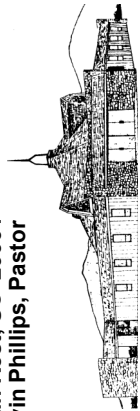


9915 Highlands Hwy., P. O. Box 37
Mountain Rest, SC 29664
Dr. Kevin Phillips, Pastor



Mountain Rest Baptist Church

Return Service Requested

*"As cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news..."
- Proverbs 25: 25a*

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills"



Upward

**Mountain Rest Baptist Church
August, 2023**

Greetings,

In 1 Corinthians 15:36-38, Paul writes, *"You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body."*

The first part of this passage makes an interesting point for contemplation. The seed you sow does not actually bear fruit unless it dies. Paul used the analogy wheat and grain to describe the evidence and character of the Christian life. The crop we yield is a reflection of our testimony. The crop we bear is either good or bad. Our lives produce a crop that's edible, or crop that's merely chaff in the wind. But let's be clear, we produce a harvest of the type of seed we sow.

Let us assume for just a moment that everyone reading this article wants to have a good crop. Good grain is pleasing what is characterized as pleasing to God. Good grain will be with us forever. Paul says to produce anything, the seeds must die. What does he mean by that? Jesus said in John 12:24 *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."* *Unless death occurs, there is no life and no fruit.*

Death is such an ominous thought. The hope of personal control of our life is extinguished in death. We cannot control what happens after we die. The thought of personal ambitions are extinguished after we die. The things that we regard as important are discarded after we die. Death closes the possibility of shaping our legacy, although the fruit of our lives will continue.

I think Paul wants us to look at our lives from this perspective. What crop does our life profess? If we want to bear good grain we must release the grain and let God govern the life of the seed as He sees fit (look at the last part of the verse). So, for our lives to matter and produce a bountiful, God honoring harvest, we have to do something very simple, but very hard. We need to sow seed and then allow God to do the work. We may have to die to self. The only way we can die is to relinquish control of what we are doing. We have a tendency to grab control and never let go. It is easy for us to get in the way of God's business. If we get in the way we are not dying, but are living and asserting control. Many people are sowing seed and dying to control it, when they should be sowing seed and dying to the control *of it*. *When we sow seed, it belongs to the Lord of the harvest.*

God is in control whether we realize it or not, we must yield to Him. What He gives us, He expects us to release it back to Him. When we sow seed, we sow it unto the Lord, in His field, let yield to Him and surrender control. Allow Him to bring about what He desires in our lives and in our church. Allow Him to produce harvest through the things we have done. The only way we can produce a good harvest, is to allow God to have free reign of our hopes, dreams, aspirations, talents, gifts, resources, work, etc. You get the picture! Let God have all of you unreservedly!

Kevin



**Multi-Focus Women on Mission
August 2023 News**

It's hard to believe that **Thursday, August 3rd** is the first day of school! Please be in prayer for the teachers and students as they begin the school year.

Deacon Election Results

Those elected to serve are:
Kevin Cain, Thom Moxley and Dan Placereani

Please be in prayer for these men as they prepare to serve.

Love one another in brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ~Romans 12:10 ESV

*Multi-Focus News will resume in the September 2023 Newsletter.

Announcements and Upcoming Events Continued...

Men's Bible Study:

Beginning Monday, August 7th at 6:30 pm, there will be a Men's Bible Study in the Joy Class.

Key Usage:

If you need a key, please contact Pastor Kevin during the week. If you need a key for an event on the weekend, come by the office during the week. If you unlock a door, **YOU ARE responsible for locking it.**

Newsletter Information:

If your organization/committee have regular monthly announcements that need to be posted, **please submit all information at the business meeting.** **Gathering information collectively and in a timely manner will allow for more production time and time for any questions and/or communication regarding announcements before publishing.** Thank you.

Facility Rental:

Facility Reservation Forms are located in the upper-left wall pocket across from the office. See Summer if you have any questions or need assistance.



Announcements and Upcoming Events

Trail Life:

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 9th at 6:00 pm.

G.E.M.'S:

GEM'S next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 9th at 6:00 pm.

Council Meetings:

Next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 2nd at 6:30 pm.

Monthly Pot-Luck Fellowship Meals:

Instead of Quarterly Fellowship Meals, we will now enjoy **monthly Pot-Luck Fellowship Meals, prior to each monthly Business Meeting, at 6:00 pm.** Please bring a covered dish (enough to feed a family of four) or a dessert. Thank you to everyone who generously contributes!

Business Meetings:

The next Business Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 16th, at 6:30 pm. Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall. Attendance is encouraged!

*Approved Minutes from the last Business Meeting are available to the congregation; they are located in the upper right wall pocket across from the front office.

Women's Discipleship:

Women's Discipleship will take a recess for the summer months. Study will resume in the fall. Start-up date to follow.

Men's Ministry:

Men's Ministry will take a recess for the summer months. Start-up date to follow.

Tabitha's Hands:

Tabitha's Hands Yarn Ministry meet each week on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm, in the Joy Classroom. Newcomers welcome!