Galatians 2:20

[20] I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (ESV)

Pastor Parker has worn many hats in his short lifetime, but none more cherished than being the husband of his sweet wife of 48 years, Julia. They married in 1973 at the ripe young age of 19 and 20. Together they raised 3 wonderful children who are all grown up and married now, and have provided them with 7 grandchildren to enjoy.

Pastor Parker is a certified Biblical Counselor and has been a volunteer leader with the Austin Stone Recovery Ministries most recently. He often leads the 15-week “STEPS to Gospel Recovery” intensive, where all participants learn how we can regain our true identities in Christ Jesus.

Other hats he has worn are Austin Police Officer, Store Manager, High School and College Baseball Umpire and Basketball Referee, City Councilman in Giddings, and Founder of the Giddings Food Pantry with his wife Julia. He and Julia also lead short term Mission trips overseas to Central Asia. He continues to serve each and every day.

Pastor Parker has a heart for people and their relationship with Jesus. He has returned to Academic studies in the last several years earning certification as a Biblical Pastor. His desire is to better understand God’s word and learn how to better serve and disciple those he encounters. He is continuing to study and read, in an effort to learn how to better serve all who are in need. But what he loves to do most is sit down and open the Word of God with others and share and encourage them as they study the Bible together and grow to be more like Jesus.

One of his favorite verses of all time is Matthew 28:18–20,

[18] And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (ESV)

Often when he greets you, he will ask, “What words of wisdom do you have today?” So be ready to share what God has taught you recently. And be ready to explain it!

Most often Pastor Parker’s word of wisdom will be what he studied that morning. And if not, it will be this, Isaiah 55:6–9

[6] “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

[7] let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

[8] For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

[9] For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts. (ESV)

And,

Ephesians 3:20–21

[20] Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

God continues to bless this man with “far more” than he ever could ever dream of. Thank you Jesus!