



Southwest *Church of the Nazarene*

**TIS THE SEASON...
TO BE TRUSTING**

CHURCH NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2, 2020 – VOLUME 37

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths. NKJV

Simple to understand, yet difficult to do. This is probably one of the greatest teaching scriptures we have. The premise is to “acknowledge Him” in all our ways. It sounds easy enough, but where do we find Him in our chaos? Sometimes we spend a few moments rummaging through our devotionals looking for “God.” When that fails, we turn to our spiritual guru, Google, or his cohort Facebook, to find “that” scripture to give us direction for our next decision or an appropriate meme to bring peace to an unsettled soul. What we often find, however, is shallow and fleeting. Instead of having confident “trust” when “acknowledging Him,” we instead shrink back into “hoping” He will help us find our way.

To be able to grow deeper in our “trust” with the Lord, our “acknowledgment” of Him cannot be a quick glance.

During this chaotic time in life, maybe it is a good thing we are entering another Christmas season. To slow life down, take a deep long look... listen... and then embrace with joy that there was born in the city of David, a Savior... for us. He is the One the prophet Isaiah called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

“Trust” will come if we can learn how to “acknowledge Him” better in our life. Here are four ways that may help us:

1. Guard Your Life.

Only allow what is beneficial to your life and relationship to Christ, into the private chambers of your heart and mind. Proverbs 4:23 “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” Not everyone or everything should have a “free pass” to enter in.

2. Disconnect.

Find what is draining your soul, your spiritual vitality... and then disconnect from it. Habits, boredom, technology, even people can all have detrimental effects on our spiritual life. Then reconnect with the Lord. His offer is still “Come... and I will give you rest... learn from me...” (Matthew 11:28-29)

3. Read.

Not just anything, read books with sound moral reasoning. I personally enjoy reading older books, generally over 100 years old. They remind me of a simpler life, one with a distinct moral compass that pointed to the God of the Bible. One I find myself poking my nose in is called “Faithful to Christ: A Challenge to Truly Living for Christ” by Charles Haddon Spurgeon. Sitting for an hour reading this refuels my soul.

4. Commune with God.

Understand that fellowship with God is not snack time, where conversations are brief, and fulfillment is fleeting. Communion is more like a five-course meal; where conversations are deeper, love and laughter fill the air as you savor every bite with one another. As the Psalmist in appreciation wrote, “⁷How precious is Your loving kindness, O God! Therefore, the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. ⁸They are **abundantly satisfied** with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures” (Ps 36:7-8).

Trust comes with experience and time. Acknowledging comes with practice. The more you do this, the straighter and clearer the path becomes ahead.

Happy Advent,

Pastor Scott & Cindy

Praises:

- ❖ Praise the Lord for a good Thanksgiving! Even though it was different for most, it was still a special time to be thankful for all we do have, instead of thinking of what we do not have. God is good... all the time!
- ❖ Praise the Lord for a beautiful sanctuary! Thank you to everyone who helped put up the decorations. It really brings in the spirit of Christmas!
- ❖ Praise the Lord for Bonnie Overton's successful eye surgery!

Prayer Needs:

- ❖ Personal Prayer Needs are listed on the mailed and emailed versions of the newsletter.

Upcoming Events & Services

Wednesday, December 2nd – 6:30pm Prayer Meeting

Sunday, December 6th – 10:40am Worship Service & Children's Church
– 3-5pm Teen Quizzing
– 5-7pm R!OT Youth

Wednesday, December 9th – 6:30pm Prayer Meeting

Saturday, December 12th – 4-9pm R!OT Youth Christmas Party and Dinner

Sunday, December 13th – 10:40am Worship Service with Children's Christmas Singing
– 3-5pm Teen Quizzing
– 5-7pm R!OT Youth

Wednesday, December 16th – 6:30pm Prayer Meeting

Sunday, December 20th – 10:40am Special Christmas Family Worship Service & Treats (Children will be in service.)
– 3-5pm Teen Quizzing
– 5-7pm R!OT Youth

Wednesday, December 23rd – No Evening Prayer Meeting

Thursday, December 24th – 6:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 27th – 10:40am Worship Service & Children's Church (Jesus' Birthday party for children)
– No Teen Quizzing
– No R!OT Youth Group

Wednesday, December 30th – No Evening Prayer Meeting

Friday, January 1st – 7pm R!OT Youth Lock-In (will stay from Friday at 7pm to Saturday at 7am)

What Child Is This (Greensleeves)

What Child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping
This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding
Good Christian fear for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading
Nails spear shall pierce Him through
The cross be borne for me for you
Hail hail the Word made flesh
The Babe the Son of Mary

So bring Him incense gold and myrrh
Come peasant king to own Him
The King of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him
Raise raise the song on high
The Virgin sings her lullaby
Joy joy for Christ is born
The Babe the Son of Mary

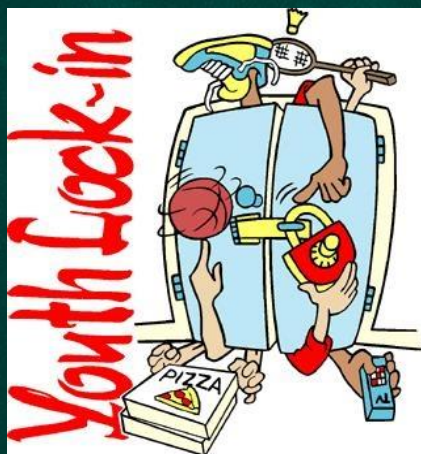
William Chatterton Dix, Public Domain



R!OT Youth Events:



R!OT Youth Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 12th at 4pm. Ugly Sweater Contest, Progressive Dinner, White Elephant Gift Exchange! See Dave/Dana for details.



R!OT Youth Lock-In

***from 7pm Friday, January 1st
to 7am Saturday, January 2nd***

Teens: invite your friends for a fun night of unlimited pizza, games, skating, and fun! The cost is \$20 per person. See Dave or Dana Metcalf for details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Children's Christmas Singing
Sunday, December 13th

**CHRISTMAS
TREATS**

Sunday, December 20th

CHRISTMAS EVE
*Communion and
Candlelight*
SERVICE

Join Us at 6:30pm



We will be collecting money for the 2020 Christmas Giving Tree through Sunday, Dec. 13th. All financial gifts go to help families connected to our church with a little extra for Christmas this year. Our goal is \$3,000. Please mark your donation "Giving Tree". If you know of a family who could benefit from a little help this year, complete the form at the Welcome Center and place in the Offering Box or place in the Office Manager's Inbox.

2020
Christmas
Giving
Tree

