



The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

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Prepare the Way



Stained glass window at The Good Shepherd Chapel

The Good Shepherd Chapel "Prepare the Way" concert series gave us an opportunity to meet up-and-coming artists in Christian music and helped us to develop our sound engineering skills. We thank **Priscilla Huh** from Concordia University for giving us the opportunity to produce Christian concerts.

New Recordings

Messenger is recording new songs that we hope to finish by Christmas. Among the passages we are putting to music is Matthew 26:16-29 (Until That Day), John 3:16 (God So Loved), Matthew 11:16-18 (This Generation), Matthew 19:13-17 (Little Children), Amos 4:6-11 (You Have Not Returned To Me), John 1:35-40 (Look, The Lamb of God!), Proverbs 9:7-12 (Wisdom), Deuteronomy 31:9-12 (This Law), Philippians 4:4-6 (Rejoice) and Nehemiah 9:30-32 (Gracious and Merciful God).

Beauty of Scripture

I enjoy the Bible on multiple levels. There is the eloquence of its verses and the moral lessons from its stories. There is history, philosophy, theology, poetry, tragedy, drama, love, betrayal and all human emotions. There is mysticism and divine mysteries, prophecy and doom. There are covenants and laws, miracles and retributions, blessings and curses, wisdom and power. There is guidance and discrimination against evil. There is the mind and emotions of God (that include anger and jealousy).

And there is the Good News that Jesus was raised from the dead and ascended into heaven at the right hand of God. Jesus' disciples died for the truth rather than save their lives for a lie. Their faith was solid because they were eye-witnesses to the resurrection and had no fear of dying.

The disciples faith wasn't very strong when Jesus was alive. Peter denied Jesus three times just to stay warm by a fire. The disciples faith was weak after his crucifixion. Cleopas described dejection and dashed hopes when Jesus appeared to him in disguise on the road to Emmaus. The resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ was the foundation of our faith. The beauty and power of this truth in Scripture builds our faith. The fulfillment of prophecy confirms divine knowledge. How could Jesus fulfill so many prophecies, including his role as the Passover Lamb and his rejection by Israel? Can any man predict his death and Resurrection? No, only the Son of Man, Lamb of God, King of Kings, Lord of Lords. The Scripture brings peace of mind with the knowledge that God is in control and He knows what He is doing! I urge you to enjoy the multiple levels of our Holy Bible and share it with your friends.

Names and Meanings

If you list the genealogy from Adam to Noah and look up the meanings of their names, you find a cryptic message from God. Using the Strong's Concordance, the names are given the following reference numbers and meanings:

Adam (120) man
Seth (8352) substituted
Enosh (583) mortal
Kenan (7018) fixed
Mahalalel (4111) praise of God
Jared (3382) a descent
Enoch (2585) initiated
Methuselah (4968) man of a dart
Lamech (3929) uncertain meaning, grief?
Noah (5146) rest

Placing the meanings of the names in a sentence creates "Man substituted mortal, fixed praise of God, a descent initiated, man of dart, grief, rest." With minor adjustments, the sentence can be interpreted to mean "Man's sin brought mortality, but by fixed praises for God, a descent was initiated. The "man of a dart" bore grief so we may rest." It tells us the story of redemption and sacrifice, hidden within meanings of names in a deliberate order.

It is fun to explore the meanings of all the names in the Bible, because names are significant and purposeful. God changed Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter and Saul to Paul. The names were significant because of their meanings, just as the significance of Jesus' name which means "the Lord Saved."

Scripture of the Month

Psalm 78:25 "Men ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat, he gave them the grain of heaven."

Manna from heaven was angel food cake.