

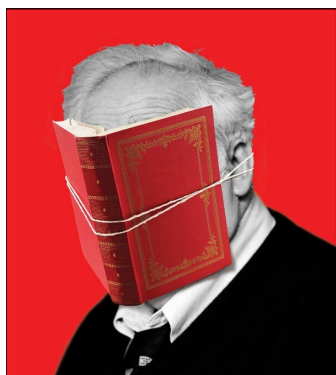


BETWEEN 6:00 AM—9:00 AM: ARE WE PALM-TO-COVER CHRISTIANS?

During the inauguration, my friend sent me a picture of President Biden with his left hand on a large weathered Bible held up by his wife Jill. It was fastened with two metal clasps. Curious about it, I learned that it's a Bible that's been in his family since 1893. He used it each time he was sworn in as a U.S. Senator. This got me wondering what this book means to him. Other than resting his palm momentarily on its cover, and pulling it out for public occasions, how do the contents influence him? In particular, do the words impact his policies relating to personhood, human sexuality and abortion? I respectfully ask the question because President Biden "opened the door," as they say in trial lingo. He didn't have to have a Bible at his inauguration. He could have sworn on a copy of the U.S. Constitution, or on no book at all. There's no requirement. But this gesture signals that this book is somehow authoritative for him.



We should ask ourselves the same question: what does this book mean to us, *really*? Do we highlight the portions we like and leave the rest out? What teachings are the equivalent of a five-inch, decorative Bible pulled out (but clasped shut) at special occasions? I need to ask myself that question.



As believers, our faces need to be pressed against an open Bible more than ever. We need to make it our joy and preoccupation (*"his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night"* — Ps. 1:2). King Solomon tells teenagers to be absorbed in it (*"My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you..."* — Prov. 2:1). Peter tells us to *"crave pure spiritual milk"* (1 Pet. 2:2). We each must make it our battery pack, *"being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts"* (James 1:25). Rather than being palm-to-cover Christians, we need to be face-to-contents followers. Please pray the following:

Heavenly Father, my face has been pressed up against many things, some important like my work and other responsibilities, and some trivial, like my phone and the television. Forgive me for hand-patting your Word even though I claim that it's important. I admit that sometimes — oftentimes,

maybe — it doesn't seem as exciting as other activities that I could be doing. Change me. Give me a hunger for it. Make me believe what it says. They say you get something out of the Bible even if you've read it a million times. Make that my experience. Amen.

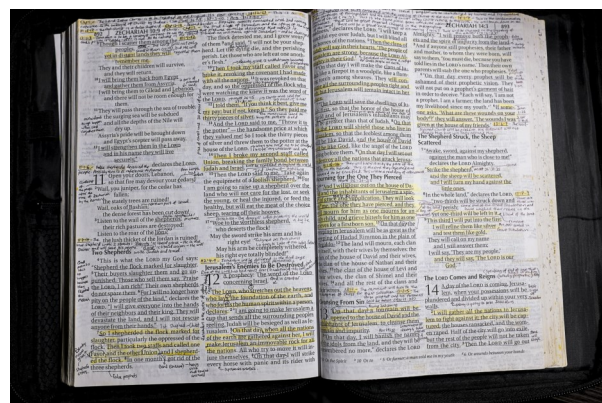
BETWEEN 9:00 AM—12:00 PM: TATTERED BIBLE, INTACT OWNER

This Bible belongs to a Valley Church member, a man with a demanding job and young children. His Bible is beaten up but he isn't. Please focus intensely on the following 46 words from Ps. 1.

Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;*

Psa. 1:2 *but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

Underline three single words or phrases that move you. Write down why they strike you. Share with a friend or at Joel Moment today.



BETWEEN 12:00 PM-3:00 PM: FULL OF FRUIT

Our sister Erika Luginbuhl has many fruit trees in her garden, including a white peach, a pear, a Blenheim Apricot, a fig, a navel-orange, grapefruit, tangerine, lemon and quince. Her son does the planting, pruning and grafting and Erika does the picking and processing. (She avoids ladders these days. We won't be too hard on her because she turns 90 this year.) Let's look at the next four verses of Psalm 1 and see what God has to show us from this inspired Scriptural poem about a fruit tree.



Psa. 1:3 *He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*

Paraphrase this vivid verse in your own words. Make it colorful. Share your version at Joel Moment. (By the way, Erika and her garden have a lot in common. They've both born a lot of fruit over the years.)

BETWEEN 3:00 PM—4:00 PM: Join the **AFTERNOON Joel Moment Prayer Gathering**. Go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) and enter Meeting ID and Password.

BETWEEN 7:00 PM—8:00 PM: Join the **EVENING Joel Moment Prayer Gathering**. Go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) and enter Meeting and Password.

BETWEEN 8:00 PM-10:00 PM: AS SOMEONE ONCE SAID, "WHEN IN DOUBT, GO TO THE LIBRARY."

The Bible tells us to diligently collect truthful information about life because deception is an ever-present danger.

2Pet. 1:5 *For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,*

The truth is, we need to learn more than ever, especially because of the dangerous trends in our culture. I've never been more thankful for our church library and our librarian **Patty Grimm**. Because of her, we have a large, well-organized collection of books that we can borrow, read and discuss. We're going to start putting new and important books in the church library on a regular basis. The first one is called *Live Not By Lies* by Rod Dreher. He's an orthodox Christian and journalist who has written about the dangerous descent toward what he calls "soft tolerationism." We put three new copies in the library and you can pick one up on Sunday after *Church on the Grass*. I'll open the library for ten or fifteen minutes and you check one out. Here's a hymn to worship with called Psalm 1.



Verse 1

How blessed is the man
How blessed is the man
Who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
How blessed is the man
How blessed is the man
Who does not stand in the path of sinners

Chorus

For I will delight in the ways of the Lord
I will set my mind on Your word
I wanna be like the tree

Planted by the living waters
Bearing fruit for all seasons
Always always prospering in all I do

Verse 2

How blessed is the man
How blessed is the man
Who does not sit in the seat of scoffers
How blessed is the man
How blessed is the man
Who sits in the seat of righteousness



3:00 PM and 7:00 PM Prayer Gathering

JAMES CARSON *[He'll help us forget about everything but our King by playing the song "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus." This picture was taken three years ago when we had lunch at the Carson house in Santa Clara. Wonderful kid!]*

Chorus
Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow
strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Verse 1
O soul are you weary and troubled
No light in the darkness you see
There's light for a look at the Savior
And life more abundant and free



JULIA KNODEL *[She'll read the theme Scripture that we've been meditating on today.]*



Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;*

Psa. 1:2 *but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

Psa. 1:3 *He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*

Psa. 1:4 *The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.*

Psa. 1:5 *Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;*

CINDY MACK *[Our rockin' Student Ministries Associate will share about how she came to trust Jesus, how God has led her to invest in youth, and what the Lord is doing in middle school ministry.]*

Phil. 1:20-21 *as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*





GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (5 min.): **Psa. 119:97** *Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.*

Praise God for his printed Word. We couldn't live without it.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (5 min.): **Psa. 119:98** *Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.*

Pray for teenagers inside and outside our church. They're up against a deluge of lies. Ask God to save the lost and strengthen the belief and obedience of those who are in the light. Pray for Jared, Cindy and our youth ministry volunteers.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #3 (5 min.): **1Tim. 4:12** *Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.*

Also, lift up our Young Adults Group. They love Jesus and are looking to serve together in creative, impactful ways.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #3 (5 min.): **Rom. 8:26** *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.*

Prayer possibilities can paralyze us. What do we pray for when the needs are so great. Just start talking to God on behalf of people, situations, leaders and problems. The Holy Spirit will make sure they get through and get results.

TOMORROW, 2/11, BETWEEN 9:00 AM-9:00 PM: MEET GAIL'S CAT, "B.B." SHE'S SAD. DO YOU KNOW WHY?



This green-eyed cat is down in the dumps because she's waiting for a phone call and yet the phone never rings. How sad. Heartbreaking even. Poor cat.

Until we're all back together on campus worshipping, doing children's ministry, meeting in classes and groups, we need to keep contacting each other. No one should a "B.B." in our church family — downcast and waiting for someone to reach out. Please pick up a phone and touch someone with a quick word of "I'm thinking about you."

1Cor. 16:18 *for they refreshed my spirit*

Who will you give a smile to tomorrow?

By the way, we've had a new guy named **Sean** who has visited Church on the Grass the last two Sundays. (Welcome, Sean, we're so happy you've come!) He sits over by the Building 3 side of the lawn. Last Sunday he was wearing a football jersey and shorts. Please be like **Alex and Kathy Auer** and **Dave and Kathy Mayfield** and introduce yourself to him you haven't met him.