



# Northland Reformed

*Monthly*

*Vol. 9 – September 2018*

## **The Life-Changing Power of God’s Word**

In the unbelieving world of psychology there exists a method of counseling called Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, commonly abbreviated as CBT. The logic behind this method of therapy is that, as humans, our emotions (depression, anger, anxiety, etc.) and the resulting actions (crying, lashing out, avoiding fearful situations) are all a result of our thoughts, or our habitual way of thinking.



Correct the person’s thinking and the change in emotions and actions will follow, or so the reasoning goes.

As with most unbiblical thinking, there is a hint of truth mixed with error in this line of reasoning. It is true that how we think does indeed affect what we feel (our emotions) and what we do (our actions). God has created us as a body/soul unity. Thus what we think (soul) is bound to have an affect on how we feel/act (body). But the lie in CBT (and all non-biblical counseling) is that we, as sinful humans, are really able to change the way we think so that we think correctly about ourselves and the world around us. The truth is, the only way a person is even able to begin thinking correctly is to think according to the Word of God, by the power of the in-dwelling Spirit. Non-Christian counselors have neither the tools (the Word of God) nor the power (the Holy Spirit) to effect lasting change. The best they can hope for is an outward change, replacing one sinful way of thinking with another, albeit a less harmful, or more socially acceptable, way of sinful thinking.

God, in his Word, tells us that we are to be “casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5). In other words, we are to think God’s thoughts after him by patterning our thinking according to the Word of God, which Paul calls having the “mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16; Phil. 2:5).

This is exactly what Paul tells Timothy, and us, to do in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. In this passage Paul outlines four functions of the Word of God (v. 16), that it is profitable for 1) doctrine, 2) reproof, 3) correction and 4) instruction in righteousness. When these four functions of God’s Word are implemented in our lives, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we, as the people of God will be “complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (v. 17).

In the following months our newsletter will focus on the sufficiency of Scripture to teach us all we need to know for godliness and how each of these four functions of Scripture are to be used to change our thinking and conform us to the image of Christ. Only then will we be “transformed by the renewing of our mind and prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Rom. 12:2).

Rev. Christopher Campbell

## Congregational News

### Northland Picnic 2018

Summer 2018 is now behind us and the new school year has begun. Once again, we enjoyed a time of fellowship at our



end of summer church picnic. Even though the weather outside was hot, our new fellowship hall



provided the perfect place to enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs (thanks Chris Fisher) and all of the other wonderful dishes that were provided. The children particularly enjoyed the evening as they had opportunity to fellowship with one another through the fun games provided (thanks to Penny Kimberling and Holly Fisher for coordinating, and to Patty Casey for providing the prizes!)

Remember that God has blessed us with one another that we might not only worship him together, but that we might live all of our lives as a community. Fellowship is a central part of what it means to be a Christian, for we who are united to Christ are also united to his body, the church. May our God bless us with many more opportunities to gather together and show our love toward one another in Christian fellowship and service.



## September Schedule

### REGULAR MEETINGS

- Sunday Worship | September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 9:30AM & 5:00PM
- Prayer Meeting | September 19 | 6:15PM | A meal will be served at 6:15 followed by prayer at 7PM
- Men's Morning Fellowship @ Cracker Barrel Tiffany Springs | September 8, 22 | 7:00AM
- Friday Night Fellowship | September 14, 28 | 6:30PM | We will meet for a meal and lesson

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Consistory Meeting | September 11 | 6:30PM
- Lord's Supper & Fellowship Meal | September 9 | During the morning service we will observe the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. After the service we will gather for a fellowship meal.



### Scripture Memorization

“Your word I have hidden in my heart,  
That I might not sin against You.” – Psalm 119:11

September 2	Acts 20:35
September 9	Matthew 5:3-6
September 16	Matthew 5:7-10
September 23	Matthew 5:11-12
September 30	1 Corinthians 13:4-7