



Love. Grow. Serve.

"Where the Word of life gathers, nurtures, and sends us forth to serve."

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The Key to a Good Entry to the New Year

To gain entry into the house our family rents for our annual get away in Lake Keowee, we need the code to the lock box where the actual key is hidden. Without the key, entry is impossible.

In the epistle lesson for the first Sunday after Christmas, Paul urges us, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom." He wants us to have Christ's Word take up residence in our hearts and minds. What might the key be for that Word to get in, to live there and make its home in our lives?

A physical key is needed to get into one's house – or in some instance, I suppose a code of numbers and letters to press to get in. For Christ's Word to enter our hearts, something needs to happen – in our homes we must actually stop and take time to read the Word or listen to it on our phones or look at it on our computers.

When it comes to letting the Word really sink into the depths of our beings, it takes something physical as well – actually getting out of our beds on Sunday morning and going to the church or the classroom or UNG where the "teaching and admonishing one another" can take place. We must get to the location where the interaction can happen – where the comments and questions of others can penetrate the inner recesses of our minds and can bless us with the richness of the Word that reveals Christ to us.

This New Year, we have several opportunities that you are invited to attend. Why not pick at least one of the them and let Christ unlock your heart and mind to the riches He wants to present to you, thus allowing His Word to enter and dwell within you?

- **Sunday mornings; 9:15 – 10:15AM** – Starting January 13, we'll begin our study of the Book of Genesis. Thinking about the beginning of all things, we'll discover the foundation for the Bible's message!
- **Tuesdays; 7:00-8:00PM** – Starting January 15, at UNG for the University students and other young adults we will explore "God at Work", to learn how God uses our vacations to work through us.
- **Wednesday evenings; 7:00 – 8:30PM** – January 9 through February 27, we'll learn how Jesus' parables still speak to us today.
- **Thursdays; 1:30 – 2:45PM** – Starting January 10, "Life with God", a study of basic Christian teachings wrapped around the theme of *Life*.

Also, don't forget to use Portals of Prayer daily to foster the sense of Christ's Word taking up residence in your heart and home. Pick up your copy of these daily devotions in your mailbox or from the entry table at church.

Do you sense why it's important to have Christ's Word dwell in your heart"? It brings you the good news of your Savior and his love for you and his wisdom for living! You can't beat that for company!

Pastor Michael

P.S. I wish to give special Thank You's for the generous gift given to Joan and me on Christmas Eve, the excellent planning session that was held on December 15th and for the wonderful attendance at our Advent and Christmas services. I look forward to working with all of you 2019!