

## Welcome

Hospitality is a Christian virtue. Please fill out a Welcome Card and place it in the offering. Join us for a meal after service.

A Fresh Look At the Word of God and A Living Word to Reach the Lost & Hurting

# Cross Pointe

## A Great Vacation Bible School

### “The Incredible Race – One Family, One Race, One Savior”

Thank you to Rachel Alvarez and everyone who worked so hard this past week to make the VBS a success. It was well attended and the children had a wonderful time. **Praise the Lord!**

*We grieve the passing of our dear Brother in the Lord, Ken Stevens, this past week. Cross Pointe will have a Memorial Service tentatively planned for 2 weeks from today immediately after Sunday Morning Service. He was dearly loved and will be missed greatly.*

Malachi – Why Do You Question God’s Love When You Worship, Offerings, & Service are Corrupt

*study Sundays at 9:30.*

## Prayer Time at 8:30 am Each Sunday

Prayer Time now begins at 8:30am instead of 9 am for more time to pray.

### Discipleship Every Sunday

9:30-10:30 Adults-

Pastor McMahan

Foyer Classroom

11-12:30 Children –

Rachel Alvarez

Fellowship Hall

### Every Wednesday

7-8 Children-

Rachel Alvarez

Children’s Classes

7-8 Adults-

Pastor McMahan

Auditorium

## *Weekly Announcement Bulletin*

[www.crosspointecog.com](http://www.crosspointecog.com)

423-728-5060

July 23-29, 2023

Services

Sundays 10:30am-Noon

Wednesdays 7-8pm

Fishes & Loaves

Sun Noon & Thur 11:30 am

Food Distribution Fri 10:30

Good Samaritan Clinic

Thursdays 4:45 pm

Recovery Meetings

Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri – 8pm

## Prayer Every Sunday Morning 8:30 am

*in the foyer classroom Beginning in June*

### Pray One-Hour a Day

Use the Prayer Page of this Bulletin as a Prayer List throughout the week

## FACEBOOK CROSS POINTE CHURCH OF GOD

[www.facebook.com/CrossPointeChurchofGod](http://www.facebook.com/CrossPointeChurchofGod)

The services are now live streamed on the Church’s Facebook page. People are watching.

## The Sermons This Week

### Sunday

Disciplines that Focus on Christ

Colossians 1:9-23

John Stewart – Devotion

### Wednesday

Disciplines that Rejoice in the Midst of Suffering

Colossians 1:24-25, 29

D.J. Cole - Devotion

## SERVICES THIS WEEK!

DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP: Sunday’s Adult Sunday School 9:30; Worship 10:30 am; Wednesday’s 7 pm; “FISHES & LOAVES” CLOTHES & GROCERIES Friday 10:30am; “FISHES & LOAVES”

MEALS: Sunday: 12:00; Thursday 11:30 am; GOOD SAMARITAN CLINIC Thursday 4:45

## CROSS POINTE CHURCH OF GOD PRAYER AND PRAISE PAGE

Email prayer requests to: [prayerrequeststocrosspointe@gmail.com](mailto:prayerrequeststocrosspointe@gmail.com)

Prayer requests will be listed for 2 weeks unless you renew your request.

JULY 23, 2023

**"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."  
Psalm 116:15**

The Cross Pointe family is grieving over the passing of Ken Stevens, one of our own. We watched him grow and blossom into a man of God with a song of praise in his heart and in his voice. We look forward to the time we will all be united forever.

PASTOR OLIVER, MARTHA AND FAMILY:  
Martha is taking chemo which has caused her blood sugar to go too high

ALL WHO MINISTER IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES IN OUR CHURCH & THE PEOPLE THEY REACH:

- DEVOTIONS, PREACHING MINISTRY
- SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY
- CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
- MUSIC MINISTRY
- ONLINE MINISTRY
- NUCARS MINISTRY
- RECOVERY MINISTRY
- MEDICAL CLINIC MINISTRY
- FISHES AND LOAVES MINISTRY

LORD, BY YOUR SPIRIT, DRAW PEOPLE INTO THIS HOUSE OF FELLOWSHIP.

KARISA: healing of diabetes

SHERRY: salvation

NITA & DOUG: unspoken

ALYSSA AND GAGE: for comfort in the passing of ACE

ANDY'S DAD: recovering from heart surgery

HARVEY & LEXIE: Harvey has cancer; Lexie (his daughter) takes care of him

SUSIE & KEN: both need healing; Susie is recovering from surgery on her elbow and wrist

ANNETTE: (Debbie's friend), she has cancer and is on Hospice

SUJIN: healing in her shoulder

THE ANTON BURNETTE FAMILY in the death of their son, Jonathan

ANDY: Let us all support Andy in prayer as he begins his walk with the Lord.

ANBERLIN: fear

BUTCH & CLARA: Butch has possible bone cancer. He is also 67 years old, a double amputee and mentally deficient from birth. Clara, his mother is 89 and has been his caregiver all his life.

JAMIE BOSS: recovering from brain surgery; they are draining fluid from a mass in her lung because she had difficulty breathing

TINA LONGMIRE – pray for Tina and Anthony, friends of Jonathan McMahan. Tina was just diagnosed with cancer.

***BE SURE TO PICK UP-A WEEKLY PRAYER REQUEST FORM, WRITE YOUR REQUEST, AND PLACE IT IN THE OFFERING. WE POST NEW REQUESTS EACH WEEK***

Cross Pointe Church of God T.E.A.M ("Together Everyone Accomplishes More")  
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Pastor-Oliver McMahan

## Sunday's Sermon

### Disciplines that Focus on Christ Colossians 1:9-23 (from A Disciplined People, pp. 175-181)

#### Words to Hide in Your Heart (Scripture Quotation)

Colossians 1:9-11 “11 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

#### Touching Base

Colossians was written by Paul to the believers in the city of Colossae. It was a city in what is today the country of Turkey. Many worshiped spiritual beings, including angels. They thought that Christ was just another spiritual being. Paul taught that Christ is the Son of God. He emphasized the distinctive, divine nature of Christ. Christ was to be the focus of the believer's faith and discipline, not other spirit beings, false spiritual practices, or false religion.

There were several things the Colossians were to do,

Regarding their thinking,

- be filled with the Knowledge of His will (v. 9),
- be filled with wisdom and spiritual understanding (v. 9),
- be filled with the knowledge of God (v. 10);

Regarding their strength,

- be filled with His glorious power (v. 11),
- be strengthened with all might (v. 11);

Regarding works,

- walk worthy (v. 10),
- be fruitful (v. 10),
- do good works (v. 10);

And regarding character,

- have patience (v. 11),
- be longsuffering (v. 11),
- have joy (v. 11),
- give thanks (v. 12),
- continue in the faith (v. 23),
- be grounded (v. 23),
- be steadfast (v. 23), and
- not be moved away from the hope of the Gospel (v. 23).

## Searching the Scripture - (Scripture(s) Quotation for the Day)

Colossians 1:15-18 “15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

The believer’s faith and actions must be centered on Christ. The temptation is to do the disciplines of a believer with other centers, i.e., self, others, things, and other gods or spiritual beings. Paul taught that Christ is the center of the believers’ actions for several reasons. First, Christ is the means by which the believer has received all that one has as a believer. Following are the ways Paul lists that Christ has made life possible for the believer,

- all things are according to Christ (v. 11),
- Christ has qualified us (v. 12),
- we are partakers only through Christ (v. 12),
- Christ made our inheritance possible (v. 12),
- Christ delivered us (v. 13),
- Christ conveyed us to God's Love (v. 13),
- in whom (Christ) we have redemption (v. 14),
- through His blood we are redeemed (v. 14),
- all things were created through Him and by Him (v. 16),
- Christ is the firstborn from the dead (v. 18),
- we have peace through the blood of His cross (v. 20),
- He has reconciled us (v. 21), and
- Christ will present you holy and blameless, and above reproach (v. 22).

Second, Christ is the Central Creator, Template and Goal of all creation. The term, "firstborn" (Greek protokos), in Colossians 1:15 and 18, was from a root word which meant, "to bring into the world." "Beginning" in Colossians 1:18 (Greek archee) meant "origin." Is the term used for the English word, "architect." Following are ways in which Paul teaches this.

- Christ is the firstborn of all creation (v. 15) (i.e., the template);
- all things were created for Him (v. 16), (i.e., the goal);
- in Him all things consist (v. 17),
- He is the beginning (v. 18),
- in Him all fullness dwells (v. 19), and
- He reconciled all things to Himself (v. 19).

Third, Christ is the Center of all things and the Church. "Image" in Colossians 1:15 does not mean that Christ is a mere image of God. Rather, the term "invisible" in verse 15 indicates the meaning of Paul's use of the word, "image." That is, the believer would not know God Who is

invisible, except God has revealed Himself through Christ, Who is the "image" of God. Paul describes Christ as the Center of all things and the Church in the following ways.

- Christ is the image and what we know of God (v. 15),
- Christ is the invisible God (v. 15),
- Christ is before all things (v. 17),
- Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church (v. 18), and
- in all things Christ has the preeminence (v. 18).

### Answer the Following Questions

1. Is there any other way to worship God except through Christ?
2. Is there any other spiritual reality that makes it possible to know God?
3. Is there any prayer through any other than Christ that reaches God?

### Yielding to the Spirit

Know - (Head) The believer must know that society around the world is very "spiritual." The problem is that people claim to reach God through a wide range of means. People claim to be able to know God through their own innate human spirituality. Others claim that other spirits and gods help them worship and know God. Many feel that there are many pathways, religions and spiritual practices that reach God. The believer must know that spirituality and spiritual practices are false unless they are through, for and with Christ. All other forms of spirituality are from things that are created. Christ is the only Way to God because Christ was not created but God Himself the Creator. Christ did come and make Himself known to humanity as a created being but as the Creator Himself. As a result, all that the Christian does in prayer, good works, worship and stewardship must be from, for, and full of Christ.

Be - (Heart) The believer must have a heart that is not deceived into thinking that there is any other spirituality, teaching, or spiritual being who can make a way to God. The heart is easily deceived by personal spiritual feelings of awareness, ecstasy, and affirmation. However, these are deceitful if they are not from, grounded in, and ultimately directed toward Christ. The focus of the heart must be Christ. Christ gives meaning to relationships, prayer, worship and joy. Further, without Christ, these practices are without truth. Christ is not just an object of devotion, Christ is Creator and Sustainer of authentic and eternal devotion. This is the truth for knowledge about God, experience in God, and a future with God.

Do - What the disciple needs to do (Hands) The believer must not pray to or through a spiritual being. The believer must not practice another religion thinking that any spiritual practice will lead to the One, True God. Spirituality is dangerous if not grounded in Christ. Spiritualities and religious practices that are not centered in Christ mimic prayer, singing, meditation, worship, fellowship, fasting, good works, etc. that are all part of Christian disciplines. The difference is that they are not centered on Christ. They look like Christian practices but their goal is self, another spirit, another god, or another religious practice. The goal is not to achieve a certain state of being or receive a certain blessing. The goal of Christian practices of prayer, fasting, meditation, good works, etc. must be to do all things from, for, and with Christ.

Offer a Prayer Lord, You are the Author and Finisher of all things. I am thankful to You for I would not exist, be who I am, much less be able to live and do whatever I am able to do without You. Help me to not be deceived into thinking that other gods, religions, or spiritual practices can lead me to You. Though other religious experiences may be similar, may feel good for the moment, or seem to explain a few things in my life, I confess that they are futile in comparison to You. I worship and serve You for You are First and Foremost above all things and beings.

## **Wednesday's Sermon**

Disciplines that Rejoice In the Midst of Suffering Colossians 1:24-25, 29  
(from A Disciplined People, pp. 183-186)

### Searching the Scripture - (Scripture(s) Quotation for the Day)

Colossians 1:24-25, 29 "24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,....29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily."

Paul's focus on Christ was especially revealed in suffering. Christian disciplines during times of suffering are one of the most powerful witnesses of Christ and true Christianity. "Rejoice" (Greek "chairo") meant rejoice but the preposition, "in," which follows the word meant that Paul was not rejoicing because of the suffering but was rejoicing in the midst of His suffering. "Sufferings" (Greek "patheema") meant not only suffering but "misfortunes." Paul was concerned about the Colossians and the way that they were being tempted to worship other spiritual beings instead of Christ. Paul was so concerned that he was experiencing suffering and misfortune in order to try to minister the Truth of Christ. Yet, Paul was "rejoicing" though he was "suffering" on their behalf.

The ability to care for others, though that care may cause personal misfortune and suffering, is an important Christian discipline. Even more important is to rejoice while helping others. Paul's rejoicing helped him to exercise two disciplines in Colossians 1:29, to "labor" and to "strive" on their behalf. "Labor" (Greek "kopiao") was not just work but "to labor with wearisome effort, to toil." "Strive" (Greek "agonizomai") did not imply personal struggle alone but a contesting against something. In this case, "to contend, struggle, with difficulties and dangers antagonistic to the gospel." Paul's virtuous Christian practice was the ability to struggle, even suffer, in behalf of others, though they may not fully realize what he was trying to do for them. Paul did this because he knew Christ was working as well as working through him (Colossians 1:29b).

### Answer the Following Questions

1. Am I able to keep working for the Lord even though I may experience misfortune or personal suffering because of it?

2. Am I able to find rejoicing in the Lord though I am suffering for caring about others?
3. Am I able to continue working and caring for others though it requires toil and struggle?
4. Am I able to see God working in the midst of my toil?

### Yielding to the Spirit

Know - (Head) The believer must know that rejoicing in the Lord even while one is suffering is important. Rejoicing is not based on the circumstances or responses of others. It is based on Who the Lord is and that the Lord is working. It is hard to see through the struggle and labor required in some relationships. People's actions and anger can be discouraging. Rejoicing is not a reward for doing good. Rejoicing results from focusing on the work of the Lord and not one's own labor. Rejoicing is the resource for striving and not the reward.

Be - (Heart) The believer's heart must be focused on Christ and not the cause, circumstance or consequence. Suffering is inevitable when you seek to do good. Yet, so many feel the prize is pleasure and pain is punishment. Many will not recognize your good works, much less your intentions, or much less reward you for at least trying in their behalf and caring about them. The heart of the believer must be disciplined to rejoice in suffering that comes from caring about others. Not rejoicing because of the suffering but because God is working in the others and in you. Resistance is inevitable, so let rejoicing in Christ be in you despite the struggle that comes with caring for others.

Do - (Hands) The labor and striving of the believer's disciplines must not be focused on me because I am not enough. Neither should it be about the responsiveness of those we care about because they may not care or even be aware of what they need and what you are doing. Nevertheless, continue to work for and on behalf of others because Christ is working for them and in you. While the believer may think only that one was doing all the work to care about others, one's work should be energized by the work Christ was doing in you. A focus on Christ while caring and working for others produces rejoicing in the midst of suffering for and because of others.

Offer a Prayer Lord, turn my regret to rejoicing when someone does not appreciate my care for them. Turn my desire for thankfulness from others to dedication to Your working in others and in me. Turn my attention from gaining a reward from others to the goal of Your transformation of others and of me.