

## From the Pastor

Week of June 29, 2008

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Results of a survey on faith in America conducted by The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, released this past week, indicated that Americans are “spiritual,” with 71% “absolutely certain” of their belief in God or universal spirit; 56% (67% in Texas) view religion in one’s life as very important; and 58% pray at least once a day. At the same time only 39% (47% in Texas) attend religious services at least once a week; 33% interpret Scripture as the Word of God, literally true word for word; and 24% believe their religion is the one true faith leading to eternal life.

The survey shows that 70% of Americans with a religious affiliation agree that many religions, not just their own, can lead to salvation. For the most part, these figures seemed to hold true even among evangelical Christians. I wonder what the response among Christians would have been if the question asked was, “Is Jesus Christ the only way to God?” I would hope the percentage answering “yes” would have been much higher.

There may be some teachings in the Bible that we may not fully understand, or may not agree on interpretation, but there are truths that we can “know” with certainty. We know that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for our sins, and rose from the dead...and He lives forevermore. We also know that He is the “way, the truth and the life” and “no one comes to the Father except through Him” (John 14:6)

One truth the Apostle Paul declares “we know” is “that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28) This is especially comforting to know in a time of uncertainty and unrest about the future. We know that we can be victorious no matter what the future holds.

(Romans 8:37)

"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."  
NKJV