2021 school year! We are so excited to welcome back, Gaines Gaskin, Judy Woolbright, Cathy Duncan, and Taylor Cabiness.

Emmie Scherertz has joined our team this year as one of our three-year-old teachers! We are so blessed to have her. She is a wonderful addition to MSCS!

COVID-19 cannot keep us from having fun. The children have already enjoyed doing art projects, playing in their centers and on the playground! Our 2's and 3's have started out the year with their “All About Me!” units. They are having so much fun learning about each other and their families! The 4's are enjoying their “Teddy Bear” unit. The highlight of the unit is the Teddy Bear Picnic!

I am so thankful for another year as the director of MSCS. This sweet school has been a blessing in my life since I attended here as a child. I pray it continues to bless young children and their families for many years to come!

In His Love,

Anna Gaines Johnson

# A Letter to Moms at the Beginning of a New and Different School Year

by Maureen Witmer  
(slightly edited)

Dear Fellow Mom,

Well done on making it through the last few tough months. If your house is anything like mine, the pandemic has brought with it some good and lots of hard, both of which are likely to continue in the coming weeks and months no matter what school is going to look like for your family. Maybe you are sending your children back to school in person, doing virtual school, homeschooling, or a combination of these. Regardless, this is a challenging time for everyone.

As we begin a new, strange school year, let us add these four essentials to the top of our back to school lists.

1. **Grace for our children.** Many of these learning situations are less than ideal. Some are experiencing loss and grief from the past few months and the normal things they are going to miss in the fall. Missing out on notable events can take a toll on our children. Their lives and routines have been upended and disrupted too. The way that we adults can be helpful to them is to make space for them to be upset and to offer them empathy because some of what they saw cancelled were once-in-a-lifetime events. And even if we as grownups do not think it is that big a deal, these are events that some children have been looking forward to for months if not years. In addition to offering empathy, and only after offering empathy, we can help them move toward acceptance I am hoping to have an extra measure of patience and understanding as we walk through these new and different school days together.

2. **Grace for their teachers.** Whether that is someone on a screen, someone in person, or yourself, remember that our prayer is that teachers would have the best interest of our children and community at heart. As plans shift, let us be kind as we keep in mind that teachers are also dealing with many stressful unknowns.
3. **Grace for others.** We are all dealing with different circumstances, so we are going to make different decisions. These school decisions are complicated and there is not one right answer. Like all parenting decisions, we each want what is best for our own families, and we are all trying our best to figure out what that is.
4. **Grace for yourself.** Be gentle with yourself. There is no one right way to do this. We are all navigating the best we can, myself included. Is there something small that brings you joy right now? Try to do it. Take some time for self-care. Just as you strive to have abundance of understanding for others, extend the same grace to yourself.

These upcoming weeks and months can be made easier by knowing you have the support and understanding of other fellow parents, and your church family here at Main Street. No matter what your back to school situation looks like, know you are not alone.

Praying for Grace and Peace,

Colleen

So, I urge you to seek Him,  
look into His Word,  
and get to know His character more.  
Call on Him, trust Him in all Circumstances.  
(1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

As Andrew Murray put it,  
"My Father sees, my Father hears,  
my Father knows," and my Father cares!

The nursery at Main Street welcomed children back on August 23. 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).



## September Volunteers

- Sept. 6** Frances Glenn, Shirley Swoope,  
Pat Russell
- Sept. 13** Amber Henson, Jay & Hannah Nail,  
Karmel Crandall
- Sept. 20** Dustin & Callie Baldrige, Ivy Harris,  
Tracy Elgersma
- Sept. 27** Katie Singletary, Camille Pittman,  
Meryl Fisackerly

## Budget Report

### August Offerings

\$ 20,953  
(one week remaining)



Colleen Meek  
506 Holly Hills Rd.  
Unit 32  
Columbus, MS 39705

### Praise:

Nursery and Sunday School resuming at MSPC

### Prayer:

MSPC Elders and Deacons

#### *Our Shut-Ins:*

Louise Armstrong

Betty Weaver

Tommy Glenn, Robby Glenn's father

Phillip Goodwin

Jane Rogowski

John Mark Russell

Billy Swedenburg

Faith Whitlock

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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

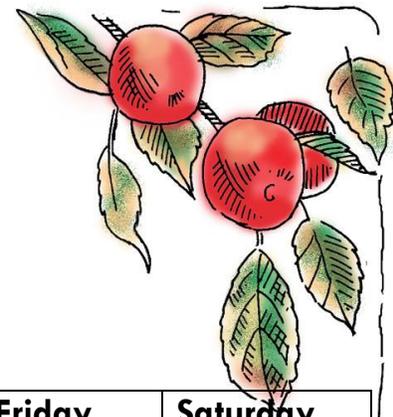
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The new school year:

Administrators, Teachers, Assistants,

Students, Parents, and all of those who  
work behind the scenes

# September



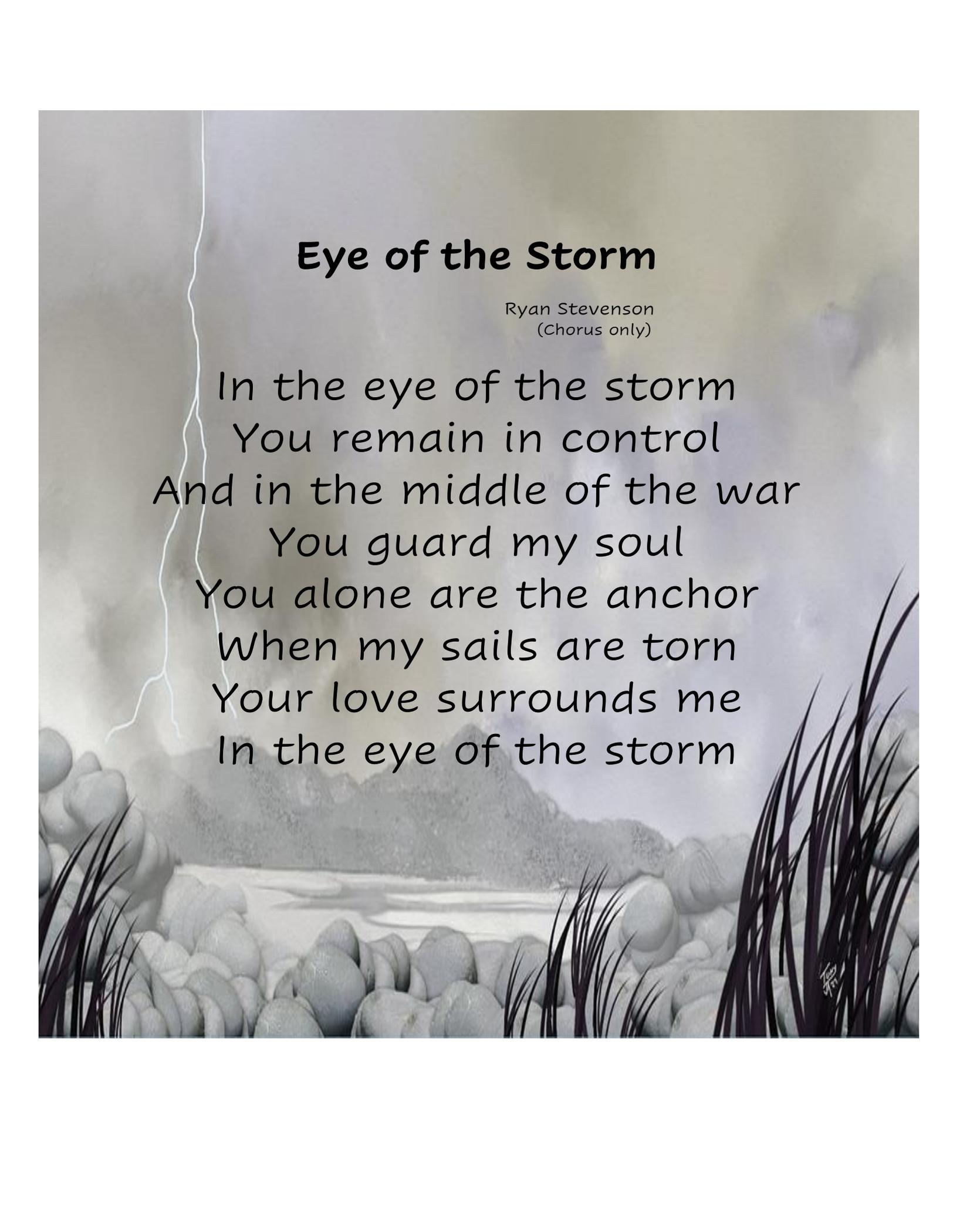
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Trey Fondren Billy & Bess Swedenburg	2	3 Wade Woodson	4 Justin & Ivy Harris	5 Olivia Kilpatrick
6 Communion Micah Elgersma	7	8 Kate Allgood	9	10 Makayla Lovegren	11 Jerry & Nancy Franks	12
13 Sunday School Resumes	14 Penny Fondren Alice Talley	15	16	17	18	19 Callie Baldrige
20 Hope Kilpatrick Jami Laws Tinsley Miller	21	22 Amber Henson	23	24 Tom Tait David & Marianne Field	25	26
27	28 Robby Glenn Ray Kilpatrick	29 Richard Crandall	30			



“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
 whose trust is the LORD.  
 He is like a tree planted by water,  
 that sends out its roots by the stream,  
 and does not fear when heat comes,  
 for its leaves remain green,  
 and is not anxious in the year of drought,  
 for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (ESV)





# Eye of the Storm

Ryan Stevenson  
(Chorus only)

In the eye of the storm  
You remain in control  
And in the middle of the war  
You guard my soul  
You alone are the anchor  
When my sails are torn  
Your love surrounds me  
In the eye of the storm

## Main Street Presbyterian Church

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



September  
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