

## Searching for God

Week 3: 'The Cover is Not the Book'

"It should be clear to people around us that we are followers of Christ."

### Matthew 7:15-20

#### The Tree and Its Fruit

15 "Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. 16 You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. 19 So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. 20 Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

Ever hear the old expression that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover? The practical bit of advice at work here is that if you make a snap judgement about someone or something, you might miss out on something truly worth investigating.

And while I feel like that's sound advice, there are a few circumstances where I think judging a book by its cover is maybe a good idea.

For example, if someone claims to be a Christian, wouldn't it be great if you could trust that he/she is someone who exhibits the fruit of the Spirit, loves the Lord with all their heart, and would drop everything to spend a few moments in prayer with you?

That's the kind of Christian that I want to be. I want to be able to be judged by my cover, because according to Galatians 3:27, we should clothe ourselves with Christ - and if my cover is Christ, I'm very okay being judged by that. As we said during our time together this past week, we'll all stand before the judgement seat of Christ, and while that may sound intimidating, remember, God will judge us by whether or not we believe in his son.

Cover yourself with Jesus, and take pride in the fact that people will judge you accordingly.

# Prayer Requests



Lynne Wilhelm  
Ron & Teresa Scott

\*\*A weekly updated long term prayer list can be picked up in the lobby.



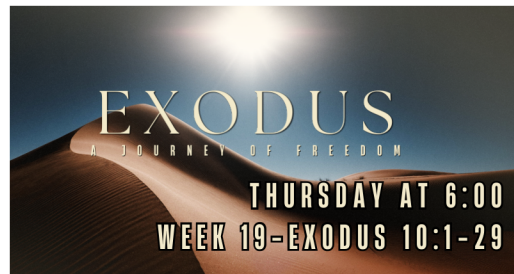
## Vitals for January 21

Weekly Need: \$3,200  
Actual Given: \$5,471

Sunday School - 27  
Morning Service - 65

### 3 easy ways to give:

- 'Tithes & Offerings' box in the lobby
- [newheightsconnersville.com/giving](http://newheightsconnersville.com/giving)
- Mail to the church office



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## Donate to the Hope Center during January

Use the baby bottle at the front door



Categories  
Chili  
Cream Based  
Miscellaneous  
Non-competition

Prizes & Champion Ladle

## WEEKLY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Kylie Clark 1-29  
Tristan Korff 1-30

