

CHILD OF GOD

WEEKLY E-NEWS

JANUARY 11, 2024

Week at a Glance

Sunday
January 14, 2024

8 am Worship

10 am Worship

9 am Sunday School
and Bible Study

Women's Bible Study
Jan. 17 6:30 pm

Men's Bible Study
Jan. 17 6:30 pm



Child of God:
A Making and
Shaping Community

Lawful, Not Helpful

12 "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. 13 "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. 1 Corinthians 6

These are some of my favorite words from Paul. It captures so well the questions of the mature and informed Christian. It also captures a practical reality of what can be negative to our bodies. Now what? What can I do as follower of Jesus? What is my responsibility as someone redeemed through the blood of Jesus?

I like how Paul expresses the reality for believers. Go ahead, you are a son or daughter of God. You can do whatever you want. You can live as though you are no longer guilty of sin or accused under the law. So your body is yours, fill it up and satisfy all its desires because it is a reflection of the perfection that God intended at creation. Even as Paul makes such bold statement he knows that he must make admittance that perfection is far from the reality.

Paul knows that humanity struggles mightily with the flesh and goes beyond that which is beneficial and satisfying. There is a lot of temptation to give into the flesh because the world seems to have very few boundaries. The world is consumer driven and does not know how to limit consumption. It is easy to go beyond eating for health and nutrition and eat without restriction.

So Paul suggests the proper understanding and use of flesh and food. It is limited by mortality and should be tempered by this. It should not be dominated by urges and splurges. It should reflect the design and desire of God, which is to be physically responsible with our bodies in marriage and to enjoying the eating of good food as it benefits our bodies. He also suggests that Christians should keep eternity and immortality in mind. Not just as a moment in the future when our mortal flesh will cease but to begin thinking about eternity and immortality the moment one believes in life-everlasting. That our bodies today are prepared for heaven and heavenly things and we should treat them as such and a best as we can with the time we have here on earth.

In the end, Paul knows that Jesus loves us too much not commend us for what purposes and to what end we should treat our earthly bound heavenly bodies.

Lawful is helpful,

Pastor Gorline

MEN'S BREAKFAST and BIBLE STUDY: Jan 27th 8:30 am, 244 Montecito Terrace, 63304. Contact Pastor Gorline for more information or if you would like to bring something. jgorline@coglcs.com.

REPORT from CONGREGATIONAL MEETING A nomination committee and policy writing team has been formed and will be seeking nominations for Board Positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. If you would like to nominate someone or know someone who might be a good candidate please contact Pam Ludlum (churchoffice@coglcs.com) or Brandi Hallemeier (BHallemeier@coglcs.com). Nominations for Board of Directors are: Josh Swartz, Dan Riordan, Garrett Hallemeier, Loni Ukman

LEEF (Lutheran Education Endowment Fund) is a recently established Child of God Lutheran School endowment available for Child of God students. The fund has been established to award tuition support for qualifying families who could otherwise not afford a Christian education and will sponsor new students as it increases. For more information or interested in contributing please contact Heather Richter by calling the office or email(buisnessoffice@coglcs.com) .

MO SCHOLARS: Lutheran School Scholarship Program: As we enter the end of the calendar year, now is the ideal time to participate in the MO Scholars program. If you have questions, please contact Leah at 314-590-6211 or visit mo.lcms.org/mo-scholars for information on how to participate. Support Lutheran education at COG.

Women's Bible Study: 6:30 to 7:30 in Room 125. The study will be: Measured by Grace: How God defines Success (By Sharla Fritz). This study discovers how God transformed 6 people in the Bible for His plan and their good. The cost of the book is \$15 (payable to Pamela Wenger). If you have any questions, or are interested in attending, please contact Pamela Wenger at thewengerfamily@aol.com or at her cell number (636)219-2152.

Men's Bible Study: 6:30 to 7:30 pm in the church office The study will be: I See Satan Fall Like Lightning (by Rene' Girard). It is a seminal work on the astonishing power of the gospel by one of the most original thinkers of our time.



GREAT SONGWRITERS OF CHRISTIANITY

If you were to tune in to JoyFM or any contemporary Christian streaming channel, you would hear the music of Phil Wickham. Born in 1984, he was born and raised into a religious family in California. His parents, both musicians, encouraged him to pursue a music career. At age 13, he was leading youth worship in his church and recorded his first independent album at age 18. Wickham's first album recorded under a major label was based on writings of CS Lewis with the idea that "the universe is exploding with the glory of God, and we are compelled to join in with its song."

Wickham has collaborated with a number of contemporary artists over the years including Chris Tomlin, MercyMe, Hillsong and Matt Redman. He's been nominated numerous times for GMA Dove awards and won Song of the Year for "This is Amazing Grace" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjXjkbODrro>). Wickham continues to tour around the United States along with his wife and 4 children.

To date, Wickham has released 10 albums. His songs continue to rank in the top 100 of Christian music charts. Songs including "Living Hope" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifFovH-dhHw>), "The Battle Belongs to You" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=johgSkNj3-A>), and "Hymn of Heaven" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_baJyIQp_w), lend themselves well to congregational singing and contain lyrics that point us to the true God who, through his death and resurrection, makes beauty from ashes and prepares a beautiful place for us in heaven. May we be bold to join in song to be a part of the universe exploding with the glory of God!

<https://www.allmusic.com/artist/phil-wickham-mn0000340006>
https://www.newreleasetoday.com/artistdetail.php?artist_id=199

All for HIM,
Stephanie McSwain