



Calvary Christian Fellowship Mennonite Church

Welcome to our Worship Service!

March 18, 2018

Announcements:

- This Evening: Services at 7:00. Titus Troyer from Fredonia will be sharing in a message.
- Wednesday Evening: Prison Service (Annex) 4:15 PM. To go: Steve, Ralph & Chad – Dev.
- School devotions this week by: Henry Nissley
- School Hot Lunch this week by the youth.
- Out of state correspondence this week by Justin & Heidi.

Devotional:----- LaWayne Wagler
Message:----- Michael Yoder
Offering:----- General
SS Lesson:----- 1 Corinthians 9:1-27

~BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES~

March 21, Happy Birthday! Sharon Nissley, 2002
 March 22, Happy Anniversary! Ralph & Jan Yoder, 2002
 March 24, Happy Birthday! Kendall Yoder, 2002

Adult and Youth Verse: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. 1 Corinthians 9:27

Intermediate Verse: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. Genesis 12:3

Junior Verse: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. Isaiah 55:8

Primary Verse: Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight. Proverbs 12:22

Preschool Verse: "Speak... the truth" Zechariah 8:16

SS Lesson for April 1: 1 Corinthians 10:1-14

Adult and Youth Verse for April 1: Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12

CHILDREN'S CORNER

What Is a Fossil?

A fossil is an animal or plant that has been turned into rock. Dead things always rot quickly (that is why they smell). If a dead animal or plant is not buried quickly, it will rot and decay and no signs of it will be left. We see that happening all around us today. Most fossils were made quickly during Noah's Flood by sand and mud that rapidly covered plants and animals.

Kids Answers <http://goo.gl/dJwkr7>

You can see the effects of Noah's Flood today

When you travel on the highway, look at any rocky hillsides that were cut away for the road. You'll see lots of layers. When you see these layers, remember the Flood of Noah's day. The Flood would have stirred up many different types of mud and rocks. Eventually, the floodwaters deposited them in layers. Over time, these hardened into the many layers of rock that we see today. This didn't happen over millions of years—instead, it happened mostly during the Flood, just a few thousand years ago!

Most fossils formed during Noah's Flood, as sand and mud came and covered the animals and plants, killing them quickly and turning them into fossils.

Kids Answers, <http://goo.gl/27tAul>

Pharo's Dream – Most of you probably know the story of Pharaoh's Dream, found in the 41st chapter of Genesis. Pharaoh dreamed about seven sleek and fat cows that were replaced by seven ugly and lean cows. Joseph correctly interpreted the dream to mean that Egypt would have seven years of great abundance followed by seven years of severe famine. Understanding the meaning of this dream changed the course of world history.

I had a dream several years ago that wasn't as prophetic as Pharaoh's dream – but it made enough of an impression on me that I could not stop thinking about it for several weeks. I still think about it once in a while. I don't know if that was God's doings or not. Allow me to share my dream with you.

In My Dream ... I found myself in an informal classroom setting of sorts with a group of teenagers. There was much back-and-forth discussion about many things. Eventually the discussion turned to church and church attendance. One teenager said, "My family goes to the First Baptist Church." Another said, "We attend the First Presbyterian Church." Still another said, "I just started going to the First Christian Church." As the discussion progressed, several other church denominations were mentioned.

In my dream, God made it very clear to me that this was a "teachable moment." A teachable moment can be defined as an unplanned opportunity in which the teacher is able to offer insight to his or her students.

Eventually one of the teenagers wanted to know what church I go to. Without missing a beat, I said, "I belong to the First Ever Church." Although everyone had heard of the First Baptist Church and the First Presbyterian Church and the First Christian Church, etc., etc., no one had heard of the First Ever Church. I explained that the First Ever Church was the church established by Jesus, through the apostles, soon after his death, burial and resurrection. Prior to that, there had been no church. This was the first one ever.

Most people mistakenly believe the church is a building and/or a denomination. However, Jesus did NOT die for a building and he did NOT die for a denomination. He died for people – people like you and me. People who have accepted the gospel message about Jesus Christ ARE the church!

I have always had a problem with all of the divisions and denominations within the church. In fact, I believe this is the design of Satan – NOT God. All divisions are man-made. If everyone who claims to be a Christian would prayerfully read his or her Bible, I truly believe most of the existing divisions (denominations) would slowly but surely disappear.

The following Bible verses record a portion of a prayer Jesus prayed shortly before he was arrested and crucified. Jesus started out praying for himself, and then he prayed for his disciples. Finally, he prayed for all believers throughout history.

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (John 17:21)

May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17:23)

Even though Jesus prayed this prayer, it has not yet been answered. We are NOT one body – and we do NOT have complete unity!

In my opinion ... the biggest disadvantage of man-made denominations and church buildings is that they make it easy for us to separate our personal lives from our spiritual lives. The fact that most of today's so-called Christians GO to church one day a week indicates they are not BEING the church every day of the week. They GO to church – and one or two hours later, they LEAVE the church. Don't just GO to church; BE the Church.

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