

Prayers.

Winifred and her family.

Trevor; Irene.

Eric and Family.

Margaret and John.

Roy and Beryl.

Joel's work in India

Joyce and her son
Keith.

Blossom and her Family

Sylvia.

Ruth

Those have Fallen
Away

To all our members who
are not here for one
reason or another.

That God may open
people's hearts to the
gospel and that God will
add to our number.

Study

ScripturesSay.com.

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B19 2NN.

Is The Center the Middle?

When we think of the word "center" we think "middle" or "mean." In politics, "the center" is the middle point between radicals on the left and right; we call them "moderates." When we think of an object such as an apple, the center is the core or middle, the part of the apple that contains the seeds. In religion, however, the center involves religious dogma or teaching. It is that teaching that most influences the whole of the religion. What ought we to put at the center of our theology? The answer to such a question would surely influence how we, as believers, behave.

Some have suggested that we put grace at the center of our theology. Grace is God's unmerited favor toward man. God has demonstrated this favor in sending His Son, Jesus, to the earth for the purpose of dying on the cross for the sins of man. Through Jesus sacrifice, God made it possible for man's sins to be forgiven. There's no doubt that grace is a very important part of theology, but is it the center? Ephesians 2:5 says that we are saved by grace through faith which puts faith in an equal position with grace. So, grace, by itself,

can't be the center of our theology.

Some have suggested that we put the Bible at the center of our theology. The Bible is definitely important. Without it we would have no knowledge about God, salvation, Jesus, faith, and just about any other subject in the Christian religion; after all, faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). However, the Bible is a tool for learning. It, in and of itself, isn't the object or center of our theology. The Bible (God's word) points back toward the giver of that word, God Himself.

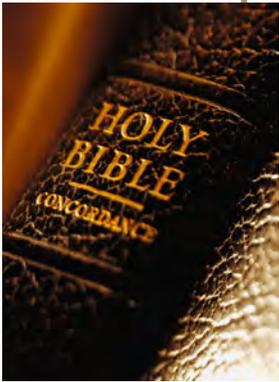
Some have suggested that we put Jesus at the center of our theology. Certainly this comes closer in our efforts to define what is at the center of our theology. Jesus is our Savior; He is our King; He is our Lord. He is the one to whom we give allegiance as Christians and there's no doubt that He ought to be constantly in our thinking. However, even Jesus acknowledged that He was here to do the Father's will. Jesus said, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father

which hath sent me." (John 5:30). Jesus certainly comes closer than any particular doctrine or teaching and He points the way to what is at the center or heart of our theology (John 1:17).

So what ought to be the center of our theology? I would suggest that the word "theology" answers that question itself. God, with all of His attributes, is the center of our theology. Grace comes from God; faith comes from God; obedience comes from God as exemplified in the life of Jesus; the Bible comes from God as it is inspired by the Holy Spirit; love comes from God for God is love.

Simply taking one aspect of God and putting it at the center of our theology really misses the point. God is at the center and His characteristics the subject of theology. The more we learn about God, the more we will be able to imitate His attributes and be like Him. Ephesians 5:1 says, "Be ye therefore imitators of God, as beloved children."

Bible Studies for the Week of January 27th 2008



AM Sermon.....	No Details Given (Trevor)
Scripture Reading for Sermon	No Details Given
Adult Bible Study	The Church (Ricci)
Scripture Reading for service.....	Exodus 7; Rev. 8
Sunday School Class.....	No Details Given
Thursday Bible Class.....	Daniel (Trevor)
Ladies Bible Class	
Sunday Evening Class	2 Samuel 11-12. (Ricci)

Changed From the Inside Out

“For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).



The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of Wales with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old, worn out Bible. His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day, the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water

leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was impossible to carry water in a basket, and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as

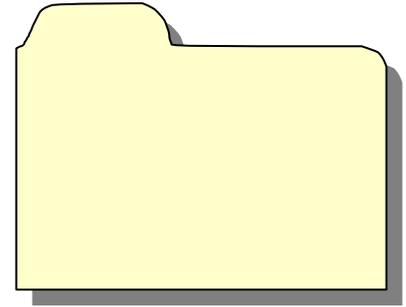
fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty.

Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!" "So you think it is useless?" the old man said. "Look at the basket." The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean. "Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out."

“Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word” (Psalm 119:9).

For The Files: Week Beginning January 20th 2008

Sunday Bible Class.....	7
Sunday AM Worship.....	35
Sunday School.....	1
Tuesday Night Study - Once in the Month.....	
Thursday Evening Study	10
Contribution.....	£?
Budget.....	£100.00.



Ricci's Corner.

(The Lords Words)



Sunday Study 6PM.

Brethren I will be taking the evenings study. I would like as many of you as possible to come and be blessed in the Lords word.

I am hoping that if we have sufficient brethren we can separate in to small groups as my lesson will require this.

So as we have only one evening Sunday study a month, I pray you will not let me or the Lord down by not attending.

Next Sundays Sermon.

Brethren next Sunday at the main service I will be preaching from Philippians 4:1-3.

“What happens When Christians cant Get Along”?

"The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times" (Psalm 12:6).

You can count on the Word of God; it is pure. Like silver refined in a furnace seven times, the word of God tests true. Silver melts at 1,861 degrees Fahrenheit. Those who worked the silver would heat it up more than once to get all the dross out.

Silver refined seven times was virtually free of any imperfection. Until about 500 B.C., silver was the most valuable metal in the Near East. Thus, in most of the Old Testament it is given a priority over gold. The words of God are like the very finest silver. They were the most valuable thing David could own.

How valuable are the promises of God to you? Do you take seriously his promise of forgiveness? The promise of heaven?

How binding are the laws of God upon you? Do you take seriously his commandments to

live the holy life and to obey the truth?

How you value God will manifest itself in how well you believe and conform to his Word. James spoke of the fellow who deluded himself by listening to God's word and walking away from its teachings.

James said, "the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing" (James 1:25).

God's Word is tested. Is your heart tested and proven true? When God looks down at your heart, does he see it as "refined seven times"? Solomon said in Proverbs 17:3, "The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests hearts."

A doer who acts upon the word of God will find his heart and soul refined like silver. James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him." The tried and proven word is trying and proving you. Will you meet the test?

IMPORTANT INFO

We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!

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Congregation Meeting.

Today

Sunday Evening study 6pm
Tonight.

Ladies Soup Kitchen, 30.01.08:
1pm-2.30pm.

Birthday: Eric, Georgina

Ask A Bible Question, Log onto:

ScripturesSay.com

God's Salvation Plan

1. **Hear** the Gospel—Romans 10:17
2. **Believe** on the Lord & His Word—Mark 16:16; John 8:24
3. **Repent** of your sins—Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
4. **Confess** Christ—Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9
5. **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27
6. Live a **faithful**, dedicated life—Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

Welcome!

Visit our web site: www.SummerLanecoc.com

Times for Worship and Study.

Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
 Sunday Morning Bible Study.....10:00 AM
 Sunday School.....10:00 AM
 Ladies Bible Class Every Second Monday 12:30 PM
 Thursday Evening Bible Class.....7:30 PM
 Men's Bible Study Class.....First Tuesday in the Month 7:30 PM

Serving Each Other

January 27th 2008

February 3rd 2008

Sunday Morning

President

Ricci

Eric

Preaching:

Trevor

Ricci

Opening Prayer:

Scripture Reading:

Norman

Trevor

Philip

Eric

Lord's Table

Roy

Norman

Eric

Richard

Closing Prayer

Sunday Evening.

Ricci

Flowers

Margaret

Elle

Tea

Margaret

Elle

Building clean for Jan: 08

All Please

ALL Please