

BETHEL MATTERS

Volume 23 Issue 11 (November 2017)
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Inside This Issue

Primetimers Activity

The Implications of Our Belief in Original Sin

As I drove across town, I saw a church sign that announced, "The Blessing of the Pets." I thought, Where does the Bible teach us to pray for animals? I suppose it is not wrong to pray for an ailing pet, but we don't see an example in the Bible that I know of. And where are we taught to have a service where people bring their pets to receive a special blessing by the pastor? Pets are great, and I love mine, but I would never dream to think that my church would have a service for pets.

AWANA

Why would a church do something like this that as far as I know is unique in the history of Christianity? It is because our beliefs and values have become so confused that many no longer know what the church is supposed to be. And having lost sight of the mission of the church, some now will do anything to attract a crowd by appealing to their human interests. When our doctrine has gone to the dogs, we shouldn't be surprised that our church does too.

Music Opportunity

What does this have to do with our belief in original sin that we discussed in last month's article? Just this. It is one of the implications of our belief in original sin. In this article I want to begin to sketch out a few of the immensely important implications of original sin.

Congratulations

Our view of original sin should make us meek and humble in how we treat others. Many years ago, I heard renowned preacher, Dr. Lehman Strauss, say we all have too much pride. No one could argue with him. Pride was the chief sin of Satan, and it is the chief sin of ours. That is directly related to our view of original sin. Read what Jonathan Edwards so astutely wrote:

If it be truly so, that we all come sinful into the world, then our heartily acknowledging it, tends to promote humility: but our disowning that sin and guilt which truly belongs to us, and endeavoring to persuade ourselves that we are vastly better than in truth we are, tends to a foolish self-exaltation and pride. The works of Jonathan Edwards (Vol.1, p.230).

Coming in December

One sign we have truly been humbled by this doctrine is that we are as conscious and vigilant about our own sins as we are the sins of others. One of the great reasons we need to preach the gospel of grace to ourselves every day is that the closer we get to God, the more we become aware of our sins and failings. The guilt can crush us if we are not secure in the grace of our salvation. Conversely, where there is backbiting, fault-finding and finger-pointing, we can be sure that we have not only stopped growing close to God, but have also lost sight of our original condition as helpless in original sin. The truly growing Christian sees his own sins most clearly. Read Edwards again:

Operation Christmas Child

This doctrine teaches us to think no worse of others, than of ourselves: it teaches us, that we are all, as we are by nature, companions in a miserable helpless condition; which under a revelation of the divine mercy, tends to promote mutual compassion. The works of Jonathan Edwards (Vol.1, p.230).

There are several more implications which we will pick up in article three next month. But for now, what we believe has a huge impact on how we behave. Doctrine is immensely practical.

Angel Tree

Your friend, refreshing our beliefs,
Pastor Brian (:~}).

From the Family Life Pastor:

Various Thoughts:

In recent weeks and months I have been thinking a lot and concerned with the superior attitudes that so many people in our world have today. It is especially concerning when it is seen in the people who are in the church (not just our church, but the "universal" church).

There seem to be people who get into a church and then represent to others that they know more about the Word of God and "doing church" than anyone else, and this leads all too often to discord and even splits within churches. I recently met with the pastors from our UP churches and challenged them with these issue - not that they necessarily have the issues, but that they need to take steps to make sure that they don't fall into this terrible trap that will cause great discord and hurts within the body of Christ.

Two words that appear in scripture that will help all of us in this area are the words "humble" and "integrity". If we are willing to humble ourselves, and live lives of integrity, we will be in line with what God's Word teaches us how to live our lives.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, God calls a whole group of people to humble themselves - "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land". While this was a promise from God to His chosen people, the Israelites, I believe that we who call ourselves by God the Son's name "Christian", God's promise will include those of us who are called by His name as well.

So, what is the promise that is associated with the humbling -

- * God will hear them/us from heaven
- * God will forgive their/our sin
- * God will heal their/our land

It is awesome that God will hear us, forgive our sins and heal the land - but it is all to His Glory, not to ours, and we should not even take pride in these things, because we can't bring them about - it is God, and for His Glory alone!

There are many other "humble" scriptures, like Psalm 25:9, Proverbs 3:34, Isaiah 66:2 from the Old Testament - In the New Testament there are several as well. It is

interesting that God the Son - Jesus Christ, in Matthew 11:28-29, while calling people to come to Him, says this of Himself: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Jesus describes Himself as humble at His very heart, did you see that? It is "who" He is! Other NT verses on humble are found in Ephesians 4:2, James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6. While humbling oneself is not a popular thing these days, it is what God calls us to do!

In the Old Testament there are several verses that talk about integrity - in the book of Job, Job 2:3 God gives us an insight into what integrity looks like - "Then the Lord said to Satan, 'have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason'". Satan had brought disaster upon Job and his family and all that he had, he was "ruined" from a human perspective, but through it all, loss of children, home, wealth, everything - Job maintained his integrity by "fearing" God - which means stand in "awe" of God. He maintained his integrity by shunning evil, he lived a blameless and upright life in spite of all the disaster that had come upon him from Satan.

In Titus 2:6-8 we see instruction from Paul to Titus tells Titus what and how to teach God's Word to young Christians: Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. Great words of encouragement on how to live and teach others how to live - we set the example by how we live.

In Christ's love
Pastor Hank

Have you visited our Bethel Website?

Check it Out at:

www.bethelmarquette.com

Audio Sermons are posted weekly
along with items of interest,
Bethel Matters, Calendar,
and Happenings.

Prayer Chain & Official Notices

bethelemail@gmail.com

If you have a prayer request or information that you want shared, please send that to the email address above. If you are not receiving email prayer requests or notices, please contact Ann or Ellen in the church office at 228-7589.

Items for the December Issue of Bethel Matters are due in the office by, Sunday, November 19th

Items for the Happenings are due in the office by Wednesday noon.



Junior High Youth Group

6th - 8th Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Senior High Youth Group

9th - 12th Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions:

Chris Mauser, Director of Youth Ministries

1-330-550-0141

christopher.mauser@gmail.com

Happy November Birthday/Anniversary to:

- 2. Leanne Mackey
- 4. Gwen Timmons
- 7. Terry Gould, JoAnn Buhl, Judy Place
- 8. Debbie Napier, Lizzy Tireman
- 10. Don Salo
- 11. Cindy Pawley
- 17. Thomas Bagley
- 20. Nick Smaby
- 24. Emelia Motta
- 26. Dave & Susan Michels, Rick & Mim Newman
- 28. Jim Ferris
- 30. Judy Caldwell

Congratulations To:

Davis Bagley on his election as Homecoming King for Negaunee High School.

Brianna Steede and the Negaunee 8th Grade Girls Basketball Team on their undefeated season. They have won their first tournament game with the championship game on November 2nd.

Laurie Short for receiving the Judge's Choice award at a recent Quilt Show.

From the Mailbox:



The Outreach and Missions Board would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the folks who helped make our very first missions conference a success. Included in this group are the praise teams for both Saturday and Sunday, the speakers, all the missionaries who attended and those who shared in the Wheat room and foyer, the Pastors, the kitchen crew, hall monitors and timekeepers, those who decorated the church, the folks who brought in food, the sound and video technicians, those who set up the chairs in the various rooms, helped the missionaries set up their displays in the Wheat room and foyer, the office staff for all of their assistance, all

those who housed and fed the missionaries from out of town, and all those who helped with clean up and dismantling all the tables and chairs in the gym and putting the Wheat room back together after everything was finished. Without you none of this would have been possible. We can't thank you enough and praise God for His goodness.

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you so much for the cards and gifts for Pastor Appreciation Month. You are all so special to us. We are grateful for the church family that God has given to us.

Love You all,
Pastor Hank & Ann

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Faith Promise Gift for Missions

At the Bethel missions conference on October 15, members and friends were given the opportunity to join two strategic missions efforts Bethel is pursuing. **One** is a church plant on K. I. Sawyer led by the U.P. Churches of our Great Lakes District. **The other** is a short term missions trip to Guatemala from Bethel to do evangelism and build housing units for widows and their children. The costs associated with both are \$10,000.00 for Sawyer for next year (for one year of a 3 year church plant plan) and \$25,000.00 for Guatemala (\$5,000 has already been given).

As we pray about these Great Commission opportunities, we have the chance to participate by going and/or giving. All pray. Some go. Some give. On October 15th we were given the chance to do two things:

- 1) Express a desire to be involved by going to either of these opportunities.
- 2) Express an amount we would like to give above our normal giving as God blesses us.

As we pray God often calls us to be the answer to our prayers. That certainly happened with Nehemiah as his prayers eventually led him to go and request funding from the king to rebuild the walls. Please continue to pray for the success of God's work and how you will participate in it.

For the Outreach/Missions Board,
Pastor Brian

Bible Studies

For Men

Tuesdays, 6:30 AM, Coachlight Restaurant
Questions: contact Pastor Hank 228-7589

For Ladies

Tuesdays at 6:15 PM

Do You Believe God? You believe IN God, but do you really believe Him and all He says in His Word. Join us this Fall for our Ladies Bible Study. The Study is "Believing God" by Beth Moore.

College Age Dinner and Study

Sundays at 1 PM

at Songer's (2645 Grove St., MQT)

Alternate Location

at Maier's (1903 Mildred, MQT)

"Through the Bible in 24 Hours"

by Chuck Missler

There will be 24 sessions going through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Questions; contact Dr. Songer at 906-360-8688

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Operation Christmas Child boxes due back by November 16th

Take the opportunity to fill a shoebox for Samaritan's Purse. Boxes are available in the foyer or on the stage in the sanctuary. Some adjustments have been made to acceptable items suggested. Please do not include candy or toothpaste in your box this year. Last year our boxes went to Madagascar.



Salvation Army Food Pantry Results

As a result of your generosity through our food collection, 705 pounds of food were delivered to the Salvation Army. They were very grateful as their food pantry shelves were very low.

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AWANA for grades K-6

Monday's at 5:30 PM
Worker's Meal at church

Monday's at 6:30 PM
Grades K-6

Theme Night - November 20th, Orange or Camo Night.

Cubbies (3&4 year olds for workers kids)

A special thank you to the visiting missionaries in October (Gary & Scotty Spohr, Paul & Robina Wolff, Jan Janofski).

Questions: contact Commander Brian Steede at 475-9406 or bsteede10@gmail.com

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“How to Lead a Child to Christ”

Cheryl Doan from Child Evangelism Fellowship will be leading a training session for anyone who wants to be trained in the use of CEF materials on Saturday, December 9 from 9 am to 3pm here at Bethel. This would be great information for anyone working in Sunday School, Children's Church, AWANA, or with your own children or grandchildren. Anyone interested in attending, please call the church office to register by December 1.

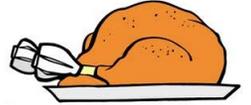
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Prime Timers Activities

Thanksgiving Dinner

Saturday, November 4th, 5:30 PM
at Bethel.

Turkey and all the Trimmings
Cost is donations with all donations going to Salvation Army Food Pantry.



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Angel Tree

Each year, we purchase gifts for the children of incarcerated parents. We are given names, ages, and items needed for each of these children. Please take a moment to choose a child, purchase your gift, wrap and return it to church. Or if you prefer to not make the purchase, but would like to participate, please give money for this project and a gift will be purchased for you. Questions: contact Dave Thomas at 249-5488.



Christmas Music Opportunity

Children, youth, and adults are invited to participate in an ensemble or choir during the month of December. We will rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 during the month of December. This can be a one-week commitment or more, based on your availability. Please contact Julie at julie.motta@bbcmqt.org for details and to sign up.



Mark Your Calendars

December Special Events

- * December 3rd - Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal at 12:30 PM (lunch provided)
- * December 9th - "How to Lead a Child to Christ", 9AM - 3PM at Bethel. (RSVP by December 1st)
- * December 10th - Children's Christmas Program at 10 AM (NO ABFs)
- * December 16th - Adult Christmas Party at UP Bible Camp (reservations needed by Dec. 10th)
- * December 17th - Caroling at 6 PM, please bring a plate of cookies
- * December 24th - Christmas Eve Service Schedule: one service at 10 AM and one at 6 PM

If you or your ABF has a Christmas Party planned, please contact Ann in the church office so that it can be advertised.

Recipe Corner:



Pumpkin Pie

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| 4 tbsp butter | ½ c. brown sugar |
| ½ c. white sugar | 2 tbsp flour |
| 1 tsp cinnamon | 1 tsp allspice |
| ½ tsp nutmeg | 1 c. milk |
| 3 eggs (separated) | 1 c. pumpkin puree |

Cream butter and sugars together until light.

Blend in flour and spices.

Add milk, egg yolks, & pumpkin. Stir

Beat egg whites until soft peaks form, then gently fold into pumpkin mixture.

Pour into unbaked pie shell.

Bake 10 minutes at 400° then bake 50 minutes at 300° until mixture is set and lightly brown.

- Diane Case

I'm looking for recipes submissions. If you have a favorite, I would love to publish it. - Ann

Please Help: Some of our utensils from the church kitchen have gone missing (large ladles, cake servers) Please take a look through your utensil drawer at home to see if any of them may have found their way home with you after a pot luck or ABF snacks. Thank you!

