

SPIRITUAL INSIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE

FAITH *for life*

“The **life** which I now live...I live by the **faith** of the Son of God,
who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

Complimentary Copy

Volume 2, Issue 4

From the Ministry of FARGO BAPTIST CHURCH

Fall Quarter Edition, 2009

IS THE **Love**
GREATEST



A weekend blizzard gripped Chicago many years ago and people were advised not to travel. Businesses and stores had closed, and most church services were canceled. On Sunday morning the pastor of a small church stood inside the church doors looking out the window at near ‘white out’ conditions. Suddenly, he saw a small boy struggling to make his way up the church sidewalk. The pastor ran out the door, grabbed the boy, and hurried him into the warmth of the church. After the boy thawed out for a few minutes, the pastor asked him, “Son, why were you out in that storm? What are you doing here?” The boy looked up at the pastor through tearful eyes and said, “I just had to come to church, pastor. This is one of the only places I feel loved.” That young boy risked his life to go to church because he knew the love and compassion the pastor and people had for him. He didn’t allow a severe snowstorm to keep him from reaching the place where he felt the most loved. The verse above tells us love

(charity) is the greatest. What makes love so great?

The Evidence of Love

Most people view love as a ‘feeling’ but feelings can fade. How can we recognize real love? The Bible says, “*Charity suffereth long*” (I Cor 13:4). That means love is patient! Sadly, patience has become a lost art today. In the ‘old days’ if you missed the stage coach by a few minutes you just went home and came back three weeks later for the next one. Today if we miss one slot in the revolving door we throw a duck fit! It’s been said that the shortest length of time measurable, is from the time the stoplight turns green until the

time the guy behind you honks his horn for you to get moving! But the Bible says love is patient. Love doesn’t have a short fuse; love is longsuffering. Are you patient in your home when your spouse forgets to do something or doesn’t do something the way you wanted it done? Home is where we’re treated the best and act the worst. Are you patient with your kids and grandkids? Aren’t you glad God’s more patient with us? Real love needs to look past small failures and show patience when others make mistakes.

Another evidence of love is ‘kindness.’ The Bible says, “*Charity...is kind*” (I Cor 13:4). A small elderly lady often visited her local post office and knew all the postal workers at the counter. One day, the line for the counter was backed up almost to the door. As the older woman was standing in line she began talking with a younger lady. When the younger lady noticed the older lady holding several unstamped

continued on next page

PERMIT #2115
FARGO, ND
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
NON-PROFIT ORG.

FARGO, ND • 58103
3303 23 AVE S
FARGO BAPTIST CHURCH
FAITH *for life*

Love is the Greatest *continued from page 1*

envelopes she said, "Did you know there is a stamp machine in the lobby from which you can purchase your stamps? You don't have to stand in this long line." The older lady looked down at her letters then back up at the young lady as she replied, "I suppose I could save some time, but the stamp machine won't ask me how my arthritis is doing." That dear lady was looking for the kindness she often received from the clerks at the postal counter. Many people today are starving for some kindness as they seek a listening ear to tell about their physical ailment, a wayward family member, a financial problem, or a job situation. So often they verbalize what's on their heart hoping someone will care. Sadly we live in a world that thrives on hustle and bustle and few take the time to stop and show any kindness. So often we're too wrapped up in our own lives to see the needs around us. True kindness will mean putting aside our own plans and schedule to be inconvenienced for the sake of others. Displaying kindness may cost us time, money or labor, but think of the kindness God showed to us when he sent His Son to die on the cross for us. The Bible says, "*The kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us*" (Titus 3:4-5). Think of the kindness of Christ to give up His

elevated position in heaven to enter this sinful earth and endure rejection and also the crucifixion of Calvary. What a perfect display of the kindness of love. No wonder God says, "Love is the greatest."

The Exhibiting of Love

How do we display real love? The Bible says, "*Charity (love) seeketh not her own (wellbeing)*" (I Cor 13:5). When jet planes hit the Twin Towers of New York City on 9/11, Lt. Andy Desperito of the NYFD Co.1, Truck 24, entered the Trade Center with his company. In the process of evacuating people, an elderly woman in distress was discovered. Lt. Andy, as he was called, ordered his company to get out, but he stayed behind to help the woman. All of Lt. Andy's crew made it out as did the older lady, but Lt. Andy was never heard from again. Andy Desperito's love for our country and for others cost him his life. He gave all that he had so that another person could live. Some may believe that it was a waste for a young husband and father of three children such as Lt. Andy to give his life for an elderly woman. But his love was clearly seen in that sacrificial act. Jesus said, "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends*" (John 15:13).

True love always gives. It expresses itself by investing in others. God showed us His love when He sent His Son to die on

Calvary. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God gave His only Son. He made a conscious choice to send His Son to die on Calvary for us that we might be saved. What a loving God! Someone once said, "If God had a refrigerator,

your Christmas card would be on it. If God had a wallet, your picture would be in it. He sends you a sunrise every morning, and flowers every spring. We are receivers of God's love, and we should also be givers of such love. We should strive to be like Christ by showing others the love of God. That includes those who have wronged or hurt us. Maybe they don't deserve such love or forgiveness, but neither did we deserve God's love for us. Is there someone you're refusing to forgive? In a world that screams for revenge and justice, God tells us to love and forgive. In fact according to the Bible, it's impossible to love God while being bitter toward our fellow man. I Jn 4:20 says, "*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar.*" Once again we turn to Jesus Christ as a perfect example of forgiveness. When crucified He said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." God's love is unconditional, impartial, everlasting, and perfect. Jesus said, "*The Father himself loveth you*" (John 16:27). True Christians should be "God's love with skin on."

The Enemies of Love

The Bible says, "*Charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil*" (I Cor 13:4-5). Notice the first enemy of love is jealousy. We all face the temptation of getting jealous. Maybe someone else got promoted at work while you were passed over. Maybe someone owns a nicer home than you. Maybe it's their car or possessions. Maybe it's their spouse or family. Maybe they're receiving more recognition than you.

Envy has been described as 'feeling of discontent or covetousness because of another's advantages, success, or possessions'. Think about it this way: envy says, "What I have is not good enough." Such jealousy will eventually cause self-destruction. There's an old fable told of an envious eagle who wanted nothing more than the demise of a fellow eagle. He approached an archer and convinced the man to shoot down the other eagle. The next day the archer met the envious

continued on next page

BIBLE STUDIES
Campus

NDSU
large group
MONDAYS 8:30 P.M.
HIDATSA ROOM
NDSU MEM UNION

small group
THURSDAYS 7:00 P.M.
ROOM OF NATIONS
NDSU MEM UNION

MSUM
large group
MONDAYS 7:00 P.M.
ROOM 203
MSUM CMU

small group
THURSDAYS 8:30 P.M.
ROOM 212
MSUM CMU

Christian
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
BibleChristians@hotmail.com

Love is the Greatest
continued from page 2

eagle in an open field where the other eagle often flew. Together they waited for him. When the other eagle appeared, the archer readied his bow then turned to the envious eagle and said, "I need a feather for my arrow to be able to fly true." The envious eagle pulled out one of his own feathers and handed it to the archer who then let his arrow fly, but it fell short of the eagle. Blinded by envy, the envious eagle pulled another feather and gave it to the archer but the archer continued to miss the other eagle. After this happened many times, the envious eagle soon noticed that he had lost

so many feathers that he was unable to fly. The archer then turned to the envious eagle and killed him. The moral of the story is this: Being envious of others only hurts the one who is envious.

Notice above, the second enemy of love is pride. "*Charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up*" (I Cor 13:4). Love is not prideful and does not brag. A person with true love doesn't flaunt their accomplishments or possessions. They focus on others rather than themselves. Someone once said, "Love is not big-headed, but big-hearted." The third enemy of love is when we think the worst of someone in our mind. This has been called "stinking thinking." "*Charity...*

thinketh no evil" (I Cor 13:5). Too often we will 'rake someone over the coals' in our mind. What we think soon turns into words and defames others. Has there been a loss of love in your life through envy, pride and maliciousness? So often as time goes by, you can lose your love for others through a hard heart or some callousness of spirit. You forget to see the person, and see only the perpetrator. Take time right now to renew a love for people in your heart. This can only be done through God's help. Real Godly love begins when we are 'born again' into God's family. For more information on this, please refer to pages 6-7. ■

GOD Doesn't Understand!

At the end of time, billions of people were scattered on a vast plain before God's throne. Some groups talked heatedly. 'How can God judge us? ... What does he know about suffering?' snapped a young woman. She jerked back a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp. A black man lowered his collar. "What about this?" he demanded, showing an ugly rope burn. 'Lynched for no crime but being black. We have suffocated in slave ships, been wrenched from loved ones and toiled till only death gave release.'

Many other people recounted stories of suffering. Each had a complaint against God for the evil and suffering he permitted in His world. How lucky God was to live in heaven where all was sweetness and light, where there was no weeping, no fear, no hunger and no hatred. All agreed that God seemed to lead a pretty sheltered life.

So each group sent out a representative. There was a Jew, a black woman, an untouchable from India, an illegitimate child, a victim from Hiroshima, a sweatshop worker, and a prisoner from a labor camp. In the center of the plain they consulted. At last they were ready to present their case. It was very daring. Before God could qualify to be their judge, he must endure what they had endured.

So the decision was made: God should be sentenced to live on earth – as a man! But, because he was God, they set certain safeguards to be sure he could not use his divine powers to help himself.

Let him be born a Jew. Let the legitimacy of his birth be doubted, so no one will know who his father really is. Let him champion a cause so just, but so radical, that it brings down upon him the hatred and condemnation

of the establishment. Let him try to describe eternal heavenly things that no man has ever seen, tasted, heard or smelled. Let him try to communicate God to men, but be misunderstood. Let him be betrayed by his dearest friends. Let him be indicted on false charges, tried before a prejudiced jury and convicted by a cowardly judge. Let him be terribly alone and abandoned. Let him be tortured in the worst manner possible. Then let him suffer and die a humiliating death alongside common criminals.

As each leader announced a portion of the sentence, there were shouts of approval from the people. But after the final statement, there was a long silence. No one uttered another word. No one moved. For suddenly all of them realized ... God, in Jesus, had already served his sentence. ■

Vanity's CURE

To Whom It May Concern:

I have never been one to complain but the emptiness is just too much to bear. I've tried to make sense of it all, but it is beyond me. I've lived in constant fear and uncertainty. Fear of financial problems. Fear of violence. Fear of waking up one day in the mist of a natural disaster. Fear of not waking up at all. Apparently, I'm not the only one living in fear. Others around me do also. I can tell by all the scratching and clawing. The world is too 'dog-eat-dog' for any sane person. Maybe we're better off insane; I don't know. I've tried to make sense of it all, but it would take a god to figure it out and I'm told there is no such thing. In fact, my existence is supposed to be some sort of accident. That means I've come from nothing as I head toward nothing, while all the time living for nothing. The few little pockets of pleasure and happiness are just that - pockets. They don't last. I've tried it all! Drinking, women and parties until daybreak, but it's no use. They don't last. They never satisfy. Now I don't want to give the impression that I've been some sort of irresponsible burden on society. In fact, I've started a few businesses in my day - as well as lost some. I made use of every piece of wisdom known to man. The result was a decent marriage, while it lasted. As for my kids, Dr. Spock would be happy to know that they turned out to be very creative, rebellious and disrespectful brats. Is this all there is to it? Work, work and more work, and for what?...To grow old and die? Maybe that's where it's at - retirement, the golden years. But thanks to my terminal illness, I'll never know. Instead I have my memories to look

back on and nothing to look forward to. Easy come, easy go. Here today, gone tomorrow. And where am I going? I don't know. All I know is life went by too fast with no reason but to simply exist. Not even my legacy can make up for this sense of waste. But, don't feel sad for me. You're the one stuck here. I'll probably be better off wherever I'm going . . . Or will I?

*Signed,
Bewildered and Scared*

The letter you just read is fictitious. It was written to illustrate a common sentiment. While no real person wrote it, it could just as well been written by anyone of us at the end of our lives. By many accounts we live in exciting times. Never have there been so many opportunities for pleasure and leisure time, and yet most are dissatisfied; some are even depressed. Why is that? What is at the root of this great irony? Consider the following quote by famous humanist John R. Baker. He states, "In actuality, events in the universe may be based upon CHANCE AND PHYSICAL LAWS that have always existed, and human existence has NO OTHER MEANING THAN THAT WE EXIST." If we follow the logical implications of evolution, we conclude that life has no real meaning, since there is no reason or intentional purpose for us to even exist. This is a problem considering that for many years children have been taught to think in evolutionary terms. They are taught that their existence is the end product of undirected natural laws, and thus has no real meaningful purpose. It is no surprise

that children grow up to be adults with the attitude of 'eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we shall die.'

In the Bible we find a person who experimented with this eat, drink, be merry attitude for a period of time. He tried living his life as if God didn't exist. I speak of King Solomon who said in the book of Ecclesiastes, "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun? One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever" (Eccl 1:2-4). Vanity is translated from the Hebrew word 'habel' which means emptiness, something transitory and unsatisfactory, something done in vain. In the book of Ecclesiastes, King Solomon, the wisest and probably the richest man who ever lived, asked the question, "What's the sense of it all?" He was qualified to ask. He said, "I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit." (Eccl 1:14). Solomon had the time and the resources to try out anything he wanted in life. This was no mere claim on his part. He said, "And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour" (Eccl 2:10).

And after he had done it all, he looked back on it and drew the following conclusion: "Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit,

and there was no profit under the sun" (Eccl 2:11). In spite of all the custom houses he had built (Ecc. 2:4), all his business endeavors (Ecc. 2:4), all the property he acquired (Ecc. 2:5), all the servants he had (Ecc. 2:7), all the entertainment he wanted (Ecc. 2:8), and all the parties he held (Ecc. 2:3), his conclusion was always the same. ALL IS VANITY. Solomon couldn't even find satisfaction in leaving his vast wealth behind for someone else. He lamented that perhaps the inheritor would foolishly waste the fruit of his labors, "Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me. And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? . . . This is also vanity" (Eccl 2:18-19).

Evolution insinuates that our existence is meaningless. The things we do, the aspirations we have, the sacrifices we make, the love we exercise, and everything that gives us a sense of accomplishment and a sense of purpose is all done in vain. Furthermore, evolution further insinuates that when this "vain" existence is over, there is nothing to look forward

to. The "Humanist Manifesto 2" states that, "Science affirms that the human species is an emergence from natural EVOLUTIONARY FORCES...THERE IS NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE THAT LIFE SURVIVES THE DEATH OF THE BODY."

To live our lives on the assumption that we evolved is to live a life that has no meaning, with no prospects of continuing into an afterlife. Sadly, many are doing just that, as evidenced by the high rates of depression and suicide. Many react to their sense of vanity by taking drugs and alcohol as a means to escape what they perceive is a meaningless existence. However, there is hope. Solomon's experience doesn't end in vanity. He found the solution, and it was not based on the teachings of evolution. He said, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth" (Eccl 12:1).

Life is not lived in vain when one remembers and acknowledges his Creator. Evolution eliminates the need for a Creator and the reason for living. The Bible however, teaches that we were created for a reason. Our existence is not in vain. There is a reason for living,

both now and in the afterlife, and that reason can be found within the Bible. The Bible teaches that man was created to fellowship with his Creator. When man rebelled, the fellowship was broken and he was left with a spiritual emptiness, which he tried to fill on his own. Yet it's fruitless without the original purpose for which man was created ...all is vanity!! A renewed fellowship with God will result in a real purpose in life as well as an eternity spent with God in Heaven. The only thing standing in the way is sin. Yet God, in His love, has provided a solution to man's sin problem ...the payment for sin that Jesus Christ provided on the cross. Take a few moments to ponder what evolution insinuates about you. How do you personally feel about it? If you are like me, you probably don't like the idea that your day today is lived in vain and is transitory; a distance between two unknowns ...a blip in time. Please carefully study pages 6-7 of this issue to see what the Bible says about having a new and purposeful relationship with the One who created you.

by Daniel Aceituna

BOUNDARIES & RESTRICTIONS are for our good

A tragedy last year at Six Flags Over Georgia gives a somber reminder that boundaries and restrictions are an important part of life. On June 28, 2008, LeShawn Ferguson, age 17, climbed over two fences at the amusement park to enter a restricted area. He was then hit and killed by the Batman roller coaster. Although police investigators have tried to piece together what they think might have happened, Ferguson's grief-stricken father said, "Nobody knows but my son

and the Lord." Fences, boundaries, restrictions, and laws can seem very confining at times, yet we often forget how protective they can be. The Bible is filled with examples of people who thought they were breaking God's law for their own advantage only to discover it was a deadly mistake. Godly standards are not our enemies, but our friends. Many times God says "Thou shalt not" in the Bible to keep us from self-destructing. Houston Chronicle, 6/30/08

HOW TO FIND GOD AND REALLY KNOW HIM

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There are three things that you can know for sure...

1) That you are going to Heaven. *"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life" (I John 5:13).*

2) That your life will be changed when you get saved. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17).*

3) You will never lose your salvation. *"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." (John 10:28).*

It all revolves around Jesus Christ!

Who is Jesus Christ? John 1:1 says, *"In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* John 1:3 continues, *"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."* Jesus was God in flesh or God the son who created everything.

He came to earth to save us. *"For the son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).* The first step in going to heaven is to realize we need to be saved from our sin.

How do we get to heaven?... *"Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).*

There is a difference between a physical birth and a spiritual birth. *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit" (John 3:6).*

Why do we need a spiritual birth? Man was originally created a three part being in God's image—a trinity. *"And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: so God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:26).* Man is made up of body, soul, and spirit.

God placed Adam and Eve in the garden. *"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"*

(Genesis 2:16-17). Man ate of the fruit and though he didn't die that day physically, he died spiritually!

When Adam and Eve had children they were now born spiritually dead as well (no longer in God's 3-part image). Genesis 5:3 says *"And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and*

called his name Seth." That is why we must be re-born spiritually.

That is also why we have a sin nature. You don't have to teach a toddler to be selfish, lie, steal things, sass back, fight with siblings, etc...it is also our nature as we grow up.

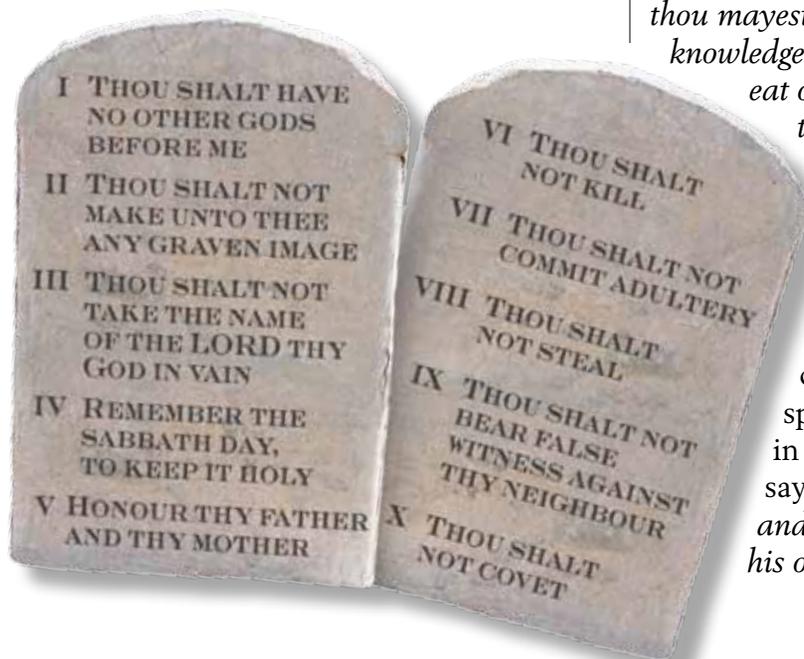
Most people fail to see themselves as serious sinners. They feel they are a "good person." They are comparing themselves to others, instead of God's standard; the 10 Commandments. Let's see how you rate compared to the 10 Commandments.

#1 Thou shalt have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:3) No one can claim they have never put anything ahead of God (money, career, own self centered goals, pleasure, sports, entertainment, sin, vice, a relationship with another, etc).

#2 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image (of God) (Exodus 20:4) Many have been guilty of inventing a God of their own imagination and liking... a God who 'suits them.' People want a "God that overlooks sin and takes everyone to heaven." They have improvised and dreamed up a God of their own image.

#3 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain (Exodus 20:7) Re-read that carefully. God is keeping record of every time you've used His name as a curse word and you will answer for it one day.

#4 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy (Exodus 20:8) Have you always honored the Lord's Day or been faithful in church attendance? (Heb 10:25)



continued on next page

Forgiveness from God

continued from page 5

#5 Honour thy father and thy mother (Exodus 20:12). Have you ever disrespected or disobeyed your parents. Have you ever argued with them or dishonored them?

#6 Thou shalt not kill (Exodus 20:13) Although most people have never committed murder, they are guilty of "murder of the heart." Jesus clarifies this commandment in Matthew 5:21-2; Whosoever shall kill, shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother... shall be in danger of hell fire. Have you ever been mad or bitter at someone?

#7 Thou shalt not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14) While many have never committed adultery, Jesus said; Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart (Matt 5:27-8). Have you ever lusted after the opposite sex? This is adultery of the heart according to Jesus.

#8 Thou shalt not steal (Exodus 20:15) Who could claim they've never taken anything that doesn't belong to them? ... something small or even the boss's time?

#9 Thou shalt not bear false witness (Exodus 20:16) No one could honestly claim they have never told a lie!

#10 Thou shalt not covet (Exodus 20:17) Have you ever desired anything you didn't have or didn't need? Have you ever been discontented, jealous or ungrateful? This is covetousness.

Most people are guilty of breaking all 10 commandments! Many places in the Bible reveal that liars, adulterers, thieves, the covetous, etc will spend eternity in hell! (Rev 21:8, I Cor 6:9-10, Gal 5:19-21). How could you ever expect to get to heaven by "living a good life?"

Romans 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

Sin has a penalty... Romans 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death" (hell).*

We cannot possibly get to heaven by keeping the law (10 Commandments).

The 10 Commandments were given by God to show us how impossible it is to be saved by doing good works. *"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24).* The law (10 commandments) shows us that we are condemned and need a Savior.

You will never get to heaven by doing good works. Titus 3:5 says, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us." "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).*

Yet getting to heaven is not automatic just because Jesus died for your sins! Salvation is a gift that must be received. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).*

That means that baptism has nothing to do with being saved. Romans 6:23 explains, *"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

How does a person know when they are ready to be born again? They know they are ready when they mean business with God, and are willing to repent of sin. Acts 3:19 says, *"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out."* II Peter 3:9 says the Lord is *"not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* Jesus said, *"except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5).* That means being willing to also turn from false religion or false teaching—anything contrary to the word of God, the Bible.

To repent means to change your mind about your sin, and make Christ the Lord of your life. Are you willing to turn from your sin and turn to God? Do you believe that Jesus paid the full price on the cross for your sins?

Though God hates sin, he loves you and sent Jesus to die for your sins. *"But God commendeth (proved) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).*

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

If God is dealing with you about your need of forgiveness, and you would like to be saved (born again), the final step is to ask God for the gift through a simple prayer. *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).* Notice the promise of this verse from a God who cannot lie. Titus 1:2 says, *"God...cannot lie".* Do you believe that God will save you simply because He said He would? Christ will save you if you are willing to make him the Lord of your life.

If you know that you are ready, you can pray and ask God to save you in your own words such as: "Dear Heavenly Father, I know that I am a condemned sinner unable to save myself, but I am willing to turn from my sins and make Jesus my Lord and master. I now trust in His sacrifice on the cross to pay for my sins. Please forgive me and save me. Amen." ■

BLUEGRASS CONCERT
featuring
the ROCHESTERS

Fargo Baptist Auditorium
Friday, November 13th
6:30 PM

3303 23rd Ave S
Fargo, ND
(701)298-8877

FREE ADMISSION

SPONSORED BY
HEAVEN 88.7 FM
CHRISTIAN RADIO

the
underestimation
SIN
of

Solomon warned about the damage the 'little foxes' can do (Song of Solomon 2:15) and the citizens in Winfield, Missouri know what he meant. On June 27, 2008, the community of Winfield was flooded when a levee broke. It had been previously secured by hundreds of townspeople, volunteers, and National Guardsmen. They spent days bolstering the levee with sandbags, but it was all for naught. A muskrat, which officials said was either digging for food or building a den, burrowed a hole through the levee. The small tunnel by this 5-pound creature was just enough for the waters to seep through, bursting the levee, and flooding the town. Sometimes it's the things that seem small, like just a little sin, that cause the greatest damage; so don't overlook sin's potential danger. Houston Chronicle, 6/28/08



WHERE
IS OUR
NATION
HEADING?

When the people figure out that they can vote themselves money, it will be the end of the republic.

-Benjamin Franklin

We must remember that a government big enough to give us everything we want is big enough to take away everything we have.

-President Gerald Ford

A penny saved is a government oversight.

-unknown

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

-1 Corinthians 4:2

The Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people. It is an instrument for the people to restrain the government, lest they dominate our lives and interests.

- Patrick Henry

Our security is in the possession of a written Constitution. Let us not make it a blank paper. Let no more be said of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.

-Thomas Jefferson

FAITH for life



If you wish to receive Faith for Life quarterly on the web, please let us know by e-mailing us at FaithForLifeND@gmail.com.



Please visit our website at www.FaithForLife.net to read additional archived articles such as:

- How to Really Know God
- Does God Care About Our Sorrows?
- What Darwin Gave to the World
- How Can I Forgive Myself
- What Should I Do With My Life?
- Faith and Finances
- More helpful articles



Faith for Life
P.O. Box 107
Fargo, ND 58107



(701) 205-0449

Please visit us online at www.FaithForLife.net.

WHO WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

"And of some have compassion, making a difference"
- Jude 1:22



Ted Stallard was a typical young boy who loved to play in the dirt and go exploring. His clothes seemed to always be dirtied and wrinkled. Ted didn't care much for school and made very poor grades. None of the other kids seemed to accept him. Even his 5th grade teacher Miss Thompson seemed frustrated with his behavior. Maybe if she had read his official school record, she would have understood him more:

1st grade: Ted shows promise with his work and attitude, but (has) poor home situation.

2nd grade: Ted could do better. Mother seriously ill. Ted receives little help from home.

3rd grade: Ted is a good boy but very serious. He is a slow learner. His mother died this year.

4th grade: Ted is very slow, but well-behaved. His father shows no interest whatsoever.

Christmas time came during Ted's 5th grade year. While all the other children were busy talking of the generous gifts they had bought Miss Thompson, Ted sat quietly in his seat, clutching a small wrinkled brown paper bag. Miss Thompson called them up to her desk and one at a time, each child presented their gift. When Ted's turn came, he was grinning from ear to ear as he presented his gift. Miss Thompson opened it to find an old bottle of perfume and a charm bracelet that was missing some charms. While the other children snickered, Miss Thompson put on the bracelet, sprayed on the perfume, and thanked Ted for the

wonderful gift. Ted replied, "Now you smell just like my mother. And the bracelet looks nice on you too. I'm glad you like my presents." It was then that Miss Thompson realized that Ted had given her some of his prized possessions once belonging to his deceased mother. She cried that afternoon when school let out, and committed to becoming a teacher more patient, sympathetic and caring toward her students. What had Miss Thompson overlooked in Ted's life? She had missed the fact that Ted's behavior stemmed from an inward struggle, an inward loss. Had she known about Ted's mother, I'm sure she would have treated Ted differently, and maybe taken more time to help him rather than become frustrated with him. Think about the Teds of your life. Who is it that frustrates, angers, or annoys you? Have you ever stopped to question why they act the way they do? Most people's outward actions are a result of an inward hurt. The Bible speaks of God's compassion when it says, "*But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy*" (Psalm 86:15). In the same way we should reflect God's compassion. The Bible says in Jude 1:22, "And of some have compassion, making a difference." Will you commit to truly making a difference in the lives of others? ■

Senior Pastor
Tony Scheving

•

Assoc. Pastor
David Dennis

•

Asst. Pastor
Lawrence Vandal

•

Campus Minister
Neal Irion

•

Outreach Ministry
Bernie Gonzales
Dan Schatz

We're Building Lives!



FARGO
BAPTIST CHURCH

3303 23rd Ave S
Fargo, ND • 58103



Sunday Bible Class 9:30am
Sunday Worship 10:30am
Sunday Evening 6:00pm
Wednesday Service 7:00pm

www.fargobaptist.org • 701.232.5500

I Have A Question

How Important is the Bible?

The French atheist Voltaire was a famous writer who owned his own printing company in the 1700s. He did everything he could to disprove the Bible and once boasted that within 25 years he'd have the Bible lodged in a morgue! Within 25 years, Voltaire was lodged in a morgue having died a miserable death. Ironically, the Geneva Bible Society bought Voltaire's printing press and property to print and distribute the Word of God around the world. Just how important is the Bible?

The Bible was inspired and given by God. *"The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."* (II Pet 1:21) *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God"* (II Tim 3:16). The Bible is God's Word. I Thessalonians 2:13 says, *"When ye received the Word of God ...ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God."* II Timothy 3:16 adds, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine ... for correction, for instruction in righteousness."* There are 3800 references in the Old Testament alone to the Bible being called the Word of God.

The Bible is the source of truth. The big question today is... "Where is the truth?" Jesus said in John 17:17, *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth."* The Bible is called *"the Word of truth"* (II Tim 2:15). The Bible is our Creator's instruction manual on life! George Washington said, "It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible." God gave us the Bible to guide us through life. The psalmist said, *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"* (Ps 119:105). Jesus said in

Matthew 4:4, *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God,"*

The Bible is the pathway to find God. Romans 10:17 says, *"Faith (to find God) cometh by hearing...the Word of God."* The Bible will show us what is 'missing in life'. Hebrews 4:12 says, *"The Word of God is powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword ...and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* Side note: After winning three Super Bowls, quarterback and super model Tom Brady still said, "There has got to be more to life than this!"

The Bible is the only thing Jesus ever quoted (many times). The Bible is the only source of information about Jesus. Jesus said, *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me"* (John 5:39). The Bible says in John 20:31, *"These (scriptures) are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."*

God values it above His own Name. Psalms 138:2 says, *"Thou (God) hast magnified thy Word above all thy name."* The Bible is the only source of information about, who God is, where we've come from, why we're here, what happens when we die, the flood, the Jewish nation, all doctrine, the 10 commandments, and God's

standards on all the issues, (i.e.- what's right & wrong, marriage, children, finances, political matters, the way to heaven, etc).

The Bible has been miraculously preserved without error. Psalms 12:6-7 says, *"The words of the LORD are pure words... Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."* Psalms 119:160 adds, *"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever."* In 1948, a young Arab shepherd in Israel found the Dead Sea Scrolls in a cave while looking for a lost sheep. Additional findings in ten other caves in the same Qumran region over the next decade gave the world a jigsaw puzzle of 100,000 pieces of ancient texts that were the remains of 870 scrolls representing all or portions of every book of our Old Testament. These OT scrolls date back hundreds of years before Christ, and line up exactly word for word with our current King James Bible! (Masoretic text). Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away" (Luke 21:33). Millions have died upholding it, preaching it, and preserving it.

continued on page 11

sharing our faith,
friendship, and fun...

Moms
and more

Our free meetings provide practical tools for successful mothering. Community professionals discuss topics such as...

- organization
- finances
- health
- nutrition
- safety

The Bible is explored to uncover God's timeless advice on motherhood. Mothers get a chance to unwind in a relaxing environment while making new friends, and learning valuable information.

All mothers are welcome to attend on the
first tuesday of every month from
6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.

Meetings held at FARGO BAPTIST CHURCH • 701.232.5500

I Have a Question

continued from page 10

Satan hates the Bible and his first attack was to cast doubt on what God said. In Genesis 3:1, *"He said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said?"* (sounds like scoffers today). The Bible should never be tampered with. Revelation 22:18-19 says, *"If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book (found in hell): And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life"* (he will not make it into heaven).

The Bible interprets itself. II Peter 1:20-21 says, *"No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."* We are not to just interpret the Bible as we please, but 'compare scripture with scripture' – (I Cor 2:13). Example: There are things mentioned in the last book of the Bible (Rev 12:1) that are interpreted in the first book of the Bible (Gen 37:9).

The Bible has always miraculously come to pass (prophecy). When originally written, 1/3rd of the Bible was prophecy (predictions). Through hundreds of predictions, it has always been 100% accurate in foretelling the future. *"Blessed be the LORD, there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised"*

(1 Kings 8:56). If you look at the life of Christ alone, there are 333 Old Testament prophecies about Jesus: (born of tribe of Judah, lineage of David, born of a virgin, in Bethlehem, Herod would seek to kill; Mary & Joseph flee to Egypt). Daniel 10 even foretold to the day when Jesus would ride a donkey into Jerusalem (April 14, 32AD). The Bible foretold how Jesus would be rejected of the Jews, betrayed by Judas for 30 pieces of silver, spit & beat on, offered gall & vinegar to drink, He would be crucified between 2 thieves, lots would be cast for his garments, buried in borrowed tomb, etc. The odds of someone fulfilling all 333 prophecies are impossible. In fact, the odds of someone fulfilling just 8 of the 333 prophecies would be like filling the state of Texas two feet deep in silver dollars, and having a blindfolded man pick out the one silver dollar painted red. Ezekiel 12:25 says, *"For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass."*

The Bible will be there on Judgment Day and we'll be judged out of it. Jesus said, *"He that ...receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day"* (John 12:48). Revelation 20:12 says, *"The dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books"* (there are 66 books in the Bible). Sadly, many will reject the Bible. II Timothy 4:2-4 says, *"Preach the*

word... For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine ... And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (religious tradition, evolution, humanism). It's dangerous not to believe the Bible. Hebrews 3:7-8,12 says, *"Today if ye will hear his voice (speaking from His Word), Harden not your hearts ... Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief."*

Accepting the Bible will change your heart and life. Lew Wallace was an agnostic writer and territorial governor in the 19th century. His best friend Robert Ingersoll was a famous atheist who continually tried to 'debunk' the Bible. While traveling together through St. Louis and observing all the church steeples, a disgusted Ingersoll challenged Wallace to write a book to disprove the Bible and the life of Christ. Wallace accepted the challenge and departed to the holy land while studying the Bible. Instead of disproving anything, Lew Wallace himself became a devout believer in the Bible and Jesus Christ. He went on to write the famous novel ...Ben-Hur!

This lesson is a portion of a seven part Bible study entitled "Seven Steps to God." If you would like to continue having this Bible study with either Pastor Scheving or someone from the staff of FBC, please call Elaine, our church secretary, at 232-5500. ■

Pastor's Perspective

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD'S OUT OF THE PICTURE?

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?"

-Psalms 2:1

Recently, I was stopped at a traffic light when I noticed a car ahead of me driven by an apparent college student. The car had a bumper sticker that said: "The Bible... a Grimm Fairy Tale." That young man is a sad product of humanism and evolution. According to Jesus, he will be

judged one day out of the very book he now mocks (John 12:48).

We live in a world of economic woe, our morals are a mess, violence keeps getting worse, prime time television is scummy, and politically there is mass confusion. Many people live for nothing more than pleasure. Playboy founder Hugh Hefner said, "I reject the Christian philosophy of self denial for others. Man needs to love himself supremely and pursue his own pleasure constantly." While Jesus said "give all," Hugh says "get all." We now have a hedonistic society. What happens when God is out of the picture?

Fiction Replaces Faith

Speaking of a Grimm Brother's fairy tale, there's nothing more unbelievable

than to promote that this complex universe just evolved without intelligent design behind it. Evolutionists try to make people believe that somehow there was once a big bang and somehow some cosmic soup formed into the planet earth and within that pond scum somehow a little amoeba crawled out and sprouted eyes, ears, limbs and somehow eventually evolved into a perfect human body complete with a brain (you gotta be kidding me)! We live in a universe with no walls and endless space that goes on forever and ever. Have you ever stopped to really dwell on that one? It's strange that we would look at something as simple as a pop bottle and say it had a designer, but turn around and say the incredible

continued on page 12

human eye was just an accident. God's Word says, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen 1:1). But when you kick God out of the picture, its open season to believe all kinds of crazy things. The Bible says, "*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine ...and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables*" (II Tim 4:3-4). When God's out of the picture, every step away from truth is a step down.

Futility Replaces Fulfillment

Our kids have been taught in school that they evolved from animals and we wonder why they act like animals. If they're just the apparent result of an 'act of nature' then they really have no purpose. So besides immoral behavior, we're also facing an epidemic of desperate teens committing suicide. Futility has replaced fulfillment. God's Word says we are a special creation spawned in the mind of the eternal God of the universe. Silly humanism teaches that man is his own god with no accountability and meager restraints. It doesn't matter how wrong or raunchy it is, people indulge. The word 'no' doesn't exist on prime time television. Our society says, "eat, drink and be merry." But sadly, when diving down for pleasure, we often come up with more gravel than pearls. Someone said, "When pleasure is the business of life, it ceases to be a pleasure." The Bible says, "*He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man*" (Prov 21:17), and then it adds, "*He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance*" (Eccl 5:10). People are living for money, materialism, entertainment and sex. Someone well said, "If illicit sex really brought happiness, the world would shine like the noon-day sun." King Solomon 'tried it all' and lived to say, "*behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit*" (Eccl 2:11). For many, life is but an illusion, and as shallow as a bird bath. Living for pleasure is the least pleasurable thing you can do. Many empty people are slowly dying of boredom and lovelessness.

Fatalities Replace Freedom

The Bible says, "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*" (Prov 14:12). The philosophy of humanism may seem reasonable, but let's look at the consequences. Most of us are familiar with our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, and also the 'guru of evolution', Charles Darwin. Both were born on Feb 12, 1809. They both had strained relationships with their fathers and lost their mothers early in life. They both suffered from depression and were late bloomers. They also both lost a child in death; but that's where the coincidences end. Lincoln's suffering drove him to God, while Darwin became bitter and spent the rest of his life trying to explain away God. What most don't realize is this 'icon of evolution' was an extreme racist who promoted 'survival of the fittest'. Darwin was a hero to Hitler who decided to decimate the weaker and promote 'the master race'. The result was millions of fatalities from a world war. Darwin was also a hero to Karl Marx, the father of communism. Lenin and Stalin ran with Darwin's ideas resulting in more fatalities. It's been estimated that Hitler was indirectly responsible for 83 million deaths, and communism another 94 million! Some 'legacy' Darwin left behind with his godless evolution. Ironically, there is talk of honoring Darwin with a global holiday! The bottom line is, when God's out of the picture, fatalities replace freedom. Someone well said, "Man will either be ruled by the Bible or the bayonet." While false religion is blamed for most wars, humanism has killed far more. In actuality, humanism is a religion.

Frustration Replaces Feasibility

The proud human heart thinks it has a 'better way' than our Creator's way. The result is 'frustration'. With God out of the picture, we now have falseness instead of truth, darkness instead of light, hatred instead of love, and death instead of life. Since the Tower of

Babel in Genesis 11, man has tried to be his own god, and kick our Creator out of the picture. God is no longer welcome in our schools, government or society. As a result, the history of mankind will conclude where it began: in utter failure. Our 'free-for-all' will plummet us into a 'free fall'. The Bible teaches we are heading toward a 'one world' government, monetary system, religion and leader. It will all go up in smoke when man's way leads to self destruction. So what's the bottom line? You need God in your life and in your home. What the world has to offer won't bring fulfillment. Every human heart contains a bottomless hole that only God can fill. People are desperately trying to find peace and happiness without God, but the Bible says, "*The way of peace have they not known*" (Rom 3:17). Ezekiel 7:25 adds, "*They shall seek peace, and there shall be none.*" We need to bow the knee in submission to our Creator, and get God back into the picture. You don't need to live in fear. Your life does have a purpose. The key is to know the One who is all wise and knows everything about everything. If you don't feel close to God and want Him in your life, please drop me an email at: revskev@FaithForLife.net. I would be happy to be of any spiritual help, and also set up a one-on-one Bible study entitled "7 Steps to God."

Pastor Tony Scheving
pastor tony scheving

