



Pictured Above (left-right, front-back): Steven Jaeger, Kale Garst, Stephen Nichols, Leif Berkey, Tyler Johnson, Gabe Nichols (who is also taking a photo). **Motor vehicle not in operation at time of picture (:

Friendly February!

----- STEVEN JAEGER

This month I want to share what is perhaps becoming the best thing about being at Bear Valley. Yes, spending time with God's Word is good and so is learning it from the people that teach it – especially when those who teach emphasize the importance of what it means to have a relationship with God in HIS kingdom. But where that really starts to be understood is through the experience of being able to share the spiritual concepts and principles of God's Word with real-life people. And the five young men pictured above, like me, came to BV with hearts desiring to learn and practice the things we read about in the Bible. One of the most detrimental things to experience in life is discouragement, especially when there is no one else...

...around to counterbalance it with a supporting hand and word of affirmation given to build up and to strengthen. As we learn from Jesus in His teaching of "The Parable of the Good Samaritan" in Luke 10:25-37, the best hand and word to give is one that is willing to go the distance with the person in need. We also learn from this teaching that while there are many who are capable, unfortunately not all are willing to help, including those who are religious, even after they become aware of the need to do so. These young men have proven themselves to be willing to embrace the courage it takes to share one's humility before God with others in hopes of providing the encouragement that everyone needs (Heb. 3:12-15). And I am blessed to have a group like this to continue growing in my practice of doing the same with those who are willing.



February '23 Quarter 3 Classes

----- S. JAEGER

Class Schedule for Q3:
M/W/F – Greek II (Ken Dawdy), Church History (John Moore), and Exodus-Deuteronomy (Donnie Bates).

T/R – Ministry Technologies (Michael Hite), and 1 Corinthians (Dan Owens).

In the Classrooms:

Learning a new language is not easy, in fact, it's quite tedious, but Ken's know-how and upbeat personality makes the task a lot more fun. And the more we progress with the Greek language the more we learn just how important the use of words is to God and for us as His creation. As you have the opportunity, I want to encourage you to reflect on God's Word with the help of different translations. For the NT – ESV, NASB '95, ASV, RSV, and the NKJV. Fun fact: the RSV is the only OT translation to ask for help from Jewish Hebrew scholars and the ESV is a slightly revised version.

Donnie Bates introduced us to the beginning of our time and story with Genesis during the second quarter, and now he is walking us through the rest of that story as recorded in the last four books of the Pentateuch (Exodus-Deuteronomy). It has been...

...encouraging to see just how much spiritual application exists for our lives today in a book written about people that lived many thousands of years before us. We know from Genesis that we've been created in God's [spiritual] image. And while Exodus shows us just how much God is willing to do to keep His creation as He intended, Leviticus shows how God teaches His people about His holiness. The first five books of the Bible may get overlooked but they really are a beautiful recording of the love God has for that which He created.

Speaking of God's holiness, 1 Corinthians, while known for its teaching about love in chapter 13, has so much wisdom and insight for the kinds of things that are and are not pleasing to God concerning His will for us – to be sanctified (1 Thess. 4:3). Paul's first letter to those in Corinth reveals there are many things that can separate us from God and from each other. But there is also one that unites – Jesus. And when we let go of human arrogance, then and there only do we experience the holiness of God that is set apart for those who believe in Him who is risen.