

At Ridgewood, we are nothing more than real people living in a real world serving a real God.

April 21, 2024

Ridgewood
CHURCH

Here are things that may be different from your previous church experiences:

No Age-Graded Ministries | All God's people - from infants to the elderly - are needed in relationships with each other. We worship together as one big family - the family of God.

Children are Welcome and Encouraged in the Worship Gathering
It is the parent's duty to train their children to participate in corporate worship, including singing, tithing, prayer, and active listening to the teaching of the Word of God. (Deut 31:12-13, Ezra 10:1, Matt 18:1-5, 19:13-15, Eph 6:1-4, Col 3:20) As part of this training process, children may make small noises in the service. These are a reminder "to such belong the Kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). However, we also have the "Genesis Room" at the far end of the hall set up with video and audio feed for your convenience if you feel your child needs more attention.

We Partake in the Lord's Supper Weekly | We ask that the elements only be taken by professing, baptized believers who are in a good standing with their local church. (Acts 2:42-47, 1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

We Practice Systematic Exposition | The Bible is God's word and is our final authority in all matters of faith and practice. The music is prayerfully selected based on each week's text of Scripture. (Acts 2:42-47, Colossians 3:16)

Weekly Fellowship Meal | Families of Ridgewood have brought food for their own household and extra to share with visitors. Fellowship is one way we endeavor to 'encourage one another' in our Christian walk. (Acts 2:42-47, Hebrews 10:24-25)

Use this Bulletin Throughout the Week as a Home Worship Guide
God has called you to disciple your household. He has also called His church to encourage, equip, and expect you to disciple your household. Use this bulletin as a home-worship guide throughout the week.

The song of the month is a great place to start with family worship. The prayer guide is a tool designed to guide you and your family in prayer. The catechism/doctrine and home devotions are wonderful discipleship tools for everyone, especially for children of all ages. If you have any questions, the fellowship meal is a great time to get help and encouragement from others. That's what we are here for!

True Life Cards | We encourage you to pick up some True Life Cards in the foyer and give out a few every week. Pray for an opportunity of Gospel conversation with and the salvation of people in the following categories: Family, Friends, Neighbors, Coworkers, Community. Go to truelife.org for more information.

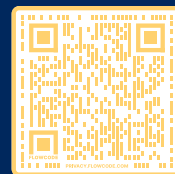
Announcements:

- » Wednesday Nights at 6p
 - A new study on Pneumatology: the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit resumes this Wednesday, April 24 at 6p.
- » Shine On Summer Kick-Off Carnival
 - Save the Date - Shine On Summer Kick-Off Event for people with special needs and disabilities of all ages and their families on 6/1/24. More info to come soon.
 - Church work night Wednesday, May 29 at 6p.
- » Extra-Cushion Diaper Ministry
 - Outreach Port Arthur will be distributing diapers the second Wednesday of each month from 3-5p. Contact Savannah S if you would like to help
- » Operating:
 - Please remember to be faithful in your tithes and offerings (2 Cor. 9:6-7)
 - Offering plates are at the back of the auditorium, or text "\$amount" to 409-239-0774
 - 1st Quarter Giving Report (Jan. 1 - March 31):

Projected Tithe Income: \$46,250.00 Actual Tithe Income: \$49,246.21

409.729.6000 • ridgewoodchurch@yahoo.com • www.ridgewoodchurch.us

Our Purpose... To Belong to Christ
Our Mission... To Become like Christ
Our Vision... To Bear Christ's Fruit



Welcome Guests!



Order of Service: April 21, 2024

Sermon Notes:

Song "The Church's One Foundation"

Welcome

Catechism/Responsorial Doctrine - Repentance & Belief

- 49. Who will be saved? Only those who repent of sin and believe in Christ.
 - 50. What is it to repent? To be sorry for sin, and to hate and forsake it because it is displeasing to God.
 - 51. What is it to believe in Christ? To trust in Christ alone for salvation.
- Memory Verse: Romans 10:13 "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Pray for our Church Body (James 5:16)

Dustin Guidry Family

Pray for Kings and Those in Authority (1 Timothy 2:2)

- Local | Jevonne Pollard | Constable Precinct 1
- State | Mjr. Gen. Anthony Wood | Texas Guard Commanding General
- National | Raul Ortiz | Chief of Border Control

Pray for the Great Commission (Luke 10:2)

New Testament Scripture

Colossians 1:3-14, page 983

Songs

- "Open the Eyes of My Heart"
- "A Mighty Fortress"
- "Let the Nations Be Glad"

Old Testament Scripture

Genesis 11, page 8

Baptism

Song of the Month | scan QR code for lyrics/video

"He Will Hold Me Fast" (Ada Habershon 1906; Matt Merker 2013)

Message

The Mustard Seed & the Leaven | Matthew 13:31-33, page 819

Confession/Repentance

Lord's Supper

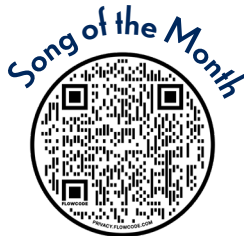
"Because He Lives"

Dismissal/Offering

"Doxology"

Fellowship Luncheon

Please join us in the gym for fellowship and food!



UNIT 4 – SECTION 1

Repentance and Belief

QUESTIONS TO LEARN:

49. Who will be saved?

Only those who repent of sin and believe in Christ.

50. What is it to repent?

To be sorry for sin, and to hate and forsake it because it is displeasing to God.

51. What is it to believe in Christ?

To trust in Christ alone for salvation.

* * *

When an earthquake shook the Philippi jail in which Paul and Silas were imprisoned, God used them to bring the frightened Philippian jailer to an earnest trust in Christ. As a teenage boy, the nineteenth-century pastor Charles Spurgeon had long hated and grieved over his youthful sins. After much fruitless searching for relief from this guilt, he was given faith through the simple gospel message—"Look to Christ."

The Earthquake and the Jailer's Broken Heart

On most days the jailer could tolerate his job as the head warden of the Roman prison in Philippi. After all, he had a family to feed, and the pay was good. One could always make more doing a job that no one else wanted to do.

Today had not been such a great one, though. The prison was already overcrowded, and then they had brought him those Christians—Silas and Paul.

As the two severely beaten men were dragged in unconscious, the magistrate had warned the jailer dramatically, "These men are troublemakers; their teaching has provoked rioting throughout the city. Watch them carefully."

Wondering how two such battered men could cause any more trouble, the jailer nevertheless obediently had them taken to the center of the prison and locked into the most secure cell. And, though they were still unconscious, he had their feet shackled, just to be safe. "I hope no one makes me torture them further," he thought.

The jailer decided he had better stick close by since he had been given such strict orders. So he sent the other guards home and settled down for a long night. Soon he was asleep in the outer room.

Some hours later, Paul and Silas awoke and began to sing praises to God. The other prisoners who had seen the pair brought in near death a few hours earlier could not believe their ears. Such melodies had never been heard in these cells before. They listened, quiet and thoughtful.

At midnight, the jail began to tremble. Plaster crumbled from the ceiling in the inner cell, dropping onto Paul and Silas as they began another hymn. Soon, the shaking grew more violent. The prisoners' chains came loose and their prison doors fell open.

The sleeping jailer awoke when he heard iron clanging against iron. Disoriented, he wondered where he was. Then came the horrible moment when he saw that the cell doors stood wide open and he recalled how heavily the prisoners outnumbered him. If they had not already escaped through the back door, they could easily overpower him now.

"This will cost me my life," he thought. The rule for operating prisons was a simple one: if a criminal escaped, the careless jailer responsible for it would pay for the crime in his place.

"But," the fearful jailer thought, "I will not put my family through a disgraceful trial. I will carry out the sentence on myself." Pulling the sword from his belt, he pointed it at his own chest and was just about to thrust when a shout came from within the inner cell.

"Don't harm yourself! We are all here," Paul called out. Thinking himself delirious, the jailer lit a lamp, looked in, and found that his prisoners were indeed all still there, though not one of them remained chained.

He fell trembling at Paul and Silas' feet, his shocked mind vividly recounting all the things he had heard about these men and their master, Jesus Christ. They said Jesus was the Son of God and forgave sins. Should he have listened more closely to their message? Instead he had unwittingly taken part in a Roman quarrel against God. How could he have helped to persecute them so, shackling them when they were too weak to stand up? Yet here they stood, beaming at him amidst the rubble of a jail that could no longer hold them!

In the face of Silas and Paul's joy and faith, the jailer was acutely aware of an eternal need in his soul. He thought about how long he had pursued his own selfish course. Where was it leading him? Though he now saw what a sudden, certain thing death was, the jailer had never before considered what lay beyond it. He asked desperately, "*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*"

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, my friend," Paul answered him. And the Philippian jailer did believe.

Then he took Paul and Silas back to his own house, washed their wounds, and woke his household. They listened to Paul explain the whole truth about Jesus, and every one of them repented and believed in him. That very night, Paul and Silas baptized them.

At daybreak, the rejoicing jailer received an unexpected order from the magistrate to release the apostles. "Why, it is almost as if they were sent to my jail just for me," he thought joyfully. "Imagine all the suffering on my behalf. How much God has loved me, even while I ignored my sin and persecuted my Savior!"

Taken from: Acts 16:16-36

FROM THE BIBLE:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17)

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? (Romans 2:4)

TALKING IT OVER:

- 1. One way God leads us to repent of our sins is to show us his holiness and power so that we can see how sinful and weak we are in comparison to him. How did God show the jailer his holiness and power? How did the jailer feel about God and himself as a result?*
- 2. Another way God leads us to repent is to show us his mercy and love so that we turn away from our sin and seek to please him. How did God show the jailer his mercy and love?*
- 3. When the Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas how he could be saved, what one thing did they tell him?*
- 4. Can we be saved from our sins by believing in anything else but Jesus, or by doing anything else besides believe in him? Why not?*

“Look Unto Me”

Fifteen-year-old Charles Haddon Spurgeon descended the back stairs at the Newmarket school where he was both pupil and underteacher for the younger students. He tried to put something of a spring in his step so that anyone he might meet up with besides old Mary the cook would not see his misery. When he entered the kitchen, Charles found Mary alone in the pantry sorting potatoes.

At once Mary detected the boy's torment. She had seen it on his face before, and had lately spent much time on her knees on his behalf. “Charlie, sit yourself down and tell me your trouble, son,” she commanded, snatching a stool out of nowhere and plopping it down next to a large pile of potatoes.

With a heavy sigh, Charles sat down. When he thought he could speak without crying, he told her, “Mary, I . . . I, I'm afraid God is going to send me to hell!” There, he'd said it, but didn't seem to feel any better having done so.

“All right, Charlie. What makes you think so?” she asked, patting his arm.

“Because I can't stop, I just can't stop sinning, Mary, no matter how I promise to and set my mind against all the things I know God hates. Why, I can't even make myself tell you what I was thinking just last night. It took me until this morning to stop thinking those thoughts, and still they are just under the surface ready to rise up in my mind again. I can feel it, Mary. I won't be able to keep them out for long.

“Don't you see what this means? God wouldn't be righteous if he would tolerate such things from me! And I know he won't, Mary. God is righteous, and he is just. He *should* send me to hell. But I can't bear it. What am I going to do?”

“Charlie, I can tell you that the way to God for all of us is Jesus Christ. He's the one who paid for your sins, and he's coming for you, son. I believe that. I've been asking God for that, and you need to as well. Now go. I must have breakfast on the table shortly!”

When Charles went home to Colchester for Christmas break a few days later, he still didn't really understand what Mary had told him. He had certainly been asking God for mercy, but he simply couldn't believe that a just God would forgive the wretchedness he saw in his own heart. He could think of nothing that he could possibly do to persuade God to forgive him for all this!

Each Sunday during the break, Charles roused himself out of the despair that threatened to overwhelm him, and went to church hoping that in one of the sermons he would hear what his heart so longed to know—what did he need to do to have his sins forgiven? But each Sunday he was disappointed by sermons that seemed to answer every question but the one he asked.

On Sunday, January 6, 1850, Charles awoke while it was still dark. Outside, snow fell heavily onto Colcester and the surrounding countryside. Inside, his heart fell further into hopeless sorrow even as he searched his Bible and prayed for the answer to his question.

Later that morning, Charles set out for a church his parents had told him about. But God had a different plan. A snowdrift blocked his path and diverted him into another church—a tiny Primitive Methodist chapel down a nearby side street. Only a dozen or so others had made it through the storm that morning, but the preacher was not among them. As Charles joined the small group, a very simple-looking fellow, probably a shoemaker or tailor, slid out of his pew and stepped up to the pulpit.

"The text this mornin' is 'Look unto me, and be ye saved.' Isaiah 45:22," he managed to stammer out, barely able to read. "My dear friends, this is a very simple text. It says, 'Look.' You see, *anybody* can look. You don't need a college education to look. It's not hard work. You don't have to lift your hand or even your finger to look. Why, a fool can do it. A child can do it. A poor man or a rich one. Just 'look.'

"But look at what? It says here, 'Look unto *me*.' That is Christ. Don't look to yourself and say, 'What can *I* do?' but look unto *Christ*. Don't look to God the Father and say, 'Am I one of your chosen ones?' Just look at *Christ*. Jesus says, 'Look unto me; I'm hanging on a cross for you, sweatin' great drops of blood. Look unto me; I'm dead and buried, and rise again, for you. Look unto *me*, where I've risen to sit at the Father's right hand and plead for Him to see you through my blood. Oh sinner, look unto *me*.'"

About that time, the tailor pointed at Charles and said, "Young man, you seem altogether miserable. And you always will be until you obey this text. You have nothin' to do but look. Look at Jesus Christ and live."

Charles heard nothing else the man said. His eyes left his own dejected self, and found Jesus in all his glory. "Of course," he thought, "here is God's mercy, his forgiveness, and his justice. This is the way to salvation. It's not me; it's all in him."

When Charles returned home, his family saw that the cloud had been lifted. "Tell us what wonderful thing has happened to you," his mother encouraged.

Charles Spurgeon never stopped telling the people of England about the marvelous Savior who cleanses us from our wretched sin when we look at him and believe. Spurgeon became one of the most influential ministers of the nineteenth century, respected for his passionate faithfulness to God's word in an age when many others had grown complacent and worldly in their attitudes toward the Lord.

FROM THE BIBLE:

As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. . . . For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. (2 Corinthians 7:9a, 10)

And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." (Number 21:8)

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)

TALKING IT OVER:

1. *From the story, how do you know that Charles Spurgeon repented of his sins?*
2. *Repentance alone is not enough to be saved from our sin. What else is needed?*
3. *How did God lead Charles Spurgeon to believe in Jesus Christ for his salvation?*