



From the pastor...

# MARCH

What is your number one priority for 2017? What would God think of your answer? What would God want your number one priority to be? Here is a suggestion: “It is required of stewards that a man be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2). You might recognize this as last month’s memory verse.

When Paul wrote this passage he was being criticized and maligned. But the defamation of his character did not divert him from his priority, rather it crystalized his focus. How did he do it? He knew who he was. He knew what he was supposed to do. And he knew to Whom he was accountable. Lets apply these concepts to ourselves in 2017.

**OUR IDENTITY.** Paul knew who he was: “Let a man regard us as **servants of Christ** and **stewards** of the mysteries of God (1 Cor. 4:1). If we know who we are, we can more clearly understand our purpose in life. If we are servants of Christ, then Christ is our Master. We are under His authority. We strive to please Him, not merely ourselves. His honor, his will, his work is more important than our honor, our will, and our own way.

Onesimus was a slave who ran away from his master, Philemon. Paul led him to the Lord. With Christ in his heart, Onesimus returned to his master with the intent to fulfill his master’s will and live up to the meaning of his name which was “profitable.” We have all run from God but we can return to the Lord to fulfill His will. In 2017 we can live up to the name of Christian which means “belonging to Christ.”

We are **stewards**. The Greek word used here means “house-manager.” A steward, then, is not the owner but one who manages property for someone else. We are stewards of our lives, our bodies, our resources. Since they really belong to Him, we are to govern our time, our talents, and our treasure in ways that He would approve.

**OUR RESPONSIBILITY.** Paul knew that whatever happened, he was supposed to be faithful: “it is required of stewards that a man be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2). The word translated “required” actually means “to seek.” The steward is to seek or strive to be faithful. But also, God seeks or looks for a faithful steward. That means He will give opportunities or “tests” to see if you are faithful. As you prove that you are faithful in smaller responsibilities He will entrust larger responsibilities to you. “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much” (Lk. 16:10). We all can expect some God-given opportunities in 2017 to show God that we are dependable. It may be difficult to be faithful in some of those opportunities but that is to be our priority.

**OUR ACCOUNTABILITY.** Paul was not intimidated by criticism. He knew who he was. He knew what he was supposed to do. And he knew to Whom he had to give an account of his life. He didn’t have to meet others’ standards (1 Cor. 4:3). He was not deceived to think that he was all right as long as he had a clear conscience. He had to give an account of his life to God, not to others nor to himself (1 Cor. 4:4).

What’s your focus in 2017? Why not this: “It is required of stewards that a man be found faithful”?

Our **Men's Meeting** for February will be March 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. @ the church. Sign up on the foyer table at church.



**Great Commission Women**

will meet twice this month on the 18<sup>th</sup> for lunch @ 11 a.m. with the Paradise Mountain Ministries guest missionaries at PoFolks. Then for food and fellowship with our guest missionary Judy Gaskin on March 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. @ the Church! Sign up on the sheet on the foyer table if you plan to come.



**New Sunday Evening Series:**

We will continue an eight week study of Biblical Finances using "**Total Money Makeover Workbook**" by Dave Ramsey on Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. Workbooks will be \$5.

**Venture Out BIBLE STUDY**

We will continue our study in James. We will meet Thursdays, at 10 a.m. @ the Clubhouse. See you there!

Our monthly V.O. luncheon will begin on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. @ Triple J's on Thomas Dr.



**"YOUNG AT HEART"**

For March will have lunch at Heritage Bible on Mar 17<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 a.m. Don't miss it! Corn beef and cabbage will be provided just bring sides.

In the next few weeks, we will begin **CULTURE SHOCK** by Chip Ingram in the Mary & Martha Class. *How to Respond to Today's Most Divisive Issues*. Bring light - not heat - to divisive issues! Helping you talk openly and respectfully about today's challenging topics. Women of HBC can sign up on the sheet in the foyer. Or call: Pat Sabiston 769-4345.

**Guest Missions Speakers**

1. Sunday morning service, Mar 19 we will have a presentation from a representative from **Paradise Mountain Ministries** serving the Christian and Missionary Alliance Toccoa Falls College. Paradise Mountain Ministries is a non profit, faith based, residential ministry providing a home away from home for college age children (Third World College Kids) of evangelicals working outside their passport country. The primary focus of the ministry is to aid in the transition of college age young adults who have grown up in a different country and find themselves learning how to successfully live as adults in the United States of America.

2. Sunday morning service, Mar 26 we will have a presentation from an area representative from **Teen Challenge USA**. Teen Challenge works on a holistic model of drug and alcohol recovery. From their website: This means that we are concerned with the body, mind, and spirit of those who come to our addiction recovery centers. We endeavor to help people become mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well, and spiritually alive.

**Facts & Figures**

**Finances for February**

**For Feb 1 through Feb 28**

General Operating Fund (GOF) Monthly Budget:	\$ 18,655.00
GOF Tithes & Offering Received( 4 Sundays):	\$ 19,148.10
General Operating Fund Weekly Budget:	\$ 4,305.00
GOF Avg. Weekly Tithes & Offerings (4 Sundays):	\$ 4,787.03

**For Year to Date 2017, (based on 2 months and 9 Sundays):**

GOF Year to Date (YTD) Tithes and Offerings Budget (monthly basis):	\$ 37,310.00
GOF Funds YTD Tithes and Offerings Budget (weekly basis):	\$ 38,745.00
GOF Year to Date Tithes and Offerings Received:	\$ 39,611.39
GOF Year to Date Budgeted/Other Disbursements and Transfers to Other Funds:	\$ (38,169.72)
GOF Receipts vs GOF Disbursements and Transfers to Other Funds:	\$ 1,451.67
GOF Balance as of (172% of monthly budget):	\$ 32,029.75
Average Weekly Tithes and Offerings Received (9 Sundays):	\$ 4,401.27
YTD Avg Weekly GOF Budgeted & Non Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers:	\$ (4,241.08)
Missions YTD Income: Receipts (\$600) and 24% of Tithes and Offerings (\$9,506.74)	\$ 10,106.74
Missions Fund YTD Disbursements:	\$ (6,299.95)
Missions Fund Balance:	\$ 7,534.45
Building Fund YTD Receipts including \$1,100 In Memory Of Gifts:	\$ 1,216.59
Building Fund YTD Disbursements:	\$ (0.00)
Building Fund Balance:	\$ 5,102.08
Associate Pastor Fnd YTD Receipts:	\$ 2,205.00
Associate Pastor Fnd YTD Disbursements: Compensations out of Assoc Past Fnd:	\$ (6,000.00)
Associate Pastor Fnd Balance:	\$ 22,972.51



Will meet on Sundays,  
March 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

**Annual Missions Conference 2017**  
**Sunday PM, March 26<sup>th</sup>-Wednesday PM, March 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Our missionary this year is Miss Judy Gaskin from Indonesia**



I am involved in children's ministries in Indonesia. I was the Awana Indonesia Director for 10 years and on Jan 1, 2016 an Indonesian Director was chosen for Awana Indonesia. I also minister in Leadership Training for Sunday School leaders/teachers and teach in the Children's Ministry major and the Holistic Child Development major at Jaffray Seminary in Makassar, Sulawesi. I developed and assist in the Camp Good News Campgrounds (Retreat Center), Which is located around two hours from Jakarta. I also oversee a children's educational scholarship program to assist needy pastor's children with their educational needs. Her testimony and call to ministry:

*"I was raised in a non-Christian home. At the age of 13 my mother died and I became a "mother" to my 3 younger siblings. When I was 16 we moved from Alabama to south Florida. One day we were visited by a C&MA pastor and his wife (Rev. & Mrs. Bill Nabors) and they invited us to attend Sunday School and they offered to pick us up so the next Sunday I was in Sunday School for the first time in my life. Three months later on New Year's Eve I gave my heart and life to Christ. Six months later while we were travelling on vacation and I was sitting in the backseat of our family car reading my Bible I read, "...come and see the place where he lay and then go quickly and tell...(Matthew 28:6-7). With an alcoholic father and from a low-income family I felt it was impossible for me to obey His call but I was to learn over the next 4 years there is nothing impossible for Him. Upon graduation from Toccoa Falls Bible College in 1969 I ministered with Child Evangelism Fellowship for two years in northwest Alabama before I left for Indonesia in 1972."*

**Conference Schedule:**

**Sunday p.m.** – Food Fellowship at 6 p.m. and Session afterwards

**Monday a.m.** – Meet with homeschool children at 10:30 a.m. with lunch afterwards;

**Tuesday p.m.** – Meet with Heritage Bible Church Alliance Women

**Wednesday** – Food Fellowship at 6:15 p.m. and Session afterwards



**The Eight Letter Seminar**

*John describes Jesus as a priest amidst His churches...He walks among His churches. His proximity to the churches and His inspection of the enables Him to declare, "I know," when He reveals the state of each of the seven. He knows, as the letters themselves reveal, not only the long-term history and the weekly activities of the church, but also the hearts of all those involved. (Page 21)*

**Preparation**

Read *The Eighth Letter: Jesus Still Speaks*

February 22 (6:30PM) 8<sup>th</sup> Letter Chapters 3 & 4

March 1 (6:30PM) 8<sup>th</sup> Letter Chapters 5 & 6

March 8 Fasting & Prayer with (6:30PM) Prayer Service

**Process**

March 11 (10AM-3PM) Seminar

March 12 Mark Barnard Preaches

March - April Collect & Evaluate Congregational/Historic Data

April 28-29 Retreat: What is Jesus saying to Heritage?

Reconciliation Service or Solemn Assembly

Follow-Up Coaching by Mark Bernard

*This is not about adding words to the canon of Scripture, but about the utilization of what Jesus has created His local churches to be. The seven letters show us how He speaks to churches, and He wants every one of us, to hear and heed what He is saying. (Page 14)*

Everybody is invited to attend and participate in as much of this process as they are able. We are the Body of Christ, and Christ is speaking to His entire Body.

