

October Newsletter from Pastor Jim

A Lesson from C.S. Lewis

One of the most dramatic shifts in life from “I” to “God” was the conversion of C.S. Lewis. This little man, who held the Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Literature at Cambridge, then sat in his study without typewriter or secretary and penned the masterpiece which made him perhaps the most broadly-read Christian writer of our century.

Lewis was an agnostic (meaning one who denies the existence of God based on reason and logic), but was *Surprised by Joy*, which is the book in which he told about the reshaping of his early life as Jesus Christ replaced the “I” in his life.

In his work, *Beyond Personality*, he described the exchange of self-will for God’s will. Lewis writes: “Christ says, ‘Give me **all!** I don’t want just so much of your money and so much of your work – I want **you!** I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. I don’t want to cut off a branch here and there, I want to have the whole tree cut down. I don’t want to drill the tooth or crown it or fill it, but to have it out. Hand over your whole natural self and I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you **My** self. My own will shall become yours.’”

Dr. Donald Deffner recently wrote, “For the Apostle Paul, this matter of handing over the whole person to Christ to be annihilated was at the heart of Christianity.” Paul wrote by inspiration to the Romans: “**We know that our old self was crucified with Christ to do away with out sinful body, so that we night not be enslaved to sin any longer**” (Romans 6:6). The Christ of the Cross is not going to be fully real to us until we come to terms with this core of demanding reality at the heart of the Christian faith. How will be Christ be fully real to us as our Lord if **we** – and not **He** – continue to be at the center of our life?

Another converted agnostic by the name of Chad Walsh put it this way: “Here is the mystery and the paradox. The person who uses his freedom to give his “I” into the hands of God, to be remade in the image of Christ, is really only lending it to Christ. For God gives it back. One day, when you least expect it, He returns it to you, much improved from His scrubbing and the alternations it has received. What began as surrender to the Master, ends up being sonship to the Father.

Christ invites us to experience for ourselves what that kind of willing “surrender to the Master” will do for you. By His grace, we will be ready to say with Paul, “**I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me**” (Galatians 2:20).

Your Pastor Jim

Tuesday Bible Class Schedule
Afternoon from 1-2:30 PM and Evening from 7-8:30 PM

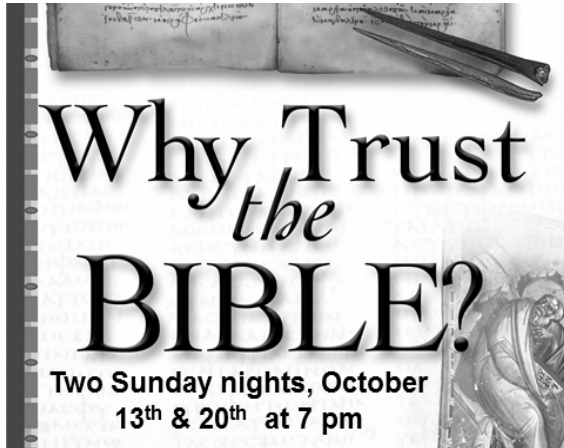
When?	What?	We Will Study?
October 1 st , 2013	Class (<i>New Day</i>)	Continue with 1 st and 2 nd Kings
October 15 th , 2013	Class (<i>New Day</i>)	Continue with 1 st and 2 nd Kings
October 29 th , 2013	Class (<i>New Day</i>)	Continue with 1 st and 2 nd Kings
November 12 th , 2013	Tuesday Class	Probably start 1 st and 2 nd Chronicles
November 26 th , 2013	Tuesday Class	Continue with 1 st and 2 nd Chronicles
December 10 th , 2013	Tuesday Class	Continue with 1 st and 2 nd Chronicles
Christmas Break – See You in the New Year!		
January 14 th , 2014	Tuesday Class	Continue with 1 st and 2 nd Chronicles
January 28 th , 2014	Tuesday Class	Start the Books of Ezra & Nehemiah
February 11 th , 2014	Tuesday Class	Continue with Ezra & Nehemiah
February 25 th , 2014	Tuesday Class	Continue with Ezra & Nehemiah
March 11 th , 2014	Tuesday Class	Probably start the Book of Esther
March 25 th , 2014	Tuesday Class	Continue with Esther
April 8 th , 2014	Tuesday Class	Introduction to the Poetic Books
April 22 nd , 2014	Tuesday Class	Introduction to the Poetic Books
May 13 th , 2014	Tuesday Class	Finish the Poetic Books of the Bible

It is not too late to join Pastor Jim's Tuesday Bible Class. On the table in the lobby, there is class material to begin your study of 1st and 2nd Kings marked with the word "Extra". Please pick up this packet and then let either Pastor Jim or the church office know you are planning on attending.

SAVE
THESE
DATES!

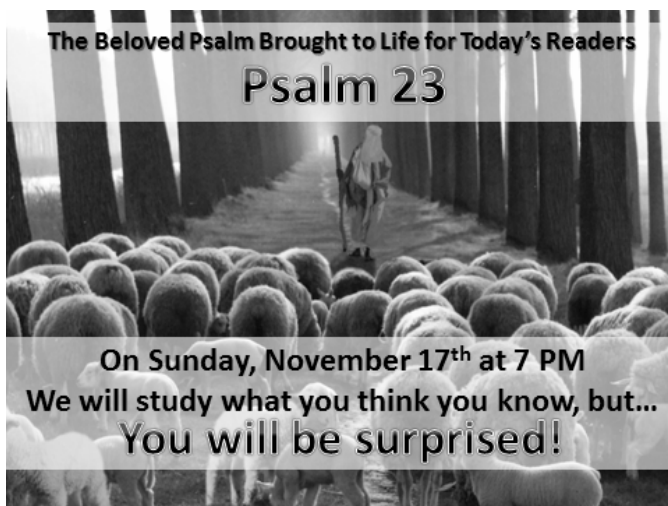
Teaching Events for the Coming Church Year 2013-2014

Pastor Jim will actually teach 9 different Teaching Events over the next year and present 5 Bible Movie Nights in the winter of 2014. Listed below is the order of when these events will occur with a brief description of the subject matter. There is no prior registration needed, nor is there any cost for materials. Simply come and enjoy! Refreshments are often provided.



1. **Sunday, October 13th, 2013**, Pastor Jim will teach on **Why Trust the Bible?** This is part 1 of a 2 part study which will ask the question "Can the Bible be Trusted? and How were the Stories Passed down?" **Event time is 7 PM.**
2. **Sunday, October 20th, 2013**, Pastor Jim will teach the **second part of Why Trust the Bible?** We will answer questions, "How Can We Know the Bible was Copied Accurately? How were the Books Selected? How reliable is My Bible? And How our Bible Came to Be?" **Event time is 7 PM.**

3. **Sunday, November 3rd, 2013**, Pastor Jim will teach on **"What about Angels?"** Do angels guide us in life? Will we become angels in Heaven? Do we each have guardian angels? Do angels have wings? Are just a few the 10 questions and answers that will be presented. **Event time is 7 PM.**



4. **Sunday, November 17th, 2013**, Pastor Jim will teach on the most beloved Psalm of them all – **Psalm 23**. Pastor Jim will help you see how much you do not know about this Psalm from a shepherd's point of view and how that will bring new life to an old favorite. **Event time is 7 PM.**

5. **Sunday, December 15th, 2013**, Pastor Jim will show **THE BIBLE – “The Movie” the First Christmas**. See how filmmakers tell the story of the Nativity. You have read the Book, now come and see the movie. **Event time is 7 PM.**
6. **Sunday, January 12th, 2014**, Pastor Jim will show **THE BIBLE – “The Movie” In the Beginning**. See how filmmakers today picture “God creating the heavens and the earth...” You have read the Book, now come see the movie. **Event time is 7 PM.**
7. **Sunday, January 26th, 2014**, Pastor Jim will show **THE BIBLE – “The Movie” Abraham and Moses**. See how God called Abraham; watch him agonize over offering his son Isaac; watch as Moses and the people cross the Red Sea. **Event time is 7 PM.**
8. **Sunday, February 9th, 2014**, Pastor Jim will show **THE BIBLE – “The Movie” Preparing for the Coming Savior**. How did God lead His people so that they were in the right place and at the right time for the coming of the Messiah? **Event time is 7 PM.**
9. **Sunday, February 23rd, 2014**, Pastor Jim will show **THE BIBLE – “The Movie” The Life of Jesus**. See the climax of the Bible’s Story of Salvation and the spread of that message of Good News throughout the world. This will give you a new appreciation of the suffering and death of Jesus for you. **Event time is 7 PM.**
10. **Sunday, March 16th, 2014**, Pastor Jim will teach on **The Life of Jonah, God’s Reluctant Prophet**. What happens when God send you in a new direction? Have you learned that “running from God” is not a good idea? **Event time is 7 PM.**
11. **Sunday, March 30th, 2014**, Pastor Jim will teach on **The Life of Joseph**. In the whole Old Testament, there is no one better in picturing our Savior than Joseph. Learn how Joseph suffered patiently, and when God’s timing was right, he was raised to new heights of power and honor. **Event time is 7 PM.**
12. **Sunday, April 27th, 2014**, Pastor Jim will teach on **The Life of David**. Here was a man who sinned terribly, adultery, cover-up and murder, and yet the Bible says that he was a man “after God’s heart.” How could be this be? Come and find out! **Event time is 7 PM.**
13. **Sunday, May 18th, 2014**, Pastor Jim will teach on **The Life of Moses**. Moses was a very reluctant leader at first, but God used him to bring His people out of Egypt and its slavery to meet with God at Mount Sinai. And yet because Moses had sinned, God did not permit him to enter the Promised Land. **Event time is 7 PM.**

Sincerely Yours,
Pastor Jim