

*“Genesis: In the Beginning God — Growing In Our Awe and Worship of God”
Romans 1:18-25; 2:1-5*

“How God has revealed Himself in Creation and His Word should lead us to a growing love for and growing thankfulness towards God leading to an ever growing satisfaction in Him.”

“For although they knew God they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” (Romans 1:21)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God (greatest manifestation of His power) for salvation (from sin, from the wrath of God, willful spiritual ignorance, and selfishness) to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith (a new way of life), as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:16-17)

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

● Who is God?

- *“The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.” (Psalm 145:8-9) “You are good and do good; teach me Your statutes.” (Psalm 119:68) “Oh taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.” (Psalm 34:8) “As I live, declares the LORD GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die...?” (Ezekiel 33:11) “For He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful even as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:35-36) “You should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.... Yet He did not leave Himself without witness, for He did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” (Acts 14:15-17) “[The Lord] is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9) “Or do you presume on the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance.” (Romans 2:4)*

“Acknowledging God’s goodness from a sincere heart, demands a response of goodness or obedience to Him no matter what. Blaming God for man’s volitional wickedness as a justification for us to practice wickedness towards God or others, or using God’s providential testing or our bad stewardship that leads to suffering/inconvenience/exhaustion (Acts 20:23-24; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10) as an excuse to disobey God leads to an avoidance of the reality that God is continually good towards us and is therefore worthy of a fully surrendered life lived to magnify His worth.”

● Who are we? (Jeremiah 17:5-10; 1 Peter 3:15-17)

- *“For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate... So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.” (Romans 7:15,18-20) “For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live.” (Romans 8:13) “Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value,*

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Worship: God Omniscient, God All Knowing (Matt Boswell) Psalm 18 (Citizens)

In Tenderness (The Sing Team) **Closing Song:** Jesus I My Cross Have Taken (Indelible Grace Music)

Service Times: Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” (1 Timothy 4:7-8) “So whether we are at home or away we make it our aim to please Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one must receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” (2 Corinthians 5:9-10)

- The lies we believe that lead us to live an unthankful life....
 - If God wants me to obey Him then life shouldn't be hard.
 - If God wants me to believe Him then it shouldn't cost me my comfort.
 - The Bible's demands for a fully surrendered life are unrealistic and ridiculous.
 - If I do the right things life will turn out the way I want it to.
 - If I obey God's Word I will lose out. I will not be happy or satisfied.
- Prayers that lead to a greater thankfulness....
 - By Your grace Father, I can serve You and enjoy You even when my body hurts, I'm exhausted, or I'm discouraged. Father, help me to be thankful for the days when I'm not in as much pain so that when the pain is greater Your praises will be on my lips. Father, also let me repent for not stewarding my body as I ought because my body is a gift and a grace from You. Thank You for the grace of weakness because it is a reminder of my absolute dependence on You.
 - By Your grace Father, I can obey You, even when I have had a hard day, a hard week, a hard month, or a hard year. Father, help my focus to be on how good You are to me when I don't want to obey Your Word. Father, also help me to be thankful when I have true joyful desires to serve You. Father, let me by faith do what is obedient in the hope of true affections for obedience to follow and when I don't obey You, lead me to genuine repentance.
 - By Your grace Father let me see Your beauty in Your creation. Let me be in awe of Your grace towards me in the enjoyment of the sunshine, a clear starry night, the awesomeness of the ocean, a beautiful sunrise or sunset, the companionship of a pet, the delight of delicious food and drink, a refreshing cup of water, a quiet walk in the woods, the warmth of a fireplace, and the grace of a comfortable place to rest my head at night. So that, when You choose to take these comforts from me, for my good, I will still have Your praises on my lips.
 - Father by Your grace let me be thankful for the people You have blessed me with in my life. Let me be thankful for my spouse everyday so that when they sin against me, my disposition will be to forgive them and show them grace and still serve them. Father, let me be thankful for my job everyday, so that when people call off, people mistreat me, people don't appreciate me, I will have a disposition to still be thankful for my job and work as if I'm working for Christ. Father, let me be thankful for my Pastor and my elders by daily praying for them, financially supporting them, and not trying to replace them with books and the internet. Father, let me submit to them, and let me strive to obey Your Word that they might do their calling with joy. So that when they upset me or offend me my disposition will be to love them and forgive them. Let me be thankful for my church community by gathering with them, encouraging them, singing to them, and praying for them so that when they sin against me I will quickly get back to loving them as I have been commanded to. Father, let me be quick to repent and quick to forgive.

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of February we are collecting donations for Vertical 196. They are in need of the following non-perishable food items: fruit cups, pudding cups, slim jims, individual bags of chips, soft granola bars, and powdered drink mixes for bottled water (these items are used to pack lunches for guests to take with them). They are also in need of coffee to serve the guests during operating hours. Please put your donations into the tote in front of the back table.

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner TONIGHT immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!

★**MEMBERS MEETING:** We will be having a short Members Meeting *NEXT* Sunday, February 20th, immediately following the worship service. This meeting is anticipated to last no more than 30 minutes. If you are currently a church member, please plan on staying for that meeting!