

Hebrews 12:2 - "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus."



Fixed.

adj. Nailed down; firm; stable; fastened; immovable; permanent.

Fall/Winter Retreat
Forest Glen Camp
Dec 5-7th, 2008

Schedule

Friday

4pm - load & leave, dinner on road

8pm - worship

10pm - campfire, freetime

midnight - lights out

Saturday

8am - breakfast

9am - worship & freetime

*12:30 - lunch, worship, & freetime,
b-ball, canoes, archery, etc*

6pm - dinner

7pm - worship, freetime, load trailer

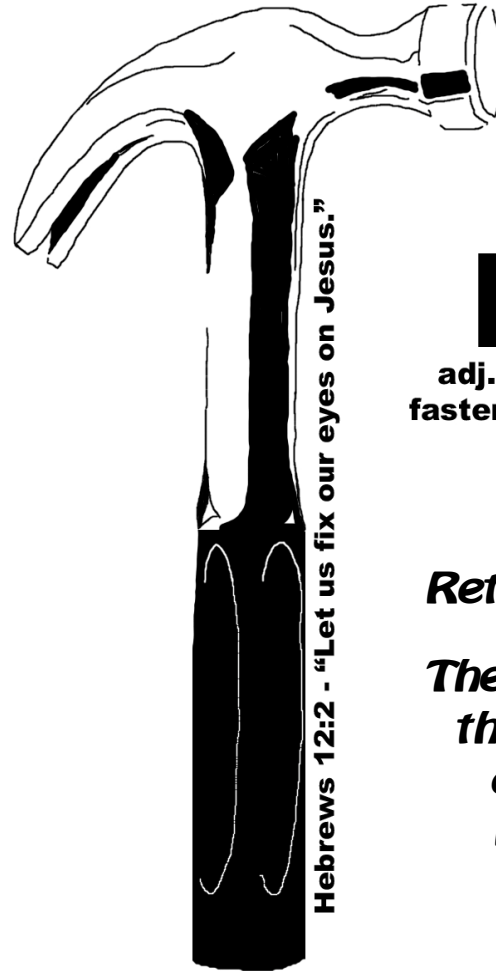
10pm - campfire

midnight - lights out

Sunday

6am - leave, breakfast on road

9am - worship at First Church



7

Fixed.

adj. Nailed down; firm; stable; fastened; immovable; permanent.

Retreat Theme: "Fixed"

The teaching times for the weekend will be centered around Hebrews 12:1-2 "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus."

Hans will take the "Fixed" theme and teach three topics:

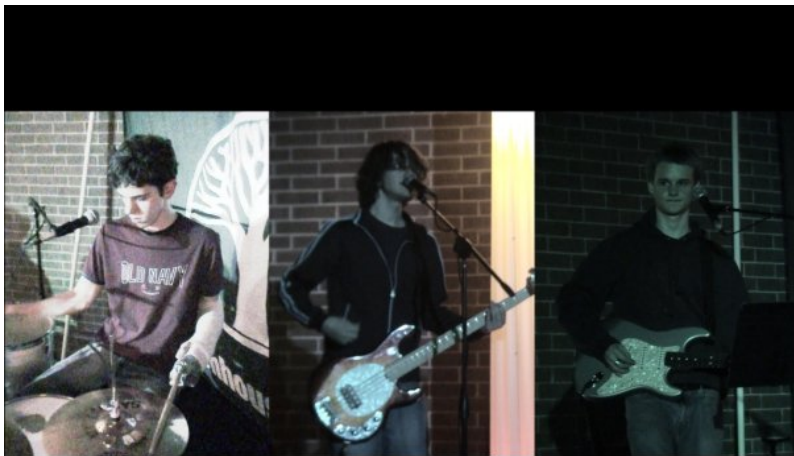
***No other Name
No other Gods
& No other Commandment***

Guests

Band:

We will have the band Greenhouse Effect join us to lead worship. Check them out on youtube playing around at a fall festival a few years ago @

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cis9JsTjO8Y>



Greenhouse Effect

Speaker:

Hans Googer will be the speaker for the weekend. He's great! Funny!! He was one of Steve's youth many years ago & has been involved in all kinds of ministries since then. He is about to finish his seminary degree at Dallas Theological Seminary and is also a pretty amazing guitar player. You can check out some of Hans' teachings on the Refuge podcast on itunes. Just look for Hans' name in the description section. June 22, June 29, July 13, & July 27 of 2008.



Hans Googer

<http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=261721452>

Introduction

What does it mean to be “fixed?” And I’m not talking about dogs here. . . . well, I guess there are some similarities. Alright, I’ll go there.

When a dog gets “fixed,” it’s cause his/her owners don’t want puppies. Even though they might be cute, they are still unwanted. Afterwards, can the dog have puppies?

Of course not.

(That’s why they do the surgery.) Can it be undone? Well. . . .

I’m guessing that there probably is some wacko out there who has performed reconstructive surgery on a dog, but. . . In general, the answer is “No, once a dog is fixed, it can’t be undone.”



You might be thinkin’ “What does all this have to do with our retreat?” Well, I’m glad you asked.

This weekend will be centered around one

Scripture:

Hebrews 12:2 says, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

It’s about the idea of being “Fixed” on Jesus.

‘Cause it’s our belief that once you’re truly “Fixed” on him, you won’t have puppies. . .

Uhh. . . I mean, you won’t have some of the junk in your life that other people do. We also believe that it’s simply a better way to live and that once you are “fixed” on Him, you’ll never want to go back. It’ll never be undone.

To be “fixed” on something is to have it “nailed down, firm, stable, fastened, immovable, or permanent.” If you’re “fixed” on Jesus, that means you’re fastened to Him, and your faith is firmly planted in Him. It means that you have made a permanent commitment and you are stable in how you live your life. It means that when troubles come or doubts arise, your faith is immovable - it won’t be shaken. This is what we desire for each of you and our hope/prayer is that this weekend will help you to get your faith “nailed down.”

What are the things that distract you from your faith?

Do you spend too much time watchin' TV or thinking about stuff that doesn't really matter? What are those things?

What causes you to doubt and shakes your faith?

How can you "nail down" your beliefs a bit more?

Is there anything you could do that would help you focus on your relationship with Jesus?

No Other name

List 5 people you trust below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

When you have problems, are these the people you go to for help? Who do you trust the most? Who do you go to first? Second?

Is Jesus on your list? In all honesty, where is He on the list?

Acts 4:10b-12 says, "It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, but whom God raised from the dead Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Salvation comes by "no other name" than Jesus Christ.

Pray for a few minutes that God will use our next worship time to help you understand this better. Ask Him to help you ignore all the distractions and focus just on Him and His word for a while. Try to "fix" your eyes and thoughts on only Him, and listen to what He says.

PS - Hebrews 12:2 says, "Fix your **eyes** on Jesus," but Hebrews 3:1 also says, "Fix your **thoughts** on Jesus." It sounds to me like that pretty well means we're supposed to be totally focused and "fixed" on Him.

No Other gods

Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me."

Almost everyone has heard this verse before. It's one of the 10 Commandments. As Christians, we'd all say we believe in this one. We don't believe in any other gods - certainly not like Zeus or Ra or even Buddha. But what is a god? Isn't it anything that we worship?

Worship = to honor something or give it a high place in our lives.

One way to figure out what you worship is to think about how you spend your time and money.

Can you worship a band/musician? a celebrity? (Write down your favorites)

You can worship money, sex, power, popularity, pleasure, desires, position, sports, a job, or even your family if you let those things control

your life more than you let God control it.

Name someone (it could be yourself) who was obsessed with something (A band, a boyfriend, or even a hobby or sport) and also write down what they were obsessed with.

Now imagine God saying this to them.
“You have forsaken me and served other gods, so I will no longer save you. Go and cry to the gods you have chosen. Let them save you when you are in trouble.” Judges 10:13-14

That’s exactly what God said to the Israelites when they worshipped other gods. Do you think those other gods would do a very good job of saving them? What about the person you listed above. Would their obsession save them when they were in trouble?

What gods do you have in your life? Is there anything/anyone that captures your thoughts/heart more than God? What are they?

Do you spend your money and time on Godly things or on something else?

What keeps you awake at night? Are your thoughts “fixed” on Him? What do you dream about and wish you could do or be a part of? Would those things save you if you were in trouble?

Do you worship the Creator or just something He created?

Exodus 20:3 “You shall have no other gods before me.”

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No Other Commandment

Mark 12:38-31 *"One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"*

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

I've heard these verses summed up this way:

Love God. Love people.

It really kinda makes sense - If we love God we will love people 'cause they are made in His image.

Love is an interesting thing. The words "I love you" don't mean anything if they are spoken

simply to gain forgiveness for an affair. On the other hand, those same words are incredibly powerful when accompanied by a young man on his knee with as he offers an engagement ring. The bottom line to me is that love is not something we say, it's something we do. Our actions express our love.

If you "Love God with your heart," what evidence could be seen? Would there be any outward expressions of it?

How do you "Love God with your soul?"

What does it mean to "Love God with your mind" and what actions would you take if you loved Him that way?

How well do you love other people? What ways do you express that love?

Who are some of the people that are hard to love? Who are they?

Is there anyone that you simply refuse to love?

We called to love everyone (even those we don't want to love) because they are made in God's image. If we don't love them, then we don't love God. Matthew 5:44 actually says that we should love our enemies.

Pray for a few minutes that God will use our next worship time to help you understand this better. Ask Him to help you ignore all the distractions and focus just on Him and His word for a while. Try to "fix" your eyes and thoughts on only Him, and listen to what He says.

No Other name notes

Hans Googer

No Other
gods
notes

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No Other
commandment
notes

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