



GRACE

HAPPENINGS

A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE:

Marriage is hard work. Some don't work hard at it. Many don't survive the first few years. In the world around us, celebrating a fiftieth, or even a twenty-fifth, wedding anniversary is rare these days.

We have allowed the postmodern mindset to convince our churches and our couples that divorce is now acceptable rather than an exception. We now justify divorce as a solution. It's not God's solution.

In the movie *Fireproof*, Caleb and Catherine Holt have been married for seven years. Although once in love, they have grown apart and find themselves headed for divorce. Tension fills the air in their demeanors, attitudes and conversations. Both are self-centered, which causes many arguments to ensue. They point the finger at the other party and exaggerate one another's shortcomings to a fault. They lack something or someone to hold them together and to restore their lost love—that someone is Jesus Christ. Only when Caleb finds Christ and begins to love his wife the way Christ loves the church do the tables begin to turn.

Maybe you are at the point of giving up on your marriage, or maybe someone gave up on you. You may be living with the sting of divorce, burned by an unfaithful mate. Or you may be living under the same roof with your spouse, but it's just a house and not a home. How do you survive? How do you restore the love you once had? How do you prevent your marriage from crumbling beneath the pressure? How do you make the choice to never leave your partner behind, especially in a fire?

When a couple is going through a time of conflict, emotions start to escalate. Soon anger, frustration and emotions are out of control. A root of bitterness begins to grow. Concerns become complaints, complaints become threats, and threats lead to disaster. One spouse begins to put down the other. Suddenly there's nothing in the home but name calling, putdowns and cutting remarks.

Once a couple starts down this path, each person begins to withdraw and shut down emotionally. They may even begin to sleep in separate rooms. An intervention must take place. A couple cannot let themselves start to think or threaten of divorce. Once the "D" word is mentioned, problems escalate to a whole new level.

During the wedding ceremony we talk about the wedding vows. The minister asks the couple to turn and face one other and repeat their vows.

Those vows are before God and the witnesses gathered, and they are to be taken seriously.

Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes, "When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow! It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay" (5:4,5).



Unfortunately, we live in a day when many couples walk to the altar with either no intention of keeping their vows or with doubt about the marriage lasting. Solomon's stern warning above reminds us that a vow is a vow. It's intended to be permanent.

One reason society views divorce as easy is because we've bought the devil's lie that marriage is a contract. In reality, marriage is a covenant. A covenant is not based on the faithfulness of the human agents involved, but on God's faithfulness to fulfill His covenant obligations. Marriage is a unique relationship between three people: God, the husband and the woman. When a Christian couple lives as God designed, they are a powerful witness for the gospel.

Every living thing has to be nourished to survive. Whether you are talking about plants, animals, people, churches or marriages, nourishment is a necessity for health. When a couple communicates, they are nourishing their marriage. If

Building Together

FEBRUARY 2019

"....then they said, 'Let us arise and build.' So they put their hands to the good work." Nehemiah 2:18

the husband loves his wife the way he loves himself then he will feed his marriage emotionally, physically, verbally and spiritually. Communication has nothing to do with being extroverted; it has to do with being the person God has called you to be.

It only takes little things to come in and destroy something great. Most marriages fall apart because little things become big things. We allow something trivial to grow with the capacity to destroy us. Fighting in marriage has become the source of many jokes for comedians. However, those whose marriages have been destroyed by fighting, they would testify to the contrary.

In his commentary on Ephesians, Warren Wiersbe writes, "The trouble is that many homes are not governed by God's Word—even homes where the members are professing Christians—and the consequences are tragic. . . . Too many marriages end in the divorce court, and nobody knows how many husbands and wives are emotionally divorced even though they share the same address. The poet William Cowper called the home 'the only bliss of Paradise that has survived the Fall,' but too many homes are an outpost of hell instead of a parcel of paradise."

How about it, husbands? Are you considerate of your wife? Do you love her as Christ loves the church? As husbands we're commanded to live with our wives in an understanding way (see 1 Peter 3:7). That means I'm to know my wife intimately—her temperament, her likes and dislikes, her personality, her gifts and talents. If I am going to fireproof my home, I need to know my wife better than I know myself. I must understand that my wife may be weaker physically, but she's still my life partner. I'm called by God to protect her, honor her and help her in any way I can.

Let's change the culture! Let's love one another the way Christ loved us. Let's make a commitment to build godly homes.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Pray for our shut-ins, send a card, make a phone call, pay a visit (call first), pick up groceries / medicines. Addresses and phone numbers are in the church directory

Wilma Davidson
Julie Lindsey
Gerry Gladfelter

Carol Sarver
Russ Hearton
Rita Brewer



**Pray for the Couples attending the
Couples' Weekend Retreat on February 1-3**

PARENTS – TIME TO REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN/TEENS WHO ARE EARNING POINTS TO ATTEND HIGH POINT CAMP THIS SUMMER

Junior camp for grades 3-7 is July 15 - 19

Teen camp for grades 7-12 is July 22 - 27

Early registration is now until March 30—register Tier 3
Parents are responsible for registering their child on line at:

hpcamp.org

Print an extra copy of the registration and amount paid and put
in Julie Shaeffer's mailbox

Reminder: GBC reimburses parents based on the
early registration fee

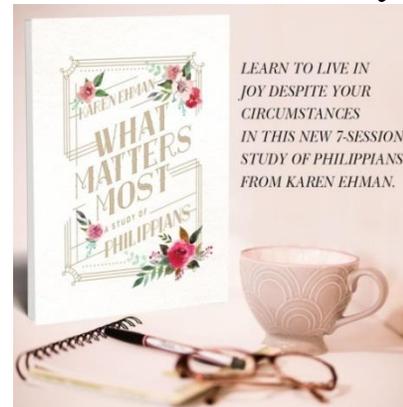
TIME TO ORDER SUBS OR PRETZEL SANDWICHES TO HELP SUPPORT FUTURE MISSION TRIPS/PROJECTS

**Orders Due Sunday,
February 10**



**Pick Up Sandwiches Ordered
Wednesday, February 20**

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Saturday, February 9 - 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Join other ladies of GBC (beginning at age 16)

ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Spring Quarter for Adults begins March 10
Six promising classes are available for women, men, young
adults, new and prospective members, in-depth Bible study
and Answers Bible Curriculum
Elective Sheets are due February 10

COMMUNION AND BAPTISM SERVICE

Sunday, February 17, at 6:30 p.m.

Let Pastor Steve know if you want to be baptized at this time

Anyone Interested in Making CHOCOLATE?

Megan Moore and Pammie Landis have graciously agreed to cohost February's Ladies Night Out. We will be meeting at Pammie's home February 11 at 6:00 p.m. You will have the opportunity to make, eat and take **Chocolate** Creations. We will not be having a meal; however we are looking for some snack items to balance out the **Chocolate** yummys. It is important that you take the time to RSVP for this event by Sunday, February 10, so we can make sure we have enough supplies.



Be in Prayer

for our youth and
adult leaders
attending the Winter
Retreat at High Point
Camp
February 22-24

Single's Dinner and Fellowship

Saturday, February 23, at 5:00 p.m.

All singles beginning with high school graduates to include those never married/widowed/divorced are invited. There is no cost for this extraordinary evening, but you must sign up by February 17 on sheets at church entrances. All singles attending will receive a door prize/gift in the form of a gift card.

All who would like to contribute a gift card for this event, please purchase a restaurant gift card in the amount of \$10-\$25 and place it in Pastor Steve's mailbox. Our "*Special Singles*" thank you!

EASTER CANTATA

Please consider participating in the ministry of the Gospel by singing in the Easter Cantata which will be held on Palm Sunday, April 14. You do not need to be a regular choir member to participate in the cantata. Sign-up sheets are at church entrances or contact Brenda Apple to receive a book and a practice CD. Practices will be on Sundays beginning Sunday, February 10, at 5:00 p.m.

SELF DRIVING CARS

Psalm 121

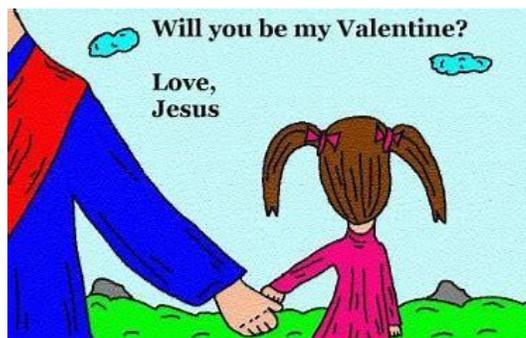
Is it really hard to imagine "self-driving" automobiles? The concept of remote controlled vehicles, aircraft and boats has been around for over one hundred years. That's where someone actually did control the vehicle, but from afar, with radio frequencies, or cable connections.

Now, the vehicle contains the computer and sensors to guide it through the most difficult traffic circumstances and reach its goal safely, without help from a person.

Off times I'm a self-driving vehicle. I press on through each day on my own, without the help for accurate guidance that I really need. God is there to guide and direct me. I just seem happiest when I am crashing into things, disregarding life's signals and barreling the wrong way on one-way streets.

Let's take the "Self-Drive" lifestyle out of our lives in 2019. Let's ask Our Majestic Lord and Savior to guide and direct us.

Psalm 121 provides some thoughts about doing life alone: "From whence shall my help come? . . . My help comes from the Lord . . . The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forever."



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Sunday: 8:15 Contemporary Worship
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Traditional Worship
6:30 Against the Flow Youth
6:30 Evening Worship Service
Wednesday: 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer for Adults /
Pioneer Clubs / Against the Flow Youth

Rev. Steve Warner
Senior Pastor

Rev. Jon Barrett
Assistant Pastor

Please be prepared to say *YES* when asked to help (breakfast preparation/serving, usher, AV, accepting money/credit cards for DVDs/books) with the following great events happening at GBC!

**7th ANNUAL MEN'S
RESURRECTION BREAKFAST**

Saturday, March 2, at 9:00 a.m.

**Dr. Tommy Mitchell From Answers in Genesis
Speaking on "Ready to Return"**

Sign up by February 18 on sheets at both church entrances

Ladies—Sign-up at downstairs entrance to provide food items, set tables, serve breakfast

Free Will Offering Will Be Taken



Dr. Tommy Mitchell will be Speaking as Follows:

Free Will Offerings Will Be Taken

Answers in Genesis books, DVDs, etc. will be available for you to purchase

Sunday, March 3, 2019

- 8:15 a.m. Genesis and the Authority of Scripture
- 9:30 a.m. Are You Intimidated? (Jr. High – Adult)
- 10:45 a.m. Genesis and the Authority of Scripture
- 6:00 p.m. Why Can't a Day Mean a Day?
- 7:30 p.m. Noah's Ark and the Global Flood

Monday, March 4, 2019

- 9:00 a.m. Were There Dinosaurs on Noah's Ark?
(Grades K-6 and parents—
Homeschoolers, Christian Schools)
- 10:30 a.m. After Their Kind (Grades 7-12 and
parents—Homeschoolers, Christian
Schools)
- 6:30 p.m. Dinosaurs and the Gospel
- 8:00 p.m. Worshipping the Creator God

