



**EASTSIDE  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

# The Link

JANUARY, 2012

OFFICE: (208) 734-7041  
204 EASTLAND DRIVE N.  
TWIN FALLS, ID 83301

**OFFICE HOURS**

**MONDAY—WEDNESDAY**

**8:30 A.M.— 1:30 P.M.**

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

**WEBSITE:**

[WWW.ESBCTWINFALLS.COM](http://WWW.ESBCTWINFALLS.COM)

**OFFICE EMAIL:**

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**JOHN MARTINEZ**

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

**HOME: (208) 410-1357**

**E-MAIL:**

[John@esbctwinfalls.com](mailto:John@esbctwinfalls.com)

**CHURCH SERVICES**

**SUNDAY'S**

**9:15 A.M.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**10:30 A.M.**

**WORSHIP**

**6:30 P.M.**

**EVENING SERVICE**

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**

**1:30 P.M. - PRAYER IN  
REQUA HOME**

**WEDNESDAYS**

**6:30 P.M.  
PRAYER / BIBLE STUDY**

**1ST SATURDAY**

**9:00 A.M.  
SONNY BUNCH  
PERKINS RESTAURANT**

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

On December 7, 2011, LifeWay Research released results of a recent survey on the Perceptions of Faith Groups. I would like to express concerns about some of the underlying assumptions behind the survey.

I realize any fool can throw a rock. It was Charles Spurgeon who said, "asking questions are as easy as kissing the back of your hand; to answer them is as hard as fattening a greyhound." It is my attempt here, to fatten the greyhound.

It does not surprise me that the findings of Ed Stetzer are statistically accurate. Yet as a pastor in a Southern Baptist Church, I would be disappointed if Southern Baptists were considered more favorable by Americans than Methodist. The survey needs to better define some terms for me. I want to know what LifeWay Research means when they use the word 'American.' Is this secular America? Is this pagan America? Is this conservative America? Is this a Spirit-led, Bible-believing, God-fearing America? You see, if it is secular, godless, institutionalized America, then I fear that the intention behind the survey and the results themselves will deceive many. Pastors who are slaves to popularity trends and in bondage to cultural acceptance will read the findings of this survey and willingly enslave their passions to a master who demands his servant's obedience. In a day where much of the Church in America are mesmerized by emotionalism or in some sort of zombie (unliving) hypnotic trance of the corporate model for church structure, this survey will only ensure that tragic condition remains the norm. Then another survey will need to be done in about eight years to show how Mormons and Muslims are considered more favorable than Southern Baptist. We may be closer to that reality than not, even today.

When David sinned against the Lord by numbering his military strength (1 Chronicles 21), he was given the opportunity to choose one of three consequences. He told Gad to tell God he was "in great distress." David understood the character of God enough that he would rather "fall into the hand of the LORD" and pleaded that God not let him "fall into the hand of man" because "His mercies are very great." The intent behind this survey reminded me of David's census.

Further, there is no badge of honor if we as Christians – much less Southern Baptists - rate lower than others if we own that place among the godly. If we own that place because we are stiff-necked and out of sorts with biblical rightness, we must not blindly take pride in our "unpopular" position among those who chase hard after God.

Baptists - and Methodists, Presbyterians, Non-denominationalists – Carry the Gospel banner! It will be viewed as either foolishness or salvation depending on the ear. It may not be popular, but it is as needed, just as it always has been and always will be. To establish a rescue mission within the yard of Hell, you will need a Gospel banner – Not a popular slogan that feeds the idolatrous bent of man to worship himself.

I have two pleas for LifeWay Research:

Give us resources that un-apologetically equip saints for the duty of carrying the Gospel banner to all nations. Make it all about the Gospel, yes, the offensive Gospel. The one where the gates of Hell cannot stand against, and the one that inflames the Enemy's passions . A popular gospel tickles the ears and damns the soul for eternity.

Employ great discernment when publishing survey results. I am thankful to God for the heritage I have in the decades of Spirit-led, Bible-believing, God-fearing churchmen, known to the world as Southern Baptists. Not because they were Southern Baptists, but because they loved obeying God rather than pursuing friendship and popularity with the world.

Oh Southern Baptists, let us repent and choose the same as David. For God's mercies are very great! Fear not the polls of man. It was C.S. Lewis who said, "If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive." The road paved with surveys will crumble when the Maker of Heaven and Earth shakes your opinion. Read surveys like this with extreme caution. Get to the right road soonest. Don't let your heart be troubled when man thinks less of you than you wish. Rather, lift up your heads for there your "redeemer liveth, and on the earth again shall stand." (Posted at SBCVoices.com on December 8, 2011)

**Paul Thompson <><**

<http://bridgebloggin.blogspot.com/>

<http://esbctwinfalls.com>

## Getting to know.... Your Church Family



**Luke Hahn**

### **Tell us about your being born again?**

In tears in my room after listening to Ray Comfort

### **Do you plan to marry someday?**

If God wills it, but for now God has put on my heart that all the men He used greatly to spread His word were not married. Mans ideas are not the same as His, so why should we look to man and not the Living Word of God. (1 Corinthians 7:8,9,32-35)

### **What advice do you have for Eastside Baptist?**

Maybe I should give advice to the singles out there... My advice for them would be to keep their eyes to the Lord and not let the temptations and the lusts of this day and age to lure them in for they are plenty. Doing what God knows best for you is never the easiest and will

always have roadblocks (most of the roadblocks come from Christians or those who claim to be) but endurance will always be rewarded from the Lord. Keep faithful in His word, this is one of many things that I know singles struggle with, I have learned to sacrifice my free time or television to take captive Gods word rather than the worlds self indulgence.

### **Where is your favorite place to visit?**

The South, not Texas south but the confederate south would be the best way to get the grasp of area I am talking about. If you have been there you know the beauty of the area, rolling hills of vast forest and the mountains that stay green all summer. Fresh air that makes you want to chase the fireflies at night and enjoy the lush green grass (that you don't have to water, God does this for you) during the day. The peaceful sound of the light rain at night playing a natural song to the Lord on every leaf of the surrounding trees and distant thundering showing His might. Oh I so miss it.

### **What scripture has been important to you recently?**

Matthew 28:16-20 but this will always be important to me. For if we do not go and preach we are not obeying and so many of us say we obey but do not.

### **What book would you recommend others to read? (besides the bible)**

The Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan, Rut, Rot or Revival by A.W. Tozer, and anything done by Ray Comfort

### **What is your favorite type of food?**

Since I have been to London I have really liked Lebanese

### **Tell us about a time when you tasted the goodness of God?**

Earlier this year when I started to look into the book of Acts as to why the modern church can not do the great things mentioned in Acts. We do not seek the Lord for everything we do, instead we try to do it our way. We lack prayer and fasting for we are to indulged in the present world to pull our focus directly to Him. The western culture has locked everyone into a lie that pleases our thought to live our lives even though our lives should be His life. If we change this Christianity will be radically different instead of another religion for people to pick from the pot of their self focused life. (Matthew 4:17)



## Happy Birthday

**3 Keith Bloyd**

**4 David Thompson**

**5 Andrew Brown**

**8 Casey Brown**

**11 Wendell Kinch**

**15 Jessica Martinez**

**28 Daryl Jemison**

## Overcoming Self-Condensation – Part 2

The first part of this topic ended, last month, with Romans 8:1 which includes a last phrase not found in all translations. That phrase, "...who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit", is clearly identified in the next few verses. It is a truth that is foundational to the principle of living by faith.

One of the great promises of the security of the believer is John 5:24, "Most assuredly, say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." No condemnation from God, ever again, He tells us. So, how is it that condemnation occurs?

One who lives by faith and not by the law must hold fast to the promises of God in Christ and not trust in his own works of righteousness of trying to keep the law. Faith and works do not mix at the same level—faith must come before works in every instance. Paul writes in Galatians 2:21, "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

John also brings clarity to the issue this way: "For if our heart condemns us [because of failures], God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God" (1 John 3:20-21). What does He know? That we are redeemed by the blood of Christ and "there is, therefore, no condemnation" for the redeemed! (Exactly what we are supposed to believe in, not our works!)

In a concluding Part III the pragmatic results of this position of the redeemed will be considered for its benefits and blessings.

*Gene Lawley – Bible Class Leader*

### Project Proverbs

I invite you to join me, starting on *January 1, 2012* on an aggressive, one year examination of the book of Proverbs. I have frequently read the book of Proverbs for years. However it is a book that I may have become so familiar with that I have begun to miss it's daily value as I press on toward the prize. It holds treasured text that helps me keep my eyes fixed on the prize and instructions on how to get my eyes back on that prize when I realize they are not fixed there.

It is a commonly practiced discipline by many believers to read a chapter in Proverbs every day of the month. I have done this many times and know the value it is when I do. I want to attempt something with this discipline for the year, 2012. I will attempt to write, in my own handwriting, a chapter of Proverbs every day of the month, for twelve months. Where I have begun the practice of writing out, in my own handwriting, the books that I'm preaching through. I have never practiced this discipline in my own private examination of Scripture. I am excited to begin.

Along side of this discipline in my own private worship of God, I will also be preaching through the book of Proverbs on Sunday nights for the entire year of 2012. (the audio teaching through the book of Proverbs can be found at the [www.esbctwinfalls.com](http://www.esbctwinfalls.com).)

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***



## **Mind's Attention ~ Heart's Affection**

**John 15's Vine-Dresser Insights Secret 3: Fruitfulness requires ABIDING.** John 15:4, 5 says, “No branch can bear fruit by itself...If a man abides in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.” The word ‘ABIDE’ really means staying connected much like an electrical lamp would stay plugged in to an outlet in order to produce light. Other words we might use here are: *endure, remain, steadfast, or continue*. I think you get the point.

When is the last time you saw a branch broken from a tree, begin to grow fruit? In the same way, a stem torn from a plant just will not grow a vegetable? These things never happen in the natural world – and it won't happen in the supernatural world.

There must be an ongoing-source of life-giving sustenance. The fact remains that a branch from a tree cannot root out on its own looking for water; in the natural course of time it will dry up, shrivel and die.

I recall one year I was convinced I could defy the odds. I was sure that with enough care and attention I could replant our cut Christmas tree in the yard of our home in New Mexico. After Christmas, I carefully dug a proper hole and dropped the stump in the ground and over the next few weeks I feverishly watered the tree. I even added supplements and did my best to help that tree reestablish roots. In essence, I took over and became its source of life until it could restore its own root system and resume growing on its own.

At first it seemed to be working. It stayed green and looked as though it would survive. The only problem was that once I started to decrease the amount of watering it finally crossed a point of no return and died. The tree was not able to launch new roots. The fact is that by the time we bought the tree from the lot, the roots were severed and it had already lost what it once had abided in.

Jesus is our life giving source for a fruitful existence. But once we separate ourselves from the source, we fall to the wayside and our Spiritual life begins to shrivel up. We have got to stay connected. This is the reason why it is so vital to stay disciplined in areas as simple as reading and studying our Bible, and living a life of worship, and maintaining a link to God through prayer. When we abide in Him through these practices of reading His Word, worshipping Him as we go, and spending time on our knees, we are abiding in the life giving Vine.

I suppose God could intervene and zap us over night with supernatural growth and make us into a “Super-Christian”, but not likely. It is these types of disciplines that bring us closer to Him and maintain our connectivity to Him and to the rest of the body, ultimately making us fruitful.

Ask yourself: “*Can I see God in my life?*” “*Do I see His power and strength and encouragement and courage and wisdom guiding me?*” If you don't have anything you can really point to, you might want to check the plug.

**Pastor John Martinez †**

We are on the web  
[www.esbctwinfalls.com](http://www.esbctwinfalls.com)

**EASTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
204 EASTLAND DRIVE NORTH  
TWIN FALLS, ID 83301

#### Contact People

##### Deacons

Bill Dobson 280-0600  
Roger Maxwell 735-1449

##### Nursery

Blake & Christie Burton 734-2700

##### Secretary

Dawn Edgar 734-7041

##### Sonny Bunch

John Requa 736-2964

##### Sunday School Teachers

- Shari Helman
- Gene Lawley
- Richard Martin
- Dan Stieneke
- Paul Thompson

##### Treasurer

Gen Ennis 733-4028

##### Worship Ministry

John Martinez 733-5763

### Nursery schedule

#### January 1st

- 10:30 am Blake Burton

#### January 8th

- 9:15 am Luke Hahn
- 10:30 am Christy Burton

#### January 15th

- 9:15 am Christy Burton
- 10:30 am Betsy Kinch

#### January 22nd

- 9:15 am Christie Burton
- 10:30 am Blake Burton

#### January 29th

- 9:15 am Christie Burton
- 10:30 am Blake Burton

### BLOG

Our pastors blog sites are at.

[www.esbctwinfalls.com](http://www.esbctwinfalls.com)

Then click on their name and you will be directed to their

#### “Blogger” Site

This is a great way to get to know your Pastors on a more intimate level. Read their thoughts, see their stories, post your own responses, and ask them questions.

### **BENEVOLENCE PANTRY**

#### January

*Our Pantry is almost empty  
We need to restock the  
benevolence pantry  
Please bring*

**Canned Meats, Soups**

**Vegetables, Fruit, Cereal**

**Please remember to check the  
expiration date**

*Thank you for helping  
Dawn*

# Eastside Baptist Church

seeking to glorify God



| SUN   | MON | TUE | WED                              | THUR | FRI | SAT                                       |
|---|-----|-----|----------------------------------|------|-----|---|
| 1*<br>10:30 am<br>Worship<br>6:30 pm<br>Evening Service                           | 2   | 3   | 4 6:30 PM<br>Prayer/Bible Study  | 5    | 6   | 7 * 9am<br>Sonny Bunch Perkins Restaurant |
| 8* 9:15 am<br>Sunday School<br>10:30 am<br>Worship<br>6:30pm<br>Evening Service   | 9   | 10  | 11 6:30 PM<br>Prayer/Bible Study | 12   | 13  | 14  |
| 15* 9:15 am<br>Sunday School<br>10:30 am<br>Worship<br>6:30 pm<br>Evening Service | 16  | 17  | 18 6:30 PM<br>Prayer/Bible Study | 19   | 20  | 21  |
| 22 9:15 am<br>Sunday School<br>10:30 am<br>Worship<br>6:30 pm<br>Evening Service  | 23  | 24  | 25 6:30 PM<br>Prayer/Bible Study | 26   | 27  | 28  |
| 29 9:15 am<br>Sunday School<br>10:30 am<br>Worship<br>6:30 pm<br>Evening Service  | 30  | 31  |                                  |      |     |   |

### Scripture Verse

let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.  
Hebrews 10:22 (NASB)



\* January 7th  
9:00 A.M.  
Sonny Bunch Perkins Restaurant

\*\* January 8th  
5:30 P.M.  
Deacons Mtg.

\* January 15th  
5:00 P.M.  
Church Council Mtg.  
5:30 P.M.  
Ministry/Business Mtg.

**“The Link  
Calendar  
of  
Events”**