



Berean Banter

Vol. 14 No. 1

January 2012

God is God.

God is God. We are not. The word we use to describe this other-ness of God is "holy". When we say God is holy we describe His moral purity, but we also mean that He is so different from us (in his spirit, perfections, glory and other attributes) that we cannot know Him in His essence. He is a hidden God.

We can only see God if He chooses to reveal Himself. A fresh revelation from God is called an **epiphany**, an "a-ha!" moment – we see something for the first time that has surrounded us all along but for our blindness was invisible.

January 6th is the day in the church calendar called **Epiphany of Our Lord**. It is the end of the 12 days of Christmas celebrated in the carol, "The 12 Days of Christmas" which run from December 25th to January 6th, Epiphany.

Traditionally, on this day the church focuses on three stories in which Jesus reveals Himself to mankind: the visit of the magi, Jesus' baptism, and the transfiguration.

In the gifts of the magi, Jesus reveals that He is **King** (gold), **God** (frankincense) and **Sacrifice** (myrrh). He calls us to respond to this revelation – this epiphany – in the appropriate ways. He is to be obeyed as KING, worshipped as GOD and believed on, loved and thanked as SACRIFICE.

In his baptism, Jesus reveals the **righteousness** of God. "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." (Matthew 3:15) The baptism of John was a call for repentance, a call to turn from our selfish ways and turn to God's way in preparation for the coming kingdom. The King was coming and we have not been rightful servants. In baptism, Jesus takes our place. Already righteous completely, He submits to the sign of repentance to announce the coming of the rule of God on earth.

In His transfiguration, Jesus reveals the glory of God. God cannot completely show us Himself in all His goodness, glory and power. We wouldn't be able to stand it. "I will cause all My goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim My name, the LORD, in your presence...But you cannot see My face, for no one may see Me and live." (Exodus 33:19-20)



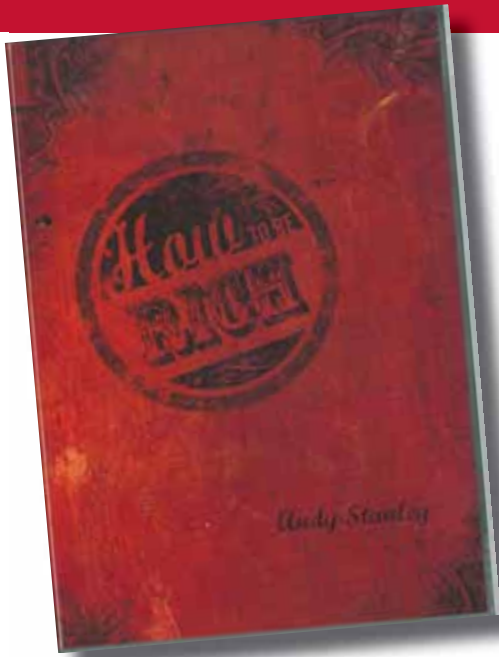
God is a hidden God. And He is a revealed God. He calls us to respond to this revelation. How will you serve the King this year? In what new ways can you worship God this year? How can you believe on, love and thank Jesus this year?

It's said that doing the same things in the same ways gets the same results. God invites you to have different results this year. So what are you going to do differently? God does not cast His pearls before swine. If, in our stubbornness and selfish sinful blindness, we ignore His revelation, then He will give us no more epiphanies. That would make for a dark inglorious 2012.

But we are those who experience the blessings of salvation, the continual revelation of God in Christ through the Word by the power of the Spirit. And this year we will see more of God and know Him more fully and respond more completely – to His glory. Amen.

Pastor Nate

Men's Bible Study



Begins Monday, January 16th 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Surge Student Center

You can find plenty of advice on how to get rich. But where do you learn to be rich? And how do you define "rich" in the first place?

In this four-part series, Andy Stanley moves beyond the "get rich" mentality and explains God's instructions for the vast majority of us who are already blessed with more than we need.

Men, look for our registration table in the foyer between services starting Sunday, January 8th, or come to our Second Saturday breakfast on January 14th to register and pick up your study guide.

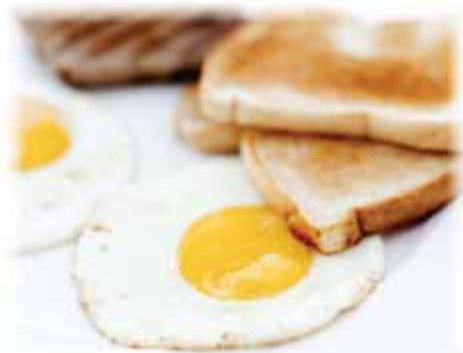
Second Saturday

Men's Praise and Prayer Gathering

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH

8:00 am – Breakfast – Community Room

8:30 am – Bible Study – Chapel



**GET ON THE ROAD
TO FINANCIAL
PEACE**

Dave Ramsey's
Financial Peace
University

**FREE PREVIEW
January 31
6:30 p.m.
CLASS BEGINS
February 7**

FOR MORE INFO CALL
Dan Coffman @ 419.756.0676
WWW.DAVERAMSEY.COM

Preview: January 31, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Class Begins: February 7, 2012

Class Meets: Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Dan Coffman for more information (419.756.0676)

Feb. 7	Super Saving	Mar. 27	That's Not Good Enough!
Feb. 14	Relating with Money	Apr. 3	Of Mice and Mutual Funds
Feb. 21	Cash Flow Planning	Apr. 10	From Fruition to Tuition
Feb. 28	Dumping Debt	Apr. 17	Working In Your Strengths
Mar. 6	Credit Sharks in Suits	Apr. 24	Real Estate and Mortgages
Mar. 13	Buyer Beware	May 1	The Great Misunderstanding
Mar. 20	Clause and Effect		

SURGE

student ministries



**YOUTH GROUP FOR 6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADES WEDNESDAYS 6:45 – 8:30 P.M.
JR. HIGH & SR. HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45 A.M.**



Sr. High

www.facebook.com/SURGEMansfield

Jr. High

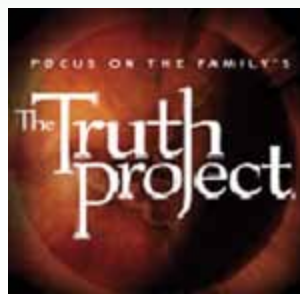
www.facebook.com/surgejh

Jr. High Parents

www.facebook.com/surgeparents

You'll find all of our upcoming events, pictures, videos, encouragement and more!

Sr. High Arena Football League will continue to be played on Thursdays 7-9pm in the gym. Come as an individual or invite your friends to make a team! There is no cost or pre-registration required... just show up & play! College students and adults are invited to join The Legends team if you think you have the skills to take on our high school students!



What is Focus on the Family's The Truth Project®?

In a recent study, the Barna Research Group revealed a stunning statistic that continues to reverberate throughout the evangelical world. Only 9 percent of professing Christians have a biblical worldview. Because of this, today's believers live very similarly to non-believers. A personal sense of significance is rarely experienced, we spend our money and time on things that fail to satisfy and we begin to wonder what life's ultimate purpose really is. We are, in short, losing our bearings as a people and a nation. The Truth Project is a DVD-based small group curriculum comprised of 13 one-hour lessons taught by Dr. Del Tackett. This study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. Each lesson discusses in great detail the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview in daily life.

Allen Martin will be facilitating this study on Saturday mornings starting Jan. 7th 9:30-11:00am in the Student Center. All 8th-12th grade students and their parents are invited to attend. Questions? Contact Al Martin at armartin6@hotmail.com or visit www.thetruthproject.org.



Sr. High Students will once again be heading to "The Castle" in Franklin, PA for the annual Winter Retreat Jan. 20-22, 2012. This year we have a brand new guest speaker, Adam Ashoff, one of Pastor Steve's past students. And of course we will have all the great praise & worship, small group times, crazy games and delicious food that our retreats are famous for! Cost is \$54.99 + additional \$5 for a t-shirt (optional). HURRY! \$20 deposit and t-shirt orders are due no later than Wed. Jan. 11th.

jr. High Students will students will literally be bouncing off the walls at the Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park in Columbus on Sun. Jan. 15th We will leave Berean at 6:00pm and return at 11:00pm. Cost is \$15 which includes your admission, pizza & pop!



SURGE January Calendar

WHEN

Thursdays
Saturdays
Sat. Jan. 7th
Sun. Jan 15th
Fri. Jan. 20-Sun. 22
Sat. Jan. 28th
Sun. Jan. 29th

WHAT

Arena Football
The Truth Project
Wired Worship
Sky Zone
Winter Retreat
Wired
Winter Jam

WHO

Sr. High students
8th-12th grade students & parents
All Ages
Jr. High Students
Sr. High Students
8th grade & up
Sr. High Students

** Jr. High Wet N Wild Winter Weekend coming Feb. 24th and 25th

Wired 

WIRED is excited to be hosting Exodus from Liberty University Sat. Jan. 7th for a special evening of worship. This contemporary worship band exists to boldly lead others in lifting high the name of Jesus Christ in worship. Exodus is made up students who all attend Liberty University. Centered on God's Word and trusting in His power, this dynamic and passionate band travels the US East coast 3 days a week and does week-long tours twice a year. Exodus is dedicated to serving the cause of Christ in whatever venue they are invited to. In addition to leading in worship, they promote Liberty University, the largest private evangelical Christian school in the world. Suggested donation is \$5



Wired contemporary worship
worship SAT. JAN. 7TH
AN EVENING OF WORSHIP LIBERTY UNIVERSITY.
exodus
bring a non-perishable food item and get a free drink from the cafe
charlie finn
DOORS 6:45PM surge student center
borean baptist church ALL AGES
2145 middle bellville rd \$5 SUGGESTED DONATION
mansfield, oh
wiredmansfield METRONOME MUSIC

healing kids' hearts



Adventure Club Special

January 25 – PJ Party

Wear your pajamas and hear a bedtime story – about Jesus!

Memory Work Day & Family Worship

January 29 Kids say: Psalm 119:72 for a cool prize!

“The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.”

(Underlined part for preschoolers)

Summer Camp is Awesome!

But it's also expensive. Except you can earn up to ½ your tuition through the Burton Bankbook! That's 50%! Wow! Pick up your bankbook as soon as possible because some of the projects are time sensitive. Through January and February you can earn \$\$ for camp by reading the Bible, praying, and doing service projects and other activities and memory work.



Ladies ...

Winter Bible study begins February 2, 2012!

Ladies, plan to join us for Beth Moore's latest study entitled **James: Mercy Triumphs**. James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple. Bible scholars compare James to the prophet Amos. In other ways, James more closely resembles the Book of Proverbs than any other New Testament book. Topics in this study include: joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, single-mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility, and prayer.

The morning session will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel, and the evening session at 6:00 p.m. There will be childcare for the morning session.

Workbooks (\$16) must be prepaid. Watch your bulletin for sign-up details.





2145 Middle-Bellville Rd.
Mansfield, Ohio 44904
419.756.3300
www.bereanfamily.com

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship Services:

9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School:

9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mansfield, OH
Permit #187

SINGLE & PARENTING™
HARD WORK, REAL HOPE

WEDNESDAYS STARTING 01.04.12

9 week session
6:45-8:30 p.m.
Room 213
Childcare and refreshments provided

JOIN US!

**HELP AND
ENCOURAGEMENT
FOR SINGLE
PARENTS**

**WEDNESDAYS
STARTING
JANUARY 4, 2012**