



A.M.E.N.

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ARTICLES

Scams, Lies and False Teaching

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

Some of the staff received emails claiming to be from me and asking for gift cards to give to the staff. They made it appear I had written it and attempted to deceive the staff into doing what seemed like a good thing.

A member's computer was hacked and locked until they paid the hacker.

Yet another member has been deceived into sending money to a relative, who was apparently arrested. They involved two different people in the phone call:

someone to impersonate the relative and then another to impersonate an attorney.

Check out the "News" section for important updates!

I've been deceived by a mechanic, well probably more than one, but I wasn't bright enough to notice. The one I speak of convinced me the best route to go

would be to give him the car to cover towing fees. He turned around and sold it for \$1200. Ouch!

There is virus, other than Covid-19, in our world, and it's just as destructive and troubling. Evil is present. The "Ruler of the kingdom of the air" (Eph. 2:2) is spreading lies and deception everywhere we look.

So be aware, "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8) However, we are to "be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." (Matt. 10:16) **When you get that call, see that email, read that Facebook post, or hear the "truth" on the news, please ask if could this be deception.**

Step back from any decision and pray. Ask God for wisdom and direction.

It's sad that these scams are increasing during difficult times.* Who preys on the hurting and vulnerable? Who crushes the one on their knees? Who slaps those who weep?

Lord, may your Spirit convict those who prey on the innocent. Humble them that they may repent and reconcile their wrongs. Help us see our own evil ways, to repent, and chose the better path. Reveal deception and enable us to speak truth in

love.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/advisoruk/2020/04/24/fraud-goes-viral-scams-to-beware-perpetrated-by-covid-19-criminals/#4c24066c6b4c>

He Is Worthy By Pastor Doug Shotsky

Revelation 5:1-5 - Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. 5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

I was going through a discipleship study the other day that had me reading chapters 4 and 5 of Revelation. I'll have to admit I don't spend lots of time in Revelation, but I definitely should, and I definitely have more and more of a desire to do so. One of the questions that the discipleship material was asking was, "What does it mean that God is worthy?"

I could have looked up the dictionary definition of worthy, but I felt led to look up the Greek definition of the word that was used here in Revelation. I'm no Greek scholar but I know enough to know that oftentimes we can get a better understanding of what the Bible is actually meaning when we look into the original languages.

So here's what I found:

áksios (an adjective derived from *aksō*, "to weigh") – properly, to *weigh in, assigning the matching value* ("worth-to-worth"); *worthy*, i.e. as the assessment in keeping with how something "weighs in" on *God's balance-scale of truth*.

/áksios ("weighed-in") "properly means, 'drawing down the scale' hence 'weighing as much as,' 'of like value, worth,' befitting, *congruous, corresponding*" (J. Thayer).

This may look like a bunch of mumbo jumbo, but I really feel like God is showing us a really cool picture of what's happening here. We often talk about Jesus as the one who paid the ransom for our sins. And these definitions of the Greek word for worthy are presenting the idea of a weight that balances the scales of truth.

On the one side of this scale we have the

sins of the world and on the other, a ransom that has to be paid to balance these scales. In verse 3 above it says that "no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it"! Things were looking dim. Not only could no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth pay the ransom (balance the scales), but there was no one who could even look inside of the scroll!

Then enters Jesus! In verse 5 Jesus enters and it says, "He is able"! If you read on in verse 9 it says this, "*You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.*"

And there we have it, Jesus is worthy. Jesus is the one, the only one, who could balance the scales of truth. And not only does it tell us that he **is** worthy, but it tells us **why** he's worthy; "*Because you were slain*". Only the shedding of blood through Jesus's death on the cross could pay the ransom required for the sin of the world.

So next time you utter the words from your lips to our Lord that He is worthy, remember that you are communicating that because of His death on the cross He became the only means through which the

ransom for the sins of the world could be paid.

May Family Ministry Packages

By Adrea Daane

Family care packages were delivered this past week to all families with at least one child ages three years old through 5th grade. These packages included family devotion options and coloring/activity pages. It was a fun couple days driving around and delivering the materials to all of the kids. The waves, smiles, quick hellos, and little conversations were a welcomed change in my routine. I've missed the interactions with the kids of our church and look forward to the day we can all be together again! If you did not receive your package, would like one, or know of someone who I may have missed or you feel would benefit from them, please feel free to contact me and I'll do my best to get them out!!

Youth Ministry Celebrations During COVID-19

By Jessa Ter Beest

- Many of our students are reading through the book of Mark using the Life Book that was mailed out to them at the start of this quarantine.

Some have even finished and are on to reading more of their Bible!

- Some students are reading through Job or the Psalms. They're turning to their Bibles for answers during this tough time - what a great example for all of us!
- Some students are doing a whole Bible overview by watching The Bible Project videos for each book of the Bible. This is an amazing way to see the Bible as a whole picture of God's plan and faithfulness.
- A couple of our students are meeting for "socially distanced" Bible study from their cars in the church parking lot. Praise God that He is so much the center of their friendship that they made a way to continue!
- Many of our students have been sending in prayer requests and responding to prayers sent to them.
- All of our middle school and high school students along with their siblings are being prayed for by someone in the congregation. If you received a card, please continue



praying for that student and their family! Prayer changes lives!

Golden Lifers Update

By Roxy Schouten

What is hanging in your closet? If we were playing the word association game you might answer that in a variety of ways or different mental pictures! During this “Stay at Home” period of time it might have been a time when you cleaned out a closet. Or it might make you cringe when you think of what your “closets” look like when you picture the overstuffed hideaway. But generally a closet is where there is somewhat of an organization of things needed for life – tools, clothes, cleaning supplies, food, etc.

What about your “closet” where you keep the things needed in the battle to live life as Jesus Christ has called us to live? Those things would be essential to have on hand and something needed every day in every way. Thankfully our Heavenly Father has provided equipment we desperately need for defense and offense in this battle we face. The “equipment” comes to all Christians at the time of being Born Again. Being aware of those treasures and using them efficiently is all part of the Sanctification process we go through in life. Those treasures are found concisely described in Eph 6: 10-18.

I will be using the Pure Word translation which is a translation from the Koine

Greek the language spoken and written in during the time the New Testament was written.

- Verse 11 - “You Must Put On All the Armor of God, for you to be Able to Stand Against the methods of the devil.” Notice the word “All”. To be ready for battle you need it ALL. This also tells us this is not man-made armor but only from God. Unfortunately, there are some who stop at this promise because they do not accept that there is a real devil and he has methods against us.
- Verse 12 – “For it is not for us, wrestling against blood and sinful flesh nature, but definitely Against the rulers, Against the authorities. Against the world rulers of darkness of this age, Against the spiritual evil action in the heavenlies of earth.” Behind the evils in this world, now so overtly being exposed, there is Satan and his minions to manipulate people and events.
- Verse 13 – “Because of this, you Must Receive Up All the Armor of God, that you should be Made Able to Stand Against in the day of evil, yet having Produced All, To Stand.” In these instructions we are told that we “Must Receive

Up". It is our choice to do so in order for us to "Stand". Not doing so implies we will not be able to "Stand" and that means if we ignore or forget any of that Armor our falling is guaranteed.

- Verse 14 – "You Must Stand by your choice, therefore, Clothed for yourself about your waist in Truth, and Having Put On for yourself the Breastplate of Righteousness." Truth comes first. In a Roman Soldier outfit a belt was the first item to put on because the Breastplate had straps that needed to be attached to the belt or the Breastplate would not stay in place. Truth is absolutely essential for all the other Armor to be used and protective. Pilate asked Jesus at His trial "What is Truth?"(Luke 18:38) as the only Truth in the whole world was standing before him. There is no Truth outside of Jesus. Note also that this clothing is to be taken up by ones own choice and accepting the imputed Righteousness from Jesus Christ.
- Verse 15 – "And your feet being Covered with the Instruction of the Gospel of Peace" - Although most often these weapons are compared to a Roman soldiers gear there is a deeper meaning because

these descriptions are describing the God-instructed garb of the Priests in the Old Testament. While serving in the Temple, the Priests were to be barefoot as a sign that they were treading on Holy Ground. Also, being barefoot would not indicate a sign of aggression but of peace that God wanted to bless His people with. Despite our "weaponry" we must keep in mind that our message is a message of Peace to those who have no Peace outside of Jesus Christ's forgiveness.

- Verse 16 – "Above All, Receive Up the Shield of Faith (Christ inside you), with Whom you shall be Able to Extinguish All the burning arrows of evil." This Faith is not something we can work up within ourselves but must be "received". The promise of doing so is immense. Who cannot say that daily we are being assailed with "burning arrows of evil"?
- Verse 17 – "And you Must Receive the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, that is the Word of God." The Helmet must be received and protects the mind where our evil actions are sourced. Up until now the weapons have been defensive but now our weaponry goes into offensive

mode. A Sword is for defense but has the capability of being a powerful weapon to fight the enemy into defeat. Jesus knew that and when tempted He used God's Word to go on the offensive with Satan. Jesus knew right where to hit Satan into defeat with the Sword.

- Verse 18 – “By Praying Always with all Prayer and Supplication in the Spirit, and Being Alert in this Special Time for yourself, in all Perseverance and Supplication for All the Saints.” In many translations this verse is interrupted by a break between the previous verses but if we miss this verse we have yet to be imperfectly clothed. This is a protective weapon but it is powerful weapon against evil. To ignore this is to be guilty of leaving ourselves and brothers and sisters in Christ during their time of need and attack. The Lord brought to mind Heb 7:25 “Where He Now is able to Save in the Extreme, those who are Coming near to God Through Him, always Living to Make Intercession in Behalf of them” Jesus is continually making intercession for us! When we make intercession for

others we are joining with Jesus in those prayers.

In conclusion, the Priests in the Old Testament wore all the symbols of this Armor – a belt, breastplate, feet bare, helmet, white garment which symbolized righteousness, they administered God's instructions and carried out duties related to incense which symbolized prayer. When they went “off duty” they were not to wear those garments but put on their “street clothes” and they were then called “strangers”. Let us not go into “stranger” mode by leaving our Armor in the closet! The Reformation of 500 plus years ago reminded us of the Priesthood of all Believers. Put on your priestly “robes”!!!

Greetings from the Golden Lifers! We are “Staying at Home” but never far from our thoughts are all our dear brothers and sisters in Christ of all ages.

MESSAGES

Thank you for the thoughts and prayers during and after my surgery. I appreciated all of the cards and phone calls.

-Elaine Daane

EVENTS

Facebook Premiere Schedule:

Sundays

Sunday Service – 9:30am

Youth Group Lesson – 6pm

Mondays

Munchkin Mondays – 4pm

Tuesdays

Tough Question Tuesday – afternoons

Wednesdays

Worship Song – 1pm

Worship Message – 6:30pm

Thursdays

Thankful Thursday – random times

Fridays

Fun Friday – random times

Saturdays

Super Saturday Bible Trivia – 2pm

NEWS

Staff is working hard to adjust to our current reality. We are committed to making disciples with or without our building. Every week we meet and celebrate ways we see God working, and He is! We then address specific responsibilities for the week and sort through what we need to improve. Pray for continued direction and peace as we navigate doing ministry in new ways.

Consistory is planning to meet on May 12 to discuss steps toward reopening. We have many more questions than answers right now, such as...

- Who do we obey - our president, the CDC, our governor, or the county sheriff? (Hopefully they all agree :-)
- When does freedom of religion or loving your neighbor trump obeying government officials (Rom. 13)?
- When does loving your neighbor mean sending them to work so they can eat and when does it mean leaving them at home so they don't get sick?
- What precautions should we take when we open? Don't shake hands? Don't pass the plate? Close the nursery? Wear masks? Wear gloves for communion? Use every other pew? Hold multiple services? Get better internet to livestream the service?

I'm sure we'll skip some of these questions and add some others. I'll be sharing several resources including "Church Resources" from the [Family Research Council](#) and other resources. Please pray for the Executive Team as they meet to set an agenda and for the consistory as they discern our next steps.

The RCA has decided to cancel General Synod for 2020. They are planning a special session in October to address the

Vision 2020 recommendations, which should come out next month. The RCA Vision 2020 Team has released an [update on their work to clarify restructuring of the RCA and mutually generous exits](#). This leaves us in a precarious position as we hoped the Denver Collaborative would give us a clear path forward at General Synod or soon after. Pray for our task force and consistory to wisely discern what God's will is regarding the RCA.

Other Teams: We are starting to have other teams meet after cancelling things for the past month. Much of their work though is dependent on what happens with our government orders and the consistory interpretation. Please pray for discernment for the Equipping Teams (Adults, Youth, & Kids), Outreach Team, Hospitality Team, and Worship Team.

Camp Manitoqua is has cancelled all overnight activities and is in the process of reaching out to all families who had signed their kids up for camp this summer. Please be in prayer for the camp and staff during this time as well as the kiddos from our church that had been planning on attending.

Some brief updates on a few of our missionaries:

- Randy & Wanda Potratz with SIM are back in the US. They were able to leave Niger before it was no longer an option.
- Bob and Amy Abel with Remember Nhu - as of their last update they are still ministering but with the extra safety precautions put in place and none of the children have contracted COVID-19.
- Steve & Amanda Bialy with Converge - as of their last update in early April it sounded like they were in similar situation as far as restrictions in the UK as we are in the US, but are continuing to find ways to minister even when not being able to gather.
- Jersey & Preston Sheldong with Overland Missions - as of their last update they were quarantined in Zambia but were doing really well and continuing their ministry on base.
- Chris Briggs with CCCD - As of their last update at the end of March they had sent many of the students home and were working on virtual learning. Please be in prayer for the students and staff and the L.I.F.E Team members who had trips cancelled this spring.