

JANUARY 2026

LEWIS LAKE NEWS



NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS & SELF CONTROL

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New Year's Resolutions & Self-Control

by Joe Reed

I never was one for New Year's resolutions, until recently. They just seemed kinda gimmicky. But I'm starting to get into them. It's been a gradual process. A few New Years ago, I mentally logged a few goals I wanted to achieve in the coming year. Basic ones, as I recall. Read the Bible through, pray more, read more books, eat less, exercise. Really genius level stuff, I know. I'm imagining your shock at my insight.

One of the turning points came when I was listening to Jordan Peterson say that most of us could quite dramatically improve our lives if we could just make a few simple changes in the way we live it – changes we already know we should make anyway. And it struck me because I knew it was self-evidently true.

The problem is, of course, that making such changes is rather difficult. For me, going to the gym means getting up early, going into a public place where other people see my out-of-shapeness and me trying badly to fix it. After ten minutes of jogging, I'm desperately gasping for air, like a Shop Vac with a golf ball stuck in the hose. The pile of weights I manage to move with great effort is quite pitiful, no matter how much I contort my face to do so. And even after I force myself to endure such suffering for a few days, the scale and the mirror laugh at me, insisting my sacrifices are so paltry, I need to make them again, and again, and again. The whole thing is generally a physical, psychological, emotional train wreck.

And don't get me started on trying to control my caloric intake. I love to eat, and I've carefully surrounded myself with people who love to feed me. Don't think that's something I take for granted, I think it's glorious!

I try to read a lot, but between you and me, most of the books I read are theological in nature, and written more in the abstract – they're conceptual and logical, not stories. My mind wanders off with my tummy to ponder chips and cheese while my eyes methodically and uselessly wander back and forth across the page. In a few minutes, I've completely forgotten what I'm reading. I'm envious of those who say they pick up a theology book and can't put it down. I've read one or two of those, but mostly, it's like eating vegetables. I know I should do it, because it's good for me, but why, when we've invented chips.

One of the great perks of my seminary education is that it forced me to read good books that I wouldn't normally read.

While I'm happy I graduated, I'm nervous about having the discipline to keep reading good, if difficult, books. Reading is about the best way I know to improve my mind, and I really do want to have a well-stocked brain.

I want to be a better husband, a better father. To be kinder, less irritable, more available. To spend more hours at home not lost in my phone or quarantined in my shop. To just be present, fully engaged in conversation. With a family like mine, you'd think it would be simple. But I also have a sinful, easily distracted heart, so even this really good thing requires some effort. Dating my wife is always fun, always totally worth it, and frighteningly easy to push off until next week.

The biblical language for all this is self-control. You've heard me say, and I'll say it again, I believe self-control is the most underrated of all the fruits of the Spirit. Funny, because people love controlling other people. I think about how we like to govern other people's behavior – just think of all those little signs at home, at work, at

~Self Control, continued on page 5

Prayer & Provision

by Josh Martin

The new year is upon us already. God's goodness this past year has been very evident. He has provided for us in many ways. His kindness and graciousness has been incredible to see.

This past year has been a year of great change for Belonn and I. Our daughter Selah was born in December of 2024, so this year has been getting to know the newest addition to our family and remember all the baby things that one needs to do. Middle of the night feedings, diaper changes, nap times, baby cuddles, and enjoying getting to know this little girl.

I was involved in a corporate layoff early this past year that I wasn't expecting. God had His hand on our family through all of it. I have been layed off before, so this wasn't uncharted territory, but it isn't what we hoped for either. God had different plans for us that we weren't expecting. His call to full time ministry was a surprise. Belonn and I prayed for new IT roles for work and nothing came to fruition, which was odd. The Associate Pastor role was posted already, but I had not considered it at all as I wasn't of the mind that God would put me in that role. I was surprised to hear from Pastor Joe when we were

fishing one afternoon. That conversation led to more conversations and Belonn and I began to pray and ask God for His direction. Through the prayers and conversations with trusted friends and mentors, God not only showed us his leading toward being in vocational ministry, but He opened our eyes to see His preparation for this time from years prior. We are so grateful for His provision. God has been at work in our lives this past year significantly. He has led us away from our normal things and to other new things. He has been there with

us through the transitions and continues to show Himself faithful as we try to follow His lead.

The last 2 months of 2025 were the first 2 months of full time ministry for me. It has been wonderful to learn and get to know our congregation on a different level than before. The transition has been full of new information and learnings and challenges, all of which were anticipated, but not understood. Joe, Bob, and Tami have helped me immensely. The congregation has surrounded Belonn and I with prayers and encouragement, which has been absolutely wonderful.

We need it! Thank you!

“God is at work at Lewis Lake and He is moving. We need to pray and ask Him what He has for our church, our families, our kids, our nation and our future. ”

Now we step into 2026. What does the Lord have for us this year? God will be shown to be faithful again this year. He will never leave us nor forsake us, so we should have expectation that He is with us. With that said, I need to pray, WE need to pray for what God has for us this coming year. What will He be doing. What will happen? What will our church look like? What new amazing things will He be doing and what challenges will we be facing? What will anything look like? Our families, marriages, children, school, work, church, friendships, etc.

I have been thinking about prayer differently over the last few months. What does God think of my prayers?

What is happening in my day that concerns God at all? What should I expect from my prayer? How can I pray better? What else should I pray for? All sorts of questions have come up as I have considered prayer. But remember, Abraham prayed for healing. Isaac prayed for his wife. Moses prayed for protection. Hannah prayed for a son. David prayed when he was angry, grateful and full of sorrow. Solomon prayed for a building project. Elisha prayed for sight. Jesus not only modeled prayer

~*Prayer & Provision, continued on page 6*

The Colson Corner: A history lesson to teach your *kids*. And their *kids*. And their *kids*.

by Clark Hauger

The creation mandate from Genesis 1:28 begins with the words, “be fruitful and multiply...” The pattern then reappears in the Noahic covenant (Genesis 9:7) and with Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. Fruitfulness by offspring was so foundational that Abraham did not withhold sacrificing his son Isaac, believing that God would raise him from the dead in order to fulfill His covenantal promise. God, from the very beginning, has had offspring and multiplying on His divine mind and in His divine design. So, how are we doing with that culturally as Americans in 2026? How are we doing with that as Christians who serve the one true and living God who does not change?

God’s plan for humans has been sexed from the beginning. “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them (Gen. 1:27). In first, second, and third wave feminism many distinctions between male and female were broken down in the name of equal rights under the law, yet the result arguably simply made women more like men. This played itself out economically through the 1960s and 70s as employers began to pay men less as if to say, “if that’s not enough, tell your wife to go get a job.” Clearly this had implications for family life as women and men’s roles in the workforce changed, thus requiring family life to change.

God’s plan for sex, in the main, has always maintained that there would be the possibility of, if not the purpose for creating offspring. In 1960 the FDA approved the first oral contraceptive. This new technology divorced sex from procreation at a scale never before imagined. We, even now, find ourselves on the doorstep of a new world as sex becomes divorced from having babies via In vitro Fertilization (IVF) apart from the conjugal act with a spouse.

God’s plan for the family has always been one man and one woman until death parts them. Yet, in US jurisprudence 1969 brought California’s Family Law Act of 1969. This “innovation” made getting divorced easier for non-biblical grounds. Simply put, divorce was made easy so the family became considerably less stable, and children often take the brunt of the adults’ wishes.

So, humans with our tower-of-babel-like transhuman tendencies seem to be ready to jump at the prospect of any new technology that allows us to impose our will. That is called the technological imperative. If we can do it, we must. We also have a worldview (or cultural imagination) that has come to view things that were once unthinkable as commonplace or normal. As a human race we don’t have a good track record of doing things God’s way. This shouldn’t surprise us as Christians.

“As Christians,” he says. “What does this mean for me?” you ask. “How am I supposed to stem the tide of millennia of human stupidity?”

God has put you in the time and place where you are on purpose and the waves of the world’s deception cannot sway those whose anchor holds within the veil. So, courageously get married, love your wives, respect your husbands, work hard (Col. 3:23), have lots of kids, raise them in the fear and admonition of the LORD (which is more hard

work), and do it with confidence knowing that you’re shining as stars among a perverse generation (Phil. 2:15) wherever God has called you (I Cor 7:17).

Clark Hauger



Clark Hauger serves as the Worship Director here at Lewis Lake.

AN UNDERSTANDING WAY

by Bob De Young

I don't know if this is how it is in your house or not, but in my house mornings are filled with questions. "Are you going to town for breakfast? What do you want for lunch? I think we will have lasagna for supper. Is that ok with you? What time should we eat so it will not hinder you medications from working?" If we have meatballs for supper I am going to have to go to the grocery store before I come home." And on and on and on it goes every day.

I must confess that on some days I grow a little weary answering all of these questions over and over again. But lately I have found myself pondering this situation and maybe having a few questions of my own. What must it be like to have to figure out every single meal for a lifetime of marriage? What would it be like to have to figure out a solution to this problem every time you woke from a good night's sleep, or maybe even a bad night's sleep? How discouraging it must be to make a meal, only to have those eating it grump and complain. These days I find myself trying to have a little more cooperative attitude during the morning Q and A.

The Apostle Peter wrote to the faithful in one particular church and said this; "Husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way." To live like this means we should understand what it is like to be a wife in general, and your wife in particular. Peter was not necessarily thinking about the business of meal planning, but rather, the whole entire package of being a woman and being a wife. But there is more going on here than simple marriage advice.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the Church in Ephesians says this in Ephesians 4:32. "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Here Paul is speaking to the whole Church

and he is asking each one in that Church to live with each other in an understanding way. What is it like to be that other person? What is it like for them to be a member of this congregation? How can I come to understand them and how can I live with them in an understanding way here at Lewis Lake?

Now this call from the Lord is not the magic fix to all of life's problems. I can understand why you do what you do, and still not agree with you. Living with one another in an understanding way may not be the final word on many of the challenges of getting along with others, but it does serve as a really good starting point. Who is this person standing in front of you who has just asked you that frustrating question? What pressures are they living under? What is behind their tone of voice? Answering these kinds of questions can help you know how to respond to them in ways that draw you together, rather than pulling you apart.

"Living with someone in an understanding way usually requires more listening than speaking. It means that we should not talk over top of someone. It means asking questions rather than making statements."

Living with someone in an understanding way usually requires more listening than speaking. It means that we should not talk over top of someone. It means asking questions rather than making statements.

Learning all these communication skills may not be the most natural thing for you and me, but God would not have commanded it if it were not important.

Pastor Bob



Bob De Young is enjoying being semi-retired and holds the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus.

~ *Self Control, continued from page 1*

church that say, “Don’t do this!” or “Make sure you do this!” We do love our rules (for other people). We mutter, “there oughta be a law!” when someone double-parks too close to the store entrance. Fact is, we’re happy to control other people.

But controlling ourselves – that’s a different matter altogether. It’s just so darn hard. How hard? Jesus said it might require gouging out eyes and cutting off hands to keep them from doing things you know they shouldn’t. The great Apostle said, “I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave” (1 Cor 9:27 NIV). Self-control is a contact sport. It’s painful, bloody, and generally no fun.

Self-control can mean biting your tongue till it bleeds to prevent an angry outburst, going back to a flip-phone to break the power of pornography, and *not* snoozing your alarm so you can spend a few moments with God before launching into your day.

I don’t know exactly what self-control looks like for you. We all have different strengths and weaknesses. But I suspect you know, and if you don’t, ask your spouse or your wife or

your kids. They know. Then make a commitment to them and to God to go into battle until you emerge victorious, having defeated yourself. Making your resolutions public will put your own sense of honor on the line, it’ll provide some accountability, and just maybe it’ll encourage those around you to make their own resolutions.

You already know many little changes that will greatly improve your mental, spiritual, and physical health. I’ve talked to you about some of mine.

It’s just a matter of committing to them, and doing them.

So do it. Tell your friends. Tell your family. Post it on the fridge. Ask me if I’m going to the gym. Ask me what I’m reading. Ask me if I’m dating my wife. I need it.

Pastor Joe



Joe Reed serves as the Senior Pastor here at Lewis Lake.



Shoebox Packing Party

Thank you to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child. Together we filled 250 shoeboxes.



for us, but taught us how to pray. Paul prayed for the new believers. God told Solomon, “if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

We are beginning prayer week on January 4th this year. I want to encourage you all to pray with me. God tells us in Isaiah that His “house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” God is at work at Lewis Lake and He is moving. We need to pray and ask Him what He has for our church, our families, our kids, our nation and our future. Joe, Bob and I want to be an encouragement to you all this 2026 prayer week. You will receive emails each day from church throughout Prayer week with prayer topics and some video interviews from people in our own congregation talking about what prayer means to them and how they do it. We are setting up times to come and pray at church, to go along with the topics we send to you to pray throughout your day as well.

I look forward to this new year of ministry and am excited for what God has for us this year!

Happy New Year!

May God’s hand be on us through it all,

Pastor Josh



Pastor Josh Martin serves as the Associate Pastor here at Lewis Lake.

Prayer is not an attempt to get God to agree with you or provide for your selfish desires, but that it is both an affirmation of His sovereignty, righteousness, and majesty and an exercise to conform your desires and purposes to His will and Glory.

John MacArthur

Schedule for Prayer Week 2026

Sunday, January 4, 6:30pm

United Prayer Service. Lift your hearts together in thanksgiving for God’s faithfulness over the past year and seek His aid and blessing for the year to come.

Monday-Saturday, 7:00am

Watch your email for a little video giving insight into fellow Lewis Lakers’ prayer lives. If you don’t receive one, check your junk folder, then contact the office: office@lewislake.org

Monday through Saturday from 4-6pm we will host an “Open House of Prayer.” We are dedicating each day to specific areas of prayer. A member of the pastoral staff will be here to pray with or for you (if you like). If you need to come at a different time and would like one of the pastors to pray with you, contact the office, we’ll be happy to work with you.

Monday, January 5, 4-6pm

Our Unsaved Friends & Family

Tuesday, January 6, 4-6pm

Our Health & Healing; Soul & Body

Wednesday, January 7, 4-6pm

Our Children

Thursday, January 8, 4-6pm

Our Community & Our Nation

Friday, January 9, 4-6pm

Our Missionaries

Saturday, January 10, 4-6pm

Our Church

these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

Isaiah 56:7

2026 COUNCIL NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Members of Lewis Lake should have received a nomination packet in the mail. Nominations should be left in the wooden collection box in front of the office window. Nominations must be turned in by Sunday, January 4, 2026.

NOMINATION GUIDE JANUARY 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

*All who serve as leaders of our Church should be
In love with Jesus Christ
Possess a mature and stable faith
Be members of Lewis Lake Covenant Church*

Those currently serving on Council some are eligible/some not eligible for nomination:

Brian Hudoba, Jeff De Young, Jason Wahlstrom, Sarah Terpstra, Dana Nielsen, Earl Bracewell, Rick Tvedt, Mark Sholtz, Angie Tvedt, Kevin Thoeny, Brenda Trongard, Dianna Sholtz, Dan Stassen, Sam DeVito, Becki Baumann, Rich Hall, Melodee Hall, Clark Hauger

Positions Open

Vice Chairman: The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chairman, and during his absence assume office and its responsibilities. For this reason, the vice-chair should be someone of spiritual maturity, biblically grounded, with leadership abilities and some experience with the workings of the Church Council.

- **Currently Serving:** Vice Chairman, Jeff De Young – up for re-election

Treasurer: As the person who handles the funds of the Church, nominate someone for this position who is trustworthy, detailed, and has some level of experience with finances. This person writes checks, balances accounts, and brings reports to the Church Council.

- **Currently Serving:** Treasurer, Jason Wahlstrom - up for re-election

Elders: These people are assigned to pay special attention to the spiritual aspects of ministry in our Church. They are in tune with the hearts and souls of the congregation and have a basic understanding of God's goals for His people. Elders (3 men) oversee the discipling process of the whole congregation.

- **Currently Serving:** Elder, Dana Nielsen - up for re-election
- Need to elect a second Elder to replace Josh Martin

Deacons: The Diaconate (3 men and 3 women) pay special attention to the physical needs of the congregation as well as to the ministries of care and compassion directed towards the world at large. These individuals should be spiritually mature and have a heart for people who are hurting. Deacons also prepare the elements for communion.

- **Currently Serving:** Deacon, Mark Sholtz - up for re-election
- **Currently Serving:** Deaconess, Angie Tvedt - up for re-election

**YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH TO MAKE A NOMINATION,
AND THOSE YOU NOMINATE MUST BE MEMBERS.**

Annual All-Church Potluck Meal & Business Meeting

Sunday, January 18, 2026



The All Church Potluck Meal—Follows the Sunday School Hour

Watch for a sign up sheet to help with setup and cleanup of the tables & the potluck sign up sheet.

Please sign up to bring something if you plan to stay for the potluck so we have enough food for everyone.

The Annual Business Meeting—Follows the meal

Lewis Lake Church Members are encouraged to take part in electing a 2026 Council as well as voting on budget, building, and other items.

Non-Member Friends are welcome to attend and observe but cannot vote.



The Lewis Lake Homeschool Group shared a song with us on Christmas Morning.

Financial Peace University



Sundays starting January 11th at 3pm here at Lewis Lake.

Cost of materials is \$69 payable to the church.

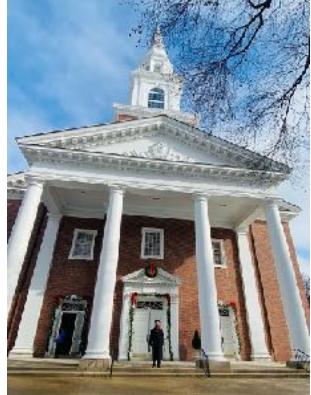
Talk to Trent 612-390-1399 or Sarah Terpstra 320-515-0403 if you are interested in joining this group.

You can also sign up in the app.

Congratulations Pastor Joe!



After seven years of study Pastor Joe Reed received his Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.



Get the App!



It's not always easy to keep up with everything that's happening at Lewis Lake. Your life is busy, and so is ours. To that end, we've created the Lewis Lake phone app. Watch sermons, check the church calendar, sign up for events and activities, it's the place to go to see what's happening and plug into the madness. So go wherever you get your apps, and look for Lewis Lake.

Read or Listen to the Bible in a Year

Did you know that our Lewis Lake Church App has a Bible built into it?

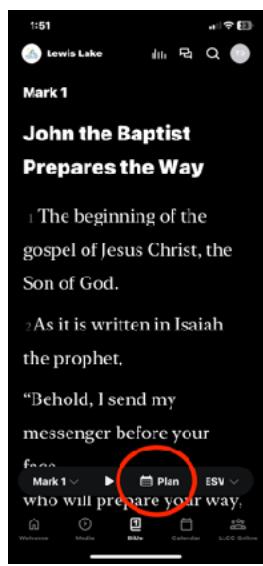
Pastor Joe has a reading plan set up in the app to encourage you to read/listen to your Bible on a daily basis.

Each day there are two different readings. One from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament.

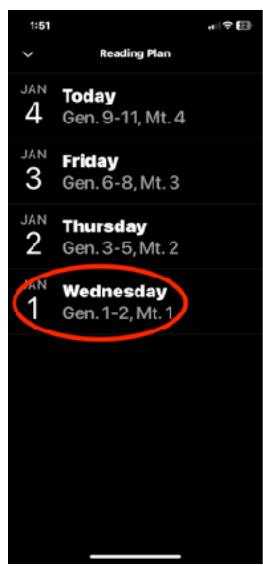
If you need assistance, talk to Tami in the office.



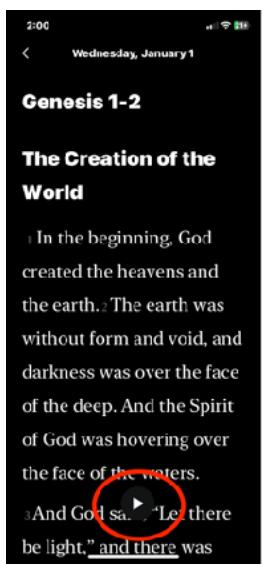
Step One: Open the App and select the Bible on the bottom of your screen.



Step Two: Select "Plan". This will open the reading plan dates.



Step Three: Pick the date. This will open the chosen date readings.



Step Four: You can read or you can tap the "play" button to listen.

WOMEN'S

Ministry

GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

Women's Ministry Annual Meeting
Monday, January 12th 5:30pm
All Lewis Lake Ladies are
encouraged to join us.

Join us for our annual meeting. We start with a light supper and then move on to business. This meeting is open to all women at Lewis Lake. You do not have to be a member to join in on the meeting.

We have a few positions open for the Women's Ministry team and we would love all the women at Lewis Lake to consider being a part of this great ministry. Watch the bulletin for more information on the positions that nominations are open for and prayerfully consider getting involved.



Dave Kraemer was the recipient of the Women's Ministry annual Veteran quilt giveaway.

Women's Ministry Project Day

Join us for Women's Ministry Project Day, a wonderful opportunity to connect with other women, share creative ideas, and work on your personal projects in a supportive and encouraging environment. Whether you're an experienced crafter or just starting out, all are welcome!

Date: Saturday, January 10th

This is a repeating event held on the second Saturday of the month

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

What to Bring:

Your craft, hobby, or personal project (quilting, sewing, knitting, scrapbooking, card making, painting, or any creative endeavor).

Bring a sandwich or a lunch.

Don't have a project? No problem! We'll have some activities to join and opportunities to learn new skills.

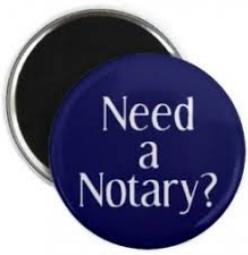
Come ready for fun and fellowship!

Mission Statement

The Women's Ministry at Lewis Lake provides an opportunity for women of all ages to establish a closer bond with God and each other through prayer, study and service.

Vision Statement

Women's Ministry is an inter-generational group of women which exists for the purpose of encouraging and enriching others to the ultimate purpose of building the church of Jesus Christ and glorifying God.



Notary Services Available

Notary Services are available at zero cost to Members and Non-Member friends of Lewis Lake Covenant Church. You can catch Tami on Sunday mornings or make an appointment to stop by the office during the week.

Subscribe to the Pulse



Subscribe to the Lewis Lake Pulse, a weekly email sent out on Monday mornings with the week's announcements, along with a few things Pastor Joe recommends for feeding your soul throughout the week. To subscribe to The Pulse, shoot an email to office@LewisLake.org with the subject line "Subscribe to Pulse" and we'll get you fixed up! Or you can scan the QR code to the right.



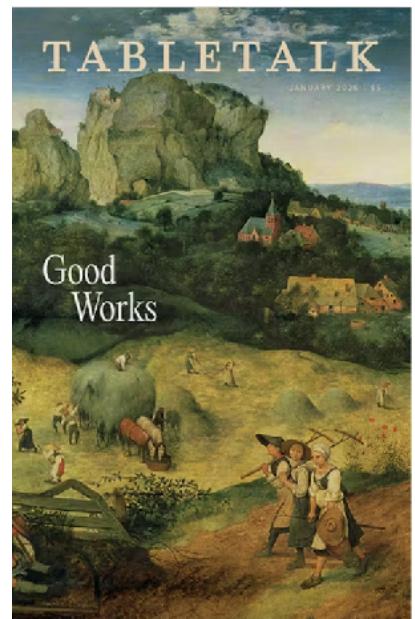
Tabletalk Magazine

Tabletalk magazine was formed in 1977 to provide a substantive study tool for Christians. Though its format has changed over the years, *Tabletalk* continues to challenge and encourage readers to dig deeper into the Word of God in order that their lives may be transformed through the renewing of their minds (Rom. 12:1–2).

The aim of the magazine is to articulate Christian truth in an accessible manner.

Initially, serving as the Ligonier Ministries newsletter, *Tabletalk* changed to a digest format in 1989. In the print magazine, daily Bible studies offer succinct, detailed expositions of the Word of God to assist believers in understanding the biblical text and in applying it to their lives. Every issue contains feature articles by Dr. Sproul and other noted pastors, scholars, and teachers that address a particular biblical, theological, cultural, historical, or Christian-living theme. A variety of columns each month address other key topics related to the church, personal piety, and what it means to honor Christ in this fallen world. At TabletalkMagazine.com, the print magazine is available digitally along with other, online-exclusive articles.

Over the years, *Tabletalk* has been recognized for its consistent trustworthiness and excellence. Today, people all over the world read *Tabletalk* on a daily basis. Whether you are a new Christian or have been a believer for many years, there are resources in *Tabletalk* to help you grow in your faith. (copied from <https://tabletalkmagazine.com/about/>).



Grab your complimentary copy of *Tabletalk* today on the East wall board.

"Tabletalk magazine exists to help establish us in the Word to deepen this knowledge to our daily living."

- R. C. Sproul