

The Ceresco Messenger - February 2025

Rock Builders vs. Sand Builders

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”
- MATTHEW 7:24-25

PONDER THIS

There are two things necessary for a firm foundation: hearing and heeding the Word of God. That's where we begin to separate the rock builders from the sand builders.

Suppose the devil were to ask to join your church. Someone sits down with him and asks, “Mr. Devil, we want to know if you are orthodox or not. Do you believe in one God? Do you believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God? Do you believe He was born of a virgin? Do you believe He died on the cross? Do you believe He walked out of the grave?” He would answer all those things correctly, saying yes to each one.

They might then ask how he feels called to serve. I imagine he'd be glad to do anything you ask. He'll be an usher. He'll sing in the choir if you want him to. He'll be glad to preach. He'll be glad to get into that organization and work.

But there should be one final question. “Are you willing to bow your knee to the lordship of Jesus Christ?” And he will not do that. Many people think just because they give a mental assent to the facts of the Gospel and just because they are working in the church in some way, they are going to Heaven. But they have no more faith than the devil himself because they have never surrendered to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

What does it look like to live out your faith? What does it look like to assent to the facts but refuse to bow to the Lordship of Jesus?

Where is it difficult for you to surrender to Christ's lordship? How can you submit this area of your life to Him?

PRACTICE THIS

Ask a trusted friend how he or she has seen you live out your faith and ask for honest feedback on where that person has seen you struggle to live out the Word.

Love Worth Finding Daily Heartbeat

FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES

February is a time to reflect on God's love. The greatest example of what it means to love is shown through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus calls us to love others as He has loved us ... *"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."* (1 John 4:7,8)

In response to Jesus' call to love, we are kicking off a love sermon series. The next few weeks will offer an opportunity for one to deepen their relationship with God and consider how to demonstrate that love towards others.

Join us and experience the unconditional love of Christ!

BIBLE STUDY

Get ready for our 2025 Zoom Bible Study. Our focus will be the Book of Proverbs. The study will be "Everlasting Wisdom for Everyday Life" by Vance Pitman

Study will begin on Thursday, March 6 @ 6:00 pm. Please join us and bring a friend or 2. We will focus on the necessity of having wisdom in our lives as believers.

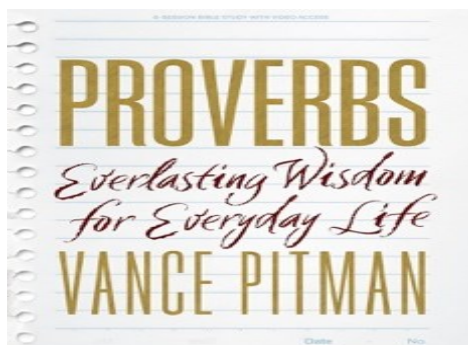
Every day, all people face situations that invite them to choose from one of two options, wisdom or foolishness. You might not have ever thought about it that way, but it's true. In every time and culture, marriage, parenting, friendship, work, and relationships have presented opportunities for unwise thoughts, words and behaviors. Add the continual redefining of those relationships in our day and time and those opportunities increase exponentially.

The problem is, we don't often know what is the wise thing to think, say, or do. We may think we know. Have you ever thought you knew the right thing to say or do only to later discover you were wrong? We have all been there! It happens in every area of our lives. We need wisdom for our thoughts, words, earthly relationships, decision making, life in the world and walk with the Lord.

Ephesians 5:15-17 says *¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.* It is not only life experience that shows us we need wisdom. God himself speaks that truth into our lives. Gratefully, though, God does not only tell us to walk in wisdom, He has given us His Word to teach us how.

The book of Proverbs, specifically, offers everlasting wisdom for everyday life. It helps us see life from God's perspective. It aims to help us acquire and apply God's wisdom to the decisions and activities of everyday life at every stage of life.

The Zoom details will be provided in the Messenger and on the Ceresco Baptist Church website on March 1, 2025. (www.cerescobaptist.org)



CBC Movers

Worship and Workout

Contact information:

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Classes are held in the fellowship hall.

Our schedule for the month of February is:

February 1st: 9:00am

February 22nd: 9:00am

If we are unable to hold class due to the weather or other circumstances we can hold a virtual option for those that have signed up for email notification. Just email me your name and I will keep you notified.

I will have all that you need! Feel free to bring a guest!

Looking forward to Saturday!

In HIS Love, Jennie

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:13 NIV

Fill in the blanks:

Love the _____ your _____ with all your heart and all your _____ and with all your _____.

Deuteronomy 6:5 NIV

But those who hope in the _____ will renew their strength. They will _____ on wings like _____, they will _____ and not grow _____, they will _____ and not be _____.

Isaiah 40:31 NIV



The “CBC Movers” had some fun in January!
Thanks to Jennie Markos for leading the classes!





Feb 2 Cruz Garcia-Wilkens
 Feb 4 Nicole Thomas
 Feb 13 Allan Walker
 Feb 17 Carlton Anthony
 Feb 18 Glen Cary
 Feb 25 Kelcie Collins
 Feb 26 Gretchen King 1939

Mar 4 Garrett Skinner
 Mar 9 Bonnie Eckhart
 Mar 11 Ruth St. John
 Mar 13 Lucas Finch
 Mar 15 Vi Halder
 Mar 15 Joanne Henley
 Mar 18 Pam Kirkland
 Mar 20 Deb Beltz
 Mar 22 Danny Sommers
 Mar 22 Stacy Sommers
 Mar 24 Patrick Douglas
 Mar 27 Sarah Collins
 Mar 29 Hainsley Casey
 Mar 29 Kenzie Babcock

Mar 11 Michael Meng & Angela Sommers

Children's Time Sign-Up

2/2/2025 - Sommers
 2/9/2025 - OPEN
 2/16/2025 - Sommers
 2/23/2025 - OPEN

Flower Sign-Up

2/2/2025 - OPEN
 2/9/2025 - OPEN
 2/16/2025 - OPEN
 2/23/2025 - Sommers

Junior Church Sign-Up

2/2/2025 - Veronica
 2/9/2025 - Veronica
 2/16/2025 - OPEN
 2/23/2025 - OPEN

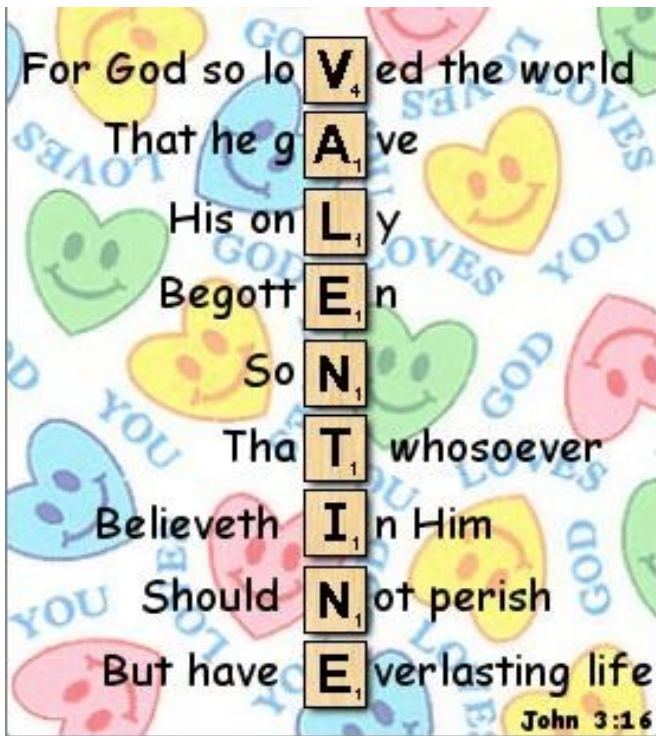
We are re-starting our **Junior Church** this month! Right after Children's Time, the kids will go to the Fellowship Hall for the rest of the worship service. Veronica Anthony is heading this up. Volunteers to assist are much appreciated. We will have Junior Church regardless of the number of kids (even if only 1)

The sign-up sheet is by the bulletins. Please help once in awhile if you can. Thank you!

February Fellowship Refreshments - Worship Ministry Team

February 2025

Sunday	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Saturday
						01 Men's Breakfast 8 am, CBC Movers, Exercise Class 9 am
2 Communion Sunday	3	4 Relay for Life Kick-Off Meeting 6:30 pm	5 Bible Study 10 am	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Bible Study 10 am	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day!	15
16	17	18 Relay for Life Meeting 6:30 pm	19 Bible Study 10 am	20	21	22 CBC Movers, Exercise Class 9 am
23 Fellowship Sunday & Bake Sale	24	25	26 Bible Study 10 am	27 Information for March Messenger due at Noon	28	01 MAR Men's Breakfast 8:00 am



Love One Another (John 13:34-35)

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.

Jesus gives the disciples a command to love one another and then sets an expectation for what that looks like. In the same way He has loved them, they are to love each other. That means that it isn't just a sentimental feeling, but a love that's willing to go to any lengths for each other. And it's this style of self-sacrificial love that will prove that they're Jesus's disciples.

This same love that Christ demonstrated for others is expected of us. People are hungry to belong and be loved. And when they see that love shared among believers, it makes them that much more willing to respond positively to the good news.

John 15:9-10 New International Version

⁹ "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love.

Agape—Our Love for God

We love Him because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Recommended Reading: 1 John 4:7-12

The New Testament was originally penned in Greek, and there are four different Greek words translated love. The word agape represents the essence of divine love—God's own special love. It's the love God has for us and the kind of love He gives us for Himself and others.

Osborne Gordon, a nineteenth-century British pastor, said, "There is no soul so pure and heavenly that it can throw back upon God all that love which He lavishes upon us. God loves us infinitely more than it is possible for us to love Him; but whatever feeble flame of love is kindled in our hearts and goes up as a sacrifice to Him, we are only giving Him of His own."

That's a good description of agape. The greatest command within Scripture is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, and soul (Matthew 22:37). It's the Lord Himself who gives us the agape that allows us to do that. Let His love set your heart on fire and return it like sparks flying upward to Him.

Our love of [God] is nothing more than His love to us, reflected back upon Him, the source of love.

~ Osborne Gordon

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