

Greetings from the "New" Galveston!

Welcome to "Pastor Kelley's Korner"!

Know of something exciting that's happened to someone? Email me and let's get the word out! krvaughan@yahoo.com

And check out my daily blog at www.kelleykorner.blogspot.com

SEASIDE COMMUNITY NEWS...

*LOVE GOD
LOVE THE FAMILY
LOVE THE WORLD*

Philippians 2:3-

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

NASU

ON BEING DISCOMBOBULATED ...

Pretty good day at church yesterday. Well, except that I had an unusual sense of disconcertedness come over me during the sermon. Discombobulated, even. Very strange feeling. It was a fairly difficult passage from Ephesians about Jesus bringing Jewish and Gentile believers into one as a new creation called the Church. I had done my research, so the difficulty of the passage wasn't the issue. But about halfway through something was just nagging at me. It wasn't one of those "Is my fly open?" moments. Something just seemed to be ... off. It got to be so strong that I wound up the teaching and moved on to the praise segment of the service. After the service I had several different folks approach me to say something specific from the teaching had really touched them. And the "specific"? It came from that finally summary part of the teaching. Had to be God. Sigh. A pastor's life is just ... weird.

MISSIONS MINUTES ...

It is exciting to see Seaside getting excited about missions of all kinds. We already are connected with the Humphries family in Alaska. And we give a percentage of what people give to the church to the local Baptist association (*That*

means county-wide stuff like the block party trailer we always use and other assistance programs for local churches). Plus we try to get involved in local mission needs as they come to our attention.

We also have moved up one step in the way we cooperate to do missions. Actually it's a return to what we have done in the past. The Baptist General Convention of Texas was among those who helped us out a lot after Hurricane Ike, and they were also active after Hurricane Harvey. In the last few years we have hosted the Texas Baptist Men in our retreat center for some of the training they do for feeding people in crisis areas. The BGCT also does such things as train chaplains, provide help for churches who are building, support colleges and seminaries and hospitals, pay salaries of missionaries overseas and in North America, provide retirement, disability, and survivor benefits for church staff members, and do specific missions projects in Texas and all over the world. Sounds pretty exciting, doesn't it?

BAPTISM IN THE GULF ...

Baptism opportunities are available to you year-round at Seaside! That's one of the benefits of living on a tropical Island Paradise, right? If you are a believer and want to take your relationship with Jesus to the next level, you are invited to join in this amazing experience in the Gulf of Mexico any time! Please let me know as soon as you can either at church or by email (pastor@seasidefamily.org) so we can get you on the docket.

A WORD FROM THE HUMPHRIES' ...

"A few months ago we got a new pet. Maybe your thinking dog, a fish or a cat?! No, you know better than to think we did something normal. We got a hedgehog and he has been such a fun guy to have around. Syd is in love with him. His name is Chicken and Waffles (Waffles for short) because of a song the boys co-wrote. What hedgehog do you know that has his own theme song?! Keep Lauren and Kenny and their kids in your prayers!"

TEACHING ...

SEASIDE CHURCH
6 January 2019
"Other side of the tracks" Ephesians 2:11-22

Play video "The other side of the tracks"

Which side of the tracks did you grow up on: the right side or the side that was looked down upon?

From where did your ancestors emigrate?

What did their new citizenship mean to them?

Growing up, when were you excluded from a group? <Telling Stan, "Go tell Mom she wants you">

How did this affect you? <Stan did just fine. We always got in trouble>

What were some of the cliques in your high school? <jocks, cheerleaders, band, geeks (smart people), druggies, drunks, religious freaks>

What are some of the differences people have that have led to an "us vs. them" attitude through the years? <race, physical appearance, physical ability, social class, economic standing, religion, politics, language>

What are some of the ways that attitude shows itself? <ignoring, fearing, despising, making fun of, discriminating against, hating>

I remember a kid named Jimmy. He was skinny as a rail. Smart as a whip, but that didn't serve him well in gym class among the junior high athletes. Until we got to "Pull Up Day." Most of us could barely get our chins over the bar once. Then Jimmy had his turn. He cleared that bar no less than ten times, and by the time he finished, everyone was counting and cheering him on. Jimmy won some respect that day, and as far as I can remember, he was never made fun of by that group of kids ever again.

So, back to the attitudes ... *ignoring, fearing, despising, making fun of, discriminating against, hating.*

All of these are ways of life between the Jews and the Gentiles in Ephesus.

The Jews are God's chosen people.

The Gentiles are "everybody else."

The Jews are required to do cleansing rituals after contact with a Gentile. They see Gentiles as fuel for the fires of hell.

The Gentiles see the Jews as snobbish, monotheistic separatists - social barbarians with strange habits and practices.

See? It works both ways.

Since God called Abraham, there has been a perceived difference between Jews and Gentiles. God intends the difference, but not so the Jews could boast about it. Instead they are supposed to be a channel of His revelation and goodness to the Gentiles. Sad to say, Israel keeps this difference nationally and ritually, but not morally. Israel becomes like the lost nations around her. That's why God often has to discipline the Jews - because they will not maintain their spiritual separation and minister to the nations in the name of the true God.

Whew! That's a lot in a short period of time. Today we are back into our study of the Book of Ephesians. Before we dig in further, let's pray.

Father, give us your eyes and heart to see beyond "the other side of the tracks" and into people's hearts. Amen.

2:11-12

Gentiles – *ethnoi* – lit. *nations* in Greek. Same as *goyim*, or *peoples* in Hebrew

circumcision– prideful reference to Jews who have received the mark of the covenant

uncircumcision – derogatory slur by which Gentiles are mocked by Jews

So, how do you think the practicing Jews who have become Christians feel when these Gentiles start coming to their church but don't want to accept the Jewish custom of circumcision?

What are some ways believers today fall into the same trap of prejudice and religious legalism? Does it ever affect the church?

<Worship and music styles, teaching styles, translations used>

What does Paul tell the Gentiles they should remember?

They are:

1. Without Christ. The Ephesians worship the goddess Diana, and, before Paul brought the Gospel to town, they knew nothing about Christ.

2. Without citizenship. God called the Jews and built them into a nation. He gave *them* His laws and His blessings. A Gentile could enter the nation as a proselyte, but he was not born into that very special nation. So, Israel is God's nation, in a way that is not true of any Gentile nation.

3. Without covenants. Gentiles are mentioned in God's covenant with Abraham (*Gen 12:1-3*), but God did not make any specific covenants with the Gentile nations. The Gentiles are "aliens" and "strangers" - and the Jews never let them forget it. Many of the Pharisees would pray daily, "O God, I give thanks that I am a Jew, not a Gentile ... the filthy animals!"

4. Without hope. Historians tell us that a great cloud of hopelessness covers the ancient world.

Philosophies are empty;

traditions are disappearing;

religions are powerless to help men face either life or death.

People long to pierce the veil and get some message of hope from the other side, but there is none.

5. Without God. The heathen have plenty of gods, as Paul discovered in Athens (Acts 17:16-23). Someone in that day said that it is easier to find a god than a man in Athens. But the pagan, no matter how religious or moral he might be, does not know the true God.

2:13-14

What is the difference between “peace with God” and the “peace of God”?

<Peace with God accompanies salvation.

Peace of God ebbs and flows depending on how much control you are willing to give up>

barrier of the dividing wall – There is a wall in the temple area that keeps Gentiles from entering the “Jews Only” section of the temple. Archaeologists in 1871 and 1935 uncovered warning notices in Latin and Greek that said, “No man of another race is to enter within the fence and enclosure round the Temple and whoever is caught will have only himself to thank for his ensuing death.”>

What relationship in your life still has “dividing walls” to be knocked down? How about the one with God? Still a wall there for you? Good News about that in a few minutes!

2:15-16

What is the difference between Hitler’s “superior race” and Paul’s idea of “one body” (v. 16)?

<Hitler’s is force/power based. Paul’s is love/relationship based>

How does Christ do away with the “law of commandments contained in ordinances”?

Something totally new is needed. Jesus’ idea – and Paul is on board with it 100% – is to take the Jews and the Gentiles – two totally separate groups – and combine them. They will no longer be Jew and Gentile, or even Jewish Christian and Gentile Christian, but a totally separate creature – the Church!

Jews + Gentiles = Church

Any warring factions are expected by God to reconcile when they come together as the church. The only thing that is important is: Love God, Love people.

2:17-18

What is different about you because you have made peace with God through your faith in Christ?

Two quick things here:

1. Verse 17 is a quotation from Isaiah 57:19. Ever the scholar, Paul is proving again that Jesus fulfilled prophecy!
2. Ephesians 2:18 is among those verses that provide us with the idea we now call the doctrine of the trinity. It mentions Jesus, the Spirit, and the Father.

access – The idea here is of an oriental court official conducting visitors into the king’s presence. The Holy Spirit gives access to the Father to all people who trust in Christ.

The Holy Spirit is the unifying power operating in the church.

If that is true, what does disunity in the church tell you?

Does it mean those causing problems are not genuine believers?

Not necessarily. For sure it shows that not all the members are acting under the Spirit’s leadership. Some of them may be showing their spiritual immaturity.

Within any given church are people with different backgrounds, tastes, and preferences. Not everybody will act the way you think they should. The question is whether you are resisting or cooperating with the Spirit’s leadership to love fellow believers as they are. Love is expressed in part by patience and forbearance.

2:19

Can you identify someone who may have been classified by some as a foreigner or stranger but who later became a vital and valuable member of the fellowship? *<Remember the story of that mathematical genius, Katherine Johnson, who was relegated to the basement at NASA because she was not only the wrong sex, but also the wrong color? Then she was the one who ended up saving the stranded spacecraft>*

Anybody ever felt that sense of being the foreigner or stranger when you went to church?

How did you overcome it?

Did you have help?

In ancient times the “household” is what we would call the extended family. So the Gentiles are now part of the family!

2:20-22

apostle – one sent out

prophets – one who proclaims and applies truth

Who in your church would you identify as apostles and/or prophets?

cornerstone – <Show large stone>

The cornerstone of the temple weighs more than 4 tons! The cornerstone binds the structure together. Jesus Christ has united Jews and Gentiles in the church. This reference to the temple would be meaningful to both the Jews and the Gentiles in the Ephesian church: the Jews would think of Herod's temple in Jerusalem, and the Gentiles would think of the great temple of Diana. Both temples were destined to be destroyed, but the temple Christ is building will last forever.

Why do I know that?

Because God doesn't live in a temple built with rocks. He lives in the temple that is the hearts of believers – the church.

If Christ is the cornerstone of the church, how should his placement affect the relationship between members of the family? <It's all about him! He is the only common ground that matters!>

So ... <Place individual stones around cornerstone>

God creates us all as different, unique "stones." But there is more to it than that! God doesn't merely create individual stones for grins. His purpose is to put stones together to form a living sanctuary in which he dwells – the Church.

We have to be willing to let God fit us in among the stones. And we have to understand that we don't choose which building blocks will be a part of our structure. That choice is God's.

Do you understand what that means? That's part of what makes coming to church each Sunday so potentially exciting! I can't wait to see who he brought to us ... and what you have to offer him here! God is the one who drew you here today. Every person here "fits" somehow into the family that we call Seaside.

Here's how that process begins.

1. Become a believer. Check out **A LOOK AT SALVATION** below
2. Go to God and declare yourself willing to be used as a building block in his church – wherever he may put you ... *REALLY*.
3. Then get busy being part of the family!

A LOOK AT SALVATION ...

You need to understand that God loves you more than you could ever know. He wants to be in a personal, love relationship with you. However, we

most certainly have proven that we have a problem. The Bible calls it sin, and sin keeps us from having that relationship. Simply put, God will not tolerate sin. It has to do with his nature of perfect justice. And the problem worsens because there is nothing we can do to take care of it. Quite a dilemma.

But God is, after all, God. He knew we would have that problem, so because of his great love for us, he said, "I'll take care of it. I'll do what is necessary." And what was that? Somehow God became a man – Jesus. He lived a perfect life. He died. And he rose from the dead. And because of that perfect sacrifice he made, our problem with sin is taken care of. It is now possible once again for us to have a personal, love relationship with God, with Jesus.

But wait. Remember that he wants the relationship to be one of love. He proved his love for us when he took the biggest risk of all in creating us – he gave us the right to choose to love him back. It was the only way for love to have any real meaning. So now you must choose. Will you love God back?

The best way to understand it is to follow the relationship idea. How did you start every relationship you have ever had? By talking, right? It's the same with God. That's all prayer is, anyway – just talking to God. You can say something like this: *"Jesus, I know I sin and I'm sorry. I believe your life and death and resurrection takes care of that problem in me. Best I know how, I want to turn away from that and turn to you. Come into my life and take over. You be the Boss. I choose to love you back. Amen."*

So did you pray it? Have *you* believed and confessed Jesus?

Your next step is to tell someone about it. It is an important enough decision that you need to be held accountable for it. That's what baptism does, by the way. It's a way to tell everyone that you have a new relationship with Jesus. And because it is a relationship, you will need to work at it.

Here are the discipleship basics according to Jesus:

1) Love God:

Read the Bible – learn his story (**Discipleship**). Who is this guy you are committing yourself to follow?

Worship – appreciate God for who he is. Pray – talk to him. Listen to him.

2) Love people:

Church – hang out with others who already know him (**Fellowship**).

Learn from them. Receive encouragement from them. Learn to worship from them and do it with them.

Ministry – find a place of service so you can try out this new life you are beginning. Get outside of yourself and do things for other people.

Evangelism – learn how to point people to Jesus. Build relationships with people who don't know Jesus.

PRAY FOR ...

Remember to keep the Humphries Family and their Alaska mission work in your prayers.

Pray for Wayne and Wendy Wester as they begin a brand new mission church in Princeton, Indiana.

LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER? ...

Here's another opportunity for ministry ... If any of you Seasideers would be interested in doing some volunteer secretarial-type stuff (like making phone calls and entering new member information into our records and taking notes at discernment meetings), please let me know. Email me at pastor@seasidefamily.org or let me know on Sunday.

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCES ...

No better time than right now to get started in a regular *small group Bible study* experience. Here are the ones going right now at Seaside:

Home Group happens on Thursday nights at my house, around 7 p.m. Right now we are doing an overview of the Bible. Email me for directions to the house at pastor@seasidefamily.org.

West End Community Bible Study (For ladies) meets on Friday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at the Lami home. See Dianne for details on that one.

Men's Bible Study meets at the Matthews home on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Check with Bob Matthews for details.

Holy Yoga meets at the church at 10:00 Monday and Wednesday mornings. See Stephanie for details there!

FAMILY MINISTRIES ...

God just keeps on bring kids our way, so we have a responsibility to touch them in ministry. Do you know of someone who is called to work with children and/or youth? Is it you?! Let me know where you have been called to serve and I'll help get you equipped to obey your Lord and follow your passion right here at Seaside!

RETREAT CENTER INFO ...

The Seaside Church Mission Outreach and Retreat Center at Jamaica Beach, on the West end of Galveston, has bunk/shower and kitchen facilities for groups of up to 60 available. This is a ministry of our church and operates on offerings only, in order to maintain the facility. Summers book up quickly, but we have the facility available all year. This is perfect for youth groups, camps, bible schools, special classes, and mission groups. This would also be a great place for a family reunion/retreat during Holidays and weekends throughout the year. Contact us now to reserve dates by email at babandamber@gmail.com or pastor@seasidefamily.org.

COMING "STUFF" ...

JANUARY ...

1 - **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

5 - AA - 7 p.m.

6- **WORSHIP** - 10 a.m.

TAKING DOWN THE GREENS

7 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the church

9 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the church

Men's Bible study at Bob Matthews' house

10 - Home Group Bible Study at PK's house - 7 p.m.

11 - West End Community Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.

12 - AA - 7 p.m.

13 - **WORSHIP** - 10 a.m.

14 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the church

16 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the church

Men's Bible study at Bob Matthews' house

17 - Home Group Bible Study at PK's house - 7 p.m.

18 - West End Community Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.

19 - AA - 7 p.m.

20 - **WORSHIP** - 10 a.m.

DINNER ON THE GROUNDS

21 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the church

23 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the church

Men's Bible study at Bob Matthews' house

24 - Home Group Bible Study at PK's house - 7 p.m.

25 - West End Community Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.

26 - AA - 7 p.m.

27 - **WORSHIP** - 10 a.m.

- 28 - Holy Yoga – 10:00 a.m. at the church
- 30 - Holy Yoga – 10:00 a.m. at the church
Men’s Bible study at Bob Matthews’ house
- 24 - Home Group Bible Study at PK’s house – 7 p.m.

SEASIDE BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH ...

JANUARY ...

- 1 - Jane Chipman
- 3 - Kathy LaBuff
- 8 - Caleb Vaughan
- 9 - Daniele DiCecco
- 11 - Maggie Parker
- 12 - Benjamin DiCecco
- 13 - Cody Anderson
- 14 - Elissa Cox
Steve Almrud
- 15 - Hunter Milom
Cailyn Vaughan
- 18 - Zach Mckee
- 19 - Brandon Batten
- 20 - Madeline Bell
- 21 - Haisley Anderson
Jeff Schneider
- 22 - Houston Boyer
- 26 - Eddie Dyer
- 27 - Grace Wyrick
- 29 - Derrick Ricketts
Dillon Lentz
- 31 - Austin Wilson

CHECK THIS OUT ...

There are some biblical and common-sense principles that will help us in making decisions in life.

Principle 5: Exercise freedom. Not every decision has earthshaking consequences. Whether you wear a blue shirt or a white shirt today is not likely to have any consequences. When the decision has no major consequences that you can foresee, you are free to do what you want.

From: New Christian’s Handbook by Max Anders

PASTORAL PRAYER: Father, give us your eyes and heart to see beyond “the other side of the tracks” and into people’s hearts. Amen.

I love you, Family!

Pastor Kelley