



# WEST WINDS

Peabody, Massachusetts

March 2017

---

## **BEING A CHRISTIAN IN AN EVER INCREASING SECULAR CULTURE**

It seems as if everywhere we turn we observe that the culture is becoming more and more secular. Secularization is defined as, *'the transformation of a society from close identification with religious values and institutions toward nonreligious values and secular institutions. The secularization thesis refers to the belief that as societies progress, particularly through modernization and rationalization, religion loses its authority in all aspects of social life and governance.'*

As believers we have observed this transformation of culture in media, government, education, science, entertainment, family and sadly even in the Church. The feeling of being 'marginalized' as Bible believing Christians is real and corresponds to reality of what is happening around us. The Biblical world view is being silenced by the 'cultural elites'.

Even among 'Evangelical Christians' the absolute moral authority of the Bible is simply given lip service to and no longer believed and lived out. Many evangelicals today are embracing the sexual revolution as normative and creatively finding ways to justify this from scripturally. It can lead those who hold to the absolute inspiration and authority of Holy Scripture to be discouraged and despondent when they see both the Church and the culture declining into moral insanity and not willing to embrace the Truth of God's Word.

However we can find hope and direction in God's Word for these difficult days. In 2 Timothy 3 Paul describes what is happening in our present day and the proper response for believers.

In 2 Timothy 3:1-9 Paul notes the downward spiral of the Church and culture similar to what is occurring before our eyes. The root of what we are observing is the sinfulness of humanity unleashed: humanity wanting to be god, wanting self as the center of the universe, wanting religion that keeps selected truths of God's Word out of the belief system.

***But understand this that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ~ 2 Timothy 3:1-5***

True believers can't have true oneness and fellowship with this kind of mindset and priority. However we are called on to respond in love. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are to love those who oppose us. This love is not sentiment but intentional actions with the Word of God. We are to speak the Truth in love.

Paul's answer to the decay he describes in verses 1-9 is followed by an admonition to hold fast as believers to the Word of God and to share, preach, teach, and announce God's Word to the secular culture and the Church. The reason we must do this is due to the nature of God's Word. It is divinely powerful, authoritative, and able to save and transform. God's Word is the medicine for a secular culture and church.

***But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. ~ 2 Timothy 3:14-17***

A clear and loving communication of God’s Word is the method that God uses to change people’s minds and hearts from self serving to God glorifying.

This passage also mentions that there will be difficulty, persecution and hostility to our overtures of God’s Word. But we must remain convinced, steadfast and true to the only Truth that matters—God’s Truth.

Do we trust in what God says about His Word?

- **Psalm 19:7-10: That it revives, gives wisdom, produces joy, enlightens the mind and is true and righteous**
- **Hebrews 4:12: That it is alive and active, able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart**
- **Romans 10:17: That faith comes from hearing the Word of Christ.**

Let us pray for one another that we will be courageous, loving, as we listen to and dialogue with the secularists and wayward believers; praying that as we share God’s Word it will have impact on their souls.

Pastor Rick

## MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY INSTITUTE TRAINING NIGHT

It was encouraging to see 48 people attend the Massachusetts Family Institute Regional Advocacy Training Session on Monday, February 20. Activist and attorney Andrew Beckwith presented an informative and “eye-opening” presentation on some of the social issues we are currently facing here in Massachusetts. During this time attendees learned how to reach out to state representatives and senators on issues impacting families throughout the states. Issues including: recreational marijuana law, bathroom and locker room law, Planned Parenthood in schools, and the sex education mandate for Massachusetts schools, etc. Following the presentation we had a time of discussion and refreshments.



We have a government that is drifting farther and farther away from moral and Christian values of the Founding Fathers. When we speak whether by email, letter or phone – elected officials listen. Make your voice heard and bring about change. There are resources available and a list of our legislators on the Massachusetts Family Institute website, [www.mafamily.org](http://www.mafamily.org). We, at West Church, need to educate ourselves and stay active in social issues. Our religious liberties are under attack! We should be praying individually and collectively for our elected officials and our nation.

*Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that  
you may live and inherit the land that  
the Lord your God is giving you.*

Deuteronomy 16:20 ESV

## PIONEER GIRLS NEWS

Sunday, March 19 is Pioneer Girl Sunday at West Church. We cordially invite all of our Pioneer Girls and their families to join us on this special Sunday that only happens once a year!

All Pioneer Girls should plan on arriving at the church by 10:00 am. We'll gather in Lyon's Hall (where we meet for Game Time) for the Fellowship Time between Sunday School and church, from 10:00-10:30 am. We'll enjoy baked goods (made by the Pathfinders and Trailblazers) and enjoy a display of crafts the girls have made throughout the year. We hope you'll join us for this time of fellowship and refreshment.

The Pioneer Girls will then serve as the greeters by the sanctuary doors before the morning's 10:30 am worship service. We hope all the girls will wear their Pioneer Girl sashes and come ready to greet with warm smiles and firm handshakes!

We've been practicing a special song with motions that the girls will sing for the congregation during the worship service. It's called "Be Strong and Courageous" and is a fun, upbeat song that captures our theme this year from Deuteronomy 31:6.

We encourage you to enjoy all that Pioneer Girl Sunday has to offer! Come for the Fellowship Time, and stay for the worship service! We look forward to seeing all of our Pioneer Girls and their families on this very special Sunday morning!



## ROCK SOLID NEWS

Regular Sunday Night Meeting Dates:

- March 5
- March 12
- March 19
- March 26

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Please sign up for these events on the ministry bulletin board.

➤ March 17 from 9pm-11pm  
Volleyball at Danvers Indoor Sports  
150 Andover Street  
\$10 per person

➤ March 25 from 11 am – 3 pm  
Escape Room and Roller-skating  
At Wicked Escapes  
425R Broadway, Route 1, Saugus  
\$25 per person

## SNOW POLICY

There will always be a worship service on Sunday morning at 10:30 am for those able to come to church.

Sunday School is cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather and poor road conditions. Cancellation notices will be posted on:

- West Church's Facebook page  
([www.facebook.com/westchurchpeabody](http://www.facebook.com/westchurchpeabody))
- WBZ-TV
- My TV38
- [www.cbsboston.com](http://www.cbsboston.com)
- 7NEWS (NBC)
- Channel 56(CW)
- [www.whdh.com](http://www.whdh.com)

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

*Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV*

## **S**INGLE **A**DULTS **L**IVING in **T**RUTH

S.A.L.T. is a fellowship of single adults (never married, divorced or widowed) who meet together monthly. We get together on the 3rd Saturday of the month. We usually share and fellowship around a meal, then do a Bible study and if the night is still young, play games. We sometimes have "field trips" as well.

This month we will be started a DVD study by Kyle Idleman called *Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus*. As single adults, we have a unique opportunity to support each other as well as deepen our relationship with Jesus our Savior. Singles please come!

If you want more information contact the church office.

### **SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE**

Eligible student applicants must be graduating high school in 2017, active in West Church, and entering college or training school in the fall. Applications will be available in the church office the first Sunday in April and must be submitted by Sunday, May 7.



### **CARDS, CAKES AND CONCERNS**

**March 19 at 6:30 pm in Lyons Hall**

The Missions Committee is now planning for another night of ministry for the encouragement of our missionary family around the world. All are invited as the adults will sign Easter cards and the children will create their own cards that night to be sent out.

This Easter ministry complements our long-standing Christmas card ministry in helping us maintain vital contact with our missionaries. It helps them to know that we really do care about them.

Please mark Sunday night, the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, on your calendar. You are asked to bring a cake (or cup cakes, homemade or store bought) to share with the group. The Missions Committee will provide the ice cream.

### **MEMORIAL EASTER LILIES**

On Easter Sunday, April 16, we will decorate the sanctuary with Easter lilies as we have in past years.

If you would like to provide a lily in memory of a loved one, please fill out the form in the Sunday bulletin or call the church office at 978-535-4112 with your order. The lilies are yours to take following the Easter Worship Service.

Plants that are left will be distributed to the sick and shut-ins of West Church by the Deacons. All flower orders need to be in the church office by Palm Sunday, April 9.

## WEST CHURCH ONLINE

The West Church website contains helpful information including an events calendar, ministry information, and audio files of sermons. This resource is helpful when you are unable to join us on a Sunday morning or if you would like to listen to a sermon again or share it with a friend or family member.

In addition West Church has a page on Facebook. This is a place to post information about upcoming events or ministry information. If you are on Facebook check out the West Church Peabody page.



## KINGDOM KIDS

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who have stepped forward and agreed to serve in this ministry to children during the Worship Service. The goal of 64 volunteers is close to being met which would allow volunteers to be scheduled in one of the four age groups once every 8 weeks.

A schedule for the month of March has been posted using volunteers that have already signed up. The schedule is posted outside the pre-school classrooms across from the office and the nursery. It also is posted online (password protected) on the church's website.

## ALL CHURCH SURVEY

***Thank you for your participation!***

More than 110 people completed the All Church Survey online. The Pulpit Committee appreciates the time and efforts of those who completed the survey and the information that was shared regarding our church.

## LOOKING AHEAD

- Holy Week: April 9-16
- Scholarship Application Due: May 7
- North Shore Christian Men's Choir Concert : June 3
- Vacation Bible School: July 10-14

# MINISTRY PRAYER CALENDAR

Please use the information below to daily pray for the ministries of West Church.

Sunday

- Commitment to Pray for Outreach
- Kingdom Kids & Nursery\*\*\*
- Rock Solid\*\*\*
- Sunday School\*\*\*
- Ushers & Greeters\*\*\*
- Worship Team\*\*\*

Monday

- Every Man a Warrior
- Gideon Ministry
- Haven from Hunger\*
- Nursing Home Ministry\*\*\*
- Pulpit Committee\*\*

Tuesday

- Board of Deacons & Deaconesses\*
- Board of Trustees\*
- Community Outreach Committee\*
- Nursing Home Ministry\*\*\*
- Prison Ministry

Wednesday

- Christian Service Brigade\*\*\*
- Girls' Growth Group\*\*\*
- Pioneer Girls\*\*\*
- Vacation Bible School
- Women's Bible Study\*\*\*

Thursday

- Christian Education Committee\*
- Missions Committee\*
- Home Fellowship Groups\*\*
- Missions Prayer Watch\*
- Food Pantry

Friday

- College and Career Ministry \*
- Compassionate Ministries
- Media Team
- Young at Heart

Saturday

- Gain Sewing Ministry\*
- Marriage Builders\*
- Nominating Committee
- Potpourri
- S.A.L.T.\*

*And **pray** for us,  
too, that God may  
open a door for  
our message, so  
that we may  
proclaim the  
mystery of Christ. ..  
Colossians 4:3*

\* Meet 1x per month  
\*\* Meet 2x per month  
\*\*\* Meet Weekly