



THE BEACON

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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FROM THE PASTOR



Life Change: Getting to "There" from "Here"

"You can't get 'there' from 'here,'" said the old New Englander after I had asked for direction. I thought to myself, "Why not? Both here and there is on the map, you have to be able to get from 'here' to 'there' somehow.

When you're trying to get from "here" to "there", you need to know where here is and where there is. Since each person comes with their own "here", it will take a discerning heart to know where to start.

Therefore, the "here" is person dependent.

However, we can know the "there" that God wants us to help one another get to. There is a life change that God desires for his people.

As the pastor of First Christian Church, our mission is to help people find and follow Jesus. Following Jesus will lead to life change. There is a life change that God wants for every person within driving distance to experience. God wants each person to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the teacher of life and we are his students.

So what is the life change that God desires for His human creations? Let's look at three aspects where God wants to see life change happen in everyone.

- **First, God wants a life change that includes the past that is forgiven, healed, and renewed.** In order for someone to experience forgiveness healing and renewal, he or she must connect to Jesus Christ. In connecting to Jesus Christ, our sins are washed away. In connecting with Jesus Christ, our wounds begin to heal. And in connecting with Jesus Christ, our lives become new.
- **Second, God wants our future to be secured in heaven and in the resurrection from the dead.** By connecting to Jesus Christ, our heavenly home is secured until that day of the Lord when the dead in Christ shall rise. (See N.T. Wright's book *Surprised by Hope*).
- **Third, God wants our present to be empowered, equipped, and encouraged.** This is where we don't simply connect to Jesus, we must also connect to one another. The early church came together consistently. In Acts 2:42 we read: "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (ESV). In order for the early church to experience life change that comes from being a disciple of Jesus, they were required to devote themselves to each other as well as to Christ.

The life change that God wants for each of us is all-encompassing. Jesus did not simply come to give us a way to heaven and to forgive our sins. Jesus has a "there" for us that is for here and now. Jesus came to transform us into his disciples, to become like Him. Dallas Willard wrote: "Disciples of Jesus are those who are with him, learning to be like him. That is, they are learning to lead their life, their actual existence, as he would lead their life if he were they." (*Renovation of the Heart*, 241).

How are you getting from your "here" to Jesus' "there"?

RENEW
women's conference

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 25
9:30-4:00

Registration
& Breakfast
9:00-9:30

Early Bird \$30
\$40 after
February 19

Special
gift
for you!



Grace & GUTS

Strategies for Living a Knock-Out Life

SHANNON PERRY



2023 Radio Broadcast Sponsorship - We still have a few dates available!! You may sign up to sponsor a weekly worship service broadcast. A sign-up sheet is available

in the parlor for you to choose a date that is important to you. You may also call the office at 667-3540 and we'll help you. The cost is \$55.00 per broadcast.

Ways to Give: Online at www.fcnevada.org/give; from your phone at www.fcnevada.org/give; or by check by mail or in the offering bucket.



If you need a ride to Sunday School or Church in our vans, please let us know by calling the church office at 667-3540 **BEFORE NOON on FRIDAY.**



Community Outreach Food Pantry is collecting non-perishable food and dry goods. A box is in the parlor for your donation.

Suggested February products: Tuna, canned veggies, jelly, pancake mix, pancake syrup, peanut butter, canned fruit, dishwashing liquid.



