

# Thought for Wednesday

April 15, 2009

They say there are only two things in life which are certain: death and taxes. Today being April 15<sup>th</sup> some might think those two monstrous certainties have collided into one behemoth leviathan that will certainly devour our world – Aaaagghhh!

Hopefully you've finished and mailed in your tax forms for 2008 – If not, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!!!!!!!!!! Seriously though, why is it we also seem to procrastinate on such important matters as these?

And speaking of procrastinating, let's talk for a moment about our home and relationships. I've read quite a number of books by relationship expert Gary Smalley and this week came across this excerpt from one of his books that I'm sharing with you today...

*“Whether it's a family, a school, a company, or a sports team, we cannot possibly guide our relationships safely through the waters of our day without a plan. That's the starting point. Without a clear plan of action that points out the way to the deep waters of intimacy and avoids the shallow rocks of marital ruin we're inviting heartache into our homes. It's critical that we clearly plan our lives and not let chance set their course...”* (from, “Love Is a Decision: Planning to Have a Great Marriage and Family?” by Dr. Gary Smalley, 01/13/03)

This weekend kicks off our the *Fireproofing Your Relationships* series as we dive into a fictional, although all-too-real portrayal of a couple who have forgotten that love means more than just words, but it requires actions and hard work. On the back of the Love Dare Challenge it states: *“Unconditional Love is eagerly promised at weddings, but rarely practiced in real life. As a result, romantic hopes are often replaced with disappointment in the home. But it doesn't have to stay that way...”*

Our relationships, whether married or single are **NOT** the place to procrastinate or become complacent. God's Word encourages us to be pro-active in our relationships with one another (1 Corinthians 13:1-8a; Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 John 4:7-19)

I'm really looking forward to the next 6 weeks together as we explore how to fireproof the most important relationships in our lives. If you feel like you're in a marriage that seems destined for destruction; a relationship, friendship that has singed your heart and left you burned inside, I encourage you to focus these next weeks on what God wants to do in and through your life to bring healing and hope.

Let's walk through this together as a family and watch what God does!

Be Strong, Be Courageous, Be Fearless – and remember...

Christ **IS** All!

**Pastor Mark**