

THE BETHEL BANNER



May at a Glance

- May 4th - **Men's Ministry Top Golf Outing**
- May 5th - **Two Student Baptisms**, 10:30 AM
- May 5th - **Cinco de Mayo Fellowship**, 4:00 PM
- May 6th - **Trustees Meeting**, 6:00 PM.
- May 12th - **Mothers Day & Baby Dedication**,
 - 10:30 AM
- May 15th - **Youth Graduation Party**, 6:30 PM
- May 17-20th - **Graduation Weekend**
- May 27th - **Memorial Day**
- May 29th - **Senior Adult Luncheon**, 11:30 AM

DIG IN. GROW UP. BRANCH OUT.

From Pastor Brandon

Christ's Message to the Seven Churches ... to our Church



Well, so far, we have made it to chapter four of our study on Revelation. We've covered the opening scene of chapter 1, and then the seven churches in chapters 2-3. And did you notice that in every message/letter to those seven churches Jesus says: *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."* [Note the last word plural!] Now, there's a lot to unpack in those words but for the moment think on this: each message to each church has those words included, which seems to suggest that each message to each church is relevant to **every** church ... and our church.

And those messages can be tough. While they were commended for getting some things right, most of those churches heard something like this: *"I have this against you."* [Rev. 3:4] They were corrected for sexual immorality, false teaching, lack of love, passionless Christianity, being self-satisfied, and more. And they were confronted for **tolerating** such things in the church, even if they themselves didn't do those very things.

Interestingly, this ties in with something I have said about the book of Revelation. I've sort of said that the theme of Revelation could be described as **Things Are Not What They Seem**. For sure, and principally, that means Jesus is in control and wins in the end even if it looks like the wicked are in control and Satan is going to win. But, for those churches, it was also true that things were not as they seem, in the sense that some of them looked good, had the appearance of godliness, but they were actually in spiritual trouble. Even the church that was doing well, Smyrna, who was being faithful in persecution, could think that their biggest enemy was the Roman state, but in reality, it was the temptation to deny Jesus. Jesus told the Laodiceans that *"you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked."* [Rev. 3:17]

So, what's the point of my article? The point is, brothers and sisters, we need help seeing ourselves. We can fool ourselves so easily. We can be fooled by others so easily. And this is why we need God's Word blessed by God's Spirit given to us by God's people ... speaking truth in love.

The other great theme in these letters is the call to endure. These believers started well. How did they finish? That's the question. To each church Jesus said something along the lines: "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life" or "to the one who conquers." The call was and still is to finish. No promise of eternal life is given to those who do not conquer. Christianity is a fight. If you don't fight, you die. That's true of any war. That's true of this war for our souls and the souls of others.

And if you take these two things and merge them, what do you get? One way you fight, and finish is by **being involved in a church** who helps you do that, who helps you see who you really are, and pushes you, strengthens you, corrects you, and more. In other words, they don't **tolerate** other people who name the name of Christ to live in disobedience to God. No one fights alone. There are no lone rangers in the kingdom. [BTW, the lone ranger even had Tonto.] What a blessing we have in the church! Are you using that blessing? Are you part of that blessing? Are you fighting and helping others fight? Are we tolerating the wrong things and praising the right things we see in others? These are important questions I will let you linger on.

Proud to be your pastor,

Pastor Brandon



From Pastor KC

The Lord is moving mountains and seeing students commit themselves to Jesus! We had a student baptism in March. We are having 3 student baptisms in May. Oh, how sweet it is that Jesus is moving in our schools and in our church. The hope for our students is to see this momentum continue into the summer with camp and some outreach events that we have planned, 4th of July, Bonfires, and more!

Please partner in praying for our students:

1. Graduating Seniors: pray for our seniors that the Lord would keep them close, that they would keep the faith and finish the race set before them.
2. Four newly baptized believers: pray that they will commit to sharing their story with their peers and inviting them to study the bible.
3. Summer Camp: pray that our students will be renewed in their faith and their love of Jesus.
4. Summer Outreach: pray that our students will see the only hope in Jesus as they share it with others.

Pastor KC

Bethel Happenings...

1. May 4th - **Men's Ministry Top Golf Outing.** We need to make reservations by April 4th, so we are needing to see who may be interested in participating. There's a sign-up sheet in the welcome area. Please sign up by no later than TODAY. Contact Joe Hulsey for further details at 629-529-1036
2. May 5th - **Cinco de Mayo Fellowship** and Cornhole Tournament! Starting at 4:00 PM; the church will serve tacos, drinks, and toppings. **Please bring a side and/or dessert.** Sign-up sheet for the Cornhole Tournament is in the church foyer. **Please indicate if you will bring cornhole boards and bags.** The cost is \$10 per person to play; you can pay that day (cash preferred). The Tournament is double elimination. Teams will be randomly selected - to encourage fellowship and help you meet new members! **Proceeds will go towards youth and Centrikid Camps.** If you have any questions, please see the activities committee.
3. May 6th - **Trustees Meeting**, 6:00 PM.
4. May 12th - **Mother's Day & Baby Dedication.** Please join us for worship as we celebrate the mothers and children in our church family.
5. May 15th - **Youth Graduation Party.** Our students are celebrating their graduating seniors. The Party will be in the youth room. All are welcome to celebrate with our students!
May 17th - May 20th is Graduation Weekend. Area schools will have their graduation from this Friday-Monday.
6. May 27th - **Memorial Day.** This is a day we celebrate and mourn those who served and given their lives for us. Please call your loved ones on this day who are currently or previously served in our armed forces. Thank them and pray for them.
7. May 29th- **Senior Adult Luncheon**, 11:30 AM. The Senior Adults will take their monthly Luncheon. Please come and fellowship with us!

