

Joy, the Currency of Heaven

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'" Matthew 25:20

Currency exchanges always provide extra adventures for me every time I travel outside the US. Last year was no exception. On my journey to Asia, at my first stop in Myanmar, the ATM machine in the airport terminal kept my ATM card. Not only did I lose my card, but the machine didn't even give me any money from my account. My plan, as has been my practice on all previous trips, was to use that card as the source of local currency throughout my trip. For 30 minutes, I tried in vain to get my card back from that machine. Now, without access to an ATM card, three weeks of remaining travel, and no usable currency, the real struggle began. I was reduced to exchanging the few hundred dollars of US currency that I happened to have in my wallet, for the currency in the various countries I was visiting. That worked for the first week, until I ran out of money. Fortunately, my friend and traveling companion, had a functioning ATM card. He left me with some extra funds to get me through the remainder of the trip.

Travelling to heaven presents us with a similar problem. Failure to understand the currency of heaven can lead to long-term disappointment. In heaven, there will also be an exchange much like the currency exchange that takes place when travelling to another country. We will all have to exchange the currency of this life with the currency of heaven. Clearly, US \$20s will not work in heaven. The value of items in heaven is quite different than what we currently hold as valuable. Understanding this currency difference begins with an understanding of the temporary and corrupt nature of our current possessions. For instance, the US financial markets view gold as a valuable commodity. However, in heaven, gold is used as paving materials for the roads. Jesus illustrated the folly of trusting in our current, temporary resources when He told the parable of the Rich Fool. The parable of the Rich Fool can be found in Luke 12. This story recounts the foolish decision on the part of a wealthy farmer. The farmer had a bumper crop. With the excess of resources from his crop, he decided to build even bigger barns to contain all of his resources. Thinking now that his life was set for many years into the future, he discovered the folly of his dependency on the temporary resources of this life when that very night he died. God responded to the rich farmer in Luke 12:20-21 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." The currency of the wealthy farmer in this life, the substantial grain in enlarged barns, was not spendable or exchangeable in heaven. He had nothing to exchange for the currency of heaven. His spiritual ATM card was lost in his ignorance of the divine currency.

(Con't on pg 2)

In the process, he lost everything. Jesus illustrated this truth in another parable, the parable of Lazarus and the rich man. Lazarus had heavenly currency and the rich man had none. These parables illustrate the divine truth that the currency we highly value in this life does not translate to heavenly currency.

What then, in this life, can be exchanged for the currency of heaven? Good works done in the name of Christ will be exchanged for heavenly currency. Consider the words of Christ, "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great... You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:11-16. Giving, Prayer and fasting, with a dependence upon God and a humility before others, produce resources that can be exchanged for heavenly currency. Consider the words of Christ in Matthew 6: So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." Faith in God and a holy life produce resources that can be exchanged for heavenly currency. Consider the words of Paul in II Timothy 4:6-8. "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."

What then, is the currency of heaven? The currency of heaven is greater and greater levels of joy in the heart of the believer. We find this currency identified in the parable of the three investors. When the first person, the one given five talents, was evaluated by the master, he produced five more talents. He showed the Master the talents he had produced for the sake of his Master. The master responded to this servant by exchanging the ten talents, the good works and faithful life of the servant, with a good standing in the heavenly kingdom and with joy. "Enter into the joy of your Master." Joy is the currency of heaven. A life lived for the sake of Christ, the good works done in His name, provides for the believer a commodity that God will exchange. The exchange table resides at the throne of God and Christ is our exchange agent. One day every believer in Christ will stand before Him. What we bring with us to exchange in heaven will last us forever.

Children's Ministry



AWANA Club

**Wednesday Nights, for kids ages 3* - 6th grade
6:30pm - 8:00pm**

*3 year olds in Cubbies must be potty trained, and have turned 3 by Sept. 1st. A parent must stay on campus through the duration of the program. See our website to see what Adult Bible Study classes we have for you.

Would you pray about joining the Awana team?
Or do you know anyone who might be a good fit
for this ministry opportunity?

Contact Brittany at brittanymrbc@gmail.com
if you would like to participate in the amazing ministry!



Sunday School

Join us every Sunday morning from
9:45am-10:45am as we journey through the Gospel Project.

***Sunday Nights 5:30pm
Education Building
2nd floor***



For kids in kindergarten through 6th grade - Join us for games on the front lawn (weather permitting) followed by girls and boys Bible studies focused on becoming disciples who go into the world to make disciples. This spring we will finish our study on the book of Matthew.

Want to stay up to date with us on facebook?
Like our page at facebook.com/mrbccchildrens

Questions regarding the children's ministry
or how you can join the leadership team?
Email brittanymrbc@gmail.com.

Women's Ministry

Weekly Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings

Rachel Sullenger & Tiffany Marich - Book of Acts
Joy Richards & Chris Anderson - Book of Acts

Sunday nights

Meg Trihus - the Epistles

Wednesday Nights

Cyndi King - Book of Acts

Friday Mornings, Chick Fil A (Camp Wisdom Location)

Cyndi King - 9:00 am - Book of Acts

<p>OVER 100,000 COPIES SOLD</p> <p>Have a New Husband by Friday</p> <p>How to Change His Attitude Behavior & Communication in 5 Days</p> <p>Dr. Kevin Leman</p> <p>NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR</p>	<p>COMING SOON!</p> <p>HAVE A NEW HUSBAND BY FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE STUDY CLASS</p> <p>MORE INFO TO COME!</p>
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Join us for a time of refreshment, restoration and revival as we study Psalm 23. We will move through the encouragement this text offers for our daily lives and dig into the truth within. We will have Bible Study, a take home craft and delight in sweet fellowship.

Who: Ladies 18+ (if your teen daughter wants to join you, we'd love to have you both)
When: February 2 - 3, 2018 (return home 3p.m. to 4p.m.)
Where: Riverbend Retreat Center, 1232-C County Road 411B
Glen Rose, TX 76043
Cost: \$60.00 Rooms reserved with \$40.00 deposit due January 20th

Please note: Sleeping arrangements vary from hotel style, to top bunks; they are on a first come first served basis - You can register today at christy@matthewroad.org. Questions? Please contact rachel@matthewroad.org

...and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever

Youth Ministry

In the month of February, we have DNOW which is one of our greatest events of the whole year! It is February 16 - 18 and our speaker will be Irvin Wasswa who is currently the Missions and Mobilization Minister at Living Hope Baptist Church in Clarksville, TN. We will be lead in worship by Ryan Proudfoot who is currently the Worship pastor, as well as the pastor to College and singles, at Alamo Community Church in San Antonio, TX. We are very excited about this year's DNOW and we look forward to seeing your student at this awesome event. DNOW costs \$50 and that must be turned in by February 7th. After February 7th the price for DNOW will go up to \$70. We also have a signup form that must be filled out for each student. Those signup forms can be found right outside the student ministers office.

We will also be having our monthly C2 at Jonathan and Tiffany Phipps' house the first Friday of February which will be February 2nd from 6:30 - 9:00pm! This is a great time for our students to hang out, play games and build relationships with each other outside of the church. We really look forward to this once a month gathering as it helps to strengthen the community relationships of our students. For this event we ask that guys bring drinks and girls bring sweets!

At AveNew, on Wednesday nights, we will continue our study over the book of Acts. This is a great time for your student to bring their friends for fellowship with students their own age, a great time of worship, and to hear the Word of God spoken. This is a great opportunity for your student to reach out to their lost friends. Every Wednesday night, we share the Gospel without fail. We never pressure anyone but we unashamedly tell the Truth of who Jesus Christ is. We look forward to seeing your student and their friends this month as we worship God together in song and in His Word.



In Christ, Matt Brown
email: matt@matthewroad.org

20Somethings



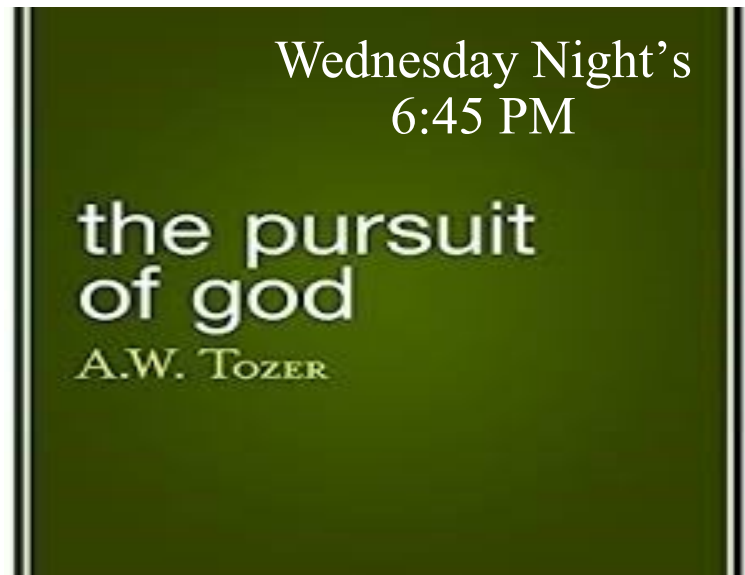
Contact Rachel at rachel@matthewroad.org
to find out the latest events & activities!

A collage of smiling young people's faces, mostly of African descent, looking upwards and to the right.

A NEW
GENERATION
WITH
THE TRUTH
TO SUPPORT
BELIEVERS
THROUGHOUT LIFE

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of
many witnesses to reliable people who will also be qualified to
teach others." ~ 2 Timothy 2:2

Class Sunday Mornings 9:45am upstairs in ED Bldg.



20Somethings Retreat



Text Rachel @ 972-965-9970
for info!

Men's Ministry

Join us Sunday, February 25th at 4:30pm,
in the Library, as we plan for the future of the
MRBC Men's Ministry.

We'll discuss Bible Study opportunities, events
and Mentoring opportunities.

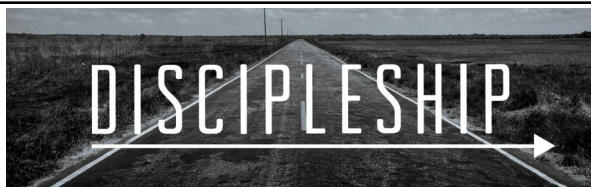
Questions or want more info? Please contact Phil at
phil@matthewroad.org or call 972-641-2717.



February 2018 Events & Activities

For more information, please see our website, www.matthewroad.org, or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

February 1st:	Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
February 2nd - 3rd:	Women's Retreat, please see Rachel
February 4th:	Teller Meeting, 12:15pm, Teller Room
February 7th:	Finance Committee Meeting, 5:30pm, Teller Room
February 9th:	Titus 2, please see Cheryl Witherspoon for more info, or email her at tcspon184@att.net
February 9th - 10th:	Men's Symposium, please see Daniel for more info
February 11th:	Deacon Meeting, 4:30pm, Conference Room
February 14th:	Quarterly Business Meeting, 6pm, Fellowship Hall
February 16th:	Parent's Night Out, 6:30pm, must rsvp to cyndikking@msn.com
February 16th - 18th:	Disciple Now Weekend, please see Matt for more info
February 23rd:	3 R's Teachers Dinner & Movie, sponsored by the Women's Ministry, please see Jami Wittman for more info, or email her at jwittman@harmonytx.org
February 25th:	Men's Ministry Meeting, see ad on pg 5
February 27th:	MRA Preview Night, info at matthewroadacademy.org



Sunday Nights:

- ◇ College - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Discipleship - Choir Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Ladies Bible Study - Conference Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Young Marrieds Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Couples Class - Library, 5:30pm
- ◇ Guy Talk for youth - Common Grounds, 5:30pm, see Matt for exact location
- ◇ Girl Talk for youth - Common Grounds, 5:30pm, see Matt for exact location
- ◇ MD² for children - Education Building, 5:30pm

Wednesday Nights:

- ◇ AWANA Club for children - Ed. Building, 6:30pm
- ◇ Collide for youth - Common Grounds, 6:30pm
- ◇ Adult Bible Studies, 6:45pm

Regular Weekly Activities

Sundays

Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00am
Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:45am
Evening Bible Study (all ages)	5:30pm
7:17 Service	6:47pm

Mondays

K2 Primary Academy (during the school year)	8:45am
PAW Program	9:00am

Tuesdays

MRA (during the school year)	8:30am
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am

Wednesdays

K2 Primary Academy (during the school year)	8:45am
PAW Program	9:00am
Collide (youth)	6:30pm
Adult Choir (during the school year)	6:30pm
AWANA Club (children)	6:30pm
Adult Bible Studies	6:45pm

Thursdays

MRA (during school year)	8:30am
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Fridays

Chick time at Chick-Fil-A (Camp Wisdom)	9:00am
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Saturdays

Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, GP)	7:30am
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Average Attendance for January

Morning Service: 288 717 Service: 113

*greater Love
has no one than this, that one
lay down his life for his friends*

~ John 15:13