



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY - 9 am.

We are at present studying the Gospel of Romans. Johan is facilitating the class. Please join us during this time of learning God's Word.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY - 10 AM

No Ladies Classes during the school holiday.

SUNDAY CHILDREN'S CLASS 9am

Please bring your children so that they can learn more about God. If you have any questions about this class, please speak to Shana.

Proverbs 19:8: "Whoever gets wisdom loves life; he who keeps understanding will find good."

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SUNDAY TIMES:

BIBLE STUDIES: 09H00

WORSHIP: 10H00 TO 11H00

13 JULY 2025

Preacher: Johan Smulders

Sermon Topic: Speaking of Heavenly Things

Scripture reading: John 3: 10 - 15

Text: John 3: 12

Song Leader: Mike Baisley **Scripture Reading:** Thando Ntozakhe

Opening Prayer: Carry Hagemann **Lord's Table:** Chris du Preez

Closing Prayer: Ray Calder **Attendance last Sunday:** 35

Servers: Chris, Carry, Thando & Ray

A SHORT SUMMERY OF MATTHEW, THE APOSTLE

The Apostle Matthew, also known as Saint Matthew and Levi, was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ. He is traditionally regarded as the author of the Gospel of Matthew. When Jesus called Matthew to follow him, he was a tax collector (or "publican"), one of the most reviled professions in ancient Judaism.

Little is known about this apostle. Aside from a handful of mentions in the gospels, he's a surprisingly obscure New Testament figure. And despite the fact that the church has long considered him the author of the Gospel of Matthew, little else was ever recorded about him.

While Matthew is honored as a martyr, no one knows for sure where or how he died. Various accounts say he was beheaded, stoned, burned, or stabbed. One even suggests he died of natural causes like John.

There are legends about his ministry, but no substantial records of his role in the early church. Later apocryphal texts emerged claiming to be written by him, and some early church fathers supported these texts, but the works only survive in fragments and quotations, and modern scholarship is divided on their authorship.

So what do we really know about him? We're going to look at what the Bible says about Matthew, what we know about the gospel that bears his name, and some other tidbits about this enigmatic apostle.

According to Matthew 9: 9 and Mark 2: 14, Matthew was sitting by the customs house in Capernaum (near modern Almagor, Israel, on the Sea of Galilee) when Jesus called him into his company. Assuming that the identification of Matthew with Levi is correct, Matthew, meaning "Yahweh's Gift", would appear to be the Christian name of Levi (called by Mark "Levi, the son of Alphaeus"), who had been employed as a tax collector in the service of Herod Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee. Because Levi's occupation was one that earned distrust and contempt everywhere, the scribes of the Pharisees criticized Jesus on seeing him eat with tax collectors and sinners, whereupon Jesus answered, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2: 15 - 17). According to Luke 5: 29, the aforementioned dinner was given by Levi in his house after his call.

Matthew 28: 19, 20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you."

BIBLE STUDIES

Studying God's Word is a crucial practice for spiritual growth, understanding God's will, and living a life aligned with His teachings. It involves reading, interpreting, and applying Scripture to daily life. (2 Timothy 2:15)

VISITORS

On behalf of our church family, we'd like to extend a welcome to our visitors. We trust that you will be spiritually uplifted while worshipping God this morning.

BIRTHDAYS

Angela Woodhall - 16 July

Siphe Nyanga - 18 July

Just One Step

by F.L. Booth

As I walked down life's road one day,
A mountain rose to block my way.

I couldn't go around, you see,
The pass was narrow—closed to me.

I asked the Lord, How shall I climb?
Just one step, He said, at a time.
How can I scale that awesome height?
Look up, said He, you'll do all right.

I took some steps and it was great,
I'd go right up and celebrate!
Then I looked down and slipped and fell.
Get up, said He, you're doing well.

So once again I started up,
The road is steep and sometimes rough,
But near the top, the way is smooth,
And there I'll find a well-worn groove.

I'll reach the top one day then stand,
Survey the view that's truly grand.
The Lord waits there and all my friends,
My family, too—love never ends.

Now I look up, and I can see
The hand my Lord holds out to me.
So carefully each day I climb,
Just one step I take at a time.

Seek The Things That Are Above

By James Carpenter.

Each one of us is experiencing this season differently. For some, it is a time of slowing down, for others things are moving at a faster pace. For many fear, anxiety and isolation are hard realities to fight. The news keeps coming (sometimes good, but often heavy). We are stuck in a season of change that seems to be lingering with no clear outlines or timeframes. We are all facing challenges and this season will be one we look back on and tell stories about.

Like many, I have felt the swirl of emotions, bouncing between hope and discouragement. Yet a lingering voice says, "I am still in control, I still have a plan".

Colossians 3: 1 - 4 says this: "If then, you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you will also appear with Him in glory."

We are those who have been raised with Christ and He is calling us to set our minds on the things above, on His kingdom, His plans, His thoughts. In the chaos of this season, Jesus has been calling me to refocus my attention. He has been reminding me that though I am here on the earth, my ultimate citizenship is in heaven and that is where I should be getting my "news" from. We are called to look up, not ignoring what is in front of or around us, but not becoming fixated on them either. With the noise this world creates it is easy to be distracted and allow fear and worry to overtake our minds and emotions.

The Scripture reminds us that we have been "transformed into a new creation" (Galatians 6: 15), we are "temporary residents and foreigners" in this world (I Peter 2: 11), and our lives are "hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3: 3). Oh, what a place to be hidden that is, friends! When worry or fear comes it will have a hard time finding us, for we are hidden well under the shadow of His wings. Fear and worry come to rob us, clouding our minds and getting us off track. If we will hide ourselves in Christ and allow Him to be our source, then we can work with our Creator and look to the future, entering into the opportunities that may await us if we have eyes to see and ears to hear.

Some of the ways that I like to take time to dwell in Him is through worship, one particular song that is speaking to me is "Thank You" by Maverick city music, I find it helps me refocus and get my eyes back on Him in a spirit of gratefulness.

I also make it a practice to ask the Holy Spirit what passage He would like me to read, He will often give me a scripture address. I might reread that same passage for multiple days and just let it get deep. The passage above was one such passage.

Church, I invite you to take time to dwell in the hiding place, hidden in Christ with God, seeking that which is above, taking your mind off the things of this world. Remember who He is, who He has created you to be and look with fresh expectant eyes to see what might be awaiting you.

John 3: 10 – 15, "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."