

BETHEL MATTERS

Volume 23 Issue 10 (October 2017)
Published Monthly By: Bethel Baptist Church
829 Grove Street, Marquette, MI 49855

Inside This Issue

Primetimers Activities

The Great Importance of Our Belief in Original Sin

Recently I read *The Christian Doctrine of Original Sin* by Jonathan Edwards, one of the leading pastors in *The Great Awakening* which occurred in America prior to the Revolutionary War. Edwards wrote the book because he saw a weakening of the doctrine of Total Depravity in New England churches where he ministered. If sinners are not radically corrupt, then a radical remedy is not really needed in the gospel of the grace of God.

This concern of Edwards proved true as many of the churches of New England turned to liberal theology and eventually lost the gospel entirely, like the Unitarians. What do they believe?

AWANA

Unitarians believe in the goodness of human nature, criticize doctrines of the Fall, the Atonement, and eternal damnation, and require only openness to divine inspiration. (*The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church*, p. 995)

Everyday Evangelism

I once attended a Unitarian church service where the entire message was about saving the environment with no hint about saving mankind from the ruin of sin. If you don't believe that mankind is ruined in sin, why not focus on some other ruin that needs saving? If people are fine, then let's try to harness their energies to improve some aspect of life that needs improving. After the service, we were invited to go on a nature walk rather than go and make disciples. (By the way, we do have a creation mandate to care responsibly for the earth God has created, but that is a far cry from replacing God with the worship of the earth itself. That is the inevitable result of denying Original Sin. We will see no need to be reconciled to the God we have strayed from.)

Congratulations

What Jonathan Edwards saw in his Bible is that we are sinners in three ways: **1) We are guilty of Adam's sin** because he was head of the whole human race which God constituted as one. Romans 5:12 says that when Adam sinned, we all *sinned*. Notice the past tense. It does not say that we sin (present tense), but that we *sinned* in the past when Adam sinned. The name *Adam* is the same Hebrew word for *mankind*. Adam represented the whole human race so that his sin was also our sin. **2) We inherit a depraved nature from Adam** with a total bent towards sin and hostility towards God. Romans 8:7-8 says we are *hostile to God, do not submit to God, cannot submit to God, and cannot please God*. Matthew 9:36 says we are *helpless*, unable to remedy our sinful situation. **3) We commit personal sin** (and can only sin before salvation because our good works are corrupted by wrong motives). Isaiah 64:6 says that the righteous deeds of the nonbeliever *are as filthy rags*. Coming from a polluted source, God sees them as polluted works.

Missions Conference

Original sin is proven from experience in several ways, even if the Bible did not teach us so. We begin sinning immediately as soon as we can make our own choices. The self-centeredness in the youngest child is so self-evident that parents must spend enormous amounts of time counteracting it thru discipline and instruction. We sin continuously throughout our entire life. Even the best people get impatient, complain or lose their temper. Almost no one ever throughout the longest life claims to be perfect. Finally, we sin progressively worse (unless we are saved and born anew by God's grace). The child left to itself becomes progressively worse, not better. What are the implications of this as Christians for life and ministry? There are many, so stay tuned for next month's article when we will explore them.

October 22nd
*One Service at 10
*Quarterly Meeting
at 11:20

Your friend, thinking with you,
Pastor Brian (-:).

From the Family Life Pastor:

Various Thoughts:

Our Tuesday morning Bible study has been in the book of Romans. It is such a wonderful book on the theology that is the foundation for our belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is great to have so many guys come out to study the Word. In spite of a great deal of difference in age and length of time being believers, it is amazing how much the Holy Spirit leads our discussions and helps us to dig deeper and learn more from this book that is new and more challenging every time we study.

A couple of Tuesdays ago we were in Romans 10, and the scripture and discussion led me to develop a message that I am going to preach at Grace Church in Gladstone this Sunday. Two parts in particular really connected with me:

“But what does it say? The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved”. This statement summarizes the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ so well. We have the Word near us – we have heard it, we can repeat at least parts of it, it is in our hearts – and if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord – that means that He is who He said He is – God, and confess that, and that we believe in our heart that God did what the Word tells us He did, He raised Jesus back to life after He had been crucified, died, buried, and then after forty days brought back to life again – we believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ – we will be or are saved!

Notice what is not included here – what is not here is our works – we cannot do anything to earn our salvation – it is a gift from God! Ephesians 2:8-9 ***“For it is by grace you have been saved, - through faith – and this (the faith) is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast”!*** Do you find that as amazing as I do? We can’t even work up enough faith to believe on our own, or else we could brag that we have more faith, or faith deep enough to be saved – no, instead that faith to believe is from God and it is all about Him! Wow, that is just amazing!

This chapter then continues on, because Paul is trying to encourage the Jews to believe in Jesus and become Christ followers. So, he continues with the thought that if they or anyone else is to become a believer, then they need to hear about Jesus. In verse 13, Paul says – ***“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”*** – that is a great encouragement and promise – but then there is a “but”!

Verse 14-15 – ***“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? - This is the question we must ask regardless of who the person is that we are thinking about – have they heard so that they can believe? “And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”.*** When you really stop to think about this question, it should overwhelm you. We who are believers understand how to become a Christian, we understand what it means to be saved. But there are many people all around us who do not know and do not understand that there is a God in heaven, and that God wants us to spend eternity with Him in His heaven. Many people do not understand that there is only ONE WAY to get to God’s heaven, and that is through belief in the finished work of Jesus Christ our Lord!

And when we understand that, then we have an obligation to be those who are “preaching” to them. When I think of this, I think many people interpret this to mean that only a “pastor/preacher” can do this, but it seems to me that this is a challenge for all who have the Word near us, in our mouth, in our heart – and we need to be those who go and tell this lost and hurting world about such an amazing savior! We open doors to this by the way they see us, what they don’t see in us, and what they hear from us. With our mouth we proclaim, but people don’t want to hear what comes out of our mouth until they “see” what is in our hearts by the way we act, live our lives and how we model Christ! Then they will want to hear and they will be more inclined to confess with their mouth and believe in their heart in the finished work of Jesus Christ!

In Christ’s love
Pastor Hank

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 November Issue
of Bethel Matters
are due in the office
by, Thursday, October 19th

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

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.

Happy October Birthday/Anniversary to:

1. Brian Goupil, Cliff Maier, Bethany Jentoft
4. Gabriel Lacar, Irmgard Miller
6. Mim Newman
7. Tracey Hamilton
8. Dick Goodwin
10. Jan Brondyke, Alee Spagnotti
12. Don & Mary Wernholm (A), Dean Giroux
14. Eyn Nye
15. Jack & Marj Brown (A)
18. Brianna Steede, Ann Sarkela
21. Dick & Sue Goodwin (A)
23. Karl & Emily Thomsen (A)
24. Paul Nelson
25. Jean Johnson, Julie Wilkinson
30. Walley Helmila, Rick & Cindy Pawley (A)
31. Olivia Millin, Jeff Marker, Paul Dionne



Congratulations To:

Seth & Beth Wixtrom on the September 10th birth of their son, Caleb James. He weighed in at 9 lbs. 6 ozs. and was 20.5 inches long.

Emily Curtice for playing an amazing volleyball game for Gwinn against Manistique. This past week she tore her ACL in her left knee. Please pray for Emily.

Luke Pell on his graduation from the Police Academy at NMU. He is now employed by NMU's Public Safety.

Lukas Nelson and his Negaunee Miners JV Football Team on their 72-14 win over Gwinn. Lukas scored a touchdown and had a nice long run early in the game.

Youth Events & Activities

Sunday, October 1st at 5:30 PM

Food Collection for Salvation Army
Pizza & Pop to follow.

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

Mission's Conference

Saturday - Sunday
October 14th & 15th



Mark your calendars now for Bethel's 2017 Missions Conference. This will be a time for all at Bethel to give, pray and explore short-mission opportunities.

During the Conference:

- Hear about exciting new mission opportunities in our home area.
- Look at and prayerfully consider how each of us can be involved in the great commission.
- Share in what short-term missionaries at Bethel have already participated in.

The Conference begins 3 pm Saturday, October 14. Sunday October 15, 2017 will feature our usual church services but they will have a missions focus.

Saturday night (6 pm) there will be dinner with Filipino and Latin American foods.

In order to determine how much food to prepare for the Cultural Dinner Saturday night, we are requesting those interested in attending purchase a ticket for \$5 each. Tickets may be purchased from any of the OMB members: Matthew or Laura Songer, Dave Petrovich, Cindy or Rick Pawley, Alma Thomas, Judy Larson, Dave or Irma Powers. Tickets are also available in the church Office. Please try to have a \$5 bill or 5 \$1 bills since it might not always be possible to make change. The money received will be used for mission projects.

Faith Promise Gift for Missions on October 15

At the Bethel missions conference on October 15, members and friends will be given 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 3yr church plant plan) and \$25,000.00 for Guatemala.

As we pray about these Great Commission opportunities, we also have the chance to participate by going and/or giving. All pray. Some go. Some give. On October 15 we will have 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 so these ministry outreaches can be funded.

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 begin praying now for the success of God’s work and how you may participate in it.

For the Outreach & Missions Board (OMB),
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

Operation Christmas Child

October 23rd - November 12th

Take the opportunity to fill a shoebox for Samaritan’s Purse. Boxes will be available beginning on October 22nd. Last year our boxes went to Madagascar.

Can You Spare \$1 to help feed a hungry neighbor?

Please bring the following items on the corresponding week:



October 1st
soup and crackers

All donated items will be given to the Salvation Army for their Food Pantry. Last year we donated 867 pounds of food. Can we exceed that this year?

From the Mailbox:



Thank you for making it possible for me to attend camp at UP Bible Camp this summer. I had a good time!

Samuel Haske

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you so much for welcoming us so heartily to your services and Sunday school class when we were with you in August. Our entire family enjoyed fellowship with you and your kind interest in each of us. There is a warm, loving spirit at Bethel that we are drawn to, and we pray that your church family will grow in grace and in number as others see the spirit of oneness and are drawn to the Father.

With Love,
Russ & Beth White Family

* * * * *

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

Cubbies (3&4 year olds for workers kids)

Questions: contact Commander Brian Steede at 475-7728 or bsteede10@gmail.com

* * * * *

Everyday Evangelism (EE)

This year Fall Fest was again a success. About 450 students filled out the questionnaire and threw darts. Of those 224 indicated that they would be interested in or maybe interested in a discussion about spiritual matters. The specific questions they answer are: (1) who in your opinion is Jesus Christ? and (2) are you certain of going to heaven? These students are our primary leads for EE visits.

Our set-up was presented on the 6 o'clock news. We thank the goodly number of volunteers who helped make this event a success and fun. Students are attracted to it. The weather even held out even though the forecast was rain. PTL.

By the time you read this report, EE will again have started its now 17th year at Bethel. Several first timers have indicated an interest in participating, and our trainers keep being willing to be on board to help train them improve their witnessing skills.

Please pray for this ministry, for trainers, trainees, and open doors and hearts.

* * * * *

Prime Timers Activities



Movie Night and Potluck

Don't miss the fun and fellowship
(popcorn too)



Tuesday October 10th, 5:30

Community Room

at Peter White Library

Bring a dish of food to share,
drink and table service provided.

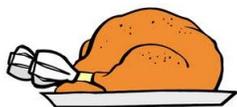
Thanksgiving Dinner

Saturday, November 4th at Bethel.

Turkey and all the Trimmings

Cost is donations

with all donations going to
Salvation Army Food
Pantry.



Sunday, October 22nd

One Combined Service at 10 AM

Quarterly Congregational Meeting
at 11:20 AM

Staff and Board Chair, your 3 bullet
point report is due in the office by
Monday, October 9th. Please be prompt.

Mark Your Calendars

December Special Events

- * December 3rd - Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal at 12:30 PM
- * December 10th - Children's Christmas Program at 10 AM (NO ABFs)
- * December 16th - Adult Christmas Party at UP Bible Camp (reservations needed)

* December 17th - Caroling at 6 PM

* December 24th - Christmas Eve Service at 6 PM

Membership Class

Watch for information coming soon for a date for the next membership class. If you are interested in attending or want more information, contact Membership Elder Lynn Miller at 906-273-1707.

*Hymn Sing
Sunday, October 29th
6:00 pm at Bethel
Invite a Friend*

Recipe Corner:

Strawberry Shortcake

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 2 c. sifted flour | 3 tbsp sugar |
| 3 tsp baking powder | ½ tsp salt |
| ½ c. butter | 1 beaten egg |
| 2/3 c. light cream | |
| 3-4 cups sugared sliced strawberries | |
| 1 cup whipping cream, whipped (or cool whip) | |

Sift together dry ingredients, cut in butter til like coarse crumbs. Combine egg and cream, add all at once stirring just enough to moisten. Spread dough in greased 8 inch round layer pan, building up edges slightly. Bake in 450° oven for 15 to 18 minutes. Remove from pan, cool. Split horizontally into 2 layers, lift top off carefully. Spoon berries and whipped cream between layers and on top. Serve.



Looking for recipes submissions.