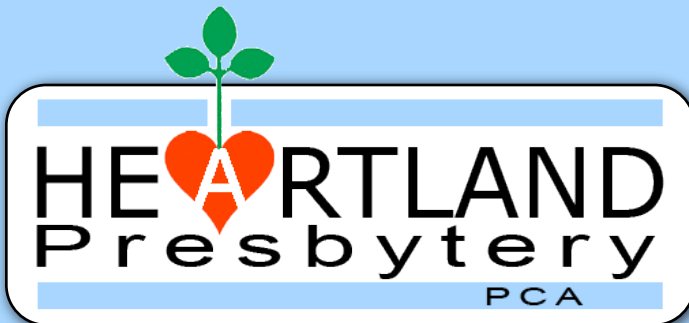




The Whole Gospel For Your Whole Life



This book belongs to: _____

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Students,

Welcome to our second annual Heartland Presbytery Camp! God-willing this week you will spend time canoeing on God's river and swinging on ropes that hang from trees God has caused to grow along the banks. You'll spend time with friends new and old who seek to know and glorify God like I hope is true of you as well. You'll hear the holy Word of God taught by Rev. Ross Dixon each evening after we've sung songs of worship to our sovereign God. Each morning we've set aside a time for you to spend alone with God reading His Word and praying to Him while sitting in His marvelous creation.

As you go about this week hanging out with friends and partaking in various activities let me encourage you to take advantage of this relaxing and refreshing week away from school, chores, organized sports, video games, facebook and various other things. Acts 3:20 reveals what our hearts already know: that times of refreshment come from the presence of the Lord. How wonderful then it is to know He is ever present in the lives of His people.

Have a great week. If you have any questions about this week or God or the Bible or sin or forgiveness or God's covenant or anything else, please ask any of our great leaders who would love nothing more than to speak with you.

–Brian Hough



Rules

Cabin Rules: There is a distinct difference between the sleeping room areas of each cabin and the gathering area of each cabin. Boys are not allowed in the girls sleeping area and girls are not allowed in the boys sleeping area. Both cabins' common areas however is permissible for both boys and girls provided there is an awake adult in attendance.

No leaving the cabin after lights out (11 pm) for any reason.

Students are not to go through anyone else's belongings.

Camp Grounds: Students are not permitted to leave the RiverRanch grounds at any time during the week.

Free Time: You must have an adult chaperone to do any of the following: go on hike, swim in the river, visit the dam, leave the main zone (will be explained on day one). If you are caught in the water without an adult you will not be permitted to swim again.

Cell Phones: Cell phones are not permitted this year, leaders will let you use their phone to call your parents.

PDA: No PDA, Personal Displays of Affection, including handholding.



DAILY SCHEDULE

Note on Free Time: Free time can be used for Putt Putt Golf, horseshoes, swimming (you need an adult with you), hiking (again, you must have an adult with your group), volleyball, painting your toes, soccer, checking out the dam (must have an adult), basketball, reading or just hanging out enjoying God's beautiful creation. Each morning at breakfast we will announce other games that will take place during Free Time.

Monday

On your way	Eat Lunch on your Way to RiverRanch '09
12:00	Arrive
12:00-1:00	Get settled in cabins
1:30-2:45	Jon Dunning's Extra Amazing Ice Breaker Games
3:00-4:00	One Mile Raft trip
4:00-6:00	Free Time
6:00	Dinner - Pizza
7:00- 8:00	Putt Putt Golf
8:30-9:30	Evening Gathering (Worship, Ross, Prayer)
9:30-11:00	Free Time
11:00	In Cabins, Lights Out

Tuesday

8:00	Breakfast - Breakfast Burritos and Cereal
8:30	Morning Devotions and Prayer (with cabin mates)
10:00-2:30	4 mile canoe trip (takes 3- 4 hours); Lunch on River - sandwiches
3:00-6:00	Free Time
6:00	Dinner - All Beef Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, chips
8:30-9:30	Evening Gathering (Worship, Ross, Prayer)
9:30-11:00	Free Time
11:00	In Cabins, Lights Out

DAILY SCHEDULE

Wednesday

8:00	Breakfast – Biscuits with Gravy and Cereal
8:30	Morning Devotions and Prayer (with cabin mates)
9:10 –12:00	Junior High Toss then Free Time
12:00	Lunch – Smoked Hamburgers, Potato salad
2:00	The Extended Team Relay Race to End All Relay Races
6:00	Dinner – Smoked Beef Brisket Sandwiches and Beans
8:30–9:30	Evening Gathering (Worship, Ross, Prayer)
9:30–11:00	Free Time & Fireside Stories and ‘Smores
11:00	In Cabins, Lights Out

Thursday

8:00	Breakfast – Breakfast Burritos and Cereal
8:30	Morning Devotions and Prayer (with cabin mates)
10:00–5:00	8 Mile canoe/raft trip (6–7 hours)
5:00–6:00	Free Time
6:00	Dinner– Pizza
7:30–8:30	Evening Gathering (Worship, Ross, Prayer)
8:45–11:00	Karaoke Night (with Idol judges)
11:00	In Cabins, Lights Out

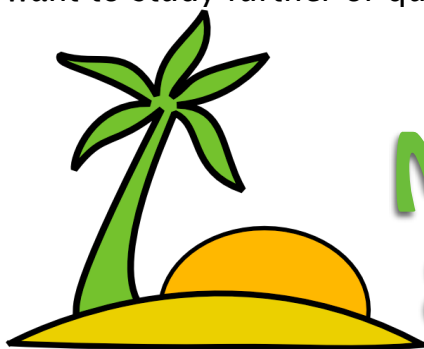
Friday

8:00	Breakfast – Biscuits and Gravy & Cereal
8:30	Morning Devotions and Prayer (with cabin mates)
9:10–11:00	Free Time
11:00–12:00	Clean Cabins
12:00	Stop for Lunch, Travel Home

Evening Studies



Each evening we will meet at the time listed on the schedule for a time of singing worship to God and study of His word. On the following pages is the text Ross be teaching on along with space for you to take notes. Please take advantage of this space for writing things that stand out to you, ideas you want to study further or questions you might have.



Morning Studies

Each morning is a time of required meeting with God. We believe you will genuinely enjoy this guided time of devotions and prayer. This year we've laid out the devotions to go with the overarching theme of "The Whole Gospel For Your Whole Life." Our prayer has been that what you learn this week both from the teaching and these morning times will continue with you after you have returned home. I encourage you to truly take advantage of this time set apart for meeting with our God.



Identity

I Belong to Christ

Think about the last 24 hours of your life. Hopefully you've met some new people, and even started to make new friends. When you do this, what do you want people to know about you? What is it about you that people need to know in order to understand who you are? What kinds of things do you want to know about other people?

It can be scary asking a question like "Who am I?" If we answer it honestly, we might not like the answer we find. For everybody, actually, there are things about the way we live that we wish we could change. The problem is that none of us are great at doing this honestly or accurately. We're really good at both thinking too highly of ourselves AND seeing ourselves as having too many problems. The challenge, then, is to think about what the Bible says about us, and to ask God to help us see what He sees.

Read **Colossians 1:21-23** through twice.

"And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister."



Paul is talking to a group of people who are Christians, and he has just talked non-stop about Jesus [verses 13–20], and now he is talking to them about who they were and who they are. In verse 21, he begins by reminding these believers who they were before they met Jesus. Notice that he doesn't first say, "You were really bad people" but instead he describes how they treated each other and especially God. They were "alienated," which is a long way of saying that they were alone. They didn't belong with God's people. This is big because belonging to other people is one of our deepest needs as human beings, and yet apart from God's work in us through Christ we are utterly alone. They were also "hostile in mind," at "war" with other people and with God. Without Jesus we live our lives running away from God. Even if we are good people, even if we are trying to be kind to others, if our stance is our independence, if it is all about us, we are missing something. Finally, Paul says they were "doing evil deeds." Ultimately, this is what happens when we are alone and we are running away from people and from God. All of this is true.

What's awesome about these verses is that in verse 22 Paul runs right to tell us what Christ has done. The change in our lives is NOT something we accomplish as if we're cleaning ourselves up. It's what God has done for us. By dying on the cross for us, Jesus changes everything. If you believe that Jesus died for your sins and that He has given you new life, see who you are now. You are "holy" which means that you have been set apart by God to use you for His good in His world. You are "blameless" which means that God has forgiven you of everything you've



ever done and you are “above reproach” which means that in God’s eyes there is no longer any evidence that you have done anything wrong. You are declared innocent.

What Paul wants for his readers, and for us, is that this new identity would shape how we think about who we are and how we live, because for the Christian all of it is true! In verse 23 he goes on to convey that we do this by living in the confidence of Jesus’ death and resurrection. He calls us “continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting” from these very things that are true about us. We can be honest about who we were and even areas where we struggle, because we have been made new. He doesn’t give us a threat here—as if we can lose what Jesus has done. Rather, he challenges us to hang on to what is true, and live in such a way that even when we sin, we would be quick to ask for forgiveness and to keep living in hope.

Think . . .

Q: Are there ways that you think about who you are or how you describe yourself to others that only make you look “too good” (ignoring sin) or “too bad” (ignoring what Jesus has done)?

Q: If you are a Christian, do you ever think about what your life might be like without Christ? What would your life be without the church in it?

Q: If what Paul says here is true, where in your life do you need to live with the confidence that you have been forgiven, and where do you need to treat other people the same way?



Pray:

Use these words from Psalm 51:1–3, 9–12 (David's confession after committing adultery) to confess your sin, but also to embrace the promise of forgiveness through Jesus:

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.



Serving

He Must Increase, I Must Decrease

In Matthew 20 the mother of James and John came to Christ asking that her children would be given places of honor in Christ's kingdom. Seeing a sense of arrogance in their hearts he says the following to them. Read it twice.

Matthew 20:26–28

“It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Jesus turns their view of what should be desired upside down. Do you wish to be great? Then don't expect others to serve you, go rather and serve them. Do you wish to be first? Then serve others. This is shown to be so by the example of Christ coming as God incarnate, as king and rather than expecting people to serve him, he dies upon the cross for those who are his. The work of God's spirit in our lives then brings us to lay down our own life in many ways to serve others. Consider the following verse:

Philippians 2:3–4

“Do nothing from rivalry (competition, feuding) or conceit (self-importance), but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”



How well our Lord knows our hearts and our tendency to be concerned about ourselves rather than others. We seek to get food before others do, we take the last of the chips in fear that someone else will get them first. We see people in need of help and love and we look away. Our pride is great and our humility weak.

But as we live out the gospel, Christ giving his life for you in love, and by the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in believers we then love others and serve others. In John 3:30, John the Baptist so well sums this up saying in regards to Christ, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

Consider today how you might serve others by placing their needs before yours. Write a few of those ways down below.



In your prayers this morning ask that God would give you opportunities to truly serve others today not merely in dutiful obedience, but in joy as you dwell on how Christ has served you in love. Ask that this would be a work in your heart. Also ask for safety as we are on the river today, for beautiful weather and an eye to praise God as you look upon His beautiful creation today.

Resources

Time & Money

Q: Do you think God cares about what you do with your time and your money?

Read: **Luke 12.13–21** (read it twice)

“Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Q: What are the people mentioned most concerned about? The guy in verse 13? The guy in the parable (the story Jesus tells)? What about Jesus?

In these verses a man in the crowd asks Jesus for some advice [verse 13]. This was a normal thing to happen—people often went to their religious leaders for advice, since they were the ones who knew God’s law best. So this



guy approaches Jesus with a question. It sounds like his dad has died, and he and his brother were given their inheritance together. Their dad's dying wish was that they keep his money and land together, possibly to help keep the family together. Jesus gives the man a response [verses 14–15] and then he tells a story to explain what he means and describe what's most important [verses 16–21].

Jesus' response to this man [14] is almost funny because it sounds harsh—not what we expect from Jesus. But Jesus sees that this guy's question isn't really a question. It's a demand. He calls the man's attitude "covetousness" -- "the character and conduct of . . . greediness, grasping, assumption, arrogance." Jesus knows that this guy is only worried about getting more money, so badly that he thinks he only has value as a person when he is wealthy. This man wants the stuff that's his, but Jesus knows that this will divide him from his family.

To make His point, Jesus tells a story - a parable. Notice how much the guy in the story talks about himself. He is completely absorbed with himself and himself alone. There is absolutely no thought given to anyone else (not even mentioned saving for his children or anything like that). All he wants is more stuff. In verse 19, this man tells us what he believes: once he has all his stuff, he doesn't need anything else and he thinks he's ready to die.

The problem, as the story ends, is that he isn't ready to die at all. His love for his stuff is keeping him from God. Once again, Jesus uses what sounds like harsh words—he calls the man "fool" in verse 20. This is a pretty loaded word for Jesus, though. Jesus isn't calling the guy an idiot;



he's not making fun of him. In the Bible, the word fool means someone who is acting without sense, who is ignoring what he knows to be true, and ultimately ignoring God. We are foolish anytime we trust in stuff more than we trust in God, knowing that our stuff will never make us happy, and certainly won't help us know God.

The point of all of this is that God cares how we think about our stuff – our money, our possessions, and even the time and talents that each of us has. All of this affects every part of our lives. If we spend our thoughts, words, and actions chasing after money or stuff, we are letting those things define who we are. The danger is that we make our lives only about 'things' and we have no room for people in our lives, and especially no room for God. The stuff we spend so much time and energy chasing will not help us before God; He doesn't look at us based on what we have, or even what we can do. Our great problem is that we're good at loving stuff, believing in stuff and hoping in stuff. The Gospel is that Jesus died for us in order to set us free to believe in Him and to put our hope in His faithfulness.

Think . . .

Q: Where are you most tempted to "lay up treasure" apart from God? Is there stuff in your life that's more important than people? More important than God?

Q: So, what is truly worth your time and your energy?



As you think about this, use these words from Psalm 119:33–37 as both a confession and a prayer to God to help you see everything you have from God’s point of view:

“Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!

Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.”



Relationships

What It Means To Be A Friend

John 15:15

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

John 16:5–15

But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.



Evangelism

Doing Justice and Preaching Grace

The apostle Paul writes to the church in Colossae concerning the peace which the gospel brings to us individually and to the church corporately. Paul continually speaks of the excellency of Christ. It was Christ who bought our peace with God (Col. 1:19–20). He purchased us to make us holy and blameless and beyond reproach (Col. 1:21–23). Paul wants the church to be knit together in love for one another (Col. 2:2). We are to be people who are rooted in Christ Jesus and being built up in Him and thus demonstrating an attitude of gratitude for what Jesus has done for us (Col. 2:6–7). Our gratitude should direct us to live for the “things above” (Col. 3:2). If we are focused on the things above then we will not be tempted by the things below which Paul lists in Col. 3:5. We will live focused on one or the other. The Christian is to discipline himself to think on the things above. The result of living for the “things above” will be a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another, and forgiving one another (Col. 3:12–13).

Read Colossians 4:1–6

Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.



Questions

1. Why are masters told to treat their slaves with “justice and fairness”? (vs. 1)
2. Why do you think Paul addresses masters? What is the master/slave relationship? How is it like our relationship to God? How does God treat us?
3. Why does Paul want us to devote ourselves to prayer? Why are we to have an attitude of thanksgiving?

Paul asks the Colossians to pray in a specific way for him. (vs. 2–3)

4. What does Paul’s prayer request tell us about his struggles? Can you relate to his struggles? Where should you turn for help with your struggles?
5. What does Paul mean when he says, “Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders...” (vs. 5)
6. What does it mean to always speak with grace? (vs. 6)
7. How does speaking graciously allow us to know how to respond to each person? (vs. 6)

Summary

Looking back over these verses, what attitude are we to have? How are we to approach people in conversation? What are we to pray for as we seek to reach people for Jesus Christ? In order to always have the right attitude and disposition where is our focus in life to be?

Pray that God would give you a proper attitude today and when you return home.



SNOWRANCH 2010

Plans are currently being made for the first ever Heartland Presbytery Youth Ski Trip.

Tentatively called

SNOWRANCH

Spring Break 2010

Around March 15-19

River Ranch 2010

Mark Your Calendars for the third Annual Heartland Presbytery Youth Camp.

River Ranch 2010

July 12th - 16th 2010



THANK YOU

Thank you to all the Heartland
Presbytery Churches who participated
in RiverRanch 2009

Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church
www.christcovenant-pca.org

Christ Presbyterian Church
www.cpchurch-kc.org

Evangel Presbyterian Church
www.evangelpca.org

Heartland Community Church
www.heartlandpca.org

Oak Hills Presbyterian Church
www.ohpchurch.org

Redeemer Presbyterian Church
www.Redeemer-PCA.org

And he is before all things,
and in him all things hold
together. And he is the head
of the body, the church. He is
the beginning, the firstborn
from the dead, that in
everything he might be
preeminent. For in him all the
fullness of God was pleased
to dwell, and through him to
reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in
heaven, making peace by the
blood of his cross.

-Colossians 1:17-20