

As Living Stones



Laurel Canyon • 2009

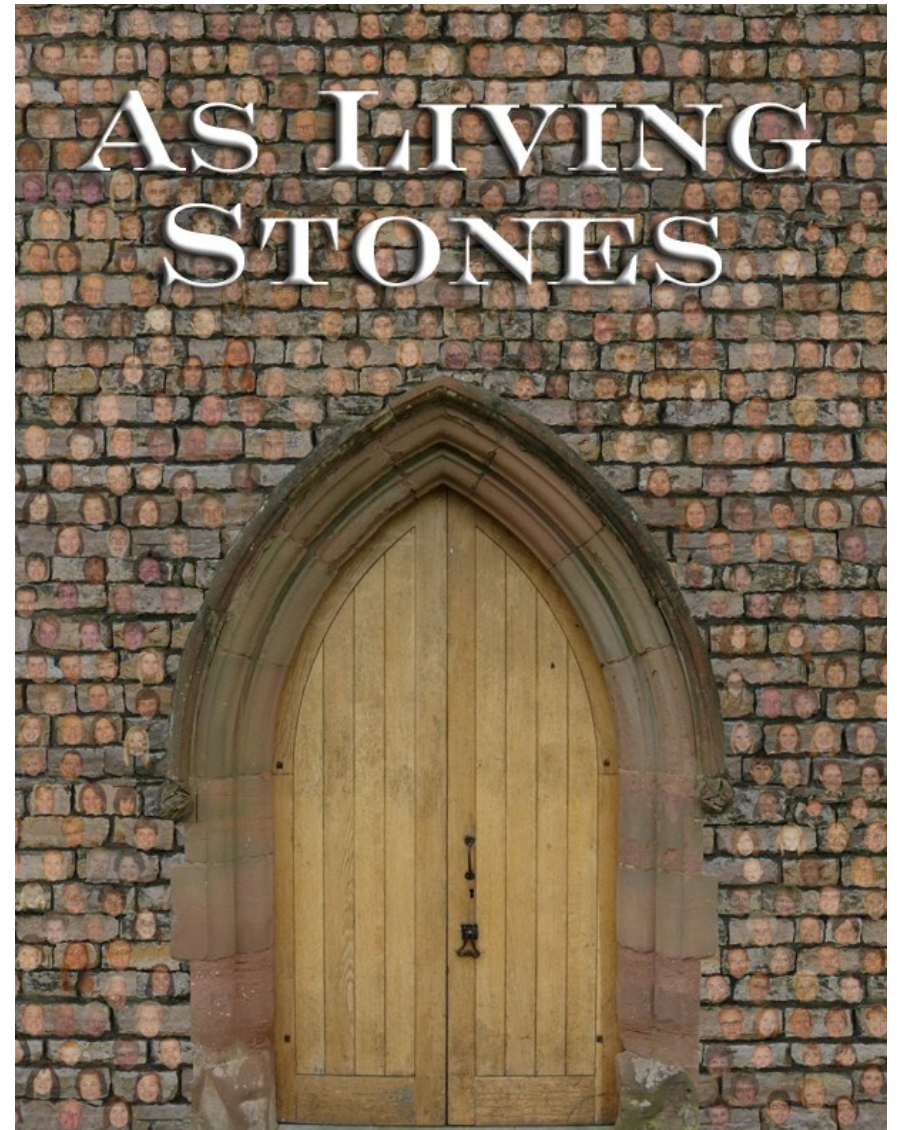
the

Laurel Canyon church of Christ

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Columbus, OH 43213

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You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Peter 2:5

**A Practical Plan For
Personal And Congregational Growth In 2009**

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him
will not be put to shame.”

So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

- 1 Peter 2:1-12

Adult Bible Class Schedule for 2009

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m:

January—March:

Let Your Light Shine: *Having a Positive Influence for Christ on the World Around You* (taught by Jason Hardin)

April—June:

The Lord’s Church Through the Ages (taught by Jason Hardin)

July—September:

Lessons from the Life of Paul (taught by Jason Hardin)

October—December:

Lessons from Timothy & Titus (taught by Gordon Price)

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m:

January—March:

Ephesians (taught by Gordon Price in the auditorium)
The Big Picture of the Bible (taught by Jason Hardin in Room #6)

April—June:

Isaiah (taught by Chuck Greenwalt in the auditorium)
Getting Started Right (taught by Jason Hardin in Room #6)

July—September:

Psalms (taught by E. Tustin, A. McCollough, D. Roush & J. Budd in the auditorium)
The Big Picture of the Bible (taught by Jason Hardin in Room #6)

October—December:

Job (taught by David Pike in the auditorium)
Getting Started Right (taught by Jason Hardin in Room #6)

Under Construction Stronger Families

Ten Questions Every Parent Should Ask Their Children Every Year

1. Do you feel that we are getting along together?
2. What are some things you think we could do to improve our relationship?
3. Do you believe that I really care about who you are as an individual...or just how you behave? (Do you think I am concerned most about you...or how you make me appear to others?)
4. Have I ever made a promise to you that I didn't keep?
5. Do you feel that I respect you? Do you respect me?
6. Is there something you would enjoy doing together with me? What would keep us from doing it?
7. Is there some secret you are keeping from me out of fear that I would love you less?
8. What can I do to show you that I want to be more like Christ?
9. Is there something I do that annoys you...or embarrasses you?
10. How could I best express to you just how much I love you, and how honored I feel to be your parent?

For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

- Hebrews 3:4-6

Where there is no vision, a people falls...

- Proverbs 11:14

February 21, Saturday — Men's Day-in-the-Word
The Four Pillars of a Man's Life (led by Jason Hardin)

March 1, Sunday — The "Big Picture" of the Bible
Evangelistic Outreach (three sermons by Jason Hardin)

April 12-15, Sunday-Wednesday — Spring Gospel Meeting
Lessons presented by Ron Daly

Sunday class: The Godhead's Role in Conversion
 Sunday AM: The Conversion of the Samaritans (*Acts 8:4-25*)
 Sunday PM: The Conversion of the Eunuch (*Acts 8:26-40*)
 Monday: The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus (*Acts 9:1-22*)
 Tuesday: The Conversion of Cornelius (*Acts 10*)
 Wednesday: What Follows Conversion?

May 2, Saturday — Women's Day-in-the-Word
The Spring of Youth (presented by Shirley VanDyke)

May 15-17, Friday-Sunday — Youth Lectureship
Lessons from 1-2 Timothy by Jason Hardin & Jonathan Brown
 Friday Night:

* Singing: To the King of Ages Be Honor and Glory
 * Session 1: It's Not Just How You Start, But How You Finish
 * Session 2: Truth or Consequences

Saturday:

* Session 1: Going Public with Your Faith
 * Session 2: Living the Good Life
 * Session 3: God's Breath of Fresh Air
 * Session 4: Dealing with Disappointment

Sunday AM: The View From the Finish Line

Sunday mornings in June — Special Series of Sermons
Desperate Households (presented by Jason Hardin)

June 6, Saturday — Men's Day-in-the-Word
The Battle for Sexual Integrity (led by Jason Hardin)

June 13, Saturday — Women's Day-in-the-Word
The Summer of Early Adulthood (led by Shirley VanDyke)

Under Construction Stronger Marriages

Ten Questions Every Wife Should Ask Her Husband Every Year

An excellent wife, who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. (Eccl. 31:10-11)

1. Do you feel I properly understand the goals that God has placed in your heart? How can I help you achieve them?
2. What are some things I can do to regularly show you just how satisfied I am with you as my husband and the leader of my home?
3. Is there anything I am doing or failing to do that seems to send a signal that I do not honor you or your leadership in our home?
4. Is there anything I can change to make our home a place where you feel more satisfied and comfortable?
5. Are there any big dreams in your heart that you have been hesitant to share with me?
6. How do you feel we can begin communicating better than we already are?
7. Do you feel that there is anything keeping either one or both of us from God's best in our lives? What should be my part in freeing us from those restraints?
8. Are we where you wanted us to be at this stage in life? How can I help you make that possible within God's guidelines?
9. How do you envision our future together? What can we do together to achieve that goal?
10. What can I do to show you how much I need and trust you?

Under Construction

Stronger Marriages

Ten Questions Every Husband Should Ask His Wife Every Year

Husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered (1 Peter 3:7).

1. What could I do to make you feel more loved?
2. What could I do to make you feel more respected?
3. What could I do to make you feel more understood?
4. What could I do to make you more secure?
5. What could I do to make you feel more confident in our future direction?
6. What attribute would you like me to develop?
7. What attribute would you like me to help you develop?
8. What achievement in my life would bring you the greatest joy?
9. What would indicate to you that I really desire to be more Christ-like?
10. What mutual goal would you like to see us accomplish?

July 12-17, Sunday-Friday — Vacation Bible School

Lessons presented by Roger Shouse

Sunday class

Sunday AM

Sunday, 4:30 p.m: Raising G-Rated Kids in an R-Rated World

Sunday PM

Monday — Be Fishers of Men (*Matthew 4; Luke 5*)

Tuesday — Prepare to Share (*John 6*)

Wednesday — Go Fish the World (*Matthew 28*)

Thursday — Fish with Power (*Acts 2*)

Friday — Love the Fisher's Catch (*John 21*)

August 22, Saturday — Women's Day-in-the-Word

The Fall of Late Adulthood (led by Shirley VanDyke)

September 5, Saturday — Men's Day-in-the-Word

Men on a Mission (led by Jason Hardin)

October 3, Saturday — Singles Day-in-the-Word

Living for Christ as a Single Person (led by Jason Hardin)

Sunday mornings in October — Don't Waste Your Life!

Evangelistic Outreach (presented by Jason Hardin)

October 24, Saturday — Day-in-the-Word

The Winter of Later Years (led by Shirley VanDyke)

November 15-18, Sunday-Wednesday — Fall Gospel Meeting

Lessons presented by Edwin Crozier on Prayer

Sunday class: The Power Who Hears

Sunday AM: Empowering God's Warriors

Sunday PM: The Plugged-In Saint

Monday: The Plugged-In Family

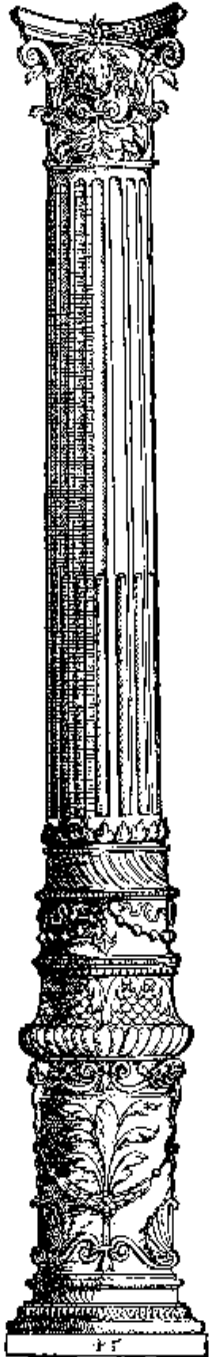
Tuesday: The Plugged-In Church

Wednesday: The Kinds of Prayer

December 5, Saturday — Men's Day-in-the-Word

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly in Marriage

(led by Jason Hardin)



Reverent Love for God

*I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy.* (Psalm 43:4)

As an image-bearer of God, I can further the construction of my relationship with Him by...

- * enthusiastically and faithfully assembling with the saints to express my praise and thanksgiving. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- * dedicating myself at the beginning of each day to “be holy” in all my conduct. (1 Peter 1:14-16)
- * honestly identifying my bad habits and weak points that contradict His standard of holiness. (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- * humbly confessing my sins and shortcomings as I mold myself more perfectly into the image of His Son. (James 5:16)
- * diligently seeking His wisdom and guidance for my daily walk. (James 1:5)
- * consistently reminding myself that:
 - ...I’m not serving for human recognition. (Matthew 6:3-4)
 - ...by serving others, I’m serving Christ. (Matthew 25:31-40)
 - ...one day, I will stand before my King and answer for the way I have spent my life. (Matthew 25:31-32)

Under Construction Compassion for the Weak and the Lost

“You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:13,14,16)

You know dozens of people in desperate need of responding to the gospel. Have you prayed for them? What could happen if you did? Throughout 2009, pick a different person each month and pray for them every single day. Pray for receptive hearts, for opportunities, for wisdom. Pray that God might use you to help save them.

January: _____

February: _____

March: _____

April: _____

May: _____

June: _____

July: _____

August: _____

September: _____

October: _____

November: _____

December: _____

Under Construction Humble Sacrifice

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

(Ephesians 2:10)

Each month, look around you. What are the needs? Where are the opportunities to serve? Where can you make a difference? Can you host a singing or small-group Bible study? Can you help an elderly brother or sister around their house? Can you visit those who are shut-in? Which member could use an extra dose of encouragement? The needs are everywhere! Will you step up in...

January? _____

February? _____

March? _____

April? _____

May? _____

June? _____

July? _____

August? _____

September? _____

October? _____

November? _____

December? _____

Passion for God's Book

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.

(1 Peter 2:2)

As a student of the Master Teacher, I can grow in my understanding of His revelation and deepen my passion for His Word by...

* following our "Book of the Month" program (see pg. 20 of this booklet)

* conducting personal / family Bible studies at home. *(Psalm 1:1-2)*

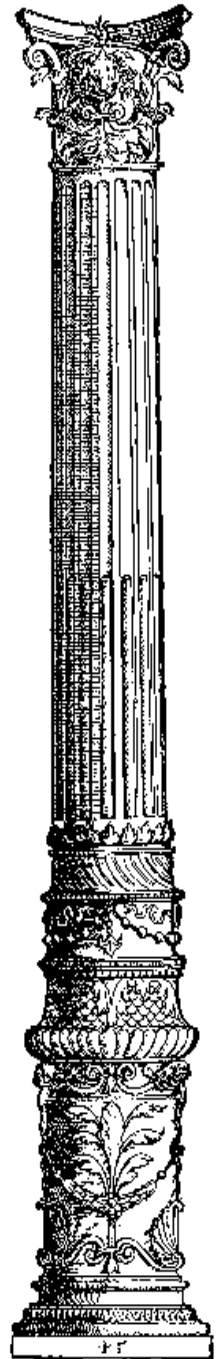
* participating in our congregational Bible classes. *(Acts 2:42)*

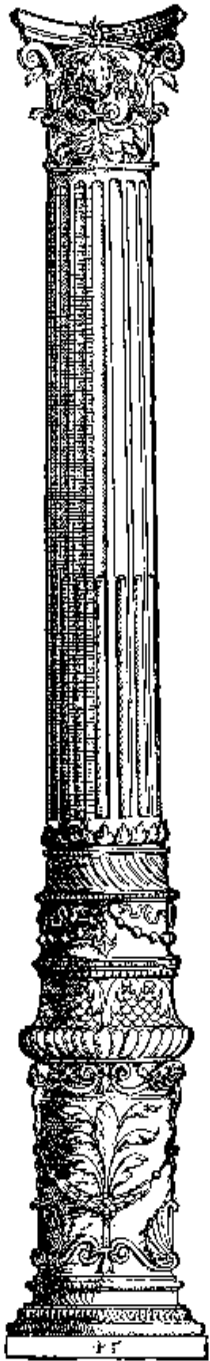
- Taking the time to work through any lesson material prior to class.

- Taking advantage of the Sunday morning studies at 9:45 a.m. and the Wednesday evening studies at 7:00 p.m.

* enthusiastically and faithfully assembling with the saints as we study God's Book together. *(Hebrews 10:24-25)*

* "living in" the Psalms. Use "God's songbook" as a source of daily inspiration. It is a priceless resource to help us shape our thinking and feelings into harmony with God's will. Everyone has time to read one of the Psalms each day.





Grasp of the Gospel

Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

(1 Peter 3:18)

Throughout 2009, we want to grow in our appreciation of and devotion to the “good news” of Jesus Christ. We never become so mature that we outgrow the precious message of the gospel.

- ⇒ There is a living God.
- ⇒ He reigns as King of the universe.
- ⇒ Jesus came as Immanuel, God with us.
- ⇒ He died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.
- ⇒ He was raised from the dead.
- ⇒ The Spirit came, as Jesus promised, to reveal the full story of God’s great plan to redeem sinful human beings.
- ⇒ The gospel is God’s power for salvation to everyone who believes. It tells us of...
 - * ...what was accomplished on the cross.
 - * ...the means of peace with God and men.
 - * ...the opportunity for eternal life.
 - * ...the unveiling of the Old Testament mystery that finds its ultimate fulfillment in Christ.
 - * ...the final supreme good: **God**.
- ⇒ Disciples of Christ are now commissioned to tell this news to all who will listen.

Under Construction Passion for God’s Book

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

(1 Peter 2:2-3)

One indispensable step toward spiritual maturity is consistently feeding ourselves with God’s word. To help us become better Bible readers and students, throughout 2009 we will use a “Book of the Month” approach. Each month, a new reading schedule will be handed out focused on a specific section of God’s revelation to us.

January: *Luke* — The Gospel of the Son of Man

February: *Psalms* — 28 Psalms in 28 Days

March: *Job* — God’s Sovereignty in Our Sorrow

April: *1 & 2 Corinthians* — From Problems to Praise

May: *Joshua* — Victory Through Faith and Obedience

June: *Psalms* — 34 Psalms in 34 Days

July: *Galatians-2 Thessalonians* — Letters from Paul

August: *Esther, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon*

September: *Psalms* — 34 Psalms in 34 Days

October: *Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter*

November: *Hosea-Micah* — Minor Prophets, Major Messages

December: *Micah-Malachi* — Minor Prophets (2)

Under Construction Loving Relationships

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

(1 Peter 4:8-9)

In an effort to grow closer to my brothers and sisters in Christ, I will show hospitality at least once per month. Throughout 2009, I plan to host the following person or family:

- January: _____
- February: _____
- March: _____
- April: _____
- May: _____
- June: _____
- July: _____
- August: _____
- September: _____
- October: _____
- November: _____
- December: _____

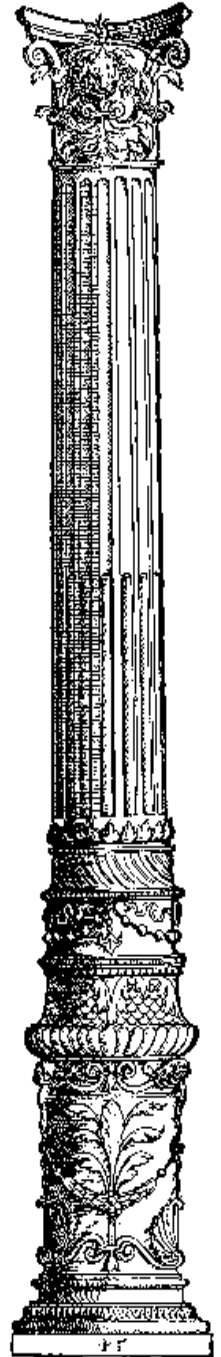
Wholehearted Conversion

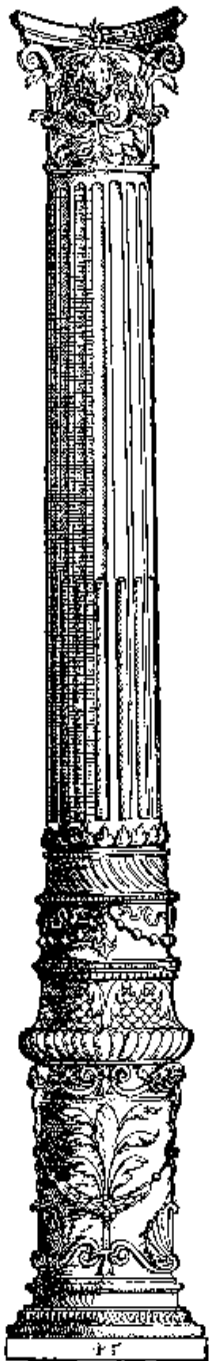
As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

(1 Peter 1:14-16)

Our Father's intention is that we would "put off the old self with its practices, and put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator" (Colossians 3:9-10). Meeting that ideal, however, is a daily, sometimes difficult journey. Like the apostle Paul, we sometimes do what we know to be wrong, and leave undone things we know are right (*Romans 7:15-25*). In the interest of becoming more closely conformed to the image of God's Son in 2009, what **old-self-practices** are you still grappling with? Where is the battle front in your own life? What weaknesses need specific attention in 2009?

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Energetic Discipleship

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
(1 Peter 1:13)

As a follower and learner of Jesus, I can mature in my discipleship by...

- * working to refine my perspective on the things of this world (1 John 2:15-17).
- * honestly evaluating my priorities (Luke 8:14).
- * assessing the use of my material blessings.
(Luke 12:13-21)
- * purging the clutter of life that is keeping me from fully-devoted discipleship.
(1 Timothy 6:6-10)
- * beginning and ending each day with fervent prayer and humble self-examination.
(James 1:22-25)
- * feeding myself daily with God's Word.
(Matthew 4:4)
- * setting my mind to be a "son" or "daughter of encouragement" by serving the weak and ailing members of Laurel Canyon.
(Acts 4:36)
- * working to refine my courage, ability and willingness to share the good news of Jesus with others.
(Acts 20:24)

Unceasing Prayer

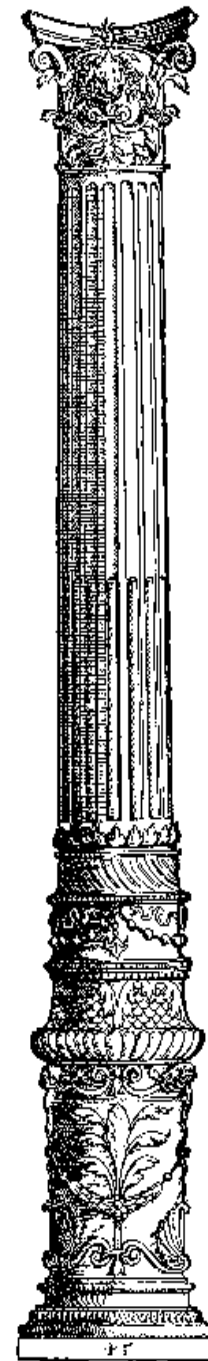
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

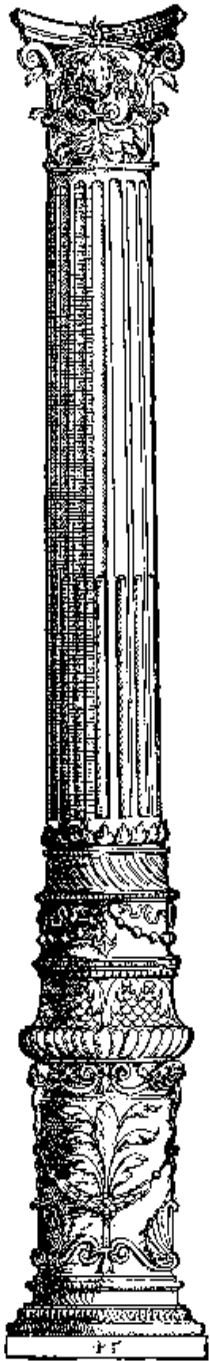
I can discover a deeper level of communication with God by...

- * devoting at least 15 minutes of each day to prayer (Romans 12:12).
- * using the bulletin as a weekly prayer list.
(James 5:16)
- * spending time in fervent prayer with my brethren (Acts 2:42).

As a Christian, seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, I can dedicate 2009 to unceasing, faith-filled prayer for...

- * my daily necessities (Matthew 6:11)
- * greater faith (Mark 9:24)
- * courage (Rom. 1:16; Eph. 6:18-20; Acts 4:29-31)
- * wisdom (Prov. 11:30; James 1:5; Col. 4:5-6)
- * opportunities (John 4:35; Prov. 16:3; Col. 4:2-4)
- * evangelists (Luke 10:2; 2 Thess. 3:1-2)
- * political conditions (1 Tim. 2:1-4)
- * unity (John 17:20-21)
- * lost souls (Rom. 10:1)
- * the growth and health of the church
(1 Thess. 1:1-2)





Humble Sacrifice

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Galatians 5:13-14)

As a redeemed part of God's workmanship, recreated in Christ Jesus for good works, I can...

- * perform random acts of kindness for:
 - college students away from home
(1 Thessalonians 5:11)
 - new converts just beginning their journey
(Romans 15:1)
 - elderly Christians who could use my help
(1 Thessalonians 5:14)
 - those shut-in, unable to assemble with us
(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
- * warmly greet visitors to our assemblies before talking to people I know (Romans 15:7).
- * make sure to leave the back two rows of our auditorium open to make our visitors most comfortable in our assemblies (James 2:1-13).
- * joyfully contribute as I prosper to the work of the church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
- * periodically ask our overseers if there is anything I could do to help (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Loving Relationships

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart. (1 Peter 1:22)

As a member of the Laurel Canyon church, I can construct stronger relationships by...

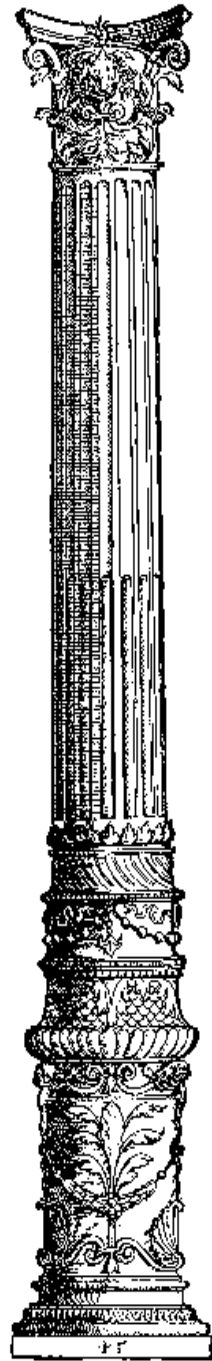
- * making an effort to learn everyone's name.
(3 John 13-15)
- * acting in love toward my fellow members.
(Romans 14:19)
- * refusing to gossip (Ephesians 4:29).
- * using my home as a center of hospitality.
(1 Peter 4:8-9)

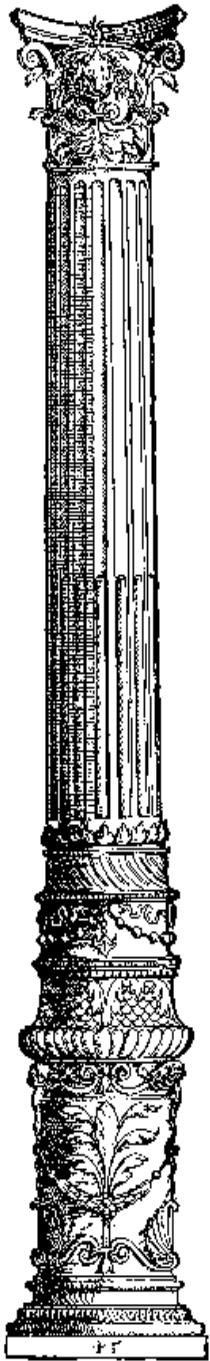
When it comes to my family, I can construct stronger relationships by...

- * spending at least 30 minutes of uninterrupted, untelevised, unplugged, quality time with my spouse, children, etc. each day.
(Ephesians 5:22-6:4)
- * using the **Ten Questions** exercise on pg. 23-25

As a Christian who wants to have the maximum impact for good, I can construct stronger relationships by...

- * working to be more aware of the needs of others (Philippians 2:3-4).
- * refining my listening skills (James 1:19-20).
- * making sure that when I commit, I keep my word (James 5:12).





Active & Caring Leadership

Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety (Prov. 11:14)

I can do my part in the construction of God's spiritual house by...

- * following the lead of and regularly building up our overseers (*Heb. 13:17; 1 Thess. 5:12-13*).
- * thanking the deacons for their hard work.
(*1 Corinthians 16:17-18*)
- * praying for those who preach the gospel.
(*1 Thessalonians 5:25*)
- * complimenting those who lead us in our assemblies. (*1 Thessalonians 5:11*)
- * recognizing the dedication of our Bible class teachers (*Ephesians 4:11-12*).
- * aiming to become a Bible class teacher myself. (*Hebrews 5:12-14*)
- * working now (in my respective, God-ordained calling) to one day serve as an elder or deacon, elder's wife or deacon's wife.
(*1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9*)

I can do my part in the construction of a God-glorifying home by...

- * recognizing and fulfilling my duties in the areas in which I am called to lead as a spouse (*Ephesians 5:22-33; Titus 2:1-8*).
- * recognizing and fulfilling my duties as the parent of a God-given child (*Ephesians 6:1-4*).

Sincere Worship

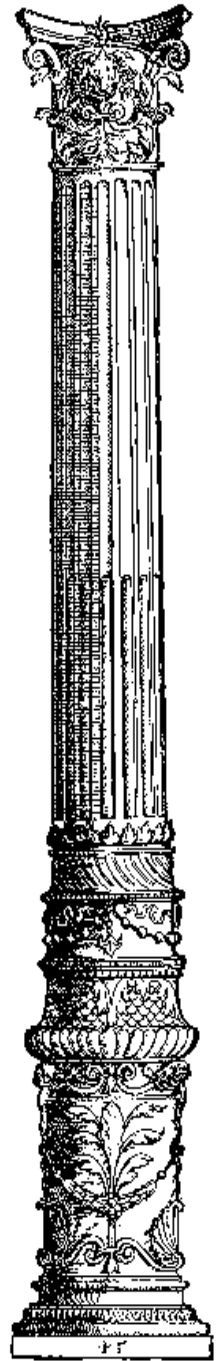
But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

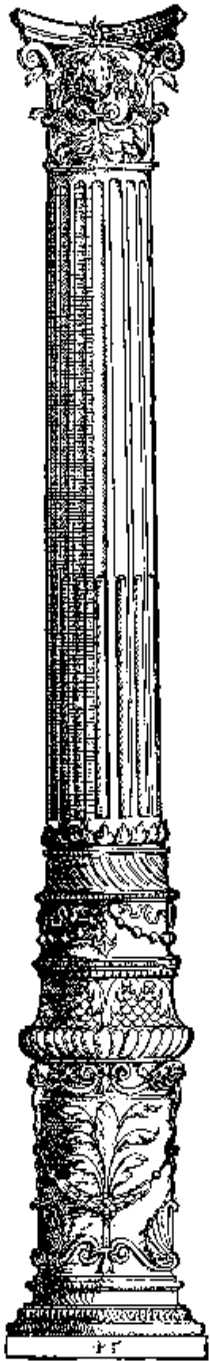
It is an immeasurable privilege, as children of God, to enjoy His spiritual blessings. Some of those blessings revolve around our new identity in Christ. In 2009, we want to grow in our understanding of what it means to be:

- ⇒ a chosen race
- ⇒ a royal priesthood
- ⇒ a holy nation
- ⇒ a people for God's own possession

In gathering with my brethren each first day of the week, I can dedicate myself to honoring God with all of my being by...

- * getting plenty of rest, if at all possible, on Saturday nights (*Matthew 26:41*).
- * offering the best of my attention during our assemblies (*Matthew 15:8*).
- * enthusiastically addressing my brethren in song and joyfully making melody in my heart to God (*Ephesians 5:19*)
- * reverently observing the Lord's Supper with thanksgiving and reflection (*1 Cor. 11:17-34*).
- * lifting up my heart in prayer (*Psalms 5:1-3*).
- * engaging my mind and will through study in view of the week to come (*James 1:22-25*).





Instructive & Corrective Discipline

My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. (Hebrews 12:5-6)

As a member of the Laurel Canyon church, I can contribute to the health of the body by...

- * humbling myself, preparing my heart, and welcoming the power of God's word to reprove, rebuke, exhort and correct me, as necessary, for my own good (2 Timothy 4:1-5).
- * taking personally the responsibility to express concern for and reach out to those members of the body who are weak, hurting, and falling away (1 Corinthians 12:12-26).
- * taking seriously, when directed by our overseers, the call to discipline a wayward member of the body, not counting them as an enemy, but admonishing them as a brother or sister, with the goal of saving their souls. (1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:15)

As a parent, I can contribute to the health of my family by...

- * instructing my children, as a way of life, with the truths of God (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).
- * correcting my children, with the ultimate goal of saving their souls (Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13; 29:15; Ephesians 6:4)

Compassion for the Weak & the Lost

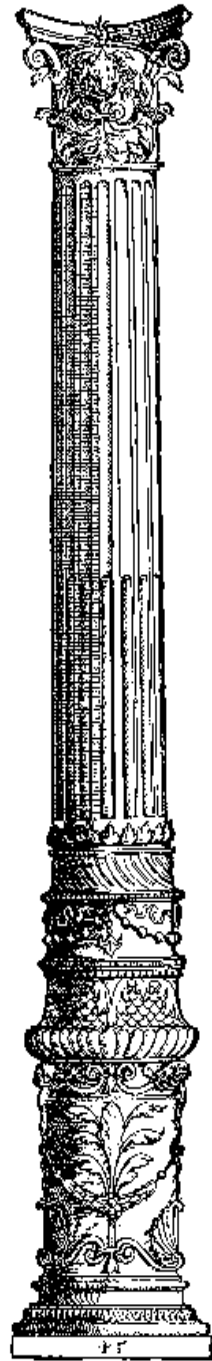
When Jesus went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. (Mark 6:34)

As a commissioned citizen of the kingdom of God, I can improve my perspective on the people around me by...

- * reminding myself that each person has a soul. (Ecclesiastes 12:7)
- * remembering that God shows no partiality. (Acts 10:34-35)
- * appreciating that all will stand in judgment. (Romans 14:12)

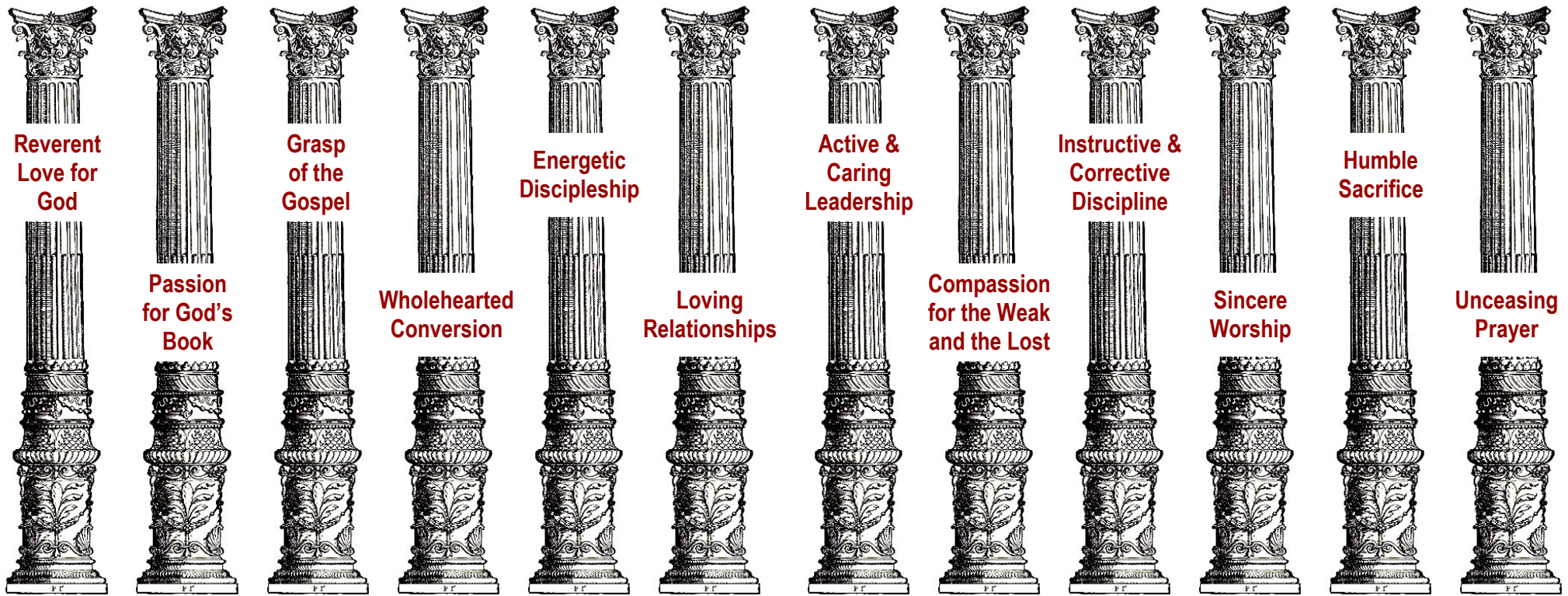
In light of my calling and God's grace, I can make an effort to expand the borders of His kingdom and comfort His weak people by...

- * encouraging others to "Come and see." (John 1:46)
- * recommending specific reasons to visit. (John 4:28-30)
- * studying to grow in my ability to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:15)
- * visiting and encouraging those who are weak. (Hebrews 12:12-13)
- * reaching out to those brethren who have wandered away from the faith (James 5:19-20).



**CHURCH
PERSONAL LIFE
MARRIAGE
FAMILY
INFLUENCE FOR**

All rest on the balanced pillars of a God-centered, Christ-exalting, Spirit-guided existence.
All are weakened when a pillar is absent or leans out of balance.



CHRIST JESUS

**THE
APOSTLES**

**THE
PROPHETS**

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)