

Make sure you are receiving the best benefits

Last week we began a two column series on the subject of benefits and their importance to the American culture. We are specifically dealing with the subject of the benefits of being a Christian.

Out of curiosity I googled the word benefit to see how many sights that have some reference to that word in them would pop up.

Here is the number 352,000,000. For the sake of time my searching stopped right there.

It is true benefits are important, and there is definitely not anything wrong with them. Let's wrap up last weeks column by giving two more reasons why you should be a Christian.

The first reason we looked at last week was because of grace. In the past there was grace. Your salvation is nothing you can earn. Grace is undeserved kindness. Christ died for



steve rains

• moments from calvary

you and me and we didn't even ask for it, but we sure did need it.

Mind you this column stems from 1 Corinthians 1:2-9. As Paul starts this letter he reminds them of who they are, and they arrive at that identity because of what Christ did for them. Here is the second reason. In the present there are gifts. Look at verse 5. You have everything you need to live for God today.

I like what 2 Peter 1:3 says, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory

and goodness." Often I find living for God isn't as difficult as we make it, a lot of the agony is self inflicted by stinking thinking!

God also gives gifts. Verse 7 says, "Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift." The gifts God gave didn't end. If they did which ones ended, all of them or just a few? That is exciting news! That means we have everything we need to minister to one another, to our community, and world if we would just let the gifts flow! God's plan for His church is for it to live in victory. By the way don't think I am saying a Christian never has a problem and has a five digit check book all the time. I want to challenge you to enlarge your view of what victory is!

Here is what I know. The power of the gospel is this. When someone believes it, and walks by the Spirit, by the power of the Spirit, and with the Word of God, and begins to use the gifts God has given them, then they can overcome absolutely any dilemma, and disability, and situation. How can I say that? Because, Christ has given us the power! Why else would He say, "We are more than overcomers through Him who loved us."

Here is the third benefit of being a Christian from this passage of Scripture. This is exciting. The future is guaranteed! As a Christian we have a future to look forward to.

Let me ask you? Are you afraid of the future? If the economy tanks — so what. If the economy gets better — praise God. How can I say that?

Because the future is headed towards one event, the return of

Christ, and the end of the Book says, "WE WIN!"

Look at what verse seven says, "Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed."

It is a pet peeve of mine that we make church boring. As one guy says it this way irrelevance is irreligious.

The church has the greatest message and sometimes we stink in being excited about the treasure every believer possesses (2 Cor 4:7).

Why be excited that Jesus is coming? Three reasons — He will be exalted, and he deserves to be exalted. Satan will be defeated, and he deserves it. The one who has caused and cost all the pain will be dealt with.

Finally, Christians will be made perfect. Verse 8 says, "He will keep

you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." You will be blameless.

Man, I am getting excited about this! Look at Jude 1:24, be careful though you might start dancing with excitement!

All I know is this, salvation is a beautiful thing. Why wouldn't you want that?

When you get to heaven, Jesus is going to be by your side and He is going to say, "Heavenly Father, I want you to meet (insert your name) and he/she is perfect!" I hope I see you there.

Steve Rains is the pastor at the Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and College. Go to the church's web site at calvarygospel.net or e-mail Rains at calvarycolumn@st-tel.net.

Juniors, seniors perform contest pieces

An audience of music lovers heard Goodland High School juniors and seniors showing off the solos they performed for the state music contest on Sunday night at the First Christian Church.

Bryan Gray sang "Im Abendroth" by Franz Schubert, accompanied by Nancy Shores. Devin Mangus played a trumpet solo, "Prelude Et Ballade" by Balay. Kaitlin Fugleberg played "Sherzo" by Nelhybel on her flute.

On the trombone, Tanner Oharah played "Concerto in F minor" by Emile Lauga. Mangus, Fugleberg and Oharah were accompanied by GERALYN PARKER on <what?>. Renae Reasoner played a piano solo, "Ballade" by Debussy.

Reasoner was recognized with the 2008 Margaret Martin Piano Award, which recognizes a senior

piano student. She has accompanied high school musicals, played in the jazz ensemble and gone to regional piano contest for four years and state contest for three.

The award, named after longtime piano teacher Margaret Martin, was given by her daughter, Bonnie Trachsel, and granddaughter, Char Avila. Reasoner received a plaque and her name was added to a large, permanent plaque at the high school.

The Goodland Federated Music Club evaluates nominations for the award and recommends to the Martin family who the winner should be.

The music teachers for the students include Carol Jolly, Deanne Langness, Randy Berls and Sharon Kriss.

Worship warms the heart



Calvary Gospel Church
Pastor: Steve Rains, Ben Coats, youth pastor
 Fourth & College • 890-3605
Sunday: Kid's Church: 10:30 am
 Morning Service: 10:30 am
 Evening Service: 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Royal Rangers Missionettes 6:30 p.m.
 Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m.
 Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.
 Small Group Ministries meets throughout the week.
www.calvarygospel.net

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 307 W. 13th • 890-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
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Mass Schedule:
 Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am
Spanish Mass:
 Sunday: 12:30 pm

Word of Life
A Foursquare Church
 10th & Clark • 899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Associate Pastor: Ben Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration and Kids' Church: 10:30 am
Life Groups - call for times and locations
www.wordoflifegoodland.org

Pleasant Home Church
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 Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70
Pastor: Perry Baird
 890-3375
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 Sunday School: 10 a.m.
 Evening Service: 6 p.m.

Bible Baptist Church
Pastor: Clifford Middlebrooks
 Fifth & Broadway
 890-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m.
 Morning Service: 10 a.m.
 Evening Service: 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO
 (719) 346-7984
Sacrament Meeting: 10 a.m.
Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.
Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 a.m.

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo
 La Luz Del Mundo
 Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
 1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m.
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 a.m.

United Methodist Church
Brewster:
Pastor: Dorine Chambers
 Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST
Winona:
Minister: Sheryl Johnson
 Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST
 Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

First Christian Church
 (Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Rev. Ted Amos
 Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available

Kanorado United Methodist Church
Pastor: Leonard Cox
 399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m.
 Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

Church of the Nazarene
Pastor: Bob Willis
 Third & Caldwell
 899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Worship Service: 10:50 a.m.
 Evening Service: 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
 1116 Sherman 899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Kasey Crosby
Saturday: Worship: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m.
 Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live
 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper "Free will Offering
 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

Goodland Bible Church
 109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor: Chad DeJong
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 6 p.m.
Wednesday: AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church
Pastor: Travis Blake
 Bateman's Funeral Home, 211 E. 11th
 890-3450
Sunday: Sunday School for all ages:
 9:30 a.m. (Child care provided)
 Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m.
 Wheatridge Center

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 13th & Center
 Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969
Priest: Father Hal Lycett
Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday
 10:00 a.m. Thursday
Morning Prayer: Daily, 8 a.m. Thursday and Sunday
 For emergencies 890-6969

Harvest Evangelical Free Church
 104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918
Pastor: Brian Fugleberg
Sunday: Worship: 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Junior high 6:30 p.m.
 at Fugleberg's, 708 Washington Senior high 6:30 p.m. at church

Seventh Day Adventist Church
 1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Mike Larson
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.
 Worship Service: 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
 13th & Sherman • 890-6161
Sunday: Christian education/fellowship:
 10:15 a.m.
 Worship Service: 9 a.m.
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 p.m.

Church of Christ
 401 Caldwell
 890-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.
 Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 p.m.

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

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