



Biblical Foundations of Pastoral Care
pastoral care team training
september 12, 2010, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Jesus, Lover of My Soul (Charles Wesley)

St. Paul's Chamber Choir in Houston, TX

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
Oh, receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of Thy wing.

Wilt Thou not regard my call?
Wilt Thou not accept my prayer?
Lo! I sink, I faint, I fall—
Lo! on Thee I cast my care.
Reach me out Thy gracious hand!
While I of Thy strength receive,
Hoping against hope I stand,
Dying, and behold, I live.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
More than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name,
Source of all true righteousness;
Thou art evermore the same,
Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart;
Rise to all eternity.

1. Introductions



2. The Visitation Gospel

David's cry → Psalm 106:4

*"Remember me, O Lord, in Your favor toward Your people; **visit** me with Your salvation."*

Zechariah's prophecy → Luke 1:68, 78

*"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has **visited** (episkeptomai) and redeemed his people... By the tender mercy of our God, the rising sun will **come to** (episkeptomai) us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."*

Jesus' Gospel → Mark 1:14-15

"Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God. 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the gospel!'"

Jesus could declare that the kingdom had come near because the king himself had come near. God has come near to us in Jesus, a.k.a., **visited** us in Jesus!

Our Calling → James 1:27

*"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to **care for** (episkeptomai) orphans and widows in their distress."*

Our Attitude → Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

*****Your ministry of caring visitation is of divine importance because caring visitation reflects the Gospel perhaps better than any form of ministry.*****



3. He is Going Before You

What fears do you have as you imagine walking into the hospital, or someone's home, or a café to provide pastoral care?

Mark 16:6-7

“Don't be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

Eugene Peterson, *Under the Unpredictable Plant*, 128

“In every visit, every meeting I attend, every appointment I keep, I have been anticipated. The risen Christ got there ahead of me. The risen Christ is in that room already. What is He doing? What is He saying? What is going on?”

“In order to fix the implications of that text [Mark 16:6-7] in my vocation, I have taken to quoting it before every visit or meeting: ‘He is risen, ... he is going before you to 1020 Emmorton Road; there you will see him, as he told you.’ Later in the day it will be, ‘He is risen, ... he is going before you to St. Joseph's Hospital; there you will see him, as he told you.’ When I arrive and enter the room I am not so much wondering what I am going to do or say that will be pastoral as I am alert and observant for what the risen Christ has been doing or saying that is making a gospel story out of this life.”

How does/would your perspective change if you saw things through the perspective of Mark 16:6-7, that Jesus is going before you to the hospital, to the home, to the café?

4. The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

Double love command for God & neighbour, followed by the Good Samaritan parable is the Scriptural underpinning of pastoral care.

‘[W]here one's deeds are moved and shaped by love, there is neither time nor reason to ask, “Who is my neighbor?” ... Concrete deeds of love, not casuistic definitions of love's limits, should be [our] concern’ (Howard Stone *The Caring Church*, 23).

Pastoral Care = “helping acts... directed toward the **healing, sustaining, guiding** and **reconciling** of troubled persons and the nurture of growth and wholeness of those seeking it” (Stone, *The Caring Church*, 14).



5. Introduction to the Pastoral Care Team at CPC

- a. Session's (Board of Elders) directive
- b. 3 prongs: Caring Group, Prayer Chain, Pastoral Care Team
- c. PCT brochure, prayer cards, care cards
- d. PCT training

Pastoral Care Team Training Schedule

DATE	THEME
Choice of 9/11 9:30a-12p or 9/16 7-9:30p	Leading With Care
Sunday, 9/12, 6:30-8:30pm, Garage	Biblical foundations for lay pastoral care
Sunday, 9/19, 6:30-8:30pm, Garage	Art of listening
Sunday, 9/26, 6:30-8:30pm, Garage	Understanding grief & loss
Sunday, 10/3, 6:30-8:30pm, Garage	Christian care-giving: prayer & Scripture Hospital & shut-in visitation (Margrete Wylie)