

# view

May 1, 2005

## This Week's Agenda

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### The Lord's Day

8:30AM & 10:15AM

Sermon: David Posey

5pm Sermon: David Posey

5:30pm: Classes for all ages from 18 months and up

#### Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Sunday - Randy Clark, James
- Room 6: Bible Essentials – Dennis Wade
- Room 11-12: Young Adults, Marriage– David Posey

### Wednesday

10 AM Wednesday: OT History, 10 AM here.

7:30 PM - Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

#### Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Dennis Reagan, Current Issues
- Room 6: Bible Essentials – Dennis Wade
- Room 11-12: Young Adults, Marriage – David Posey

## News and Prayer Needs

### Richard Harvey's Mother

Richard's mother passed away this week after a series of heart attacks. After angioplasty, it looked like she would recover, but complications arose and she did not survive. We pray for Richard and family and wish them the best.

### Welcome!

Magnus and Amber Karlsson have decided to work with us here at Folsom Point. They were previously in Dublin (California) working with the church there. Amber is Larry and Linda Houchen's daughter; Larry preaches for the Saddleback church in the Mission Viejo area. We're very happy to have the Karlsson's join us and are looking forward to working with them. By the way, note Amber's name on the list of "Expectant Mothers." They will be contributing in more ways than one!

### Prayer Concerns

Eleanor McAdams has been ill with bronchitis for quite awhile; please pray for her recovery. Others to pray for: Tim Dickey; Carly Cain; James Eckert; Kathy Wilson (Parkinson's disease) and Hank; Jamie Cole, Kristen Sanderson's sister; Jason Songer (friend of Justin Ivie). Others fighting cancer: Dave Fulton's mother, Monica (Monroe, WA); Tom Royston; Ken McClelland; Margaret Everett; Cheryl Wilson; Laurie Ann Reagan; Oliver Sasse.

Others to keep in your prayers: Karen Gorden; Sharon



## Bible Reading This Week

Sunday – Judges 13-15; Proverbs 18

Monday – Judges 16-18; Proverbs 19:1-14

Tuesday – Judges 19-21; Proverbs 19:15-29

Wednesday – Romans 1-3; Proverbs 20:1-15

Thursday – Romans 4-5; Proverbs 20:16-30

Friday – Romans 6-8; Proverbs 21:1-16

Saturday – Reflection

Jones; Becky Woolpert. Continue prayers for all the new children born recently and for the remaining expectant moms: Sally Deschler, Melissa Fields, Michelle Caisse, Janelle Thorp and Amber Karlsson.

### Christians Serving in Iraq

Jeremy Allen, Philip Cain, Steve Reis, Titus Cain, Philip Cain. Keep these good men in your prayers each day.

### Out of Town

The Daniel's family is traveling to San Diego. Wally and Sherrill are in Southern California visiting Matt and Jessica.

### Other Classes

The class on Old Testament History continues on Wednesdays here at the building at 10AM. This will be the last class until the Fall. Attendance has been fairly low due to several reasons, including the addition of new children to those who have attended in the past. Thank you to those who have participated in the class.

The young mom's class meets again this Thursday, May 5th. Please see Christie Posey or Angie Cain for information about time and location.

Randy Clark will be teaching a class on Tuesday nights during the summer that will begin the first week in August and continue for 6 to 8 weeks. Topic TBA.

We also plan to begin some additional on-going home studies and training classes focused primarily on teaching the lost. More information to follow. . .

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## Evidence of Spiritual Growth

# Am I More Thirsty for God than Ever Before?

I've written the lead article in a special issue of Focus Magazine entitled "Ten Questions to Ask to Make Sure You Are Still Growing." I'm including that article here. If you are a Focus subscriber, the current issue of the magazine is in room 11-12 (the young adults' classroom). Please pick up your issue there. Thank you.

**F**ew of us have ever experienced real, unquenchable "thirst." Not in the United States, where we find a Starbuck's or a Circle K on nearly every corner. If we get thirsty, and have a buck, we take care of it, lickety-split.

Ironically, the "faithful" Christian's thirst for God takes a hit because it, too, is so easily satiated. Or at least we think it is. We do so many things for God so conveniently and so often that we may never really feel a loss of God in our life, even if He is not as present as He should be. It's not like the soldier in Iraq, perhaps, who is unable to attend worship services on a regular basis and who may feel like the sons of Korah who, while involuntarily away from the temple, longed to be a "doorkeeper in the house of God" (Psalm 84:10).

Therefore, because worship is so convenient and frequent, we must constantly measure our spiritual depth to see if there lies within us a true thirst for God. To put it plainly, if the thirst is gone, we are not growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18).

So, how do we know? What are some clues we should look for to know whether or not we are "thirsty for God"?

We don't have to look very hard or very far. We cannot extrapolate from our work for God that, ergo,

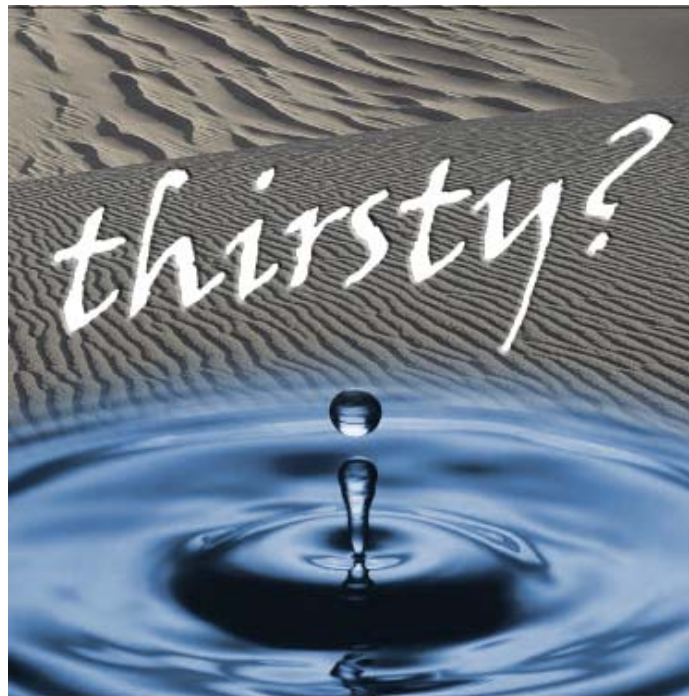
we are therefore thirsty for God. However, we still must look at how we spend our time and inquire about our attitude toward doing God's work. For example, "going to church" does not tell us that we are

thirsty for God any more than going to the store tells us that we are hungry. In either case, it may just be "time to go." We could eat a large steak dinner at Outback and then go to Safeway to do our regular grocery shopping. We are not shopping because we are hungry, but because "Tuesday is grocery shopping day."

Likewise, we may attend a Sunday service for sundry reasons and hunger or thirst for the Lord is not necessarily one of

them. You may go because you like to see the people there or just because you always have "at the appointed times." There is some benefit in this, perhaps, but the question is whether you are growing in the Lord, not whether you have formed good habits.

Still, attendance may be a valid measure of thirst for God. When you really want to go each Lord's Day and you look forward to the "spiritual feast" from Bible study and sermons and hope (expect?) to discover some spiritual truth that you can apply to your daily life, that's a strong indication that your thirst for God is alive. When you truly enjoy home Bible studies and gospel meetings and other opportunities to learn and discuss God's word, and if is more than



an intellectual exercise, then it may well indicate a strong thirst for God.

Even our daily behavior is a measure of our thirst. Again, being “good” does not necessarily mean you are thirsty for God. It has more to do with motivation. Why are you doing what you do? Do you behave yourself because it makes it easier to get along in

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the world (“honesty is the best policy”) or to please some person such as a spouse or parent? Or is good behavior a product of your desire to please God? Psalm 37:4 says to “delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” When our thirst for God is richest, our desire to please Him is most keen. As we grow in our desire to please Him, that desire becomes the most intense desire and all others are subordinated to it. Thus, we have the desires of our heart because they are same desires that God wishes to give us, not desires born of lust and evil.

Perhaps the most telling evidence of a thirst for God, or lack thereof, is seen in the frequency and intensity of our prayers. James says, “The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (5:16). If we really believe this, and couple that belief with a sense of dependency on God, then we will pray often and we will pray hard. Failure to pray may indicate that our thirst is being quenched by something or someone other than God – our job, our kids, our hobbies; it can be anything. Of course, when we look at it that way, then we see how important this is. Because if we buy into the myth that something other than God can give us what only God can truly give us, we are just 21<sup>st</sup> century idolaters.

Psalm 63:1 tells us:

“O God, You are my God.

Early will I seek You,

My soul thirst for You,  
My flesh longs for You  
In a dry and thirsty land  
Where there is no water”

We don’t go thirsty for very long in this nation because the means for quenching our thirst are everywhere. Likewise, our thirst for God may be quenched by the dutiful performance of our religious activities, which is so convenient and easy. Or even by secular altruistic activities that trick us into thinking that we are “close to God.” But, as the psalmist says, this world is a “dry and thirsty land.” God is not found here, in worldly things.



God is found by those who “hunger and thirst for righteousness” (Mt. 5:6) and by no others. Unless we take care to closely examine our personal relationship with God, we may well be dying instead of growing – there is no middle road. Our relationship with God can best be measured by the intensity of our thirst for Him.

# A Glossary for Reading Romans, Part I

## **the law of God**

Sometimes “law” refers to a *principle*, but most often it is used to describe God’s rule book, His code of conduct, His “Standard Operating Procedure.” It is a standard of righteousness, but it has no power to make one who violates it righteous. There is no provision within the law itself to forgive, it can only condemn. Therefore, the only way to be justified (not guilty) by law would be to fully perform it in every aspect (see Romans 3:20). Other than Jesus, no one has done it (Romans 3:23).

## **sin, transgression, trespass, guilt**

Missing the mark, but not *any* “mark” — sin is a word that relates specifically to the violation of God’s rules. It refers to what we do — acts that *violate God’s law*. Romans affirms that we are all sinners in need of justification (Romans 3:23). The consciousness of sin is called “guilt.” Guilt is true guilt if it results from a violation of God’s true standard, false guilt if it results from a false standard. For example, we may have been taught that it is wrong to eat meat, and therefore feel “guilty” if we do; but there is no such law in God’s word. Therefore, the guilt is “false” since it comes from a false standard. However, we also sin whenever we violate our conscience or do something that we are not convinced is right (Rom. 14:23).

## **justification, justify, justified**

This is a legal term which means “declared not guilty.” The person who is justified is acquitted, even though, legally, he is guilty of sin. If a man shoots another man, it is homicide since all killing of human beings by other human beings is “homicide.” However, the homicide may be “justifiable” if it was legally proper to kill in the particular case (self-defense, lawful use of force by a police officer, etc.). This is not a perfect analogy because we are never justified in sinning. However, God in His mercy justifies us through our faith in Christ. We get something we don’t, and cannot, deserve. Vindicating (or “justifying”) God’s perfect justice even though He justifies sinners is part of Paul’s aim in the book of Romans (see Romans 3:24-26).

## **the Law and the Prophets**

Another way of saying “Old Testament.” Specifically, it refers to God’s code of conduct and the “police-men” (prophets) He sent to enforce it. It includes the whole of the Old Testament.

## **the righteousness of God**

God’s plan to make us right with Him — His “plan of salvation” or “scheme of redemption.” It is His “welcome,” His “good news,” His reconciliation, the gospel. It’s like having a credit account in “good standing.” We are not seeking just *any* righteousness, but a righteousness that comes from God (see Romans 10:1-3, where the Jews are said to have established their own righteousness). Sometimes “righteousness” refers to God’s character. Watch the context.

## **gospel**

Literally, “good news” or “glad tidings.” It is the word used to describe the *report* of what Jesus did at the cross and His resurrection, though it is sometimes put for the event itself. We think of preaching the gospel to those who are lost, but we also need to preach it anew to ourselves each day. All of the power for salvation resides in the “good news” (Romans 1:16).

Continued next week