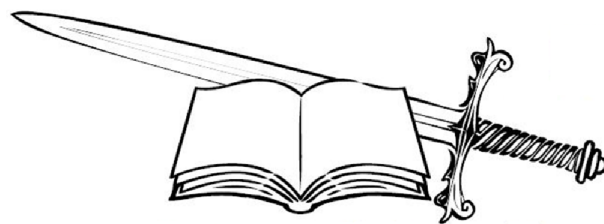




LAUREL RIDGE
Community Church



Men's Newsletter

Fall 2023

"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless." —Matthew 5:13



Men's Community Groups

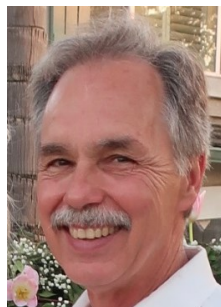
The groups below are open to all men looking for devotion, prayer, and fellowship. To register, visit laurelridgechurch.org/community-groups, click the **Sign Up** button and fill in the form, or contact the group leaders directly.

Tuesday Evenings

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Room 301 at church or online via Zoom

Host: Dennis Ouka
(925) 584-6618
denouka@sbcglobal.net



Thursday Mornings

Time: 6:30 AM

Place: Room 301 at church or online via YouVersion app

Host: Dan Mathisen
(209) 612-5028
mathisen.dan@gmail.com



On Salt and Light

by Keith Cook

The end time events foretold in the books of Timothy, Matthew, Peter and elsewhere in the Bible have already begun. Consider 2Tim 3:1-7: "But know this: Hard times will come in the last days. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, demeaning, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the form of godliness but denying its power."



Or 1Tim 4:1-3: "Now the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared. They forbid marriage and demand abstinence from foods that God created to be received with gratitude by those who believe and know the truth."

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Online Bible Resources

RightNowMedia.org Library of video resources for individuals and small groups. Contact LRCC for access under the church account.

BlueLetterBible.org,
BibleGateway.com, and
Biblia.com Scrollable
online study Bibles.

Includes versions in numerous languages, including Arabic, Greek, Russian, Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Latin, along with popular English-language versions like the KJV, NIV and NLT.



[Open Bible](http://OpenBible.org) Lists of Bible verses on hundreds of topics, indexed alphabetically. A map shows every identifiable place in the Bible. An atlas lists all places with verses and photos.

[Got Questions?](http://GotQuestions.org) A Q&A website with answers to over 600 questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, and Christian doctrine.

InTouch.org The online site of InTouch Ministries, founded and headed by Dr. Charles Stanley. The site provides access to videos of Dr. Stanley's sermons, inspirational messages, a daily devotional, and more.

[Thru the Bible](http://ThruTheBible.org) The devotionals, global outreach, and five-year radio program Bible studies of J. Vernon McGee. ✝



What were the Cities of Refuge? You can find the answer in Joshua 20.



Our next men's breakfast is set for **Saturday, September 30**, 8-10 AM at Laurel Ridge Church. Kids and fathers are welcome—bring at least one of each if you can! Join us for fellowship, encouragement and a delicious breakfast.

Sign up for the men's breakfast on the Sunday service communication card or on the church website or mobile app.

We need a few good men to cook the meal and set-up tables. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Dan Mathisen at mathisen.dan@gmail.com or at (209) 612-5028. ✝

Prayer Partners Ministry

The Prayer Partners ministry is looking for a few good men and women to pray with people for a few minutes after each service.

Scheduled volunteers serve one Sunday a month at the end of the service they regularly attend. Substitute volunteers serve on months that have a fifth Sunday or when a scheduled volunteer can't serve.

Our desire is for at least two people to be available to pray after each service. The 8:40 team needs two more scheduled workers and one more substitute before we can launch. The 9:50 team needs just one more scheduled worker. The 11 a.m. team is fully staffed and operational.

If you feel called to serve or would like more information, contact Keith Cook at krc@sonic.net or (925) 768-2333. ✝

On Salt and Light —*cont'd from page 1*

Another prophecy that seals the deal that we are in the end times is Daniel 12:4: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Never in history have so many people traveled. Never has so much knowledge been gathered.

Something else is occurring with all of these prophetic events: fewer Americans believe in the existence of God than ever. I believe that God is separating in the world those who are or will be his children from those who won't.

Mat 3:12: "He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire."

Mat 13:48: "When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away."

We see this great separating process taking place within the church as well. The no-gathering mandates during the pandemic forced most churches to suspend in-person services. Once the restrictions were lifted, many who had attended never returned. Church attendance in the Christian community now is at the lowest percentage ever seen in America.

James 2:20 describes the condition of those who are believers but who have opted out of going to church, serving in ministry, studying the Bible, tithing, and so on: "Faith without works is dead." That doesn't mean the man who isn't living out his faith is unsaved but that he is useless, like a worker sleeping on the job. He's still an employee, just not a useful one.

Those who profess to be Christians but who are casual in following and obeying Jesus may find it increasingly hard to be neither hot nor cold. God loves each of us and keeps trying to get our attention when we ignore his desires for our life. Christians who keep the faith but do nothing with it continually hear the Holy Spirit rapping on the door of their conscience. Those who continue not to answer the door do so at their peril, for God will have his way with us, one way or another. Consider what Jesus said in Mat 5:13: "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless."

Take God's admonitions seriously, for these are the final days before the Rapture and Tribulation. We will all stand before him one day to give an account of what we have done. Decide now that you want to be his salt and light in this dark world. Remember the words of Joshua 24:15: "But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD." ✝

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