



Saved by Faith Apart from Works, for Good Works

A concern may arise at this point. If we are saved by faith apart from any works, does this mean that good works are irrelevant to God? Does this mean that good works are antithetical to the Christian life? Verse 10 responds to just such a question. "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." Our salvation comes as a gift from God completely apart from any good works. Then, once we believe in Jesus Christ and are saved, God calls us to live a life filled with good works. The language in this verse presents the following depiction. God is the master painter. We are like a canvas and He paints onto our lives with good works. In order to do this he first had to recreate us in Christ Jesus. We were dead in our sins. We were like a painting canvas that was marred, torn, , destroyed, and useless - only good for being discarded. When God saw our lives and the way we were wasting His precious gift of life, we produced only scorn and ridicule. But, because of God's love for us and His desire to restore the original intent of His creation, God comes and recreates us by "making us alive together with Christ Jesus." Now, just as God demonstrated His great character in the good works of Jesus Christ, He is doing the same thing with us. We are saved completely apart from good works. However, once we are saved, God gives us the beautiful purpose of completing good works. That seems rather counter intuitive. However, consider our ability to do good works before we came to Christ. We were dead and everything about our life produced only the stench of death. God does a miraculous work. He sends His Son to live a perfect life, to die in our place in order to take death from us, and then rises again from the dead in order to grant us life in Him. When we believe, God recreates us in His Son. Just as Jesus was God's masterpiece in the way He lived, taught, died, and rose again, so we too should be God's masterpiece in the way we live. We are alive in Christ, therefore we are to imitate Christ. The good works that Jesus did are now our good works to emulate. As we imitate Jesus Christ, it is as if God has a paintbrush in His hand and He is painting beautiful strokes of color onto the canvas of our lives. When the world sees our good works they will say, "God is so great." God receives all the credit. He receives all the credit for our salvation. He receives all the credit when we live like His Son. For the glory of God, for the greatness of His name, for His grace to be displayed in my life for all eternity, I put my faith in His Son Jesus Christ. For the glory of God, for the greatness of His name, for His goodness to be displayed in my life for all eternity, through faith I will imitate the good works of His Son Jesus Christ.

~ Daniel

Salvation

"⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." Ephesians 2:8-10

Ephesians 2:1-7 describes the what and why of salvation. What happens when someone is saved? "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins...even while we were dead in our trespasses and sins God made us alive in Christ..." According to Paul, the moment we were saved, we went from a state of spiritual death to spiritual life. We were dead and God made us alive by raising us up in the same way that He raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Why would God save rebels like us? According to Ephesians 1:7, "So that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." He saved us so that He could display His grace and kindness for all to see both now and for eternity.

The Means of Salvation

In the verses that follow Ephesians 2:1-7, we move from the "what" and the "why" of salvation to the how. How is it that God grants this gift of salvation? Ephesians 2:8-9 provides the answer. It is by the grace of God that salvation is given to us through faith. We believed in the Son of God Jesus Christ and the moment we believed in Him God made us alive with Him. We trusted in His life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Then God credited the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to our account. It is a gift. We do not earn it. If salvation was earned, even partly earned, we would be sharing the credit with God. God has performed this great work of salvation "so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." God saves us so that He will be seen as He truly is, more glorious, more splendid, and more beautiful than the human heart can even begin to comprehend. If salvation were on the basis of works then we would get the credit for saving ourselves. If salvation were based on faith in Christ plus some added works, we would be sharing the credit for our salvation. For instance, if the verse said "for by grace you have been saved through baptism," we would still conclude that God is very gracious. A person's willingness to get wet in front of a crowd is a relatively small task compared to the spiritual death that is ours due to our sin and rebellion. However, as gracious as God would have been to save us that way, we would still be sharing some of the credit for the work of salvation. We would get to heaven and "show the surpassing riches of His grace" along with our momentary wisdom of getting baptized. This cannot and will not happen. The very purpose of our existence is to make much of God. This is why God created us. We were made to see, know, experience, and enjoy the glory of God forever and ever. Any attempt, regardless of how noble it may be, to make much of ourselves diminishes the glory of God by drawing attention to our own ability. (Ideas such as: "I was religious enough. "I went to church." "I was kind enough to give money to the poor." "I was wise enough to get baptized." "I was smart enough to read my Bible.") We must live to make much of Him. That is why God created us and why He recreates us in Christ. In salvation, the greatest way to make much of Him is to simply receive what he freely offers. How do we receive His gift while maximizing His credit and minimizing ours? We receive the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ by **faith**. We believe in Jesus. We receive His gift without any claims to our own works or wisdom. He gets all the credit. That is why verse 9 says, "so that no one may boast." Our boasting in our salvation must be a boast about the greatness of God.

(Con't on page 2)

40 Days of Prayer & Events

Beginning Sunday, August 20th, we will participate in our annual 40 Days of Prayer event. Each day, our Pastor will post a prayer guide.

If you would like to receive the link for the prayer guide, please email mrbcinfo@matthewroad.org with your cell phone number, for a daily text, or with your email, for a daily email, that includes the link for each day's reading. You can also sign up in the foyer.

We also have two prayer times each week, beginning Sunday, August 20th. Sunday's prayer time is at 8:00pm, following our evening service. Wednesday's prayer time is at 5:45pm.

We encourage you to participate, as this is an amazing time of corporate worship and personal growth!

Children's Ministry



Wacky Wednesdays - Brick by Brick: Systematic Theology for Kids with Lego Challenges & Wet Games on the Lawn, 6:30pm-8pm through August 23rd.

Sunday August 20th



Sunday School

Join us every Sunday morning from 9:45am-10:45am as we journey through the Gospel Project.

Sunday Nights 5:30pm Education Building 2nd floor



For kids in kindergarten through 6th grade - Join us for games on the front lawn (weather permitting) followed by girls and boys Bible studies focused on becoming disciples who go into the world to make disciples. This spring we will finish our study on the book of Matthew.



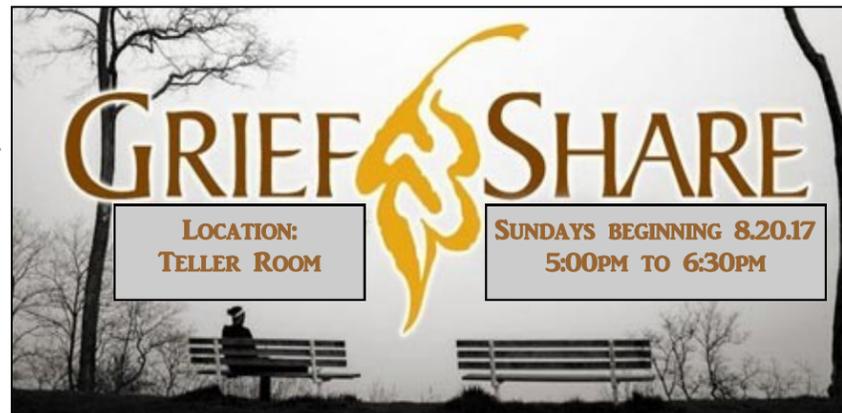
KICK-OFF AND REGISTRATION WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30TH 6:30PM

Grief Share

It hurts to lose someone. Find help at GriefShare.

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone.

Questions: ask Marcy Scott (817) 919-5213 (Call/Text)



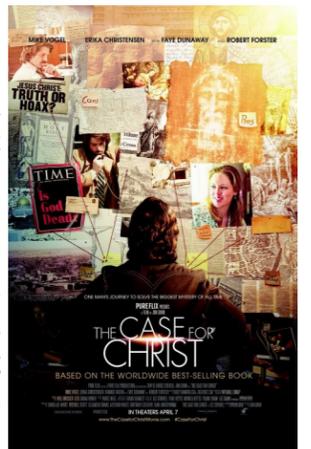
Church Office Closed



The Case for Christ Movie Night

Friday, August 25th, 7:00pm, Sanctuary (Red Roof Building)

A hard-driving journalist, Lee Strobel was exactly where he expected to be at work: on top. His award-winning investigative reporting recently earned him a promotion to legal editor at the Chicago Tribune. But things weren't going nearly as well at home where his wife Leslie's newfound faith in Christ went against everything Lee believed—or didn't believe—as an avowed atheist. Utilizing his journalistic and legal training, Lee begins a quest to debunk the claims of Christianity in order to save his crumbling marriage. Chasing down the biggest story of his career, Lee comes face-to-face with unexpected results that could change everything he knows to be true. Based on Lee Strobel's award-winning bestselling book and starring Mike Vogel, Erika Christensen, Faye Dunaway, and Robert Forster.

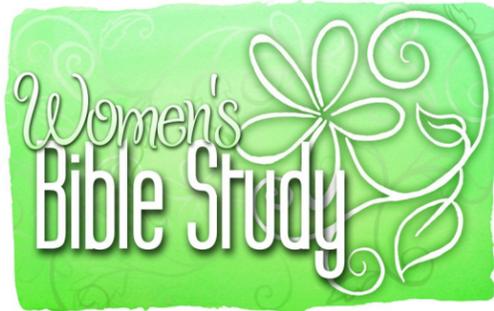


Ice Cream Social



Join us as we beat the Summer heat! Bring your favorite ice cream, homemade or store-bought, and enjoy great fellowship!!! Sunday, August 13th, 6:15pm, Fellowship Hall

Women's Ministry



Weekly Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings

Rachel Sullenger & Tiffany Marich - the book of Acts
Joy Richards & Chris Anderson - 1st, 2nd & 3rd John

Sunday nights

Meg Trihus - the Epistles

Wednesday Nights

Systematic Theology Class, Sanctuary taught by Daniel Sweet

Friday Mornings, Chick Fil A (Camp Wisdom Location)

Cyndi King - 9:00 am - The book of Acts



*Joyfully
Ever After
Ruth & Boaz*

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2017
8.30AM TO 3.00PM
4601 MATTHEW ROAD
GRAND PRAIRIE, TX 75052
COST: \$10PP; CHILDCARE
\$5 PER CHILD
(SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE)
LIGHT BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROVIDED
& CHOCOLATE**

**RSVP:
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE OR
EMAIL CHRISTY@MATTHEWROAD.ORG**

WOVEN THROUGH THE LOVE STORY OF RUTH AND BOAZ IS A LARGER, BEAUTIFUL, NARRATIVE. WE HAVE NOTHING, WE ARE NOTHING, WE BRING NOTHING, AND YET GOD SWEEPS IN AND REDEEMS US IN AN EXQUISITE LOVE STORY. JOIN US AS WE DRAW THE PARALLEL LINES.

GENERAL SESSIONS: TAUGHT BY DR. KAREN BULLOCK, PHD; DR. KIM SWEET, MD; AND DR. NORMA HEDIN, PHD

TRACK TIMES: MARRY A BOAZ NOT A BOZO; DATE A BOAZ NOT A BOZO; HOW TO RAISE A BOAZ; HOW TO RAISE A RUTH; DON'T LET CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE YOU BITTER; DISCIPLING; LIFE IS NOT A SERIES OF CIRCUMSTANCES; I MARRIED A BOAZ - NOW WHAT? HE IS NOT A BOAZ - NOW WHAT? ...AND MORE

LUNCH IS PROVIDED, WORSHIP WILL BE FABULOUS, THE TEACHING WILL DEEPEN OUR WALK WITH THE LORD AND THERE WILL BE CHOCOLATE ALL DAY LONG.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME, PLEASE INVITE ALL YOUR FRIENDS. (ALL NON-CHURCH REGULAR ATTENDEES SCHOLARSHIPPED.)

Youth Ministry

How is August here?! It feels like we just started May! Well, we have a lot of awesome events coming up in August that I know you will want to be a part of:



Starting July 31st thru August 4th, we will be having Fast week. Fast week will consist of two separate fasts. The first fast will be an electronic fast, from July 31st - August 2nd. Students will give up electronics, i.e. internet access, computers, TV, etc...



The second will be a food fast, from August 3rd - August 4th. The food fast will only occur during lunch hours, due to students needing to eat. If your student needs to eat during the two food fast days, that is completely ok. If they need to eat, I would like to suggest that your student fast from soda, desserts, etc... The idea behind this fast is not for your student to get sick, pass out, or be sent to the hospital. The reason we are doing these fasts is for our students to grow in their relationship with God just before they go to school. This is a great time for students to seek God's will for their lives, by having a concentrated, focused time on God.



With the fast ending August 4th, we move directly into our Ministry Group dinner on August 6th, at 5pm, in Common Grounds. This dinner is all about our students being introduced to the five ministry teams that your student can be a part of. During the dinner, students who are leading these groups will introduce all five Ministry Groups. This will also be the first night in which your student can sign up to be a part of one of the Ministry Groups. I cannot stress enough how important this dinner is for our student ministry, as this is one of the first moves into seeing our student ministry turn into a student lead ministry. These Ministry Groups will be launched August 23rd at our Wednesday night service.

The last event that I want to touch on is that we have a **parent meeting on August 27th**, in Common Grounds at 12:15. We will be providing lunch for this meeting, as we will be going over a lot of information. I would like to also stress the importance of this meeting for parents. We will be introducing a Parent Advisory Board (PAB), as well as information about camp fundraising and DNOW.



August 18th - Ice skating at the Parks Mall. We will meet at the church at 6:15pm, and we will leave the church no later than 6:30pm. If you cannot meet us here, you can definitely meet us at the mall. We will be leaving the mall around 9:30pm, and be back around 10:00pm. The cost for the event is \$5.

August 20th - Promotion Sunday! All students move up to their next grade for Sunday school.

August 23rd - This is the first night that our ministry groups will be active.

August 27th - Parent Meeting. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to matt@matthewroad.org.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please let me know!

In Christ, Matt Brown
email: matt@matthewroad.org
cell ph #: 832-955-4954

College Ministry



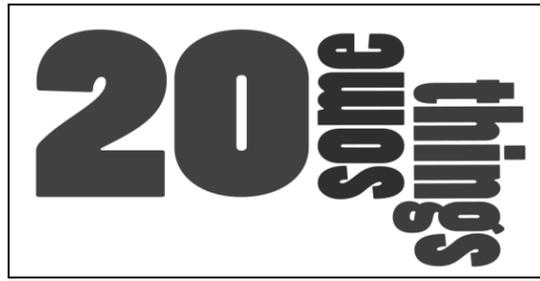
Guys, Tuesday Nights, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
@ MRBC, CommonGrounds,
lead by Zach Van Veldhuizen

Ladies, Tuesday Nights, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
@ 2514 Channing Drive, GP TX 75052,
led by Caroline Van Veldhuizen

Also Sundays, 9:45am & 5:30pm @ MRBC, see Welcome Desk for info



20Somethings



Contact Rachel at rachel@matthewroad.org to find out the latest events & activities!



LAST YEAR WE WERE AT THE ODOR/BAUTISTA GAME TO SEE BASEBALL HISTORY, BASEBALL AND DAVID CROWDER. THIS YEAR, AUGUST 20 LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO GO!! COST - FREE. (WE HAVE A GENEROUS BENEFACTOR!) SIGN UP EARLY FOR BASEBALL HISTORY.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

6:45PM

This Summer, Wednesday nights, we will join the Adult Systematic Theology Bible Study, in Fellowship Hall, at 6:45pm, through August 32rd.

A NEW GENERATION WITH THE TRUTH TO SUPPORT BELIEVERS THROUGHOUT LIFE

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." ~ 2 Timothy 2:2

Class Sunday Mornings 9-11am upstairs in ED Bldg.

BOLD TRUTHS

Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:45 For BOLD TRUTHS - What do they mean to us !!!

אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִשְׁמַח בְּעַמּוֹתָיו וְיִשְׁמַח בְּעַמּוֹתָיו וְיִשְׁמַח בְּעַמּוֹתָיו

After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel.

IN THE BEGINNING GOD...

AND WE KNOW THAT GOD CAUSES EVERYTHING TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE GOD AND ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE FOR THEM.

... His mercies begin afresh each morning

No one can come to the Father except through me.

August 2017 Events & Activities

For more information, please see our website, www.matthewroad.org, or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

- August 2nd: Missions Committee Prayer Time, 8:00pm, Library
- August 3rd: Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
- August 4th: Youth C2 Group, see Matt for information
- August 9th: Quarterly Finance Committee Meeting, 5:45pm, Teller Room
- August 13th: Ice Cream Social, 6:15pm, Fellowship Hall
- August 14th: Church Office Closed for Staff Planning Day
- August 16th: Quarterly Business Meeting, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- August 19th: Deacon Meeting/Training, 8:30am, Fellowship Hall
- August 20th: Promotion Sunday (for Pre-K, Children & Youth)
40 Days of Prayer begins, (Want the daily prayer guide? Please sign up in the foyer.)
- August 23rd: Awana Worker Training, 6:30pm, Ed Bldng
- August 25th: "The Case for Christ" Movie Night
- August 27th: Youth Parent Meeting, 12:15pm, CommonGrounds
- August 30th: Awana Registration Party, 6:30pm, MRBC Campus



Sunday Nights:

- ◇ College - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Discipleship - Choir Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Ladies Bible Study - Conference Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Young Marrieds Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Couples Class - Library, 5:30pm
- ◇ Guy Talk for youth - Common Grounds, 5:30pm, see Matt for exact location
- ◇ Girl Talk for youth - Common Grounds, 5:30pm, see Matt for exact location
- ◇ MD² for children - Education Building, 5:30pm

Wednesday Nights:

- ◇ Wacky Wednesdays for children - Ed. Building, 6:30pm
- ◇ Collide for youth - Common Grounds, 6:30pm
- ◇ Systematic Theology Class - Sanctuary, 6:45pm

*Please note: this will be the only adult Bible Study class on Wednesdays during the summer semester.

Average Morning Attendance for July: 347
Average 7:17 Service Attendance for July: 136

Regular Weekly Activities

Sundays	
Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00am
Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:45am
Evening Bible Study (all ages)	5:30pm
7:17 Service	6:47pm
Mondays	
K2 Primary Academy (during the school year)	8:45am
PAW Program	9:00am
Tuesdays	
MRA (during the school year)	8:30am
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am
Wednesdays	
K2 Primary Academy (during the school year)	8:45am
PAW Program	9:00am
Collide (youth)	6:30pm
Adult Choir (during the school year)	6:30pm
Wacky Wednesdays (children)	6:30pm
Adult Bible Studies	6:45pm
Thursdays	
MRA (during school year)	8:30am
Fridays	
Chick time at Chick-Fil-A (Camp Wisdom)	9:00am
Saturdays	
Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, GP)	7:30am

Financials as of July 7, 2017
(Does not include schools)

Budget Income	\$497,744
Budget Expense	\$(502,638)
Net Budget	\$(4,894)