

Men's Bible Study

Join us for our brand new Men's Bible Study which is starting on Friday, March 3, at 7pm. We will be meeting in the Christian Education room for a special 6-week study over the Lenten season. We will be going through the teaching series of Kyle Idleman's "gods at war", here is the description below:

Kyle Idleman's riveting new study, gods at war, properly notes that Christians and the church correctly emphasize the need to identify and eradicate sin. But what if we're actually missing the point? What if all sin has a common root? Is there a core issue that we failing to address?

In this new series, Kyle Idleman challenges our presumptions about sin by suggesting that all sin derives from the same source—idolatry. While we don't see many "graven images" around today, Kyle argues that there are still countless gods passionately at war for the throne of our hearts. If we put the wrong god on the throne, our lives will be thrown into chaos, and all of the effort we put into fighting sin and overcoming it will be futile.

While there are many gods at war for our hearts, this study focuses on four in particular: the gods of love, money, pleasure, and power. In a new twist to the cinematic style City on Hill video studies

have become known for, this series is filmed in a docudrama style—and features real people telling real stories.

These stories are compelling, and in them everyone will see some reflection of themselves, and recognize the true battle that lies at the heart of all of our sin struggles. These stories also point the way to victory, as we see the kind of life-transforming power that Christ is ready to pour out in our lives as well. As a result, seekers, non-Christians and life-long Christians alike will all be moved to grow their relationship with Christ.

Each week will involve an opening discussion, DVD presentation, guide for follow-up conversation, prayer suggestions and daily exercises. As a study tool each participant will have a copy of "Combat Journal". The Combat Journal is participant's guide throughout the six week study and has 2 parts. First, it provides daily devotionals throughout the six week study to help participants to identify their idols.

Those that want to go further can use the second half of the guide, as it walks individuals through a six month "plan of attack" against idol they struggle with.

If you have any questions please contact Rouben Arslanian at rarslanian@sbcglobal.net or call the church office at (248)352-0680.

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To Lent or Not to Lent

The Christian life is full of sacrifice; we understand this and count the cost when we become a disciple of Jesus. And although we can likely point to a moment or a time in our life when we did count that cost and decided to follow Christ, we must be aware that the sacrifices required of us did not end there with our initial faith and trust in Jesus. In fact Jesus himself reminds us that "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross **daily** and follow me" (Luke 9:23). I'm sure many of you, like me, have most likely quoted that verse but forgotten the word "daily" in our recollection of it. But it speaks to us of a greater truth, that following Christ is a daily activity, taking up our cross is a daily activity, sacrificing is a daily activity.

We have to ask ourselves, is carrying our cross a burden? Even though it might feel that way to us at times, again God's word reveals to us that although we must carry our cross (which is real, tangible, daily sacrifice), we don't carry it alone. Jesus again encourages us when he says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give your rest...For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28; 30). And another question, is sacrifice all that we have in the Christian life? That does seem like a downer, like all believers are flailing themselves and beating themselves up for their sins. One person put it to me this way, that Christianity is the "Have Not" religion. Is this a true reflection of our faith? I think not. We don't sacrifice for sacrifice sake. Once we come to faith in Christ, we become a new creation, the old has gone the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17), except it doesn't happen all at once. As far as God is concerned, we are a new creation in Jesus Christ, holy and blameless,

without spot or blemish (Justification). As far as our daily lives are concerned, it is a much slower, grueling and lifelong process (Sanctification). In order for our New Self to emerge, our Old Self has to die and that requires daily sacrifice. We might be called to give up and cut away things in our lives, like the pruning of a tree, but God's purpose and intention is to fill in those empty spots with something good, pure and holy. We empty out so that God can fill us up with His blessings; are filled with God's blessings so that we can pour into one another and be a blessing to others.

So where does that put Lent? A time where we reflect on Christ's sacrifice, and sacrifice something ourselves to draw closer to Him. We don't do some things we feel like doing but we also must do some things that we don't feel like doing. Giving up something for Lent is the sacrifice but it must be balanced in the positive by doing something that continues to put off our old self and put on the new. There is a conflict there, one which the Apostle Paul knew very well, "For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want" (Galatians 5:17). So why should we deny ourselves during Lent or any other time? Because our desires are of our old self, even when we desire to do good, there is conflict within us as the old self seeks to gratify the flesh. Pastor John Piper puts it this way, "In the resurrection there will be no self-denial because none of our desires will be sinful and foolish. Till then we have sinful and foolish desires daily. Hence, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily." In whatever way you decide to observe Lent may it be one that enables you for spiritual renewal and growth. Give up and sacrifice of the Old Self, take on and grow in the New Self in Christ.

**Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone),
Rev. Shant Barsoumian**

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The A.C.C. Women's Fellowship is sponsoring their annual Lenten Luncheon on Friday, **April 7, at 12:00 noon**. Admission is \$15 per person. Come enjoy a beautiful program. Both men and women are welcome. For reservations please call the church office 248-352-0680.

Maundy Thursday

On Thursday, April 13, we will remember our Lord's last hours on earth through a special worship service that will include special music by the ACC Choir, and celebration of the Lord's Table. The evening will start with a special reflective supper in the ACC Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Easter Breakfast

The annual Easter Breakfast sponsored by the ACC Youth Group (ACYF), will be held on Sunday, **April 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** Tickets may be purchased at the door: \$6.00 for young and old alike.

102nd Armenian Genocide Commemoration Service

Once again we will commemorate together the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide united as an Armenian community of the Greater Detroit area. As with the previous few years, all four Armenian churches, the Armenian Congregational Church, St. John's Armenian Apostolic Church, St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church and St. Vartan's Armenian Catholic Church commemorate this anniversary together on Monday, April 24, at 7:p.m. with light reception following the worship service.

This year we will be remembering non-Armenian organizations who helped the survivors of the Armenian Genocide, namely the Near-East Relief Foundation.

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Donations

Dr. and Mrs. Chahin Chahbazian – *donation to Heritage*

Jack Karakashian – *in honor of Alice Missirlian's 90th birthday*

Dennis & Carol Leslie – *in memory of Dianne Niemi*

David Terzibashian – *Building Fund*

Sharon Theil – *in memory of Dianne Niemi Knights of Vartan – for the celebration of Feast of St. Vartanak.*

Important Dates

April 7 - ACC Women's Lenten Luncheon

April 9 - Palm Sunday

April 13 - Maundy Thursday

April 14 - Good Friday

April 16 - Easter Sunday

April 24 - Armenian Genocide Commemoration

May 14 - Mother's Day Banquet

June 11 - Graduation Sunday

Last day of Sunday School Year

June 18 - Father's Day

Just Past!

The ACC Women's Christian Fellowship Family Valentine's Night was held on Friday, February 24. Everyone in attendance enjoyed a delicious dinner and an evening of fun and fellowship with their church family. Many thanks to all those who helped in making this evening a success.

Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12. Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Weekly

Worship Service, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Church School, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Mid-Week Bible Study, (Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.)

Women's Bible Study. (Every Friday, 10:00 to 12:00 p.m.)

Monthly

ACC Women's Fellowship, (Second Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.)

Board of Trustees Meeting, (Third Sunday of the month, 12:30 p.m.)

Board of Deacons Meeting, (Last Sunday of the month, 12:30 p.m.)

Sunday School

As a Sunday school teacher for many years now, I sometimes think back to the wonderful teachers I had growing up here at the ACC. What did they instill in me that is still with me today? I think of Mary Marburger, a dedicated teacher. She was always standing outside our classroom to greet us each Sunday morning. She was strong in her faith and a witness to God's grace in her life. She was a teacher whose dedication to teaching reached into the next generation. I was so fortunate to have my children under her wing. It is true, as a child I didn't appreciate that experience. But, looking back, I am truly grateful to God for having placed her in my life. To this day, my own mother speaks of some of her teachers during the early years of this church with the same sense of gratitude for what they instilled in her.

Each Sunday I teach those same stories that I learned as a child. But, this time they are not just "stories". I can be a witness to each child that I know the teachings of God and His son Jesus Christ to be true. I want each child to have the same biblical foundation that I had. One, that I can promise them, is that there are many disappointments in life, times when life doesn't go as we planned. But, I can promise them this, that through the grace of God, they will come out of each situation stronger. God has a plan for each one of them just as God had a plan for Noah, Jacob and Daniel. If they can see that faith in God brought our biblical ancestors through many trials, not unscathed but stronger, they too can believe this in their own lives.

As a teacher, I know I won't have the same impact on each child. But, if I can touch the heart of just one child, instill in them a strong faith in God, what a powerful impact that will have on their lives. I may never know it in my life time but that is okay with me. I would encourage each one of you to reflect on the early teachings of your childhood. Think of God's grace in your life. You could be that teacher that one of our children here at the ACC thinks of with gratitude. You could be the one that God sent to teach them "salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

Leslie Banerian
Sunday School Co-Superintendent

Alice Missirlian A.C.C.'s Oldest Member

On Sunday, February 19th, we had the special opportunity to celebrate a milestone birthday for a beloved member of our church. We were able to visit Ms. Alice Missirlian and her brother Robert Missirlian at the Manoogian Manor to celebrate Alice's 90th birthday! Alice gives thanks to God for her continued health physically and mentally and relies on her faith and trust in God to keep her motivated. She also wanted to share her appreciation to everyone in our congregation for their continued love, encouragement and prayers.

