



WELCOME TO BETHEL

GATEKEEPERS

The Great Wall of China is one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It stretches over 4,000 miles and was built to protect China from the invading barbaric hordes to the north. The designers of the wall made it so high that it could not be scaled, so thick that it could not be penetrated, and so long that no one could go around it.

Yet, during the first hundred years of the wall's existence China was successfully invaded three times, without the wall ever having been climbed or breached. So how, you may ask, did the invaders raid China? Well, the problem wasn't the wall – it was the gatekeepers! In each of these invasions the barbarians simply bribed the gatekeepers who opened the gates, so the enemies just walked right through.

The protection of China was only as secure as the gatekeepers of its walls.

We are also gatekeepers. In our personal lives, we have some vitally important gates to protect – our eyes, our ears, our sense of touch, our mouths, our noses. What we allow to pass through these gates not only affects our physical well-being but also our spiritual well-being.



What music are you listening to? What advice and counsel do you hear? What are you watching? What are you reading? The invading hordes of the world seek to overrun us through our sensory organs, the gateways to our mind and spirit. It is through these gates that the enemy seeks to destroy our heart. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep (guard) thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

We are also the gatekeepers to our homes. What we allow to pass into our homes has the power to bless or curse us.

Technology and electronic media is pervasive in our culture. Our society launches a daily bombardment to pound us into conformity. As gatekeepers, we must make sure that everything that comes into our homes is beneficial to our family both physically and spiritually. Otherwise, we may not fall to the enemy without, but we will fall to the enemy within.

No matter how strong the walls we build in our lives, we must never forget that there are sensitive points of entry that the enemy will always seek to exploit. We cannot afford to allow these gates to be compromised by the enemies of our soul. Our integrity, our families, and our eternal destinies depend on the security of our gates! Be a watchman on the wall!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **MIDWEEK SERVICE**
This Thursday – 7:45 PM
- **MISSIONS SUNDAY**
Next Sunday
- **LADIES LUNCHEON – Ages 18 - 29**
Saturday, July 11th: 12 noon – 3 PM
Please sign up in the foyer.
- **VBS SET-UP**
Saturday, July 18th: 9 AM – 2 PM
- **VBS**
Monday, July 20th – Friday, July 24th
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM
Children ages 4 – 12
Registration Fee: \$10.00 per child
Registration begins next Sunday.

You can find these announcements and additional information by accessing the online calendar at www.BethelUPC.org



VBS “casting calls” have already begun! If you would like to join the staff of “Studio Go! Game Show,” applications can be found in the magazine rack in the main foyer. This year’s VBS will take place Monday, July 20th through Friday, July 24th from 7 PM – 9:30 PM.

A SIMPLE SOLUTION

For as long as Farmer Wilson could remember, that large rock had been imbedded in the middle of his field. At the start of every planting season, Wilson stomped into the field, armed with a pickax and determined to rid his land of the nuisance. But he managed only to chip away at the large stone.

Every year Farmer Wilson had to plow around the annoying rock – he had to design his entire plowing design around that problem that completely ruined the middle of his field.

Then one afternoon, as he was weeding around his house, Farmer Wilson had an idea. What if he uprooted the rock like a weed instead of attacking it head-on as he'd been doing?

He took his shovel to the field and after a bit of digging, was surprised to discover that the rock was only imbedded about six inches into the ground! It didn't take him long to dig a little deeper and completely remove it from his land. Farmer Wilson shook his head and laughed when he realized all the time he'd spent agonizing over the years trying to tackle his “problem.”

The next time you're faced with a challenging problem, keep in mind that the solution you seek may have more to do with how you face the obstacle blocking your path than with the obstacle itself.

With God's help, you can root out any obstacle that stands between you and your relationship with God.

“Live as though Christ died yesterday, rose from the grave today, and is coming back tomorrow.”

~ Theodore Epp ~