



Making disciples who make disciples
August 01, 2021
The Tenth Sunday of Pentecost.

Church Worship & Office Location

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Worship Service Times

Sunday 11:30 a.m. & Wednesday 5:30 p.m.

Church Mailing Address:

PO Box 2919

Yuma, AZ 85366

Find us Online: <http://ctryuma.org>

Find us on Facebook:



Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church,
A Christian Community

Parish Council Members

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Next Parish Council Meeting

Sept. 1 at 6.30 p.m.

In Word – Saints for Ministry

The first verse of the fourth chapter of Paul's Letter to the Church in Ephesus is one of the most powerful statements regarding the visible effect grace is expected to have on our behavior.

Some pseudo-theologians from mainline denominations claim that requiring a change in behavior makes Christianity a "religion of works" rather than one of faith. Scripture, however, disputes that.

Another verse that comes to mind is James 2:26 — *For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.*

Here is Paul's exhortation:

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, — Eph 4:1

In English, we try to avoid repeating the same or similar words in a sentence, but in Greek, they often do the opposite. In describing a baseball game, we would never write, "*The hitter hit a hit*"; however, it would be perfectly fine in biblical Greek. And that's what Paul does in this verse. The words *beg*, *calling*, and *called* all share the same root word which is recognized easily when read aloud as all of Paul's letters were: *parakalo*, *klesios*, and *eklethete*.

We could translate Paul's plea as: *I...call you to live worthy of the calling of which you have been called!*

This is an urgent appeal for us to change our behavior in response to God's grace. Paul goes on to explain that the Holy Spirit provides us with the means to accomplish this through our unity in the Body of Jesus Christ.

*⁴ There is **one body and one Spirit**, just as you were called to the **one hope of your calling**, ⁵ **one Lord**, **one faith, one baptism**, ⁶ **one God and Father of all**, who is above all and through all and in all.*

I fear (if comments on social media are any indication) that sometimes we embrace our Anglicanism more than our Christianity. But it's not just us; each denomination seems to have the attitude that Jesus is really one of them and tolerates those other Christians who don't quite have the correct doctrine. Paul consistently tries to dispel this "us vs. them" idea throughout his letters, but it seems like modern Christians are blind to the idea that it might possibly refer to ourselves and think "those Presbyterians, Baptists, Pentecostals, Mennonites, (insert any other denomination here), should really pay attention to what Paul says here..."

Each of us is given grace through our **one** Christ, consistent with the gifts the Holy Spirit gives us. Spiritual gifts are given **to** us, but **for** others. Think about it. Healing, teaching, and even administration are all useless without other people to receive the benefits of those gifts.

Paul tells us who those other people are *the saints*.

*⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ... ¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² **to equip the saints for the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ — Ephesians 4:7,11–12*

We have been led to think of saints as a particular group of *super Christians* that God selected and to whom he gave abilities and powers beyond those of normal humans so that they could live the type of godly life expected of saints and be examples to us of what real devotion looks like, and that we'll never have that.

Christians today consider saints to be like the military's Medal of Honor recipients: rare, heroic, and usually killed in action. But that's not what Paul believed. He used the term saints to describe all brothers and sisters in Christ.

*To all those in Rome who are ... called to be **saints** — Rom 1:7*

*To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be **saints** ... — 1 Cor 1:2*

*To the **saints** who are in Ephesus — Eph 1:1*

*To all the **saints** in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi... — Phil 1:1*

*To the **saints** and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae— Col 1:2*

So, we're saints, which means we are *all* called to ministry (*to equip the saints for the work of ministry*). We are all ministers of Jesus Christ, not just the clergy.

In other words, God has gifted some of us with abilities as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, with the expectation that they will train the other Christians in their community to use their spiritual gifts effectively.

Every Christian is called by God to do more than just sit back and watch the show Sunday morning. We are each given gifts that will help someone else if we use them.

Hospitality, encouragement, giving, serving, wisdom, and mercy are just a few.

I urge each of you to set aside about 20 minutes to go to the web site <https://spiritualgiftstest.com/> and take the free online spiritual gifts test to help you discern what your own spiritual gifts are. Then pray about how Jesus can use you to further his kingdom. Finally, accept his call.

I call you to live worthy of the calling to which you're being called.

Welcome to sainthood.

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. Austin



Sunday, August 1

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, August 3

6:30 p.m. Grief Share Program ~ CtR Library

Wednesday, August 4

5:30 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday, August 8

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Those Who Serve

Altar Guild – Jennifer Kircher
Ushers – Jim Slater & Connie Whitener
Chalice – Sherri Wayman
Lessons – Al Manning
Prayers – Mary Sue Houston



Lord, we ask you to comfort and sustain all who in this transitory life are in sickness, or any other adversity. Open the hearts to know your love and feel your presence.

We pray for M. Diane Manning, Kenneth Holbert, Katy Mize, Chuck Warner, Lina, Bruno Hildebrandt, Kara, Eric, Ella & Timothy, Gerry Pyper, Sandra Pyper, Steven Fischer, Ann Traverso, Neil, Lauren, Marcela, Fr. Austin, Pat Galloway, Dorothy Green, Denise, Connie, Sue, Scotty Haskell, St. Paul's Church (Payson, AZ), Bishop Keith, Abbie Bundy, Betty (Bo Peep) Penny, Donna, Dcn. Linda, Lorraine Chavez, Steve Chacon, Merle Shyne, Laura, Darlene O., Maddy, Lauren, Steven, Elena, Officer Shay K. Mikalonis, Niki, Roni, Bob, Carol, Zachary, Jim Music. Kathy Watson, Steve and

Caleb Warner, Maurine Light.

If you would like to submit prayer requests for this newsletter, or if you have any updates, please contact the church office at 928-343-9551, or ctryuma@gmail.com



**Please Pray For
Good Shepherd Temple
Fr. Leo Laney and
Dcn. John Leggat**



CTR Prayer Project

Titus 1:7-9 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word, which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

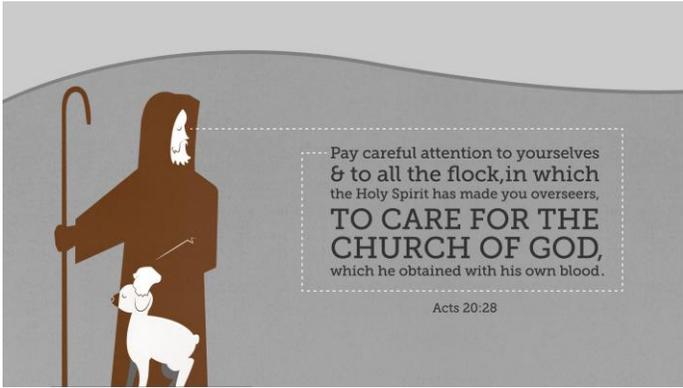
In his letter to Titus and the church at Crete, Paul spells out the basic characteristics expected of pastors (overseers). As I read this long list of requirements, it reminded me of the life principles we have been studying in Bible Study for the past 10 years. God gives us His Holy Spirit, and His intention is for His Spirit to transform us. The process of sanctification, making believers into the image of Christ and holy, as God is holy, is an ongoing process, but one that every believer should be not only welcoming, but encouraging. The list above helps us understand God's will for pastors, but what about His will for all believers? Dr. Charles F. Stanley, in his 30 Life Principles Bible, tells us that it is God's will for us to have an intimate relationship with Him and His Son, so we can truly know Him, not just

know about Him. He wants us to obey His commands, so we keep the relationship strong. He wants us to get to know Him through His living Word, so we can become like Christ. He wants us to fully rely on power and guidance from His indwelling Holy Spirit, so we never have to fear Satan or our future. He wants us to trust Him in good times and bad, so we can be confident of His tremendous love for us. He wants us to sow goodness and righteousness in all we do, so we can grow His Kingdom here on earth. He wants us to persevere in times of adversity, so we can grow spiritually. He wants us to communicate daily with Him through prayer, so we can pour out our needs to Him and intercede on behalf of others. He wants us to have eyes of faith, so we can see everything from His perspective. And He wants us to discern His will in everything we undertake, so His plan and purpose for our life will be fulfilled. This is only a partial list (10 out of 30 principles), but it's a good one to get started on, if you haven't done that already. As with God's pastors, God has goals for our transformation, and when we meet those goals, we not only become more like God's Son, but we draw others closer to God through the testimonies of our faith. If God had requirements for those serving Him as pastors, it makes sense that He also has requirements for those of us serving Him in other capacities.

Praying in One Accord—Familiarizing ourselves with God's Word helps us live in one accord with His plan of transformation and sanctification.

Accord Prayer—Lord Christ, you lived the perfect life here on earth. Not only are You our Great High Priest, exemplifying the traits of an overseer, but You also lived out our heavenly Father's will for believers here on earth. Keep us opening every part of our lives to the work of Your Holy Spirit in us. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving—Holy Father, thank You for calling us to a higher way of living. Thank You for Your Word, which spells out Your desires for our righteous living. And thank You for sending Your Spirit to help us be transformed into Christ's likeness and Your holiness. Amen.



Unity in the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:1–16)

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 O M A P N F B R S N C A S
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| BELIEVE | CALLED | CAME |
| DAYS | DIDYMUS | DISCIPLES |
| DOORS | EIGHT | FINGER |
| HAND | HERE | JESUS |
| LORD | MARK | MIDST |
| NAILS | NEVER | OTHER |
| PEACE | PLACE | SAID |
| SEEN | SHUT | SIDE |
| STOOD | THEN | THOMAS |
| TWELVE | UNBELIEVING | UNLESS |