

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*

Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you."

BODY LIFE ... DINNER ON THE GROUNDS ...

This coming Sunday (the 17th) we will be doing a Body Life style worship. That means you have the opportunity to share a favorite Bible verse, a testimony of what God has been doing in your life, or even a song (touch base with Jim on that one). And as a bonus, it's the Third Sunday of the month, so that means Dinner on the Grounds as well! Bring some great food with you to add to the spread after worship.

COMING IN MARCH ...

March 6th is Ash Wednesday. We will have our annual Administration of the Ashes service (along with the teaching about Ash Wednesday, Lent and Mardi Gras).

March 10th Daylight Savings Time begins.

March 16th we will be serving food at the Jamaica Beach Craft Fair at the city park. All of our proceeds will go toward our missions. And speaking of missions ...

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 another way we cooperate to do missions. 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' ...

"Kenny hooked my phone up in some sort of amazing voodoo to our computer so I can see all the pictures we've ever taken! It's so cool to have all our pictures instead of just the past few months. The phone also does this thing like Facebook memories and shows me what we were doing on this day over the past few years.

So, three years ago we were playing shaving cream with two foster kids who are now in their adoptive homes with our friends! What an amazing blessing to see God place orphans in families!"

TEACHING ...

SEASIDE CHURCH
10 February 2019
"The Big Therefore" Ephesians 4:17-32

<<Show video of kid taking off his coat.>>

That was not at all easy was it? You know what? That's kind of like trying to take off an old habit or an old way of living. It's just not always easy.

Now watch this one.

<<Show video of kid putting on coat.>>

That went well, didn't it?

You know, kicking an old habit is a lot like fasting. It's only a fast if you replace the food with something that makes you think of Jesus. Otherwise it's just a diet. In the same way, when you take off the old habit, it doesn't help unless you replace it with something new.

Today Paul will be well into his practical application session with the Ephesians, and he is telling them what it looks like to take off the old self, and put on the new life that comes from Jesus.

But first, let's pray ...

Father, help us recognize when we are wearing the old stuff, so we can take off the old and put on your new. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Let's start with chapter 4, verse 17 ...

(v. 17)

Affirm together with the Lord – to call upon as a witness. Paul is saying listen up and get dead serious about what I am going to say.

As the Gentiles also walk – describes the typical Gentile lifestyle Christians are supposed to flee

Futility – lit empty, without purpose.

Futility of their mind – emphasizes the connection between thought and behavior. The point is that Gentiles live like they do because their thinking is messed up. Right thinking matters if you want to get on with right living.

(v. 18)

Ignorance – (*a gnosis*) – our *agnostic*, lit. *not know*, one who believes we can't know if there is a God

hardness of their heart – lit to form a callus; from the root word *stone* –

Have you ever had a callus? What does it feel like?

Nothing, right? You lose the ability to feel anything in that area. So, these ignorant ones have lost the ability to feel.

(v. 19)

sensuality ... impurity ... greediness – shows what pagan life has turned into. These forms of over-indulgence (lack of control) are contrasted by the “sensitivity” that should characterize life.

sensuality – promiscuity – lewd and wanton conduct that shocks public decency

The idea is absolute selfishness and total disregard for the rights of others. Ephesus was not only a major commercial and cultural center in the Roman Empire, it was also the home of the worship of Diana, which involved the most immoral and depraved paganism imaginable. Many of the Christians at Ephesus came out of that lifestyle and were constantly tempted to return to it.

How would you compare moral standards in Paul’s day to our day?

The enemies of God still try to allure us with invitations to go back to our old way of living. Giving in to the Dark Side is a gradual process, a “frog in the kettle” experience.

Anybody know what “frog in the kettle” refers to?

It’s the idea that if you put a frog in a pot of hot water. He will jump right out. But if you put him in a pot of cool water, and gradually heat it, he will stay until the water is boiling and the frog is dead.

The cooling off of our spiritual excitement is so gradual we lose the joy of our salvation before we know it.

(v. 20-21)

What’s the difference between “learning Christ” and “learning about Christ”?
<one is an intellectual pursuit. The other is an ongoing experience of growth>

To learn Christ ... heard of him ... taught in him – three phrases to contrast with the three nouns describing pagan life. Remember what I said about replacing the old stuff you take off with something else? This is the “something else.” They show how a Christian comes to “think right.”

learn Christ – lit. *learn the Messiah* – Jesus is the subject matter of their education.

heard of him – lit. *you heard him* – Jesus himself is the teacher

having been taught in him – Jesus is the environment where learning takes place.
So ... the path to right thinking must go through Jesus!

(v. 22, 24)

Put off ... put on – at conversion the Christian strips off the old, ragged, filthy garment and puts on a new coat.

Old self ... new self – at conversion the Christian puts off the old nature and puts on the life of Jesus.

By the way, the verb tense of both of these words indicates completed past action. The exchange of nature takes place at conversion and is done once, permanently.

(v. 23-24)

be renewed – present infinitive – indicates the need for ongoing, continual renewal.

Before we go any further, let me tell you how this “renewing” thing can take place for you ... right now! Check out **A LOOK AT SALVATION** below.

In v. 25-32 Paul gives a few concrete examples of what the new lifestyle looks like. It's characterized by: truth, proper control of anger, honest labor, edifying talk, and love.

For each topic he starts with the negative deed, then sets in contrast the positive virtue, then gives a reason for the command

(v. 25)

Laying aside falsehood - - negative deed – the habit of lying.

So, the negative action is lying.

What is the positive alternative?

Speak truth!

WHY???

Because we are all neighbors (No! We are even closer. We are members of one body)

Why do you think Paul starts with lying?

<Even believers have a tendency to twist the truth in order to justify some questionable action we might have taken>

(v. 26a)

Be angry -

Did you hear that? The Bible say to be angry. Wait a minute. Let's look a little closer at that. But first ...

How good are you at dealing with anger?

Do you explode and then it's all over?

Do you lock it away inside until it affects you physically and makes you sick or you can't sleep?

Do you sneakily come up with ways to express your anger and not get caught?

OK, so maybe Paul caught you at least a little bit there.

So what can I do about it? How can I handle this anger I feel?

Check out v. (26b-27)

Here are 4 ways to deal with anger:

- 1) Do not act on it in a destructive way
- 2) Deal with it quickly. Don't nurse it and let it grow
- 3) Don't let it develop into resentment. Be reconciled. Apologize if necessary.
- 4) Don't let Satan exploit it, turning it into hostility or using it to disrupt fellowship.

Why is out-of-control anger one of the most harmful reactions believers can express toward one another?

<It hurts unity and the drama it causes is hard to forget>

Is it ever OK to be angry?

What are some areas where Christians should get angry - express righteous indignation?

<treating people unjustly, abortion, euthanasia>

OK. So much for being angry. What's next?

(v. 28)

steal no longer - So ... don't steal. Sounds pretty basic to us, doesn't it? But did you notice that Paul doesn't stop there? Stealing is the negative behavior.

What's the positive alternative?

Labor ... performing what is good - be engaged in positive

OK. Makes sense so far. Now ... what's the why?

What is the whole purpose of working?

Here is the real kicker, folks! You don't make money so you can buy a bigger house or a bigger boat or gather more stuff.

You make money ... *so that you will have something to share with one who has need!*

Wow! Changes you whole perspective on personal economics, doesn't it?

Enjoying this lesson in practical living so far? Has he touched any nerves yet? What do you think could be next?

(v. 29-30)

Unwholesome - lit rotten - used to describe spoiled fruit

Why do you think "rotten talk" is so prevalent in conversations today?

Instead of rancid words that wound others, Christians should:

- 1) Edify (*build each other up*),
- 2) Be appropriate (*according to the need of the moment*),
- 3) Give grace (*that's the literal rendering of the word often translated "benefit"*),
- 4) Not grieve the Holy Spirit (*by using these unholy words*).

Think about that last one in particular. What you say can actually grieve the Holy Spirit. Is that what you want to do ... make God grieve over something you say? Be careful ... Think before you speak.

Anything else I need to get rid of? Well, sure. There are a whole slew of them! But here are 6 more just to give you a bit more to work on ...

(v. 31)

6 negative attitudes that must be erased from the Christian's life:

- 1) *bitterness* - spiteful, long-standing resentment that refuses to be reconciled
- 2) *wrath* - also translated *rage* - immediate flare-up of temper; violent passion - image of someone angry and breathing hard out of their nose!
- 3) *anger* - long-term, sullen hostility
- 4) *clamor* - some translations say *brawlings* - loud self-assertion; screaming arguments
- 5) *slander* - lit - *blasphemy* - insulting someone behind his back
- 6) *malice* - wishing (or actually plotting) evil against another

Whew! That's quite a list, isn't it?

What is the only sure way to prove you have put away the stuff in the passage?

Glad you asked! The only way to be sure is to check out the evidence. And what does that evidence look like?

(v. 32)

The only sure way to prove you have put away the stuff in the passage is to be habitually:

Kind to each other

Tender-hearted (compassionate) toward one another

Forgiving each other

And guess what? When people see you behaving that way toward each other, they get curious. They want to know, "What's going on with that group over there called the Church? They really care for each other. I want in on some of that action!"

So ... the way we treat each other draws people toward the church and ultimately toward God!

Hey! How about some homework? Love each other this week. Really. Practically. Do something specific that shows someone else you really do care about him.

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 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" ...

FEBRUARY ...

- 1 - West End Community Ladies Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
- 2 - AA - 7 p.m.
- 3 - **WORSHIP** - 10 a.m.
SOUPer BOWL PARTY - PK's house - 5:30 p.m.
- 4 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the church
- 6 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the church
Men's Bible study at Bob Matthews' house
- 7 - Home Group Bible Study at PK's house - 7 p.m.
- 8 - West End Community Ladies Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
- 9 - AA - 7 p.m.
- 10 - **WORSHIP** - 10 a.m.
- 11 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the church
- 13 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the church
Men's Bible study at Bob Matthews' house
- 14 - Home Group Bible Study at PK's house - 7 p.m.
- 15 - West End Community Ladies Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
- 16 - AA - 7 p.m.
- 17 - **WORSHIP** - 10 a.m.
DINNER ON THE GROUNDS
- 18 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the church
- 20 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the church
Men's Bible study at Bob Matthews' house
- 21 - Home Group Bible Study at PK's house - 7 p.m.
- 22 - West End Community Ladies Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
- 23 - AA - 7 p.m.
- 24 - **WORSHIP** - 10 a.m.
- 25 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the church
- 27 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the church
Men's Bible study at Bob Matthews' house
- 28 - Home Group Bible Study at PK's house - 7 p.m.

SEASIDE BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH ...

FEBRUARY ...

- 4 – Anne Wright
5 – Demetrius Zipp
 Miranda Zipp
 Joe DiCecco
6 – Drake Slone
7 – Traci Morris
 Cliff Johnson
8 – Donald Boyer
11 – Ava Johnson
12 – Jesus Valdez
13 – Jim Kachelmeyer
 Jennifer Valdez
16 – Josh Vaughan
17 – Violet Calkins
18 – David Jacobs
19 – Kathy Heller
20 – Barbara Hutchinson
 McKenzie Atkins
21 – Carrie Lentz
23 – Patrick Elizondo
24 – Robert Parker
26 – Kel Vaughan
27 – Jakob Feldman
 Taylor Peterson

CHECK THIS OUT ...

One reason we need to tell stories is because of a shortened national attention span. That is, because of television and other influences, we do not read well, we do not concentrate well, and we have a shortened ability to keep our mind focused on things. Stories help.”

From: New Christian's Handbook by Max Anders

PASTORAL PRAYER: Father, help us recognize when we are wearing the old stuff, so we can take off the old and put on your new. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I love you, Family!

Pastor Kelley