

Sign Post

**July – August,
2025**

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Sign Post is online at
www.iowaeastdeaf.org.
It is the newsletter for:

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Church for the Deaf
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Whatever has happened before will happen again. Whatever has been done before will be done again. There is nothing new under the sun. Can you say that anything is new? It has already been here long before us. Ecclesiastes 1:9-10

In Cedar Rapids, we recently finished a Bible study on Ecclesiastes. The Bible is a book that is full of good news and hope for the future. But Ecclesiastes is full of trouble and depression. It says:

- Everything is vanity (pointless, meaningless)
- We are born for trouble
- Life is full of hard work that doesn’t benefit us in the end
- Many people live foolishly. Wise people can use their wisdom, but in the end it doesn’t help them.

So in Ecclesiastes 1, Solomon (the author) looks around and says nothing new happens in this life. If you look back in history, people have always been born, lived, and died. Their lives are full of work and trouble. There have always been earthquakes, storms, floods, disease, and wars. People have always gotten married and had children and those children get married and have more children. What changes? Nothing! Life will always be the same.

What a depressing view of life! It is important for us to correctly understand the book of Ecclesiastes. In much of the book, Solomon is looking at life without faith. If you have no faith or relationship with God, what does life look like? Depressing. Hopeless. Meaningless. No future.

To be clear, Ecclesiastes doesn’t leave us there. Solomon does remind us that wisdom is still better than foolishness. He does tell us that we should trust God in our life and enjoy the blessings that He gives us.

This year in these newsletter articles, we are thinking about how God makes us new and gives us new life both now and forever. How can the same Bible tell us that there is nothing new under the sun, and also tell us that God gives us new life? We need to understand (1) who is doing the work and (2) what kind of work they are doing.

Continued on p. 2

New Life in an Old World (continued from p. 1)

Who is doing the work of making us new? God is. Not this world. When Solomon said there is nothing new under the sun, he meant this world can't come up with anything new. People today love to talk about new technology and how science and technology will change our lives. It is true that there are many new things. Many years ago, people could not even imagine things like microwaves, cell phones, computers, cars, etc. But all of our technology will not change the basics of life and death. Science cannot solve the problem of sin. No matter what we do, we can't solve all of the problems that sin causes. The world can't save us.

Only God can and does save us. He does do new things! Isaiah 65:17-25 gives us a wonderful picture of God's promise to make all things new. He will not make this world better. He will get rid of this old sinful world and make a completely new creation. Here are a few things He says in Isaiah 65.

¹⁷ I will create a new heaven and a new earth.

Past things will not be remembered.

They will not come to mind.

²⁰ There will no longer be an infant who lives for only a few days or an old man who doesn't live a long life.

Whoever lives to be a hundred years old will be thought of as young.

Whoever dies before he is a hundred years old will be cursed as a sinner.

²³ They will never again work for nothing.

They will never again give birth to children who die young, because they will be offspring blessed by the Lord.

The Lord will bless their descendants as well.

He began that work of creating us new in Jesus. He forgives our old sin that ruins this world. He rose alive to promise that we will also rise alive. That is the hope that we have in Jesus. We can look forward to the time when He will give us a new and perfect life with Him. In this world, in this life, we live with the same old burden of sin and death. But God gives us a wonderful promise beyond this world. Hold onto that hope and look forward to His new world and new life with great joy!

Pastor Eckert

Prayers

Please remember these in your prayers:

- ✦ Thank God for His promise to give us new life in heaven, better than this life on earth. We thank God for His care and blessings here, but we also look forward to something much better!
- ✦ Pray for our leaders, that they will do good for our country and follow God's ways.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with health: Susan Green, Barbara Zimmerman, Norma Jean Mangrich, Kent Kischer, Jay Oelberg, Lisa Oelberg, Janet Weber, James Weber, Curtis Bethurum, Kathy Anderson, JoAnn Mitchell, Chris Wrage, Ricky Moore, Paula Slavin, Nancy Griffin, and many family members and friends.
- ✦ Pray for the people in Texas who mourn the loss of family and friends in the flash flooding. Ask God to give them His comfort and peace.
- ✦ Thank God for a good Iowa District East convention and for their support of deaf ministry.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.

Dive Into God's Word

There have been conversations recently about the government, new policies (tariffs, immigration, taxes), protests, etc. We have the right as U.S. citizens to vote and ask our government to change laws or do certain things. As Christians, how much can we try to change the government? How much should we obey them? These are important questions. We will look at several Bible passages to see what God teaches us about government. *Answers are on page 4.*

Where Government Comes From

1. Romans 13:1. Who created governments?
2. Romans 13:2. If you go against the government, then you are also going against who?

Government Responsibilities

3. Romans 13:3-4. If you do good and right, what should the government do?
4. If you do wrong, the government is responsible to do what? (Notice what verse 4 names the government!)

Our Responsibilities

5. Romans 13:5-7 tells us we must do several things for the government and people in authority. What should we do?
6. Can Christians serve in government? Can Christians be politicians?
7. What does 1 Timothy 2:1-2 say is our responsibility to government?

What About Bad Governments?

8. There are many governments around the world that are against Christians. In some countries, the government kills Christians or puts them in jail. In others, it is hard for Christians to find jobs. Or people burn down Christians churches or houses and the government won't help. Or as in the U.S., we see the government moving towards trying to force Christians to accept sinful behavior. Then what? Romans 13:1-7 says we must obey the government. But what if the government tells us to do wrong? Read Acts 5:28-29.

Answers to Dive Into God's Word, p. 3.

Where Government Comes From.

1. God created (established) governments. The Roman government persecuted Christians. The government wasn't always fair. But the Bible still says God established that government. So even if we complain about our government or say they don't do things right, God established our government. We should still obey them.
2. God says if we go against the government, then we also go against God. He put the government there. So we obey the government because we obey God. (But what if the government is against God? We discuss that later.)

Government Responsibilities

3. If you do good and right, the government should praise you.
4. If you do wrong, the government should punish you. They also have the right to put people to death for bad crimes. The Bible names the government, "God's servant." That may surprise some people. God's law is here to protect and help innocent people and punish guilty people. That is the government's main job.

Our Responsibilities

5. First, we must obey the government. Second, we pay taxes. Third, we respect and honor people who work in government. Many politicians have a reputation for being selfish, lying, and not keeping their promises. Sometimes that is true, but sometimes that is just their reputation because many people don't like politicians. No-matter, we should still show respect for all people in authority over us.
6. Yes, Christians can be politicians and serve in government. If a Christian runs for office, he or she should be sure to be honest and always do right. We also have a responsibility to vote for the people who will serve as our leaders in the best God-pleasing way.
7. We pray for our leaders. As Christians, we can come to God and pray about anything. God tells us that we should also pray for everyone in authority. Then we can have a peaceful and quiet life, which means we are free to serve God and live as Christians.

What About Bad Governments?

8. God says we should obey Him, and God says we should obey the government. But God is the higher authority. If God tells us to do something, and the government tries to stop us, we must obey God. Or if the government supports breaking God's law, we must oppose that. Here are two examples:
 - Abortion. The government allow abortion. God says to protect all life, including unborn babies. We will protect life.
 - Homosexuality/Transgenderism. The government is allowing and supporting this more and more. God says it is sinful. We will continue speaking God's truth.

July

- 2 Ricky Moore
- 13 Barb Zimmerman
- 31 Michael Anderson



August

- 17 Stephen Eckert
- 29 Mike Currier

July 2025

		1	2 7:00 WL – Worship	3	4	5 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
6 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	7	8	9	10	11	12 No services today.
13 No services today.	14	15	16 7:00 WL – Study	17	18	19 10:00 QC – Worship
20 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	21	22	23	24	25	26 10:00 QC – Worship
27 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	28	29	30	31		

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 4th Sunday worship at 3:00 p.m.
 CR – Cedar Rapids. Word of God Lutheran Church Deaf, 1515 - 29th St. NE, Cedar Rapids. Every Sunday, Bible Study at 10:00 a.m., Worship at 11:00 a.m.
 QC – Quad Cities. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1705 E. Locust St., Davenport. Every Saturday, Worship at 10:00 a.m.
 WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. 1st Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m., 3rd Wednesday study at 7:00 p.m.
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 2nd Saturday Study at 1:00 p.m.

August 2025

					1	2 10:00 QC – Worship
3 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	4	5	6 7:00 WL – Worship	7	8	9 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
10 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	11	12	13 7:00 WL – Study	14	15	16 10:00 QC – Worship
17 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	18	19	20	21	22	23 10:00 QC – Worship
24/31 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	25	26	27	28	29	30 10:00 QC – Worship

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Time

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In Ecclesiastes, Solomon said there is nothing new under the sun. But that doesn't mean nothing happens. Life and the world go on as God created them. Part of His creative work is that He created a time for everything to happen in our lives. Sometimes we question why things happen and why they happen when they do. God is the one who controls time and events for our good and for His kingdom, even when we can't see or understand it. The words for the puzzle are from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Find the underlined words.

C C V N I U P T E T L H T D N
A E O E P N M U A R E R F R A
H W Y E P L O V E C N A D O L
S E A S O N U F C V K L R E K
P C W R C P R R A A I H H N M
E T A H R A N C R U L G T P I
A E W O I T T O B I L U N S A
K N O N E I A T M M P A I P M
L T R A V M H H E O E L E L N
G O H I B E C N W R E H T A G
B E T E A R D O W N K I D N I
C Y W L A S I A T E D D D T M
O A G E I V N D E D C R K N S
T O S E E I E A R E O A E R P
A R D E W P H N E A C C E V Y

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die,

a time to plant and a time to uproot,

a time to kill and a time to heal,

a time to tear down and a time to build,

a time to weep and a time to laugh,

a time to mourn and a time to dance,

a time to scatter stones and a time to

gather them,

a time to embrace and a time to refrain,

a time to search and a time to give up,

a time to keep and a time to throw away,

a time to tear and a time to mend,

a time to be silent and a time to speak,

a time to love and a time to hate,

a time for war and a time for peace.

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



Adjusting from paradise to life in a cursed world, Adam & Eve would often update each other with new discoveries.

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