

9/15/24 - Meeker Christian Church: A New Era  
Luke 24:45-48

A new era for Meeker Christian Church is at hand. It first began in Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago as recorded in Luke 24:45-48 *And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. 46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things.*

Meeker, Colorado Christian Church you are one fulfillment of that prophecy in that through the years have received "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations" And therefore we have become "witnesses of these things."

Meeker Christian Church was made possible by the creation of God; the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus for salvation; and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The three in one in perfect harmony allowed the time, circumstances and person to come together to launch this ministry I believe in the spring of 1972. We are an independent, non-denominational church who look to the tenants of the Restoration Movement for restoring New Testament teachings.

The vision for this Church ministry has always been to be Spiritually gifted Holy Spirit administered and purposefully not a denomination, minister, or board centered. We are learning and growing to "think outside the box" of traditional church models with constant attention to encouraging, lifting up each other with a positive and gracious attitude reflecting the love, mercy, ministry and life of our Lord Jesus. May we inspire each other to sharpen our focus on the spiritual gifts as we independently study and research through these excerpts: 1 Corinthians 12:1 & 4-7 *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:*

The impact of spiritual gifts is even greater as one reads the very next chapter which is affectionately called the love chapter.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is*

*not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. NKJV*

Spiritual gifts and Jesus' sacrificial love make a beautiful picture of God's gift to us to be used for His purpose and glory through We His servants.

I am obliged to remind you of the Biblical examples of righteous obedience that contrast satan delusion

2 Thessalonians 2:5-12

*5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the [a]mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only [b]He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

Starting with Cain killing Abel righteousness has been persecuted. Through the patriarchs, judges, kings, prophets, Jesus Himself, all the apostles and those committed to righteousness ever since. Please pray to gain understanding regarding the almost incomprehensible contrast between the American Dream and the Biblical model. Holy Spirit do your thing to us and through us. Amen

Every believer has received a special spiritual gift for the purpose of serving each other and as a witness to others. 1 Peter 4:10 *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

In this New Era for Meeker Christian Church we acknowledge the challenges of change and ask for divine help in sorting through

and carefully selecting which may enhance our outreach to others for the glorification of God's Holy righteousness. We are a body working together for the greater glory of Almighty God by the grace of Jesus and the inspiration/visions of the Holy Spirit.

We sincerely desire that authenticity, integrity, openness and sincerity will define us as Paul noted in 1 Timothy 1:5-6: *Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, 6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk.*

Your leaders are not naïve enough to think we have all the answers, but rather we search the scripture, pray, and humble ourselves before the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This means that flexibility in growth and maturity become a matter of faith, patience and practice. The Bible illustrates for us worship with music, verbal messages, artistic values, prayer, offering and communion. This mandates a willingness to modify when necessary within Biblical parameters and never knowingly challenging the principles of righteousness. And always welcoming corrections when the inevitable error happens. We do this in order that as 1 Corinthians 9:22-23 says: *22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.* I like the NIV translation of these verses as well: *To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.*

So we extend into this new era of ministry to dedicate Meeker Christian Church to increase as a community of persons who are committed to being intentionally involved with others in accountable, encouraging relationships.

The condition of our physical heritage, spiritual abandonment, economic turmoil, socially compromising and political (you add the adjective) are in the greatest peril since creation, since America was discovered, since democracy was envisioned.

Life change and Spirit-led life sustenance comes from clusters of caring people participating and encouraging each other toward spiritual growth. Hebrews 10:24-25 expounds on that: *24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

And again from the NIV translation: *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Both the OT and NT have references to the idea of “dedication” and for our New Era we need to hear some of them as reminders and emphasis for motivation in what we do:

*2 Chronicles 31:6, And the children of Israel and Judah, who dwelt in the cities of Judah, brought the tithe of oxen and sheep; also the tithe of holy things which were consecrated to the Lord their God they laid in heaps.*

*Luke 21:5-6, Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was [a]dorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, 6 “These things which you see—the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.”*

As the Lord continues to entrust us with more and more ministry opportunities

The mantle of our opening verse rests on you: *Luke 24:48 And you are witnesses of these things.*

Today we reinforce the vision casting of those who planted and have labored throughout the years to bring us to where we are today by hearing the word of the Lord directed toward persons dedicated to His service and glory:

*Psalms 20:4 May He grant you according to your heart's desire, And fulfill all your purpose.*

*NIV version: May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.*

*Psalms 33:11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.*

*Proverbs 14:22 Do they not go astray who devise evil? But mercy and truth belong to those who devise good.*

*NIV concludes with:... those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness.*

*Proverbs 16:3 Commit your works to the Lord, And your thoughts will be established.*

*NIV translation: Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed*

*Jer 29:11-14 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "*

The words of this song *Find Us Faithful* are another way of saying what I am trying to portray in this message this morning:

We're pilgrims on the journey  
Of the narrow road  
And those who've gone before us line the way  
Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary  
Their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace  
Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses  
Let us run the race not only for the prize  
But as those who've gone before us  
Let us leave to those behind us  
The heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives

CHORUS:

Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful  
May the fire of our devotion light their way  
May the footprints that we leave  
Lead them to believe

And the lives we live inspire them to obey  
Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful  
After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone  
And our children sift through all we've left behind  
May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover  
Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find