

# the Lamp



..as a light shining in  
a dark place.

2 Peter 1:19

October 2006

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## LIVING the LIFE of LOVE the Gospel of John



Mike Ross

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN TELLS US HOW “THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US.” WHY WOULD GOD DO SUCH A THING? THERE IS NO GREATER SUMMARY OF GOD’S LOVE THAN THAT WHICH IS FOUND IN JOHN 3: 16—FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.” FROM THIS ONE SHORT VERSE WE CAN FIND AT LEAST SEVEN TRUTHS ABOUT THE LOVE OF GOD. KEEP THESE TRUTHS IN MIND AS YOU READ THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN.

1. The Love of God is Unconditional. **For God so loved the world**, God’s love clearly isn’t based on our spiritual condition or our moral predisposition. It isn’t based on our behavior or our attitude toward him. Rather we see here that God’s love for mankind is universal and unconditional. He loves everyone! And this is one of the things that sets him apart from every other god held up by every other world religion. Christianity uniquely claims God’s love comes free of charge, no strings attached. Only Christianity dares to proclaim God’s love is unconditional, an unconditional love that we call grace.
2. The Love of God is Sacrificial. **that he gave** How did God love us? He loved us by giving, by serving, by sacrificing. So we learn something important about the nature of true love. God shows us that true love has nothing to do with what you can do for me, but everything to do with what I can do for you.
3. The Love of God is Valuable. **his only** It is only here we see the value of the Father’s love for us. Not only was he willing to give, but we see here that he was willing to give the only one he had. The power and passion of God’s love comes across through the length to which God was willing to go for the sake of the world—to give his “one and only”.
4. God’s Love is Personable. **son** God’s love was made manifest in this world through the person of Jesus Christ the only Son of the Father. Jesus Christ came into this world to reveal to us the love of God in human form. God’s love is personable on the one hand because it was made manifest through a person—Jesus Christ—but also because it is bestowed on a person—you!
5. God’s Love is Accessible. **that whoever believes in him** The really good news about God’s love is that it is not limited to a select few. It is not available only to those who were born with right color of skin or on the correct continent. Nor is it difficult to obtain. It is not reserved for only the intellectual elite or the power brokers or financial wizards. No, the love of God is accessible to “whoever believes in” Jesus—the only Son of God. God has made his love accessible to the average, ordinary person like you and me.
6. God’s Love is Nonjudgmental. **should not perish** God’s only desire in sending his Son was to show us his love and draws us into a love relationship. Jesus did not come to rebuke—he came to rescue. Jesus didn’t come to criticize—he came to cleanse. Jesus didn’t come to punish—he came to pardon. Jesus didn’t come to destroy—he came to deliver. (John 3:17.)
7. God’s Love is Beneficial. **but have eternal life**. The power of God’s love transforms lives and the result of God’s love for each of us is the gift of eternal life. Although believing in Jesus in response to the good news results in eternal life, the ultimate cause of eternal life is the inexplicable, unbounded love of God. Give God the credit. Any who ultimately perishes must themselves hold the blame.



### Website of the Month

A new website selected for your viewing edification.



### Ministry Highlights

Discipling and Adult Education  
take center stage this month.



### Calendar of Events

A calendar highlights special dates along with listings of special events and birthdays for the month of October.

# Ministry Spotlight

## Why Do We Meet?



David Veatch

**W**hy do we meet? Why is it so important and beneficial to be in the company of believers? Jesus Christ died for us so that we can be saved. I believe it is important for me to pay attention. Fellowship means spending time together and practice treating each other the way God wants us to. The time that we spend together hones our skills and prepares us for life's challenges. Learning to deal with people with a Christian emphasis helps us get along with people in a hostile world.

I am a salesman and I have applied Faith to my sales processes and have been able to secure some of my biggest accounts by talking about Jesus and what he means to me. God has given us tools that work in this hostile world. I enjoy meeting with you because I thirst for God's Word and yearn for His love and guidance. "Let us consider how we may spur one another toward love and good deeds," we read in Hebrews 10:24. God created the perfect organization for daily fellowship "the family". When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we join a much bigger family. In this bigger family we get to participate in Biblical Fellowship which benefits us greatly. We get to maintain Christian values, establish a Christian community and build a Christian society. Paul says in Romans 1:12(MSG) I want us to help each other with the faith that we have. Your faith will help me and my faith will help you. When we witness spiritual growth and see it work we naturally want to try it.

We are going to have some fun. Back by popular demand, we are having a party in the park (Stevenson Park) on October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2-6 P.M. We will have a picnic lunch and fun activities for everyone. Lets invite others and have fun!!

### CHURCH PICNIC

October 22nd @ Stevenson Park  
Chili Cook-off, games, fellowship and fun for all.  
Please make plans to attend and bring some friends!  
More info to follow soon.





# Announcements



**FRIENDSWOOD COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST** will be Saturday, October 21st at Trinity Fellowship Church at 7:10 A.M. The speaker will be Jack Wisdom and the program is entitled Honor Our Pastors. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Please RSVP by contacting Ed Hoskins.

**LADIES BIBLE CLASS** - Thursday mornings at 10 A.M. Nancy Thomas is teaching from the John McArthur Bible study series on the Gospel of John. Books are \$8. Babysitting is provided.

**PRAYER MEETING** - Wednesday's @ 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**DEAR FRIENDS** - September is here and the house is finally on a fall schedule. While Jason is asleep, I would like to take a few minutes and thank you for all your help. The school supplies are always a big help in getting the children ready to go back to school each fall. However, this year you gave the older children an incredible morale booster by including them and their school supplies. It also gave me and dad encouragement to know that even though the children have aged out of a traditional school setting, they are still being remembered. It is very comforting to know that your thoughts and prayers are still with each of them. Thanks again, *Sonny Mathis*

*Please Welcome New Members*  
*MATT AND CHRISTI JOHNSON ° 14822 Hollydale Dr.*  
*Houston, TX 77062*  
*281-282-0022*

## *That You Might Have Life - A 12-week study of the Gospel of John*

John presents a portrait of Jesus in words and miracles that reveal Him to be the very Word of God.

- § This Word is revealed to be Life.
- § He came that we might have life within ourselves.
- § His miracles and His teaching invite us to believe in Him and find life in Him.
- § His sacrificial death offers His life to give us life.
- § His resurrection life confirms the truth of His words and His promises.
- § The sending of His Spirit empowers us to live as the children of God.

This will be a 12-week study in the Gospel of John, led by four of our elders who will each be teaching the same text each week.

*(Study begins on Sept. 10 and concludes on Nov. 26.)*

## *Lifeline Chaplaincy Galaxy Gala • An Evening Among the Stars*

21st Annual Benefit Dinner  
October 9, 2006 @ 6:00 P.M.  
The Westin Galleria Houston (5060 West Alabama, Houston)  
Individual tickets &75, please call  
Lifeline Chaplaincy @ 713.524.1055 • [www.lifelinechaplaincy.org](http://www.lifelinechaplaincy.org)

## *Happy Birthday!*

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 - Mike McAlister                 | 16 - Doug McDonald, Jeff Kirklin,      |
| 3 - Chad McAlister                 | Kaleb Fulgham                          |
| 6 - Bill Keenen, Sarah Davis       | 17 - Esther Scott                      |
| 8 - Bruce Berger                   | 19 - Courtney McGinn                   |
| 9 - Brandon McAlister,             | 20 - Scott Wennergren                  |
| April Bouley, Brian Main, Jr.      | 26 - Mike Ross, Courtney Cox           |
| 10 - Jacob Williams, John Williams | 30 - Kelly McAlister, Lindsey Bradshaw |
| 12 - Reeana Keenen                 | 31 - Carolyn Simpson, William Meurer   |
| 13 - Braydon Lawley                |  |

*Communion Preparers*  
Vivian Thane +  
Kayle & Kyle Whighan

*Greeters*  
XXXXXXXXXX

*Contribution Counters*  
Esther Scott &  
Debbie Brown



# OCTOBER 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 p.m. <b>1</b> Fusion SNL @ the Counterparts	2	3	4	5 7:00 P.M. QUILTING NIGHT	6	7
5 p.m. <b>8</b> Fusion 316 @ Windsong	9	10	11	12	13	14
5 p.m. <b>15</b> Fusion SNL @ the Watsons	16	17	18	19 7:00 P.M. QUILTING NIGHT	20	21 7:10 - 9:00 A.M. FWD COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST @ TRINITY FELLOWSHIP
<b>22</b> CHURCH PICNIC @ STEVENSON PARK	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>29</b>	30	31				

*The movie has come and gone, but the book and its adherents are still out there. I'm speaking of the the DaVinci Code, and the website to visit that provides a good Christian response is [www.thetruthaboutdavinci.com](http://www.thetruthaboutdavinci.com). On their homepage it says "The dvd is scheduled to be released on November 14th, are you prepared?" It looks like a good resource, with a synopsis of the book, articles that address and refute the claims of the book, and it also has mp3 audio and video files that can be downloaded to listen to or watch. [www.thetruthaboutdavinci.com](http://www.thetruthaboutdavinci.com) – check it out, it looks to be a good resource. (Select the hand tool in Adobe Acrobat Reader and click on the web links above and your web browser should open up and take you right to the website) – cool, huh?*

*the Church of Christ  
in Friendswood*



2051 West Parkwood  
Friendswood, TX 77546  
[www.fwdcofc.org](http://www.fwdcofc.org)