

## Stacy's Studies-

I am looking forward to preaching through the Book of Hebrews over the next few months. As I began to explore Hebrews, I initially thought that it would take 26 weeks to really dig in and preach this book (and I still think so), but reality set in and I will try my best to cover it the best that I can in only 15 weeks.

On Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, I began by looking at an overview of the whole book. I want to encourage you to start reading through the Book of Hebrews, preferably in one sitting, so you can get the gist of the book. I have posted below each section of Scripture that I will look at each week. My prayer is that we will all be on the same page, so that God can speak to all of us through the Book of Hebrews. I also covet your prayers for this series so that God's Holy Spirit will move mightily through His Word and use me as His servant to deliver His message.

January 19<sup>th</sup>: Whole Book Summary

January 26<sup>th</sup>: 1:1-4

February 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1:4-14

February 9<sup>th</sup>: 2:1-18

February 16<sup>th</sup>: 3:1-4:13

February 23<sup>rd</sup>: 4:14-5:10

March 2<sup>nd</sup>: 5:11-6:12

March 9<sup>th</sup>: 6:13-7:28

March 16<sup>th</sup>: 8:1-9:10

March 23<sup>rd</sup>: 9:11-10:18

March 30<sup>th</sup>: 10:19-39

April 6<sup>th</sup>: 11:1-40

April 13<sup>th</sup>: 12:1-13

April 20<sup>th</sup>: 12:14-28

April 27<sup>th</sup>: 13:1-25

The rest of the year, please go live God's Word!!!

Thanks,  
Stacy

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## Hope Counseling-

### Relationships

My Junior High friends and I are studying **Relationships** this semester at HiN (youth group). This week, I surveyed our class on their most positive and negative experiences in Junior High. Most of them had very little to say about the positives. However, they had quite a bit to say about the negatives.

The number one topic that surfaced was about Drama! Interesting...we love to hate relationship drama. We love to talk about it, and there are so many movies made with drama: reality shows, sitcoms, and the like. Why so much about relationship drama if we hate it so much? Because we are still trying to figure it all out! We need love and experience it through relationship; both with God and each other. God's word has quite a lot to say about relationships.<sup>1</sup> (Cited below)

God created people to be in relationship with himself and with one another in friendship, marriage, family, society and the church.

- Human beings are created to be in relationship with God (Rev 21:3, Isa 43:6-7; Hos 11:1; 2 Co 6:18).
- Human beings are created to be in relationship with one another (Ge 2:18, Ps 127:4; Pr17:6, 17; 18:24; 27:10; Ecc 4:9-12).

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<sup>1</sup> Manser, M.H.(2009). *Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies*. London: Martin Manser. Exported from Logos Bible Software 4

### Relationship with God

- is entered by faith (Jn 1:12-13, Mt 12:50 pp Mk 3:35 pp Lk 8:21; Jn 17:3; Gal 3:26)
- is expressed through covenant (Ex 6:7, Ge 17:7; 2 Sa 7:14-15 pp 1 Ch 17:13-14; Lk 22:20 pp Mt 26:28 pp Mk 14:24; 2 Co 6:16; Lev 26:12; Heb 10:15-18; Jer 31:33-34)

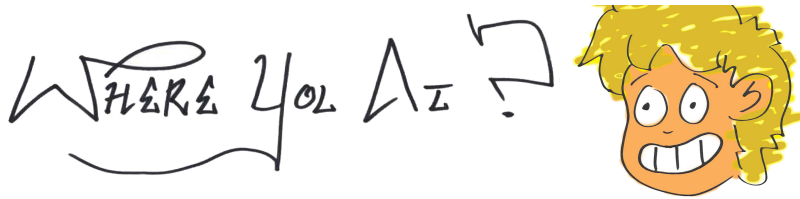
### Relationship between believers

- Believers are to be in relationship with one another in the church (Gal 3:28, Eph 2:14-16, 19)
- Believers are to maintain good relationships (Eph 4:3, Ro 12:18; 14:19; Heb 12:14)
- Believers are to restore broken relationships (Mt 18:15, Mt 5:23-24; Eph 4:26)

I look forward to journey through God's word with my friends. Do you have relationship drama? Check out his word...or come check us out!

Together in Christ,  
Brenda

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The fact that the Bible is divided into two parts can be confusing and frustrating for some, and even enough to put them off it completely. Although there are other attributes that the Bible has which turn people away from wanting to read or believe it, it seems that the fact that it is so old leads many to the view it as no longer relevant. We like the New Testament, and this "New" God but even that is still 2000 years old.

And so it's becoming more and more popular for people, even Christians, especially Christians, to come up with new ways of interacting with God, and thinking about God, and yes, talking about God. We look for new ways to understand God in hopes that one day we can say "I've figured you out, God!" Yet God does not change. He is the same yesterday (Old Testament), today (New Testament) and tomorrow (upon His return). Regardless of what we want to talk about, as people we mostly fall into two differing classes: the Old way of thinking, and the New. In the overarching culture of 2014 New is not just a desired result, but it is the expected priority. We have new technology dropping every month. We have new movies that we anticipate months or years in advance. We desire new channels because there's nothing good on the ones we already have, and we look for a new car, a new spouse, a new addiction, anything, just give me something new.

The change of social media goes all the way back to Xanga. Now I resisted joining Facebook as long as I could, I thought it was silly that people would choose to exist in a virtual reality (online), more than actual reality (with other people). Then we started to see an emergence of miniature spin offs of the social networks such as Flickr, and Tumblr, and Instagram, and Pinterest, and Meetup. The one that has, even to this day, left me completely gob-smacked at the human race is Twitter.

You get to write a short message and people sign up to read what you ate, where you went, how far you ran, or how well you liked the movie. A culture obsessed with useless information. As a youth minister I decided it would be beneficial for me to know what my kids were participating in. I got onto Twitter today to see that from the 15 people I'm 'following' my feed had received over a hundred new tweets in a matter of hours. I began to scroll through them looking for an interesting one only to realize that 95% of these tweets are random, useless, trivial tidbits that people feel the need to share. We are swimming in a world that is consumed by the need for new conversation and new information, it doesn't matter how mundane or worthless or petty or bizarre, people just want something new.

In Acts (in the Bible, the New Testament) there's a group of people that are the exact same way. They're called the Athenians. It says that they'd stand around all day only talking about and listening to new things. Athens was the original Twitter. They stood around all day coming up with new ways to look at different philosophies, new gods to worship, new words to tell of new experiences, new ways to describe the latest Tacos Locos from Taco Bell (BTW they are immensely piquant). All they were interested in was anything new, whatever it might be, as long as it was new. And here comes Paul to talk about the God of Abraham. This is an old God, yet somehow completely new to these people, and they were ready to listen.

Just last month I was home with family and my grandma was staying at the house for a few days. On one occasion I was sitting with her having a conversation about the state of Illinois (that's what we talk about when we aren't talking about God) and she told me "There's nothing new but you can put words together in new ways." And I think that's it. No matter what you concoct, no matter what kind of tweet you can put out there, no matter what kind of ideas about God you can come up with, no matter what ways you can invent to show someone you love them, no matter what kind of experiences you want to create for yourself or others, there's nothing new under the sun. So among all our tweets, and status updates, and pregnancies, and breakups, and let downs, and heartaches, and joys and burdens, and presents and secrets there's ultimately nothing new.

However, the human condition of needing this new thing, which is not recent but spans the course of time, is actually a built in motor that drives us towards a need for newness. But if God does not change, and there is nothing new then to what end will this desire finally bring us? Jesus said that if we are willing to learn about this old, never changing God from Him, then we will be like someone who brings treasures out of their house, both old and new. And we find it's not that God is changing or progressive or adapting to a changing peoples but that there's things we don't understand, or know, or believe about God because we're avoiding the conversation with the one who can teach us about Him. We fill our time posting about the game, or tweeting our favorite episode of Doctor Who, or updating the world on how we're feeling today instead of listening and learning about new things that are actually as old as God Himself. And the new thing we are wanting to talk about, so see, to experience is actually the newness being created in ourselves created by an old God, full of new things.

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### Prayer Requests-

- All our Missionaries
- Our country and lawmakers
- Storm victims in Washington and Gifford
- S.C.C. Leadership Team

### Long Term Illness-

- Marilyn Tjarks
- Marilyn Hadden
- Chuck Bridgwater
- Rick Marlow
- Janice Harden
- Kyla Zastrow
- Cynthia Minor
- Bonnie Hill
- Lou Prosser



### Special Events-

- February 4: Area Men's Meeting at Saybrook; 7pm
- February 9: Congregational Meeting and Potluck
- February 15: LCU Leadership Conference; 7 am
- February 22: Elementary Kids Ice Skating Party; 12:30 pm

### STATS-

	1-5-14	1-12-14	1-19-14	1-26-14
Offering	NO	\$6,450.10		\$4,100
SS	CHURCH	102	88	81
Worship	SNOW	126	120	106

**Check out our website:  
[saybrookchristianchurch.org](http://saybrookchristianchurch.org)**