

June 2024

The Lighthouse




THE SELF-DENIAL AND CROSS BEARING OF THE FOLLOWER OF CHRIST


Are you interested in being a *follower* of Jesus Christ? Anyone who has truly experienced the lavish grace of the Lord will surely answer this question with a resounding affirmative. The Son of God became a man, fulfilled all righteousness, bore the curse for sin on the cross, and rose from the dead. He is the one who has conquered sin and death for undeserving sinners such as we are. He secured forgiveness, justification, salvation; every spiritual blessing for his people. Therefore Christians are not their own, for they were bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19b–20a). Christians must follow Christ!

In Luke 9:23 (Matthew and Mark record this statement as well), Jesus called his disciples and the crowds to gather around him and he said, “*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*” Jesus tells us that following him will involve two aspects, self-denial and cross bearing.

Self-denial is inherent to following Christ. Following Christ means that he is the leader and he is determining the route of your life. Self-denial is necessary because we naturally desire to determine the path of our lives. We value the freedom to follow our desires, but our desires are often at odds with Jesus’ desires for us. However, a follower of Jesus gives up the right of self-determination.




“It is not the denial of something to the self but the denial of the self itself. It is the opposite of self-affirmation, of putting value on one’s being, one’s life, one’s position before man or God, of claiming rights and privileges peculiar to one’s special position in life or even of those normally believed to belong to human beings as such.” -- Best



Christians give up the right to decide how to live — they live as Christ directs. We find that direction in the Bible. That is one reason why it is necessary to make a lifelong, daily commitment to reading and studying the Scriptures – to know how the Lord has commanded us to live our lives.

The second aspect of following Jesus is cross bearing. There is a common saying: “Everyone has their cross to bear”. What people mean when they say this is that everyone has a set of difficult circumstances with which they have to deal. But Biblical cross bearing is not simply dealing with your lot in life. That is stoicism.



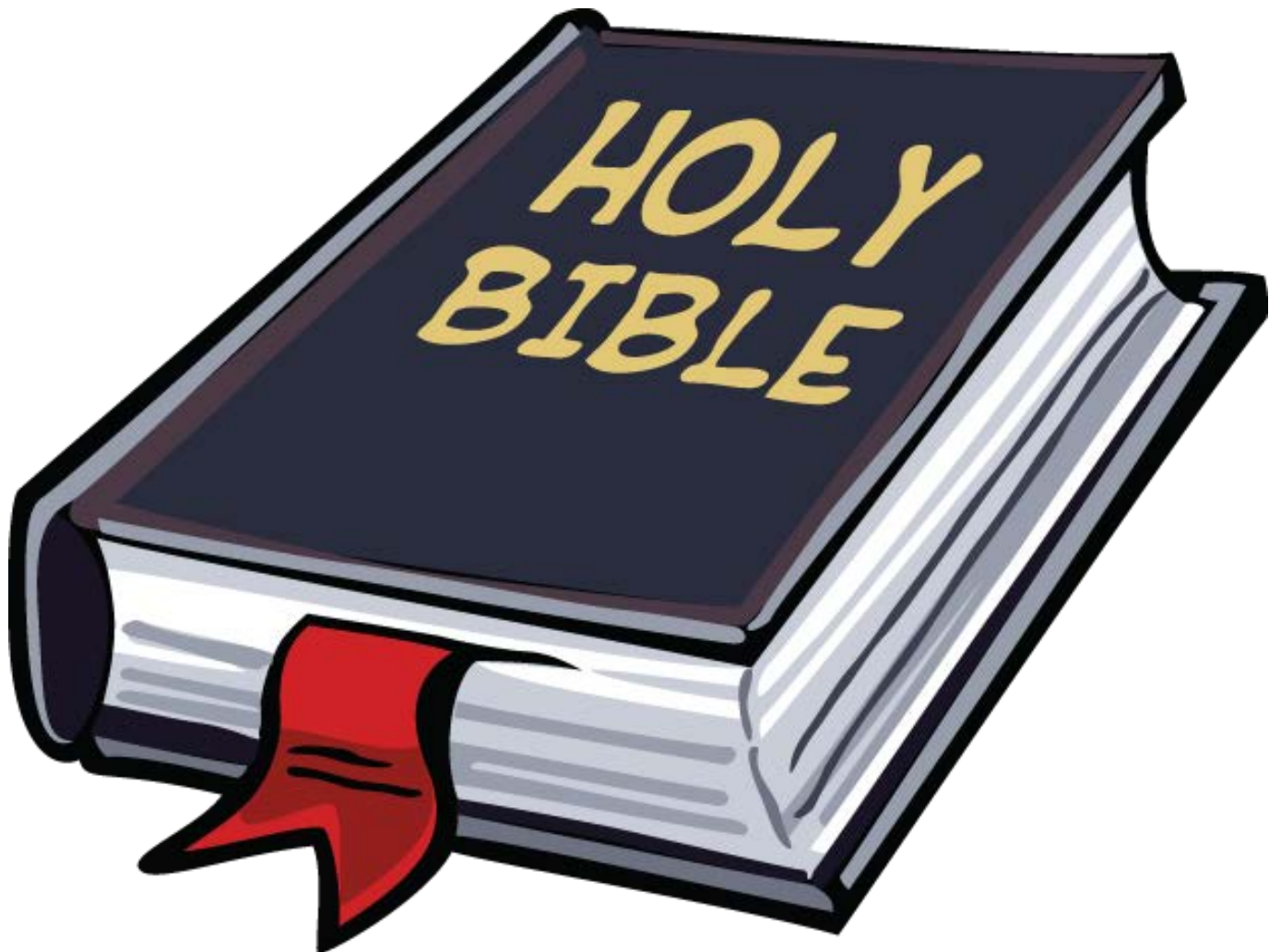
Biblical cross bearing refers to self-sacrifice, even to the point of giving one's life. That was the goal of Jesus' life. He "endured the cross, despising the shame." You see it in the Gospel of John where you see recorded in the last weeks of Jesus' life a turn towards Jerusalem; a place where Jesus knew his enemies desired his death. He rides in very publicly, not hiding, but riding in surrounded by crowds singing his praises. He knows that the shouts of "Hosanna!" will soon turn to "Crucify him!" Self-sacrifice was his mission. To follow him means we go to the cross of self-sacrifice as well. Jesus calls all of his to be willing to go to any length for his cause and kingdom.

In these times when self-determination and personal rights are valued above all things; Jesus' call is just the opposite – deny yourself and take up your cross.

The words from David Garland's commentary on this passage are a great reminder that guards us against a discipleship that avoids Jesus' call to self-denial and cross bearing: "One cannot live as a disciple the way many people watch television – sitting in a lounge chair with remote control in hand, ready to switch channels whenever anything unpleasant, tedious, or demanding appears on the screen...One must guard against turning God into a commodity for self-gratification."

Grace & Peace,

Tim



Prayer and Praise

Jody Collinge

May 6, 2024

Pray for God's protection during flooding. Matthew 7:25 (ESV) "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."



Kenya, May, 2024

Travels:

May 12-14: To Mexico City

May 14-17: To Phoenix for IWMC

May 18-21: Service team retreat, near Payson, AZ

May 22: Return to Zihuatanejo

Prayer and Praise:

1. Jo Kijabe wrote from Kenya, "Kenya is experiencing terrible floods. I have never seen such floods before.

Our ministries in Narok and Garissa also are affected. They have lost lives and property. I cannot access my home in Narok though we are hosting our neighbors whose mud houses were destroyed by water and floods. Farms and crops are destroyed and are looking like an extension of lakes. Roads and bridges are swept away. Generally the entire country is affected in one way or the other. "

"So far my family is safe in Nairobi. Let's pray for my mother in law whom she is in our Narok home and everything. Pray also for the families affected and our nation in general. The rains predicted by the meteorologists are to continue beyond May 2024.'

Today, Jo added, "Our home area became worse from yesterday. We had very heavy rain with thunderstorms that scared everyone. We are in need of food and blankets to help those who are displaced. We are also praying against any disease that might arise from flooding. Some people are having swollen legs and we don't know what might be the cause. In Garissa they are in need of food and tents."

Thanks for your prayers for Jo and Ben Kijabe and for Kenya! Would you like to help with the flood relief? Give online through [Palm Ministries](#). Mark your donation Jo Kijabe--Kenya flood relief. Or, if you prefer, you can send a donation to:

PALM MISSIONARY MINISTRIES
203 Long Lake Rd.
Hawthorne, FL 32640

2. Are you coming to the [International Wholistic Missions Conference](#), held in Phoenix from May 15 to 17? Be sure to come to our GameLife and Children's CHE pre-conference on May 15th, led by Pastor D.J. Bosler and me. Also come to our exhibits. Come ready to play and have fun, as well as learning many strategies for working with children. Click on the link below to learn more and to register.

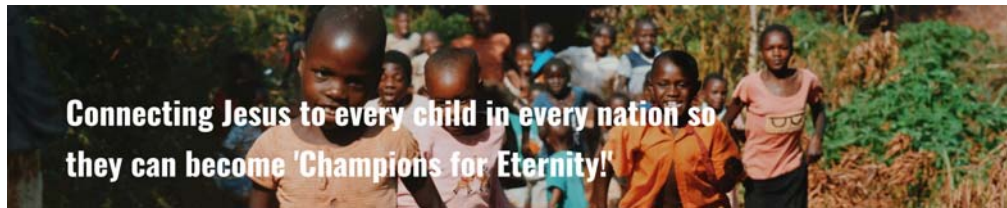


IWMC
International Wholistic Missions Conference

SPEAKERS WORKSHOPS PRE-CONFERENCES SCHEDULE EXHIBITORS FAQ ▾ **REGISTRATION**

GameLife and Children's CHE for New Life in Christ and Healthier Lives for Children and Families (One-Day Workshop).

3. What is GameLife? GameLife uses games to help children learn Bible truths and apply those truths to their own lives. As in Children's CHE, the children share what they learn with their families. Pray that lives and communities may be transformed by Christ. Click below to learn more.



4. Please pray for our Zihuatanejo churches and ministries. Pray that the Lord will send a new pastor to work alongside Ron. Pray for unity as our English-speaking churches work together this summer.

5. Our two online Bible studies, *God's Amazing Creation* (with children) and *Women of the Old Testament* are finishing their season. Let me know if you would like to join us this fall.

¡Muchas gracias!

Many thanks to God for the gift of his Son. Thank God that he will never leave us or forsake us.

And thanks to you for your prayers, encouragement, and support! Let me know how I can be praying for you.

With love,

Jody

Send donations to:

Global CHE Network

200 W Frontier St., Suite Q

Payson, AZ 85541.

Please designate that they are for my support. Thanks!

BIRTHDAYS for JUNE

Elliana Smith 3rd

James Pizzari 3rd

Diane Bowden 4th

Tim Horn 27th

Dates to Remember for June

June 1 Men's Breakfast at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall

June 2 Communion

June 3 Men's Bible Study at 6:30pm

June 4 Session Meeting at 6:00pm

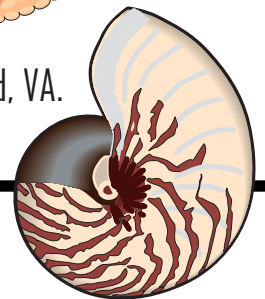
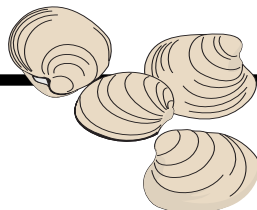
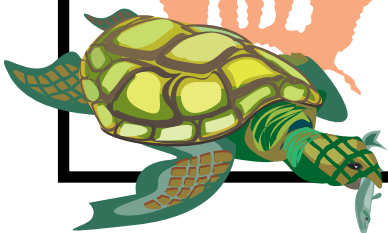
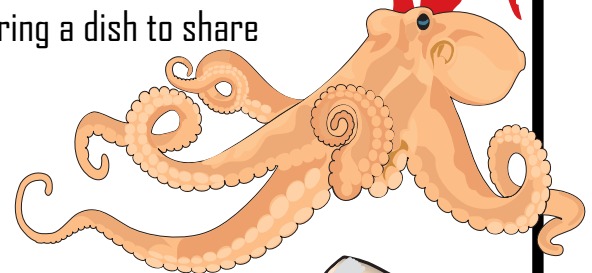
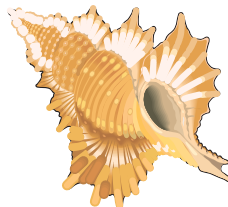
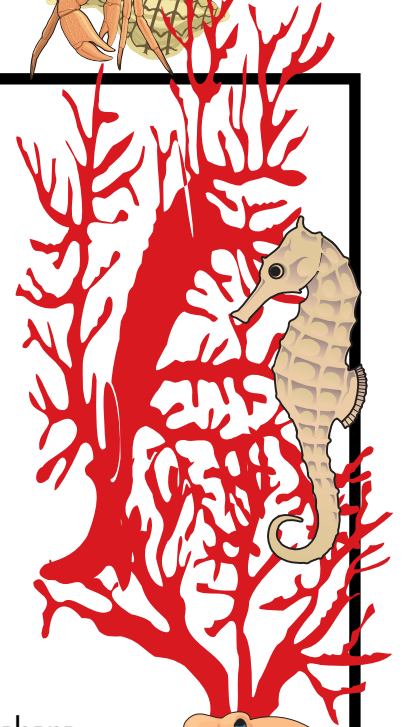
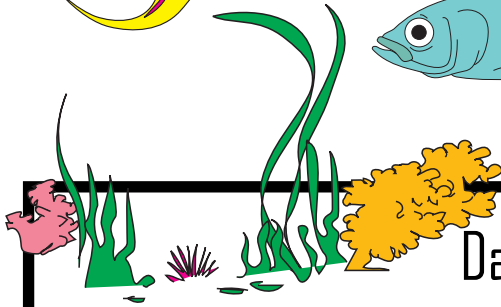
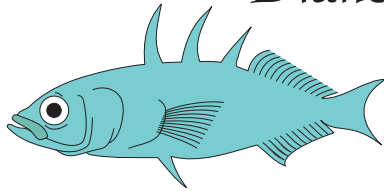
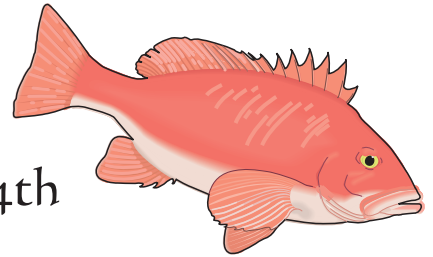
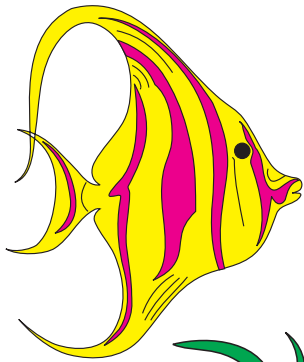
June 5 Ladies Circle at 9:30am

June 9 Monthly Luncheon after the worship service. Please bring a dish to share

June 16 Father's Day

June 17 Men's Bible Study at 6:30pm

Pray for General Assembly being held June 10-14 in Richmond, VA.



AN EVENING WITH

KEITH & KRISTYN GETTY

LIVE IN CONCERT



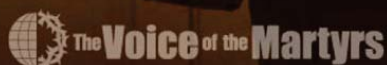
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

MATT BOSWELL & MATT PAPA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024

MISSISSIPPI COAST COLISEUM, BILOXI, MS

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228.374.6880
firstpresbiloxi.org**

First Presbyterian Church of Biloxi is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America. To learn more about the PCA, log on to pcanet.org

Elders

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Scott Malthaner	830-320-1070	scott.malthaner@firstpresbiloxi.org
Ken Pennell	601-674-1637	ken.pennell@firstpresbiloxi.org
Aaron Smith	601-214-0918	aaron.smith@firstpresbiloxi.org
Tim Horn (Pastor)	662-313-8445	tim.horn@firstpresbiloxi.org
Shannon Philio (Assistant Pastor)	228-327-3875	shannon.philio@firstpresbiloxi.org

Deacons

Andy Bagby	228-547-5334	andy.bagby@firstpresbiloxi.org
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Steve VanderKooy	228-990-1933	steve.vanderkooy@firstpresbilox.org

Church Musicians

Jeff Harrison	Music Director	jeff.harrison@firstpresbiloxi.org
Melba Sipriano	Pianist/Organist	melba.sipriano@firstpresbiloxi.org

Church Secretary

Kim Clark	228-374-6880	info@firstpresbiloxi.org
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