

NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter

This month's SLD Newsletter gives an update on some Spiritual Leadership Development (SLD) activities and a starting point in our spiritual growth. Next month we will look at a key ingredient to spiritual growth.

Glenn

Daily Bible Readers

Our Daily Bible Reading (DBR) program's goal is simple: to be a daily Bible reader. Any one of 3 tracks can be used:

- Track 1 Read the New Testament in 2006
Track 2 Read the Old Testament and New Testament in 2006 and 2007
Track 3 Use another schedule of your choice

The DBR is off to a great start! Just prior to evening services on Sunday, January 1st, 26 people came together to read Genesis 1-2 and Matthew 1.

In addition the DBR small group ministry is to encourage each other to continue to be a daily Bible reader. This encouragement comes by visiting before and after services, communicating via email and meeting periodically to read God's Word together.

Many members of the congregation are daily Bible readers on an individual or family basis and we commend everyone who reads the Word of God on a daily basis.

If you would like to be a part of the DBR ministry, you can sign-up at anytime. Sign-up forms and copies of the Bible Reading Schedule tracks are on a table in the south hall.

L2L Due Dates

We have a record registration for the Lads-to-Leaders (L2L) national convention again this year - 210! All the coordinators and participants are doing an excellent job! Keep up the great effort!

All families who will attend the L2L national convention should have received a letter explaining your L2L hotel reservations. If you have not received the letter or need changes to the reservations, please see Dee or me immediately.

Also, some coordinators have due dates for verification forms.

- January 15th - Verification forms due to Dee or Glenn for: Advanced Bible Reading, Centurion of Scripture, Good Samaritan, Parade of Winners, Gifts, Second Language
January 27th - Entries must be postmarked for: Mass Media, Music Composition
February 5th - Hotel fees due to Dee or Glenn

The Challenge

The Challenge was accepted by 10 men of the congregation. The first session of the Men's Leadership Challenge was held on January 5th. Over a 10 week period these men will be challenged to grow spiritually on an individual basis. Over the next few weeks please keep these men in your prayers as they complete 10 challenges in their spiritual leadership development.

- Bob DeTorres, Chris Hicks, Alan Pounds, Jason Speed, David Escue, Jon Pace, Zach Shappley, Adam Stewart, Chris Gilbert, Jodi Whitfield

A Starting Point

This month PAGE 2 of the SLD Newsletter identifies a starting point for our spiritual growth. The Word of God is our authority and Paul's epistle to the Romans is referenced to demonstrate one example of a starting point.

Spiritual Leadership Development NEWSLETTER

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Prepared by Glenn Daily

for the members of the Germantown church of Christ as we lead by being Christian servants.

## A Starting Point in Spiritual Growth: A Roman Answer

*“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is; that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

Romans 12:1-2 (NASV)

### Ready

Romans 1-3

To obtain spiritual growth as a Christian we must first be ready for the growth; meaning, we must know that we need to be a Christian.

In his epistle to the Romans Paul describes the universal need for the gospel. By stating sins of the Gentiles and the Jews Paul shows all mankind is in need of salvation. No one has an excuse (2:1) and everyone will be judged by God. (2:16) The Law will save no one as “. . . every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God” (3:19). Paul demonstrates that “. . . all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (3:23)

Does anyone have hope? Yes, we all have hope and confidence through Jesus Christ - the Messiah. Christ is our propitiation - a sacrifice for our sins. (3:25) We are justified by Christ. (3:26) Sin must be punished and Christ died for our sins. Man was reconciled back to God by God in the person of Jesus.

Being **READY** by realizing the significance of Christ’s death helps us to understand our need. The need to become a Christian is imperative for there is no other way to have our sins forgiven except through Jesus Christ.

#### Need to become a Christian:

Sinfulness of Mankind	1:1-32
Impartiality of God	2:1-16
Guilt of the Jew	2:17-29
All the World is Guilty	3:1-20
Christ Our Propitiation	3:21-31

### Set

Romans 4-11

Everyone needs to set expectations of their personal spiritual growth based on the Word of God.

In Romans 5:1-11 Paul explains some effects of the most significant transition we must take in our journey of spiritual growth; transformation in one’s life by becoming a Christian.

Prior to becoming a Christian:

- ◆ Helpless (5:6)
- ◆ Ungodly (5:6)
- ◆ Sinners (5:8)
- ◆ Enemies (5:10)

As Christians:

- ◆ Justified by faith (5:1)
- ◆ Peace with God (5:1)
- ◆ Stand in grace (5:2)
- ◆ Exult in hope (5:2)
- ◆ Exult in our tribulations (5:3)
- ◆ Love of God in our hearts (5:5)
- ◆ Received the Holy Spirit (5:5)
- ◆ Justified by Christ’s blood (5:9)
- ◆ Reconciled to God (5:10)

We leave behind our previous life for we “. . . walk in newness of life.” (6:4) Now we are **READY** and our expectations are **SET** for the next transformation - to **GROW** in Christ.

#### How to become a Christian:

Hear	10:14-17
Believe	10:9-13
Repent	2:4; Acts 2:38
Confess	10:9-10
Be Baptized	6:1-11

### Grow

Romans 12-16

Romans 12:1-2 is an excellent reference point to begin our spiritual growth as a Christian. Paul gives an earnest plea for the Christian way of life.

In our new life we should not be preoccupied with attempting to gain our salvation through good works; we have been saved by the mercy of God through Jesus Christ. Our life should be a living sacrifice to God while not conforming to worldly standards. Our works should be for the benefit of others; not ourselves.

By renewing our minds Christians are to reinforce our new attitude. We were once sinners; now we are saints. Through this transformation we are dead to our old life and our new life is acceptable in God’s sight, because as Christians we dedicate ourselves to God’s service.

Can we make the transformation to **GROW** spiritually in our Christian lives? In Romans 16 Paul names and sends personal greetings to 26 Christian servants. They made the transition—so can we!

#### How to grow as a Christian:

Sacrifice in Service	12:1-2
Use Gifts	12:3-8
Love and Be Hospitable	12:9-13
Imitate Christ	12:14-21
Render Obedience	13:1-7
Love One’s Neighbor	13:8-10
Live in Honesty	13:11-14
Pursue Peace	14:1-15:13