

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10



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KINGS COUNTY NewsMagazine

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God's wisdom



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Volume 2 Issue 11

"A Voice for the Christian Community"

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**FROM THE
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Living in a Psychologized Culture



Earlier this month, Grace Church of the Valley hosted a Biblical Counseling Conference in Kingsburg. The title of the conference was "Living in a Psychologized Culture."

By T. M. Dinkins

The title caught my attention because I have never heard our culture described in that specific way. I thought it would be helpful to ask one of the organizers, Dr. Brendan Tomassian, if he could answer some questions about the conference for our readers. The following article includes his responses.

Why was that topic chosen? Why do Christians need to be aware of the difference between psychology and what the Bible teaches about the soul? What is the Biblical basis for counseling?

We chose this topic because we have seen that our culture is inundated with psychological diagnoses, psychotropic medications, and mental illness labels. All of us have friends and

family members who have suffered in this area. We believe that in the midst of this reality, God's Word has the answers we need. It is sufficient to address life and godliness in relation to these things.

Christians need to be aware of the difference between psychology and what the Bible teaches because the different assumptions and worldviews of the two are often at odds. For example, some psychologists and therapists counsel from the perspective that man is inherently innocent and/or righteous.

Scripture is clear that man is born in sin (Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12-14). These differences are not neutral; they are directly relevant to the condition of man's soul.

The biblical basis for counseling is simply that the Bible IS the basis for counseling. It has everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3, LSB). It is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17). This does not preclude the work of a doctor as applied to physical issues with the brain or other parts of the body, but argues that issues with the soul/mind/heart are spiritual issues to be handled with Scripture.

Andrew Rogers (Biblical Counseling Worldwide) and Adam Tyson (Placenta Bible Church) were the keynote speakers. What topics did they address in their sessions?

Dr. Tyson spoke on session 1, "What is a Psychologized Culture," and session 3, "Medicine and a Psychologized Culture. In session 1, he helped

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 12 Marching Band Show- case at Neighbor Bowl	NOVEMBER 15 Women's Friendsgiving Dinner at SouthValley Community Church	NOVEMBER 22 Winter Wonderland Opens in Hanford	NOVEMBER 22 Hanford Christmas Tree Lighting
NOVEMBER 23 Thanksgiving Potluck & Prayer at Grace Bible Church Hanford	NOVEMBER 27 Turkey Trot in Down- town Hanford	DECEMBER 3 Christmas with C. S. Lewis at the Visalia Fox Theater	DECEMBER 12 13 The Nutcracker by Bethel Ballet at the Hanford Fox Theater
DECEMBER 14 An Irish Christmas at Visalia Fox Theater	DECEMBER 14 Christmas at the Hanford Fox Theater	DECEMBER 31 New Years Game Night at Grace Bible Church Hanford	JANUARY 11 Hanford Winter Won- derland Closes



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Taking Time to be Thankful Christ & Common Sense



Pastor Tim Dinkins

Have you noticed how Thanksgiving has fallen on hard times in our culture? I started noticing this in the last few years, but it didn't really hit me until this year when I noticed the advertisers and the decorations jumping directly from Halloween to Christmas.

Now, I am not saying there is anything wrong with getting people to focus on Christmas early, but I am concerned that as Christians we will be swept up in the frenzy of the holidays, without taking the time to adequately celebrate this uniquely God-glorifying holiday.

Thanksgiving Day traces its roots back to 1621, when a group of Pilgrims and Native Americans in Plymouth, Massachusetts celebrated a bountiful harvest with several days of feasting and games. The Pilgrims recognized that God had blessed them in a unique way that year so they

took the time to recognize God's provision and express their gratitude to Him.

President George Washington officially proclaimed Thanksgiving as a national holiday in 1789. He said it would be recognized "as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God." He called on his fellow countrymen to "unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions."

In the midst of the Civil War in 1863, president Abraham Lincoln set the final Thursday in November as day of thanksgiving. He said, "I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are

unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union."

Recently, my appreciation for the holiday increased because I came across a book by Eric Metaxas, which describes the back story to one of the guests who attended the original Thanksgiving celebration. The book is titled, "Squanto and the Miracle of Thanksgiving: A Harvest Story from Colonial America of How One Native American's Friendship Saved the Pilgrims." The book describes Tisquantum's remarkable story of how he was

kidnapped from his Patuxet tribe, learned Spanish and English, and then was able to return to his original village in Massachusetts. It just so happened that a group of Pilgrims had arrived at the same area of New England. They were in desperate need of someone with local expertise on hunting and farming. Tisquantum was already fluent in English and so when he walked into the Pilgrim's camp he was able to help them learn how to thrive in that community. He was one of the reasons why the Pilgrim's were able to celebrate that first Thanksgiving.

As I read the story, it reminded me of the account of Joseph's trials and success in Egypt. Joseph experienced immense difficulty. He was also sold into slavery, but God was able to use it for good. Joseph put it so eloquently when he spoke to his brothers. He said, "As for you, you meant evil against

me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." (Genesis 50:20) The story of Tisquantum is a much more recent example of God sovereignly directing a remarkable outcome from what would otherwise be a tragic situation.

I would encourage you to reflect on the goodness of God this Thanksgiving season. As Lamentations 3:22-23 says, "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Tim Dinkins is the lead pastor at Grace Bible Church Hanford. You can contact him with questions and comments at timothydinkins@gmail.com



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Mia & Zoe De La Torre
Student Athletes
Sierra Pacific High School



Mia, what is it like being a Sophomore at Sierra Pacific? What are some of your favorite subjects and activities?

Being a sophomore here at Sierra Pacific is amazing. Some of my favorite subjects are math and history. In both of those classes, I am fortunate enough to have excellent teachers. They help me understand the subject and make them enjoyable. The activities here at Sierra Pacific are interesting. Some of my favorites are the rallies, bear bash, and our school dances.

Zoe, did anything surprise you about moving up to high school this year? What are some of your favorite subjects and activities?

Actually a couple of things surprised me such as different buildings and different teachers for each period. My favorite subjects are geography, PE, and biology. My favorite activity to do is playing waterpolo with my high school team because we are pretty good and we come together as a team.

Mia, how many years have you been swimming and playing water polo? What is it like playing for coach Bre Abell?

I have been swimming for 12 years and have only been playing water polo for 3 years. Playing for my coach Bre Abell, is rewarding because we all know how hard and all the time and effort she puts into the team. She is always there, ready to help us in any way she can, and she also pushes us to do our best. Coach Bre's dedication inspires me to work harder at every practice and at every game. She makes it clear on how much she cares for the sport, but more importantly, she shows how much she cares for all of her players. It is also comforting to know how rooted in her faith she is as well.

Last year's water polo team made it to the playoffs. How are things looking for the team this year?

So far this year, as we move forward towards playoffs, our team has a good chance of advancing far. Currently looking at our seedings, we should be ranked as one of the top seeds in Division III. It would be really cool if we could win the valley. It is something that our whole team wants to achieve this year, but it is something that we all know we still have a long way to go to get to and much more work to do to get there.

Do you have one game or memory from this year that has stood out to you for water polo?

One memory I have is when we travelled to Arroyo Grande for a water polo tournament and we went on a scavenger hunt with 2 separate teams and in the end we ended up losing but the time I spent with those people was amazing. Between us trying to



find and make all the things and everyone running around was very funny and I laughed a lot. (Zoe)

One memory that I have from this year is when our team went to a tournament in Arroyo Grande. We all got dressed up nicely to take pictures on the pier. While we were there, we ran into another water polo team that was there for the same tournament. They were there dancing already, and my whole team joined in with them, and then we proceeded to have a dance battle, team vs team. Unfortunately, my team did not win that dance battle. Even though we lost, it was still a lot of fun. My team was laughing and having such a great time. Not only that, but we made some pretty amazing friends that night as well. (Mia)

Zoe, what is it like being on the varsity water polo team with your sister? Do you prefer swimming or playing water polo?

Being on the varsity water polo team with my sister is comforting. This is because

she is like my rock. I tell her everything and knowing she is there makes me feel better. I prefer team sports so generally I prefer water polo over swimming.

Mia, 1 Corinthians 10:31 says "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." What are some ways you try to keep focused on God while playing sports?

Some things that I like to do are that before every water polo game or a swim race for swim, I like to stop and take a deep breath and pray to God. I pray to him, asking for everything to go well, and for that everything goes well for the people around me too. I also try to remember that all that we do and accomplish would not be possible without his help and guidance.

Zoe, Your family has had a big impact on who you are today. What are some of the ways your parents and your siblings have encouraged you as you play sports and serve God?

My parents have always pushed me through tough times with sports and God.

My parents have always told me to follow my dreams and will help me achieve those dreams, helping me whenever I need it. They always taught me to be a light for Jesus in all that I do by actions and interactions with others I am around. My siblings and I have always had a competitive edge with each other which personally I think helps me to be tough. My parents have always taken me to church with my siblings. I love going to church, especially as a kid. When I was young I remember my parents putting me in Awana with Mia. It was some of my best memories; we made boxes for the homeless and for children in need of help. Mia being with me made my experience a lot better knowing I had my older sister there to help me if needed.

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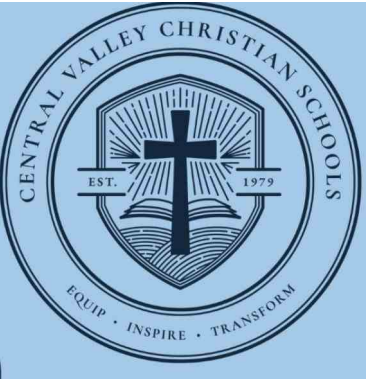


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FAITH IN ACTION

Jacob Kitson
High School Principal
Central Valley
Christian



By: T. M. Dinkins

How long have you been connected with CVC and what job did you have before becoming principal?

I attended CVC in high school and graduated in 2010. I returned to CVC in 2019 as a middle school math teacher and later taught Bible as well. This is my first year serving as the high school principal.

What are some of the things you love the most about the school and community?

What stands out most to me about the CVC community is how deeply people value being together. At games, concerts, and fundraisers, families show up not just to support our students but because they genuinely enjoy doing life together.

CVC includes Pre-K through High School. How many students are enrolled on the campus, and how do you work towards providing an excellent education for the students?

We currently serve over 1,200 students from Pre-K through high school. A key part of our pursuit of excellence is our adoption of the Teaching for Transformation (TfT) framework, which guides both our curriculum and professional development. TfT helps ensure that every subject is taught from a distinctly Christian perspective and invites students to “See the Story, Live the Story.”

In a recent video you mentioned that you want to “pursue excellence with humility.” Excellence in education is important. Why do you want to emphasize humility?

I stress humility because excellence without humility can easily turn into pride and self-promotion. Genuine excellence, when pursued with humility, shows a heart that aims to honor God and give our best for His glory rather than for ourselves.

The Kings County

Where did you graduate from after high school? How did your higher education impact you in preparation for this role?

I graduated from Fresno State with a degree in Communication. My coursework provided many opportunities to strengthen both written and verbal communication skills, which I rely on daily as a principal. Some classes also emphasized effective teamwork within organizations, which has been invaluable as I manage the responsibilities of leading a school.

Matthew 5:16 says, “Let your light shine before others so they might see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” **How does that verse inspire you in your work at CVC?**

Matthew 5:16 resonates with my Deep Hope for our students and staff—that we would “pursue excellence with patience and humility.” Our aim isn’t for personal recognition, but to allow our work and character to shine in a way that reflects God’s glory.

You said you met your wife at CVC. How does your wife help support you as the principal? How fulfilling is it to come home to your wife



and children and invest in their lives?

My wife, Michelle, is a blessing beyond words. She’s an incredible mom and has been so gracious and understanding as I’ve taken on the challenges of this new role. Being a principal is meaningful and fulfilling, but coming home to my wonderful family is on a whole different level. I often wish there were more hours in the day so I could spend even more time with Michelle and our boys.

In Matthew 18:16 Jesus said, “I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not

prevail against it.” How does CVC interact with local churches in the area? How does the school encourage students to be involved in local churches?

As a covenantal school, we require our families to be connected to a local church. We also keep close relationships with local youth pastors, who often visit campus to engage with students at lunch, attend athletic events, and participate in chapel services. Through these interactions, we aim to encourage students to be actively involved in their own churches.



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CONTUNUED PAGE 1
Living in a
Psychologized Culture

us understand the difference between psychology and the worldview of the Bible. In session 3, he leveraged his background as a physician’s assistant in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery to discuss the relationship of medication, specific mental illnesses, and biblical counseling.

Dr. Rogers spoke on session 2, “Why Are We Living in a Psychologized Culture?” and session 4, “How Can We Help the Psychologized?” Session 2’s focus was to explain how and why, from a theological perspective the gap between psychology and a biblical worldview exists. It focused on the problem of sin and how it permeates human understanding. Session 4 highlighted initial steps to care for those who have been diagnosed with mental illnesses and/or otherwise impacted by psychological realities.

Were there any breakout sessions at the conference? What were some of the topics and why were they chosen?

We had five breakout sessions, including “Personal Accountability in a Psychologized Culture,” “Relationships in a Psychologized Culture,” and “The Self in a Psychologized Culture.” Each of these was chosen because it reflected an area where we have seen a trend of a psychological worldview overtaking that of the Bible in the lives of people. For example, in the relationships breakout session, we wanted to address the concepts of “toxic” relationships and boundaries, as those have been repeatedly brought up by counselees we have encountered.

Are most of the attendees from the Central Valley? What is some of the feedback you heard from people who attended?

While there were a few notable exceptions of people flying in from other states and areas, the vast, vast majority of our attendees were from the Central Valley. In general, Bakersfield to Modesto was the primary area. We have heard incredible feedback, primarily from people thankful for this training who desire to launch and/or grow counseling ministries in their churches and are looking for help in that.

Have you always been a supporter of Biblical counseling? What inspired you to want to invest in Biblical Counseling?

Ten years ago, I had never heard of biblical counseling. I was completely enmeshed in the psychological worldview in relation to many of these issues. In seminary, however, I took several courses in this area that spurred me to further study. I was overcome, in the best way, with the hope and power of Scripture as the solution for the problems of the soul.

Central Valley Biblical Counseling has been serving the community for several years. Why did CVBC host this conference? How can the conference help people become trained as Biblical Counselors?

This was our second annual conference specifically (though before that our church hosted annual trainings from the Association of Certified Biblical Counseling). We view our annual conference as achieving two specific goals. The first is to introduce new people to biblical counseling through a unique, relevant issue. We hope that it will get people excited to pursue further training and/or to explore what biblical counseling is all about. The second is to provide further training to those who are already familiar with biblical counseling but want insight into a specific topic beyond basic training. Either way, we desire for the conferences to serve as practical, specific opportunities for training and understanding.

The Kings County

Some of our readers may not have heard about Biblical Counseling. Why do you recommend having believers be trained in Biblical counseling? How can it help the local churches here in the valley?

We truly believe that every Christian is capable of counseling. This does not mean that everyone is equally equipped or trained. But it does mean that every Christian is called and equipped at the spiritual level to minister to one another. This is because biblical counseling is really Christian discipleship. It is applying Scripture to life’s problems and helping someone pursue sanctification. The ministry of every believer is to build up the body of Christ (Eph 4:12). We are called to restore each other if we are caught in transgressions (Gal 6:1) and to bear one another’s burdens (Gal 6:2). These, and many other biblical commands (e.g. the one-anothers) are essentially the work of counseling.

If a church begins to train its people, it will see great growth in the level of discipleship and spiritual maturity in the life of its people. The pastors will have less of a burden because the people will care for each other in a biblical way.

What is the process of becoming a certified Biblical counselor?

The Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC) offers a three-phase process. Phase 1 involves 1,000 pages of reading from an approved list, ten hours of counseling observations, and 30 hours of coursework. Phase 2 consists of evaluations/letters of recommendation and 44+ pages of written exams. Phase 3 includes 50+ hours of supervised counseling with an ACBC Fellow (someone who has undergone extra training and trains other counselors). Our organization, Central Valley Biblical Counseling, as a ministry of Grace Church of the Valley in Kingsburg, is a certified training



center with ACBC that can walk trainees through each step of this process.

Are there any plans for an upcoming Biblical Conference next year?

While we have not announced anything yet, we expect 2026 to have a similar schedule to 2025, which included (1) our annual conference in late fall, (2) our Spring Fundamentals Training (30 hours of training in the basics of biblical counseling), (3) our Phase 1 Cohort in summer

(working through reading and counseling observations in a group format), and (4) our year-round exam class (assisting with completion of the exams in the certification process of the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors). Those who are interested in learning more about future plans or training can go to our website: biblicalcounselingtraining.com to register for our email list and see upcoming events.



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BELIEVERS IN BUSINESS

Eric & Heather Ward Owners of First Fruits

Most people in Hanford know about the First Fruits corn and fruit stand on 12th and Fargo Ave. How long has First Fruits been selling fruit there? Why did you choose that location?

We have been selling on that corner since 2008. The location was chosen because we had and still have long-term renting and farm management agreements with the owner of the property there, and we saw it as an easily accessible corner for the community to pull into for purchases. We designed it as a drive through because at the time we had young children and appreciated businesses with drive throughs.

Some people may not understand the meaning behind First Fruits. Why did you choose that name for the company?

Our farming corporation is Faith Farms Inc, named in 1976 by our dad. We added the dba (doing business as) of First Fruits Sweet Corn when we started the stand in 2008. We wanted to name the new business in a way that would both continue to carry our business model of doing our best to trust and obey the Lord as we worked for our daily provision and communicate the heart behind our efforts to the community who we would interact with. The short answer would be to show our desire to trust and obey the Lord as we go about our daily work. It is directly based on Proverbs 3:9 "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce."

Over the years many students and young people have worked at

the fruit stand. How many people do you usually employ there? How long is the season and how much corn do you sell in an average day?

As of 2025 we've employed 111 teens/young adults since we started in 2008. It's pretty special to look back at the list of names. We are still in contact with many of them and that means a lot to us. For many employees we are a first job, which means we've had the privilege of not only training and guiding them as they develop their work ethic, but we've also had the privilege of watching them grow and move on to their next jobs as they get older. We've watched their earnings and experience help with everything from FFA projects and college expenses to first cars and missions trips.

We generally hire between 10-15 employees each season depending on our needs for that summer. In the early years our season was about 12 weeks from early June to early September. But in the last few years, due to other farming operations that have developed, we now have a 5-6 week season from mid-June to late July. Peak sale days are from when we open in June through the 4th of July and then it settles down for the remaining weeks.

First Fruits is a family business. How long has your family been living in the valley? What are the main crops that the farm has grown over the years? What types of orchards does the family farm?

We are the 6th generation of Central California farmers. Our kids have all worked with the business over the years and are the 7th generation. We have harvested everything from row crops (cotton, corn, wheat, alfalfa,



tomatoes, etc.) to stone fruit (peaches plums, nectarines) to our current main crops that include almonds, walnuts, sweet corn, and a variety of produce such as melons, tomatoes, and onions, etc.

Psalm 104:14 says, "You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth." How fulfilling is it to farm the land and know that God is using you to provide food for his creation?

As Eric says – "all I do is plant and water, the Lord brings the growth."

It is very fulfilling to do our best to partner with God and be tasked with helping grow and provide food for our community. It's also very humbling. Each year has different variables that play into which crops are planted, which ones make it, which ones are profitable or not. So as Proverbs 16:9 says – "A man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps" (paraphrase).

One of our biggest blessings is just seeing the community's response in coming by to purchase our products. We didn't know what to expect when we first started, and the positive and excited responses has kept us coming back and wanting to make the effort each summer. It's very

fulfilling as farmers to get to meet the people buying and eating what you've grown. We appreciate our customer base very, very much, so a huge shout out to them!!

Our prayer is that our business, our interactions with the customers and employees, will ultimately be a witness to God's character and be a way for HIS goodness to influence the community.

How important is your faith in the work that you do?

Our faith is central to any effort of work we make. Each new day is a trust in what God will do with it. Our faith has grown tremendously over the years as we've watched Him provide and guide our steps – whether it was what we planned and hoped for or not. Either way – The Lord's plan is best.

Family is an important part of First Fruits Farm. How many family

members are involved in the work? Do they farm in any areas outside of Kings County?

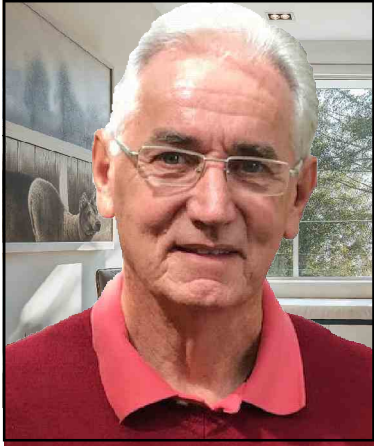
Our kids have all worked for us over the years, and some still do. We've also employed cousins over the years who help us out alongside their own farming in neighboring counties. At least 15 family members have been involved over the years.

What crops are you planning to grow and sell at the First Fruits stand next year?

We would like to make sure to communicate that any "next" years are never a guarantee – we honestly plan crops and locations for First Fruits from year to year. The Lord has seen fit to keep us in the same location with similar crops for this many years, but we don't expect or promise the same plan ever. So if the Lord sees fit – we'll see you next year!



From the Publisher:



By Terrence Wild

Christ the King: The True Gospel and the Supremacy of Jesus Over All Creation

Like many of you reading this, I have come to understand the immeasurable comfort of knowing that Jesus loves me—completely and unconditionally—despite my sins and failures. There is nothing any of us can ever do to repay Him for the price He paid so that we might be forgiven and reconciled to God. What He accomplished through His sacrifice not only extended grace for our salvation, but also opened the way for us to become the people He intended us to be from the beginning of creation.

God's plan for us is immeasurable in scope and breathtaking in beauty. We are called to be His sons and daughters, members of His eternal family, sharing in His divine life forever. Having read and studied the Scriptures daily for more than fifty years, I am more certain than ever that His purpose for our lives is worth any price we may be called to pay in pursuit of the glorious future He has promised.

My deepest desire is to know Him fully to walk in His truth and live in His reality. I do not want a watered-down version of Christianity, shaped by

convenience or compromise. We all begin our spiritual journey as newborns in the faith, in need of love, care, and guidance. Yet God's plan is that we grow into mature, strong, and spiritually discerning men and women who reflect His image and bear His light in the world.

It is with this conviction that I have written what I believe to be the plain and honest truth about our spiritual growth and development. My hope is that as you read, you will glimpse the greatness of God's design for your life—a destiny made possible only by His grace and mercy.

The true Gospel of Jesus Christ is not a moral improvement plan, a religious comfort zone, or a personal coping mechanism. It is a declaration of sovereignty of the absolute supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ over all creation, both in heaven and on earth. The heart of the Gospel is not only that Jesus saves, but that **Jesus reigns**.

From Genesis to Revelation, the central truth of Scripture is that all authority, power, and glory belong to the Son of God. The prophets foresaw it, the apostles preached it, and the Church was built upon it: **"Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"** (Philippians 2:11).

That single claim—that Christ is King—has always been the dividing line between truth and rebellion, life and death, the kingdom of God and the kingdoms of men.

The Offense of Kingship

When Jesus walked the earth, He was not condemned for healing the sick or teaching moral truth. He was executed because He claimed authority—royal, divine, and absolute authority—over all mankind.

The religious leaders of Israel understood exactly what He meant when He said, *"Before Abraham was, I AM"* (John 8:58). The Roman Empire,

though tolerant of many gods, would not tolerate a rival king. In their system, Caesar alone held the title "Lord." To confess Jesus as King was therefore an act of treason against Rome and blasphemy against the religious establishment.

So they crucified Him—not because He lacked evidence of His divinity, but because they refused to submit to it. His crown was of thorns, His throne was a cross, but His titled **"King of the Jews"** was written in every language above His head for all the world to read.

Pilate therefore said unto Him, "Art thou a king then?" Jesus answered, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world."

—John 18:37

That was the issue then—and it remains the issue now.

The Modern Rebellion Against the Kingship of Christ

In today's religious and political environment, the same spiritual battle rages. The world is willing to tolerate Jesus as a moral teacher, a prophet, or even a personal savior. But call Him **King**—the absolute ruler of heaven and earth, the one who commands obedience—and the hostility returns.

Modern culture rejects authority in all its forms, especially divine authority. Society insists that freedom means self-rule, that truth is subjective, and that morality is negotiable. Even within much of modern Christianity, the emphasis has shifted away from the Lordship of Christ toward a consumer faith centered on comfort, self-fulfillment, and emotional experience.

Yet the Gospel does not offer Christ as a life coach—it proclaims Him as **Lord of Lords**. You cannot receive Him as Savior while rejecting Him as King. The cross does not give us permission to live as we please; it grants us power to live as He commands.

Why do you call Me, "Lord, Lord," and do not do what I say? —Luke 6:46

Freedom and Responsibility Under the Divine Covenant

The irony is that God, by divine decree, gave mankind the very freedom to reject Him. Free will is not a loophole—it is the sacred trust of creation. From the beginning, God desired worshipers, not slaves; children, not captives. Adam was free to obey or disobey, and every man and woman since then has stood at that same crossroads.

But for those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and King, the terms of that freedom are transformed. The Gospel of Salvation is a covenant—a divine contract sealed in the blood of Christ. By entering it, believers acknowledge that their lives no longer belong to themselves. They have yielded to His authority, accepted His government, and received His Spirit.

You are not your own; you were bought with a price.

—1 Corinthians 6:19–20

This means that every decision, every action, and every silence carries moral weight. Those who claim the name of Christ are not exempt from accountability. We are responsible for the choices we make—and for those we fail to make—in light of the Kingdom to which we belong.

Identity Beyond Belief

This truth pierces deeper than simple belief. Faith is not merely intellectual assent; it is identity. The Christian life is not defined primarily by what we believe but by **who we are**—and who Jesus Christ declares us to be.

When we confess that Jesus is King, we are not making a statement of opinion; we are submitting to a divine reality that governs every area of existence. Our identity is not self-determined—it is Christ-defined.

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

—2 Corinthians 5:17

To live otherwise—to claim His name but deny His rule—is spiritual hypocrisy. The Kingdom of God does not operate on preference but on purpose. And the purpose of the believer is to manifest the reign of Christ in every realm—personal, familial, civic, and cultural.

The Cost of Rejection and the Call to Obedience

The world remains offended at the authority of Christ for the same reason it crucified Him two thousand years ago: people do not want to be told that someone else has the right to rule over them. Yet even in their rejection, they are exercising the freedom God gave them. The tragedy is not that people are free to reject Christ—it is that so many do, even after hearing the truth.

For those who accept Him, there is no middle ground. The call of Christ is a call to total allegiance. It is not enough to say, "I believe." The question Heaven asks is, **"Who are you?"**—and the answer must align with what Jesus has declared about those who are His.

Those who live under His Kingship are commanded to walk in righteousness, to speak truth in love, to make decisions that reflect His character, and to bear witness to His authority in all things.

The consequences of rejecting that call are serious and eternal. But the rewards of obedience—peace, purpose, and eternal fellowship with the King—are beyond measure.

Christ Reigns—Now and Forever

The Gospel is not merely an invitation to forgiveness—it is a summons to allegiance. Jesus Christ reigns supreme. His crown cannot be removed by unbelief, and His throne cannot be shaken by rebellion. The kingdoms of this world rise and fall, but the government of God remains forever on His shoulders.

And whether the world acknowledges it or not, the truth stands unchanged: **Jesus Christ is King.**



DEAR NOELLE

SEEKING AFTER
God's wisdom



We want to hear from you. Send your questions to:

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DEAR NOELLE by Noelle B. Nightingale Biblical Counsel for Christian Women

Dear Noelle,

The holidays are coming up and I always struggle with feeling guilty about eating so much food. I don't want to put on weight and sometimes I wish we could just skip over the holidays completely. I know that's not the attitude God wants me to have but it is so hard to be self-controlled when it comes to all this good food. What can I do to be more self-controlled?

~ "Seeking Self-Control"

Dear Seeking Self-Control,

God made food for us to enjoy. It's a wonderful part of being human that we can take the time to create amazing dishes for others to enjoy with us. Our creativity in cooking and our ability to take pleasure in food are actually a reflection of the image of God in humans. Have you noticed how animals just wolf down their food and don't even take the time to taste it? For animals, food is just a matter of survival, and their instincts tell them to hoard it and to eat as much as they can whenever they can. They hide their food from other animals, eat in secret, and become aggressive if anyone tries to take their food from them. We are not animals, and God has given humans a very different purpose for eating than animals have.

As humans, our main purpose for life is to bring glory to God. Glorifying God should be our driving aim in everything we do, including how we eat our food. The Bible says, "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God." (1 Cor. 10:31) So we should ask ourselves, how can we eat to the glory of God? We can bring glory to God by eating in a way that pleases God. This means we must be thankful to God for the food that He gives us, as it says in Psalm 34:8, "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!" It also means that we cannot let food control us. When we let food have mastery over us, we are actually letting food be the god of our lives, rather than serving God. The Bible says that enemies of Christ serve the god of their belly (Philippians 3:18-19), but Christians have a new master and are to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Food should not take the place of God in our lives. If it does, then we must confess this to the Lord and ask for His help in the area of eating. It might mean that we need to evaluate the food that we're eating and decide what is excessive. Before going to a holiday feast, it is helpful to make a choice to only eat one helping of food and not go back for seconds. Instead of trying all of the desserts, just choose one dessert to enjoy. If you eat slowly, it is easier to savor the food, and you will actually feel satisfied with a smaller portion.

Besides finding nutritional value in food and glorifying God in eating, God has designed food to serve one more important purpose for humans: to be a place for strengthening relationships. Food brings family together



regularly at the table and keeps family bonds strong. Food can be a reason for friends to gather together and enjoy each other's company. Especially at the holidays, the main reason to look forward to all the food is because it brings loved ones together for face to face time. If you find that you're snagging treats mostly outside of this time of gathered eating, then you're not fulfilling God's purpose for the food He's giving you. You should eat when everyone is together, not when you're by yourself. And it's when we're by ourselves that we are most vulnerable to eating in excess. But if we are focused on spending time with people and are engaged in conversation, then we will be less likely to eat too much. So I hope that this holiday season, you will be able to think of food the way that God does and eat with thankfulness in your heart to Him.

***Noelle is a wife and mother and enjoys counseling women in the church.**

SEND IN YOUR LETTER TO: Noelle@ChristianNewsMagazine.com



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