



“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”
2 Peter 1:21



CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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When We Meet

Sunday

Bible Classes – 9:00 am
 Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

Our Elders

R.D. Hopper
 Norman Kemper

Our Deacons

Troy Hunter
 Kelly Kendall
 Tony Ramick

Our Preacher

Alex Hale

Preaching Plans for the Year
 By Alex Hale

In the classic *Alice in Wonderland*, the title character is anxiously wandering through the forest when she comes across the Cheshire cat sitting in a tree. Lost, Alice asks the cat, “Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?” In response, the cat says to Alice, “That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.” When Alice says, “I don’t much care where,” the cat quips, “Then it doesn’t matter which way you go.”

Sometimes in life we are a lot like Alice in the forest. We journey through life, not really all that happy with where we are, but not really sure where we want to go or how to get there. When you have no direction, then it does not matter what you do. This is true with us individually. It is true within the family context. It is even true congregationally.

It can also be true of preachers. Though a preacher may be teaching the truth, without an objective or plan, his work can seem random and disconnected. Many preachers I know often spend the first half of their week asking themselves, “What am I going to preach?”

To prevent this, for the past several years, I have used a preaching calendar to map out my sermons. To give you an idea of where we are headed this year, I thought it might be beneficial to let you “behind the preacher’s desk.”

Typically, I develop a theme for the year. The 2019 theme will be, “Life As It Should Be.” On the first Sunday morning each month, we will revisit this theme and build on it. These lessons are designed with the entire congregation in mind, and also serve as unique opportunities for you to invite friends and neighbors. Theme lessons and dates are as follows:

- January 6: Life As It Should Be
- February 3: What Discipleship Looks Like on a Sunday
- March 3: What Discipleship Looks Like on a Monday Morning
- April 7: What Discipleship Looks Like on a Friday Night
- May 5: What Discipleship Looks Like at Home
- June 2: Being In the World, But Not Of the World
- July 7: The Meaning of Life
- August 4: What Life Looks Like When You Are Successful
- September 1: What Life Looks Like When the Bottom Falls Out
- October 6: How to Deal with the End of This Life
- November 3: A Well-Orchestrated Life
- December 1: The Goal – Eternal Life

In addition to this, I discipline myself each year to preach from a text that is either not as familiar to us or a text which I have not preached from in a while. To that end, I plan to preach through 1, 2, and 3 John this spring. These lessons will center on the “blessed assurance” we have as believers (see 1 Jn. 5:13). I also plan to preach through the book of Revelation in the fall. Also, I work to preach at least one lesson a month on first principles (authority, the plan of salvation, work and worship of the church, etc). We will also continue Q&A lessons monthly.

As always, I am interested in your questions and thoughts. There is room in the schedule for issues and concerns that may arise this year. Not every week is scheduled, but this gives me an idea of where I am headed as a preacher and where we are headed as a congregation. As with anything, we say, “*If the Lord wills...*” (Jas. 4:15).