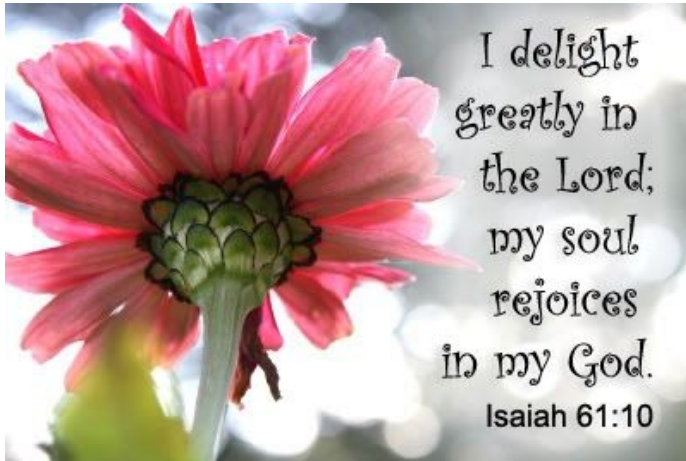


August 16, 2020



The purpose of Bethany Baptist Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples who reflect the character and priorities of Jesus Christ.



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Pastor Dennis Burriss: dennis@bethanybaptist.ab.ca



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Today - Sunday, August 16

8:45 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Worship Service [Also Livestreamed]

Pastor Dennis Burriss

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Church Wide Prayer Meeting [via Zoom]

Children's Ministries



Children's Church: activity pages emailed weekly

Important Notes!

1. Please contact the church office with any questions, concerns, or comments.
2. If you wish to have a CD of the service please contact the church office.
3. Donations may be made online on the church website, www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca, also by mail, or dropped off at the church office (no cash over \$100 please).
4. We are looking for volunteers for our audio/visual team for Sunday services, contact the church office if you are interested.

We would like to thank you for contributing to the baby gift for Jonah. We felt so blessed. Love, the Benke Family

Prayer Opportunities

Question: "What does it mean to pursue righteousness?"

Article from www.gotquestions.org

Answer: [Proverbs 15:9](#) says, "The LORD detests the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue righteousness." If God wants us to pursue righteousness, then what about verses such as [Romans 3:10](#) that say, "There is none righteous, no not one"? If no one is righteous, then who can really pursue it? Are those verses contradictory?

Before we can pursue righteousness, we need to define it. The word most often translated "righteousness" can also mean "justice, justness, or divine holiness." In the broadest sense, *righteousness* can be defined as "the condition of being acceptable to God as made possible by God." God's standard is what defines true righteousness; His power is what enables it. Unless God is its author, we will never possess righteousness. No amount of man-made effort will result in righteousness. To be righteous is to be right with God. A heart that is right with God results in a life that bears "fruit" ([John 15:1-2](#); [Mark 4:20](#)). [Galatians 5:22-23](#) lists some of that fruit.

A common substitute for true righteousness is self-righteousness. Self-righteousness is the opposite of what God desires. Self-righteousness makes a list of rules and checks them off, congratulating itself on how well it is doing compared to others. The Pharisees of Jesus' day were masters of self-righteousness, but Jesus had harsh words for them: "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness" ([Matthew 23:27-28](#)).

To pursue righteousness means we must recognize that we cannot please God in our sinful state ([Romans 8:8](#)). We turn from trying to justify ourselves by our good deeds and instead seek the mercy of God. We desire that He transform our minds ([Romans 12:2](#)) and conform us "to the image of His Son" ([Romans 8:29](#)).

In the Old Testament, men were declared righteous when they believed God and acted on it ([Genesis 15:6](#); [Galatians 3:6](#); [James 2:23](#)). Before Pentecost ([Acts 2:1-4](#)), people pursued righteousness by keeping God's Law, seeking holiness, and "walking humbly with God" ([Micah 6:8](#)). No one was justified by rule-keeping but by the faith that enabled them to obey God ([Romans 3:20](#); [Galatians 2:16](#)).

Likewise, today we are justified by the faith that leads us to Jesus ([Romans 3:28](#); [5:1](#); [10:10](#)). Those who are in Christ continue seeking God in order to please Him ([Colossians 3:1](#)). When we come to faith in Christ, He gives us the Holy Spirit who empowers us to pursue righteousness for its own sake ([Acts 2:38](#)). He commands us to "walk in the Spirit" ([Galatians 5:16, 25](#)). Walking in the Spirit means we live a lifestyle of total surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We cultivate the ability to hear God and the habit of obeying His voice in everything.

We pursue righteousness when we pursue the character of Christ and desire holiness more than fleshly indulgence. We avoid the temptation to become self-righteous when we understand that true righteousness begins with godly humility ([Psalm 25:90](#)). We remember that Jesus said, "Apart from me you can do nothing" ([John 15:5](#)). When we spend time in the presence of God, we become more aware of our own sin and shortcomings. A dingy shirt looks white beside a dark wall. But, when compared with snow, the same shirt looks dirty. Pride and self-righteousness cannot remain in the presence of a holy God. Pursuing righteousness begins when a humble heart seeks the continual presence of God ([James 4:10](#); [1 Peter 5:6](#)). The humble, believing heart leads to a lifestyle of righteous action acceptable to God ([Psalm 51:10](#)).

Recommended Resource: [The Keys to Spiritual Growth by John MacArthur](#)

**Pray for our Missionaries.
Refer to your "In the Fold"
Missionary Prayer Cards.**

- **Acute Health Needs:**
- **Facility:** Decorations
- **Fellowship Prairies Church:** Westlock Baptist, Westlock, AB

To send a Prayer Request or join the Prayer Line: Phone or email the church office

Small Groups Ministry

Coordinator: Martin Scholz

- **Blankestijn - call:** Addie & Diana ([Fridays](#) 6:30 p.m.)
- **Scholz - call:** Martin & Lorna (Two [Sundays](#) per month after the service)
- **Shortt/Reeve - call:** Doug & Joan ([Wednesdays](#) 7:00 p.m.)
Don & Patricia
- **Smith - call:** Tom & Tina ([Wednesdays](#) 6:30 p.m.)
- **Street - call:** Dave & Laurel

As a way to serve and shepherd our church family better, the Elders Board would like to invite your prayer requests, comments, and questions to the Elder associated with your last name.

Elder Shepherding Groups

A - B (Richard Klassen); C-D (Pastor Peter Erratt); Du - Han (Addie Blankestijn); Har - Kom (Lyndon Unger); Kow - Me (David Street); Mu - Ree (Tom Smith); Rei - Sm (Don Collier); St - Z (Pastor Dennis Burriss)

Donation Policy

The spending of funds received by Bethany Baptist Church is confined to Church approved programs and projects. Each gift designated toward an approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, or the specified program or project cannot be reasonably carried out or has not been approved, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Where appropriate, an official receipt for tax purposes will be issued as soon as possible after the year end.