

The Lamplighter

Pastor's Page by Pastor Gary

This is the third installment of the pledges series. Two months ago, we considered the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag; last month we analyzed the pledge of allegiance to the Christian flag. This month we will examine the pledge of allegiance to the Bible. The Bible pledge was written by Southern Baptist Pastor, Homer Grice, in 1924, to be used in Vacation Bible Schools. Here is the pledge:

"I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God."

Like the other pledges, this pledge is personal. The one reciting the pledge states "I pledge." This is an individual's proclamation of his fidelity to God's Word.

Secondly, the pledge is paper; by that I mean that we pledge allegiance to the Bible, which is a book. The word, "bible" means book, and books are made out of paper. While the content of books can be transferred to other mediums, books are and always will be paper. As we will see next, the Bible is a very special book.

Third, the pledge is to perfection. The Bible is no ordinary book: it is God's Word. God is perfect, so His Word is perfect. While translations of God's Word we have today may contain slight imperfections, God original written Word, known as the autographs, were perfect like He is. God is also holy, and so is His Word. The word holy means, "Set apart or set aside." God's Word is unlike any other other words ever recorded. God's Word is inerrant and infallible; it is truth without any mixture of error. The Bible is historically informative, spiritually enlightening, and morally transforming.

Fourth, the pledge is practical. We pledge to use God's Word to guide us through our daily lives as a lamp and a light. The allusion is from

Psalm 119:105 about finding one's way in the dark. This sinful world is very dark, but the Bible shines the light of truth leading us through the darkness into the light of Christ.

Fifth, the pledge is a promise to memorize Scripture. This is what is meant by hiding its words in our hearts. It is wonderful to have multiple copies of God's Word, but we don't always have access to a copy when we need one; however, if we memorize the Word, it will be available to us any time, any where—including in our advanced years when we may no longer be able to see. The good news is that the more we learn and commit God's Word to memory, the less we will sin. As an elderly gentleman once told me concerning the Bible, "This book will keep you from sin, but sin will keep you from this book."

Most of us do not pledge allegiance to the Bible on a regular basis. About the only times I do, is during Vacation Bible School, and if I am attending AWANA for a special occasion. Whether we say the pledge or not is not what is important. What is important is that we believe the truth set forth in the pledge: the Bible is God's holy Word that will guide us to live lives that are pleasing to God. The Apostle Paul puts it best in II Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect [complete] thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Library News – New and on the Shelf by Bob Mathews

Fiction

Biography

Sergeant York by John Perry (B YOR)

Nonfiction

Sanctity of Life by James Dobson (NF 363.4)

Intelligent Design by Ray Comfort (NF 231.76)

C. S. Lewis's Mere Christianity (Shepherd's Notes) by Terry Methe (NF 239)

Audio

Plimoth (Plymouth) Adventures, Voyage of Mayflower
The Rapture and the Day of the Lord by John MacArthur

DVD

Sight and Sound Theater: Moses

Children's Nonfiction

Noah's Ark by Katie Thomson (CNF 222.11)

Missions & Outreach by Jennifer Miller

Faithful Stewards

We are all called to be good stewards of the gifts and talents God has given to each of us and to share them with others. First Peter 4:10 says, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” First Corinthians 12:4-6 says, “There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.” So how can you practically share your talents, time, and treasure with people?

Search the Scriptures—God is the One who has placed gifts and talents in you, and He expects you to steward them well (Matt. 25:15) God’s Word is the guide to how He wants us to serve and be involved in the lives of others.

Identify your gifts—If you aren’t sure what gifts you may have, there are many free resources that can assist in determining what your gifts are.

Discover ways to serve people—Match your gifts and talents with areas of ministry. Identify how your gifts can serve those in need. This has great spiritual benefits and rewards! It helps in our obedience, stewardship, and service to God’s command to share and serve while also building His kingdom. It could be an answer to others’ prayers and needs. We are reflecting the image and example of Christ when we serve while ultimately glorifying Him in all we do. Most importantly, spend time praying about how God wants you to share the gifts He has given you to whom He wants

you to reach out. What a way to invest your time, talents, and treasure in the lives of others!

September Mission Opportunities of the Month
(See Jennifer Miller for any additional information.)

- The donations to Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans are continuing. You can also give an Amazon gift card for purchasing items directly off their wish list.
- Donate items for our BLESSING BAGS- A Blessing Bag is a gallon size ziploc bag filled with items to donate to people that we meet on the street that are less fortunate. Items can include granola bar, water, gum, toothbrush/paste, hand sanitizer, lotion, jerky, nuts, comb, ChapStick, disposable razor, etc.). Please bring items to the designated box in the church foyer. We will distribute these bags on September 10th.
- Participate in the Prayer Walk on September 10th. We will take an area close to the Bible Museum to pray for/with people and distribute blessing bags. Sign up in the church foyer at the Welcome Desk! If you are interested in leading a group, please let me know.
- September is a great time to purchase summer items and school items on clearance for Operation Christmas Child boxes! We will have a church-wide packing party in November.



Upcoming Events

- Sept. 10th Museum of the Bible Trip and Prayer Walk - The church has secured FREE tickets (\$19.99 value). Transportation is on your own (parking is limited) or travel to Federal Center Metro Stop - Blue, Orange or Silver lines). We will meet at the museum at 10 AM (after the Prayer Walk for those who are participating).

- October usually means Scarecrow Contest for the Town of La Plata and Trunk or Treat on Halloween. Start making plans now!

Women on Mission by Carol Gill

Women on Mission will resume their monthly meetings. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, September 1st, at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be making jump ropes for OCC and will discuss ideas for Christmas stockings for teen girls (Lifestyles).

General Information

Sermon Topics (Subject to Change)

Sep 04	AM	"Jesus' Invitation"	Matthew 11: 28-30
	PM	"Vows"	Numbers 6: 1-6
Sep 11	AM	"The Sabbath for Today"	Matthew 12: 1-5
	PM	"Hearing God"	Numbers 7: 89
Sep 18	TBD		
Sep 25	AM	"Pure Words"	Matthew 12: 34-37
	PM	"Light and Levites"	Numbers 8: 2-3

Tellers

Month of September – Sharon Bruce and Jody Miller

Greeter of the Week

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Sep 04	Bob Gill	Andy Gibson
Sep 11	Darrell Linville	Patrick Hancock

Sep 18 Glenn Miller Billy Moore
Sep 25 Nick Papanicolas Scott Nupson

Children's Worship

Sep 04 Stephanie Walton, Ruth Dillon
Sep 11 Jennifer Cooke, Jessica Miller, Corbin Cooke
Sep 18 Ellen Nupson, Alison Bode, Abby Pankhurst
Sep 25 Hannah Pankhurst, Katie Lusk, Laura Dillon

Sunday Morning Security Team

	8:30 AM	SS & 11:00 AM
Sep 04	Marion Simpson Dillon Edelen	Terry Mathews Al Law
Sep 11	Norma Stump Kevin Guiffre	Betty Lou Moore Bob Mathews
Sep 18	Sheri Bresnahan Courtney Harbin	Jerry Pruitt Debbie Schneider (SS) Billy Moore (11:00)
Sep 25	Marion Simpson Dillon Edelen	Melvin King Sheri Bresnahan

Sunday Morning Nursery

Sep 04 Norma Stump, Patrick & Jill Hancock
Sep 11 Norma Stump, (TBD)
Sep 18 Norma Stump, (TBD)
Sep 25 Norma Stump, (TBD)

Volunteers are still needed for Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

SEPTEMBER FAMILY NEWS

Birthdays

Sep 05	Myrtle Skinner
Sep 06	Dawn Adamo, Adrielle Law, Luke Mauck
Sep 08	Laura Harris, Ronald McConkey
Sep 09	Callie Hancock
Sep 11	Gerald Hancock, Logan Irwin
Sep 12	Bonnie Hanks
Sep 13	Tabby Krauel, Norma Stump
Sep 14	Julie Burgess, Heather Guiffre
Sep 15	Caitlyn Hancock
Sep 17	Kim Mauck, Kara Thompson
Sep 18	Doreen Corrado, Joy Hamilton
Sep 20	Bob Gill, Carol Hancock
Sep 24	Brian Mauck, Kaylee Tappen, Carl Widmayer
Sep 27	Sharon Hile
Sep 29	Gary Boston
Sep 30	Rhonda Cusato, Noah Hancock

Anniversaries

Sep 06	David & Patricia Thompson
Sep 09	Jakob & Courtney (Hancock) Boisvert
Sep 10	Orbie & Ashleigh Grigsby
Sep 11	Buddy & Susan Sanders
Sep 18	Kenny & Esther Fletcher
Sep 22	Nick & Maria Papanicolas
Sep 23	Jim & Jennifer Miller

NOTE: If you don't see your birthday or anniversary listed here and would like to have it included, please call the church office. Also, notify the church office if you find an error.