



“Greeting Team”

For Sunday, January 1st

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:

David Mastbergen Thursday Night; Jen Hagler Thurs

- 1st— D. Mastbergen Thursday PM; Jen Hagler Thursday PM
- 2nd— Justin Taylor Sunday Night;
- 3rd— Randy Ehlers Sunday 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. **“New Year’s Day” Service:** Sunday, January 1st. NO Sunday School! Regular worship @ 10:40 am
2. **Bible Read-It-Through:** Read through the Bible in 2023! Reading schedules at the Welcome Desk!

Gripped By God’s Greatness

When Adam & Eve chose to listen to the wisdom of a talking snake shortly after taking their 1st breath— air, compliments of their Creator God, by the way— the result was more than just a severed relationship with God. It was more than getting kicked out of paradise. What the serpent offered them, in exchange for their soul, was individual self-authority; or sovereignty;— or, “godlikeness”— without the Power of God! The Power of God, necessary to carry out individual sovereignty, was NOT the serpent’s to give! So, they chose to accept Satan’s counterfeit offer “to be LIKE god.” But without the “Power of God,” all they could make was a decision to disobey. So, that sinful decision to “be like god” was hard-wired into every individual through Adam & Eve’s original sin. We’re all born into the world “acting” like we believe we’re “God”; and, growing up with this false sense of “individual sovereignty” without the “Power Of God” to back it up! The result is what some people call a “god complex”— it’s in our DNA. We’re self-deluded from birth! We’re arrogant! We think we’re infallible! We seek to control our environment from the moment we’re aware of it! It doesn’t help that we have parents; or, other people in our lives, who say silly things to us like: “*You can do anything you put your mind to!*” Really? So, I started putting my mind to it— I was going to be 6’ tall and play basketball in the NBA! I was going to be valedictorian in my class! I was going to become independently wealthy! Guess what! I’ve never been any of those things! The text in Genesis also says that when Eve looked at the fruit, that, “...it was desirable to make one wise...” she also bought into the lie of self-sufficiency— that we can follow our own wisdom; that we don’t need God. We just need to “listen to our heart.” But, God says our heart is “...deceitful and desperately wicked. No one can know it...” (Jeremiah 17:9) It’s not until God lets us “crash & burn” a few times that we begin to realize we’ve been duped; and, with the Holy Spirit’s help, the Gospel begins to make sense to us! Hey! We’re NOT in control! We’re out of control! We’re broken; and, we need a Savior because we can’t save ourselves! Jesus became that Savior through His work on the cross! And, He saves us from ourselves— from our “god complex”! Then the Holy Spirit moves in & begins to “reprogram” us; so, we start to look more like Jesus! Let us be gripped, Church, by the greatness of our God!

Above And Beyond

In Ephesians 3:20, the Apostle Paul encouraged the Church of Ephesus with these words: “*Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us.*” God can do more than we could ever ask or think because His Spirit indwells us! It’s not about US! It’s about the BIG GOD who indwells us! That’s where the power is! If our ministry is not about Him & His glory our efforts are futile! “Self-Reliance” and “self-sufficiency” are such subtle sins! They constantly slip into our lives and sabotage our ministry efforts! Let us humble ourselves before Him— let us agree with John the Baptizer when He said of Jesus: “*He must increase; and, I must decrease!*” Dear God... bring revival to your church! Change our hearts! Make us so dependent on you that we bathe every decision in submissive prayer, seeking God’s wisdom over our own!