

THOUGHTS FROM THE DISTRICT GUY



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UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Ministerial Dates—

- Calgary and area Nov 24 at First EFC (10AM)
- Southern Alberta Nov 30 at Taber EFC (10AM)
- Saskatchewan Dec 5 at Saskatoon EFC (11:30AM)

Prairie District Staff (& Spouse) Retreat—March 5-7, 2023 at the Resort at Cypress Hills (SK). More information coming soon...make note of the dates and plan to attend!

WHAT I'M LEARNING...

Ever since beginning pastoral ministry in 2005, one of the things I try to do each year is read at least one book on preaching. Currently I'm reading my preaching book for 2022, *The Glory of Preaching* by Darrell Johnson.

Johnson shares his personal struggle, common among preachers, that he wants people to like him and say good things about his sermons. He then describes a conversation he had with an old preacher, whose advice surprised him: **"As you walk up the steps of the pulpit next time, say, 'Lord, I want these people to think well of me.' And then pray, 'But more than that, I want them to think well of you.'"** Johnson was assured, and in fact experienced, that this set him free from his pride. The wise old preacher explained that **"humility is not a function of putting one's self down, but of lifting Jesus Christ up. Humility in preaching comes not by taking ourselves out of the picture, but by putting ourselves in the right place in the picture, under Jesus, pointing to Jesus."**

One of my favourite definitions of the word "humble" comes from the children's novel, *Charlotte's Web*. In this story the spider, Charlotte, makes webs with words that describe the pig, Wilbur. These signs save his life, protecting him

from being turned into bacon. One of the words Charlotte chooses is "humble." She explains that it's the perfect word for Wilbur because it means "not proud" and "near the ground." That's exactly who Wilbur is.

I remember having a conversation with one of my daughters when she was a teenager. She had become convinced that being humble meant not only thinking little of herself, but thinking of herself as useless, worthless. This is a dangerous misunderstanding. Humility is to rightly think of oneself and to act, placing oneself under others. Humility is required in submitting to the Lord, even submitting to one another (Ephesians 5:21). Humility is to not think of ourselves more highly than we ought (Romans 12:3).

And both Old and New Testaments teach the principle that when we humble ourselves before the Lord, we receive His grace – He lifts us up! **"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble"** (James 4:6).

May we be a people who humble ourselves before the Lord Jesus and before one another. And as we do so, may we continue pointing to Jesus Christ!

CHURCH OF THE WEEK BUFFALO NARROWS COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH



Pastor Tony Kusch, writes:

Praise the Lord that our church is getting to the stage of working on leadership in the form of calling and appointing elders, and there is a big interest in membership.

God is working on what it means to be a Bible church, and we are so thankful for that.

Pray for our door-to-door outreach. We have a new

church brochure and a bag of Christmas treats to hand out! Hopefully we get the opportunity to invite people to our church and/or possibly pray for or have a spiritual conversation with them.

QUESTION CORNER

How do you (individuals and churches) humble yourself before the Lord?