

Be a Berean!

The Bereans...received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day (Acts 17:11). "Be a Berean" will regularly cover topics that arise during Lockport Alliance Bible classes. Contact Franklyn Pfeil—pfeilmail@yahoo.com—with questions or comments.

"Stand in the Rain"

It's not Thanksgiving, but let's talk turkey. Let's mix some metaphors and get down to some brass tacks, as well. While we're at it, let's dispense with all pretense and let's gather where the rubber meets the road.

I screwed up most of my life. Royally. Big-time.

Only one thing was able to turn me around. The Bible.

I don't know what life would have been like for me **if** my parents or pastor or priest or whatever-it-was-I-went-to-every-Sunday-that-called-itself-a-church had promoted Bible reading as the key to a relationship with Jesus Christ. I don't really care for hypothetical questions like that. What I do know is that I don't want my kids to wonder the same thing. I don't want them to get around to Jesus Christ's Book only after most of their lives are in their rear-view mirrors.

Sorry to pastors and preachers, star TV evangelists, singers and songwriters, teachers (like me), assimilators (me, too) and other assorted well-meaning ministry types. Sorry, but it wasn't you who turned me around. The only difference that ever came into my life was the unadorned, unvarnished Word of God.

Thanks to pastors and preachers, star TV evangelists, singers and songwriters, teachers, assimilators and other assorted well-meaning ministry types--IF you have handed the unadorned, unvarnished Word of God to people like me. And if that's not your first order of business every day--then rise, take up your swivel chair and go home. And stay there.

It all boils down to the Word of God. Christianity holds no monopoly on prayer; other faiths pray. They also serve, they give, they love, they worship. And they hand their kids an idol, a nothing.

But we have Christ, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe and the Creator and Sustainer of my salvation. He's all we've got, and the only means to know Him is the Bible. The gospel--the grace of God enacted at the cross of Christ, authenticated by resurrection--cannot be found in what theologians call "general revelation," or "nature," as we call it. The gospel is only found in "specific revelation"--the Bible (1).

In three years, our eldest son, Frankie, will graduate from high school. A year after that, our Eddy will, too. I don't know the paths they'll take from there, but a wider world often beckons.

Before that beckoning begins, Shelley and I will have bequeathed to them the sum total of what we've found in life that has made any difference: the Word of the LORD Jesus Christ.

In mid-September, LAC is going on a three-year quest. Together--young, old; aflame, unsure; indifferent, just different; connected, detached; determined, indeterminate; decent, and indecent--we are going to chase after the heart of God (2) from the left cover of your Bible all the way to the right.

We're calling this Bible adventure "Stand in the Rain." We're going to promote it, and pray it, and push it. We invite you along with us.

The program can be joined at anytime. You could start the day you read this article. Some might start months from now. Whenever, you just jump in and in three years you'll be back where you started--having read all the way through your Bible. Just **go to lockportalliance.org and look for the picture of a guy who's standing in the rain.** Click and you'll be carried to the schedule and a daily blog. The blog will be a guided tour, pointing out sightings of Jesus all the Way through both Testaments (3).

Bible reading isn't done just to say we did it. We read the Bible with a purpose--to make us grow closer to Jesus and more like Him every day. Isaiah 55:10-11 likens the Word of God to the rain, sent from heaven for a purpose:

*As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so is my Word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

We invite you to stand in the rain with us, day by day--and grow together. Read the Bible together with a kid, with your small group, with your entire family, with LAC at large. Don't bypass this opportunity to place eternal life into another's hands.

Don't let them leave home without Him.

(1) see 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; (2) see Psalm 63:8; (3) see Luke 24:27

It is our fervent hope that you will 'be a Berean' by attending one of these Bible-based classes this week—

"Behold"--Sunday at 9:45 (beginning September 20)