



Welcome to Women's Bible Study

A Ministry of Autumn Ridge Church

March 2, 2011

Please turn off cell phones as a courtesy to our speakers. Thank You!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **REMINDER: NO WBS NEXT WEEK** due to the **Ash Wednesday Communion Service** will be held March 9 at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Ash Wednesday is the first day of the 40 day season of prayer, discipleship, and self-examination known as Lent. A special Ash Wednesday service for children in K-5th grade will be held in place of Kids' club. Nursery and preschool childcare will be available. WBS will resume March 16 at its usual times.
- **SORRY FOR THE CONFUSION!** The study and discussion questions for this week were misprinted. The date was correct in the header but the questions were from a previous lecture. Please participate in your group discussion even if you answered the wrong questions or did not know to download the correct questions for this week from the website. We apologize for the inconvenience our oversight may have caused you.
- **5TH ANNUAL DEVOTED HEARTS CONFERENCE:** This regional women's conference will be held April 29-30, 2011, at ARC. "*For Such a Time as This*" will feature Bible teacher, Precept International founder, and speaker Kay Arthur. Precept's inductive Bible studies have led men and women across the globe to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Paige Strackman, former lead singer for the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, will lead us in worship. Early bird tickets available until March 31. Prices increase in April. Purchase the "small group" plan of 10 tickets and get one free! Tickets can be purchased at Christos BookCenter or register online at www.devotedheartsrochester.com.
- **ALL WBS WEEKLY MATERIALS:** Announcement/outline page, discussion/study questions, and the printed lecture notes are available on our website listed at the bottom of the back page.
- **QUESTIONS DURING THE WEEK:** Contact Michelle Johnson, ARC Women's Ministry Assistant and WBS Administrative Assistant, 288-8880 or michellej@aridge.org or e-mail us at: wbs@autumnridgechurch.org

Dear Friends,

This week's passage, 2nd Timothy 2:8-13, contains one of my favorite short sentences in the Bible. It's part of verse 9: **"But God's word is not chained."** Paul has just pointed out that he's chained like a criminal in prison. But God's word isn't chained. It's out there in the world doing its mighty work whether or not Paul is able to spread the gospel.

How can that be? It's because God's word is different than any other written or spoken word. It is God-breathed and reflects his character distilled through the different characters of its 66 books. Hebrews tells us that **"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any two-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."** (Hebrews 4:12)

Peter writes, **"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God."** (1 Peter 1:23). Paul calls it the word of life in Phil. 2:16.

You see, the Word behind the word of God is what gives it life. John begins his gospel by describing Jesus: **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."** (John 1:1). Because the scripture, the word of God, portrays Jesus, the Word, it reflects his life and his power.

So why should this matter? Because really, in one sense, all we need to do is to get the word of God into the hands of the world, and the Word (Jesus) will make himself known to those who belong to him. But the word of God (scripture) also works its way into our hearts and minds, changing the way we think, drawing us to Christ. It's neither chained nor bound. On the contrary, it's surging through our lives and our world, and wherever the word of God goes, change follows. I have great respect and love for the word of God. In fact, as a teacher, one of the great comforts I have is that the word of God has a life of its own. I can trust it to speak truth into our ears even when my understanding of it might be flawed. All we have to do is expose ourselves to it, day by day, year by year, and it will unchain us from everything that keeps us from growing closer to God.

I am deeply grateful to Michelle Harris for teaching for me today. I was scheduled to teach and she has graciously swapped with me for March 16, so that John and I could watch our daughter Hannah run in the NAIA Indoor Nationals. Although Bible study doesn't meet next week, I hope that you'll come to the Ash Wednesday service on March 9 and enter into Lent – that period of reflection that leads up to Easter and the glorious resurrection.

Your friend,

Gretchen Steer

If you are NEW to Women's Bible Study today or have not registered, please visit us at the registration table so we can place you in a small group (AM) or at a table group (PM) for next week.



A Spiritual Legacy: Passing on What You Know

Today's Lecture from 2 Timothy 2:8-13 is by *Michelle Harris*

Remember Jesus

I. Remember Jesus, the center of the gospel

➤ Jesus is . . .

"Risen from the dead"	"The offspring of David"
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➤ The gospel is . . .

— the reason for Paul's bonds

BUT

— the Word of God is not bound

THEREFORE

II. Suffering is worth it

- For the sake of the elect
- An encouragement
- A warning

Church-Wide Events:

- * **ArchWays Membership Class:** Join Pastor Andy Kumpel beginning the weekend of March 26-27 to learn more about the vision, beliefs, staff, and community of Autumn Ridge Church. For 4 weeks we will help you discover how Autumn Ridge church can help you grow in your faith and be prepared for membership within this body of believers. Please contact Pastor Kumpel at andy@aridge.org or at (507) 288-8880 if interested in attending.
- * **Food 4 Friends:** The food of the month for March is a box or package of complete pancake mix and syrup. Items can be dropped off at the ministry center during weekly services or at the reception desk during the week.
- * **Autumn Ridge Art Series presents MATT MAHER on Friday, March 18, 2011, at 7:30 PM at ARC.** Matt received six nominations for the 2011 GMA Dove Awards, complementing his past accolades for "For Grace is Enough" and "As it is in Heaven." Tickets are available at Christos BookCenter or at www.autumnridgechurch.org. General admission \$20; Gold Circle \$30. Doors open at 6:30 PM.
- * **Family Camp 2011:** Registration begins this weekend in the Ministry Center or online at www.autumnridgechurch.org for Family Camp at Fort Wilderness July 30-August 5, 2011. Join over 200 people from ARC for a week of Bible teaching by Dr. George Kenworthy, activities for all ages, and fellowship. Tent/RV sites, cabins, and *The Inn* round out housing options.

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 Website: <http://autumnridgechurch.org/adult/women/womens-bible-study.html>