

# *Los Altos Church of Christ*

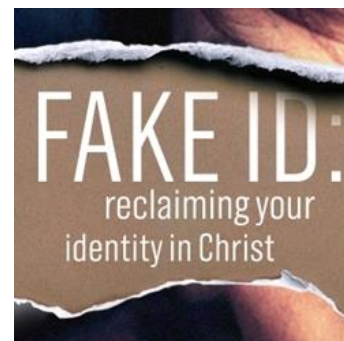
*"...being of the same mind, maintaining the same love,  
united in spirit, intent on one purpose." Philippians 2:2*

Volume XLII, Issue 26

July 21, 2021

## **This Sunday...Valid ID**

Kyle has made the point that behavior flows out of identity. Who we think we are will determine how we behave. That's why Paul spends the first part of Ephesians emphasizing who we are. In chapter 4 his focus shifts. He tells us to live a life worthy of our calling. This week our series concludes by focusing on the behaviors that are an outgrowth of our identity in Christ.



**Wednesday Night Fellowship**... Dinner at Terrie's 6:30...video 7:00, "Impact".

**PRAYERS** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

- Pray for John and Jennifer. The funeral for John's dad was finally held last week, which John was able to officiate. John is exhausted and still much to do to clean out the house and deal with all the legalities.
- Abbie has moved to Bakersfield to begin her career as a high school music teacher with a full slate of choir classes. Pray for God's blessings.

**Continue to pray** for Lu...Jocelyn's mother...Christine's mother...the Gordon family...Walter Grove... Tim's recovery... Roger Townsend... Berry... Jeff's mother... Jene's hand... Allen Sawyers...The Britton Family ... Barbara... Gwen and her son Caleb... Emmy Creswick... City of Children... Healing Hands International... Japhet's work in Zimbabwe...and New Hope Uganda.



Brothers & Sisters: Just wanted to say thank you for your consistent support of the work at Healing Hands International. Your partnership makes a huge impact both physically and spiritually on those we are privileged to serve. Thank you for caring! Blessings! - Scott Saunders

## Facing Life's Challenges with a High View of God...Part 1

By Terri Burroughs

What a year to study the book of Genesis in BSF! I saw God's hand in every chapter as the world around me faced one crisis after another. We all know people who are still suffering, burdened by loss or struggling in their physical, mental or emotional health.

This past year, I watched my dear friend Mike say goodbye to his wife Mary after a prolonged illness. Gripped by grief and loss, this couple spent her final days on earth encouraging others toward the goal of Christ. They were determined to use every minute of her life for God's glory.

As we worked our way through Genesis, I asked myself, "How do people like Mike and Mary come through the crises of life with a sense of peace, hope, and joy?" I'm not talking about stoicism or optimism, but those who confront the brutal facts of their reality without surrendering to defeat.

- Take Joseph. How did he survive his brothers' betrayal and go on to thrive despite the many years of enslavement and unjust imprisonment?
- What was at the root of Abraham's willingness to leave everything familiar to him? Or his readiness to sacrifice Isaac at God's command?
- What caused Job in the midst of life's deepest loss to declare of God: "Though he slay me, yet I will trust in Him"? (Job 13:15)
- Have you ever wondered why Peter got out of the boat when Jesus said "come," even though it made no sense? (Matthew 14:28-29)
- Are you humbled by our Lord Jesus Christ's anguished choice to be obedient to God the Father even to the point of death? (Matthew 26:37-39)

In 2 Timothy 1:7-12, the apostle Paul described one of the characteristics these resilient people of God share. "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. ... I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day."

Paul had a high view of God. The same high view as Abraham, Joseph, Job, Peter and my friends Mike and Mary. So, if a high view of God enabled Abraham to pass the test and Paul to run the race victoriously, the question is, "How can you and I cultivate a view of God that enables us to stand firm and not be moved in impossible, exhausting, frustrating, hurtful and sometimes even dangerous situations?"

This passage teaches that our view of God influences our *perspective*, helps us to embrace God's *purposes* and anchors the hope we have in the *person* of God. As I learn from the people of God in my own life, their testimonies continually affirm these truths. Like the apostle, Paul they know the God in whom they believe. They recognize He alone is at the center of the universe. They know that while there is nothing wrong with the questions "Who am I?" "What is my identity in Christ?" or "Why is this happening to me?" they must ask these questions within the context of "Who is God?"

A high view of God is about getting the order right. It's about guarding against the circumstances, situations, people, places, things, and attitudes that can diminish our view of God. When we believe and have confidence in God as the Creator and Sustainer of all, the Sovereign Lord of history, we shift our perspective from "me" to "He."