

The Word of God and the Purity of Heart

"How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. ¹⁰I have tried hard to find you - don't let me wander from your commands. ¹¹I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. ¹²I praise you, O LORD; teach me your decrees. ¹³I have recited aloud all the regulations you have given us. ¹⁴I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches. ¹⁵I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. ¹⁶I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word." Psalm 119:9-16 (NLT)

Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, reflects a consistent message from the Bible about itself. The Bible calls its readers to read, study, memorize, delight in, and follow the words of God found in its pages. Psalm 119 presents the faithfulness and benefits of the Bible in glowing terms. This particular section contains two of the more familiar verses from this lengthy passage. Verses 9 and 11 are often quoted verses.

The Word of God and the Purity of Heart

Verse 9 opens with "How can a young person stay pure?" Now that is a good question.

Apparently temptations were rampant for students even during the time of David. Is this an issue of freedom, too much time and not enough responsibility? Is the heightened battle with temptation due to raging hormones?

Maybe it is the peer pressure which seems to come upon individuals migrating out of childhood and into adulthood. Whatever the cause, the pressure to fall into temptation

while a youth is not a new phenomenon. Three thousand years ago David gave a direct caution for the need of purity among the youthful demographic of the Jewish people.

The need for help in the fight is available. The hard work of learning and obeying God's word is protection for our purity. This young psalmist goes on to say that he has "hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." Scripture memory provides heart protection from the temptations of life. We are tempted to sin in anger at our family member or co-worker and the verse, "the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God" (James 1:20) comes to mind. We are tempted to long for our neighbor's car or house and this verse enters our memory banks. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife...or anything that belongs to your neighbor." (Exodus 20:17) We are tired and decide we need a morning off from church, thinking the preacher will probably say the same thing he did last week (that part may be true) and the words from the book of Hebrews comes into our thinking. "not forsaking our own gathering together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." When we are prone to worry we remember and apply the words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount. "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its

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own." (Matthew 6:34) In this way, the Bible protects us from the temptations that so quickly trap us.

Delighting in the Word of God

As a young person, rules are often treated as a necessary evil, at best. Many times children and students are weary of the boundaries provided by parents and teachers. Appealing to obedience as a vital tool in our daily struggles may cause some of us to recoil. It may seem that the loss of freedom could create drudgery in our obedience. Not so with this psalmist as he says, "I delight in your decrees." Elsewhere in Psalm 119 he says, "O how I love Your law. It is my meditation all the day." (Psalm 119:97) A half-hearted submission to the Bible will never get us the purity of life promised in this Psalm. Memorization is not enough to bring corrective changes to our behavior. We must love God by loving His law. When we love God and His law our attitudes change and we seek to memorize and follow what He says in His law. As John wrote to the church in I John 5:3, "for this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome." When we love God, we love His commands. His commands for purity produce joyful, immediate obedience in His children. For those who do not have a relationship with God but only know about God, God's word is a weighty, burdensome, restrictive, kill-joy. Read, study, memorize and apply the Word of God in order to keep sin at bay. But do all of this with a love for God and His Word. Oh God, may we love your law. ~ Daniel

Missions Ministry Dinners

MISSIONS DINNER

Join us this summer as we support our Missions Ministry with special Wednesday Night Dinners.

June 24th

Pastor's conference

July 15th

for school supplies for mission trip

July or August

For Rwanda Missions

Watch for more information in the Weekly Email!

Children's Ministry

SPORTS CAMP

FREE Camp 3:17 Sports Camps Next Month!

Every Monday & Wednesday in July from 9am-1pm. Invite your friends and register online from our summer webpage (www.matthewroad.org/ministries/summer).

July 6 & 8 – Basketball

July 13 & 15 – Soccer

July 20 & 22 – Football & Cheerleading

July 27 & 29 – Baseball & Softball



Awana is out
for the summer!

June 15-19, 6-8:30pm

We are still recruiting for volunteers! Contact Brittany at brittany@matthewroad.org or at the church office to sign up!

Online registration is open! Visit our summer webpage at www.matthewroad.org/ministries/summer to follow the VBS link to register your children. Registrations will also be taken on Sundays, June 7 & 14, before and after each Sunday worship service.

*Adult Sunday school classes will be asked to sponsor a volunteer family meal during the week of VBS. Be on the lookout for a sign up sheet in your class!



For 3rd-6th grade Boys & Girls
June 26-27

Girls - will be at Ms. Brittany's house & Embassy Suites

Boys & fathers/mentors - will be canoeing and staying on the

Brazos River. Cost: \$75. Registration open now. Contact Brittany for more information!



New study begins Sunday,
June 14 on Prayer. Don't miss out!
5:30pm, Sunday Evenings



Wacky Wednesdays

All Kids are invited each Wednesday night June 3-August 19 from 6:30-8pm. This summer we will study the Bible to answer the questions, "Who is Jesus and what has He done?" and play wet and messy games at the end of each night. Kids begin in the Children's Worship Room upstairs in the education building and can be picked up from the back lawn.

Wacky Wednesdays Family Kickball Challenge

Parents are invited to join their kids as we "kickstart" Wacky Wednesdays with Bible Study followed by Kickball, family-style, on Wednesday, June 3rd, 6:30-8pm.



Student Ministry



LaTourneau University in Longview, Tx
High School: June 22nd - 27th, Cost: \$300
Middle School: June 29th - July 3rd, Cost: \$300
Questions?
Contact Zach at 210-818-8002 or zach@matthewroad.org



Harlingen Mission Trip July 19th - 24th
9th - 12th grade Cost:\$250
See Zach for more info

Out of School Bash!

June 3rd
First Baptist Church, Grand Prairie
Cost: \$10
See Jonathan or Zach



Student Ministry Calendar

June 7th - Parent Meeting - 5:00pm in Common Grounds

June 22nd thru 27th - High School Camp (Impact Camp at LeTourneau University) Cost \$300

June 29th thru July 3rd - Middle School Camp (Impact Camp at LeTourneau University) Cost \$300

July 19th thru July 24th - High School Mission Trip to Harlingen, TX Cost \$250



Bible studies:

Student Bible studies will not meet this summer, unless otherwise notified by your small group leaders (in other words, you re more than welcome to meet unofficially if you would still like!)

Music Ministry

The music ministry is gearing up for an exciting summer at Matthew Road!

All of our choirs are taking a break for a couple of months. This will give us a beneficial time of rest as we begin planning for the fall. This also gives us an opportunity to focus on the many summer activities coming up in the life of our church.

Bailey and I will be heading to the Czech Republic this month to teach English classes and minister through music. I'm told that while the majority of people identify themselves as atheists, they are quite open to discussions about Christ. Thank you for your prayers as we prepare for our trip and for the people we'll encounter.

Over the summer you can expect to see a variety of small groups and special offerings from the music ministry. Watch this space in coming months for announcements about choirs and ensembles that resume in the Fall!

Women's Ministry

Join us as we pray and plan together for all the Lord wants to do
in the Women's Ministry at MRBC.

When: June 7, 2015

Where: Fellowship Hall

Time: 12:30pm to 2:00pm (crepes will be served!)

Who: Any woman who would like to be involved in Women's Ministry

Cost: Free, but there is no childcare



Mark your calendars:

- ✧ June 7th - Women's Ministry Planning Meeting (crepes will be served!)
- ✧ July 11th - Women's Event – details to come
- ✧ September 12th - Women's Conference, more info to come!



Weekly Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings:

Kim Sweet – the book of Philippians

Joy Richards – the book of Acts

Sunday night – the book of Acts

Tuesday Afternoons, Glazed, 4:30 PM

Wednesday Nights, Library – the book of Luke, Cyndi King

Friday Mornings, Chick Fil A – the book of Luke, Cyndi King

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JOY
in the
ORDINARY

Recipe: Russian Salad

Ingredients:

3 smallish cucumbers, peeled and sliced
3 Roma tomatoes, diced
3 green onions with tops
Sour cream
Salt and pepper

Instructions:

Combine and mix at least an hour before serving.

(From a Russian foreign exchange student – thank you Katia!)



PAW



Preschool Academy of Westchester (PAW) is a quality

preschool program for children ages 9 months - 5 years old.

Your children will enjoy their classroom activities planned around

our curriculum, "Wee Learn" (published by LifeWay). At our program, your

child will learn about sharing, healthy living, academics, music, American Sign

Language, the Bible, manners, cooperation and giving. It is a time for both you and your children to

enjoy.

Schedule: We are a Monday & Wednesday preschool. Our hours are 9am - 2pm.

Fall Tuition and Fees: Tuition is \$135.00 per month. There is an annual supply fee of \$100.00 and a registration fee of \$50.00 (non-refundable). Supply and registration fees are due upon enrollment.

Please call Cyndi King, at 972-641-7380, for more information about this and our Summer Programs.

Enroll now for fall semester!

Matthew Road Academy

MRA Discovery Days

Our summer program offers students from 1st - 6th grade
an amazing opportunity to discover fun while learning.

To sign up, please go to matthewroadacademy.org/summer.



- ✧ Imagination Station, June 1st & 3rd, 9am -2pm

Let your child's imagination come to life, as they learn to build the things that they have previously only seen in their dreams. Imagination station will be a 2 day camp of building and discovery.

- ✧ Kitchen Chemistry, June 8th & 10th , 9am -2pm

What happens when vinegar mixes with baking soda? How messy can you get in the kitchen? Kitchen Chemistry will bring science to a whole new level of fun as children learn how different items found in their own kitchen can become their next experiment.

- ✧ All About Nature, June 22nd & 24th, 9am -2pm

The world around us is full of mystery. God's creation is constantly calling us to explore, so come join us as we learn about what God made in the beginning, from the biggest to the small. This week will be hands on and full of fun, so be prepared!

- ✧ Water Works, June 29th & July 1st, 9am -2pm

It's hot outside, and it's time to stay cool! So bring your sun block & your towels because we are going to be exploring water first hand in this fun filled week of H2O.

