



Notes from the Pastor

(This month I've selected an excellent article about the atonement written by Phil Johnson the Executive Director of Grace To You Ministries.)

Too many Christians think of divine forgiveness as something that utterly overturns justice and sets it aside—as if God's mercy nullified His justice—as if God's love defeated and revoked His hatred of sin. That's not how forgiveness works.

Is forgiveness from sin grounded only in the love and mercy and goodness of God—apart from his justice? Does love alone prompt the Almighty to forego the due penalty of sin, wipe out the record of our wrongdoing, and nullify the claims of justice against us, unconditionally? Or must God Himself be propitiated? In other words, does His righteousness and His holy wrath against sin need to be satisfied before He can forgive?

It truly seems as if most people today—including multitudes who identify themselves as Christians—think God forgives merely because His love overwhelms His holy hatred of sin. Some go even further, rejecting the notion of propitiation altogether, claiming it makes God seem too harsh. The problem with every such view of the atonement is that mercy without propitiation turns forgiveness into an act of injustice.

That is a seriously erroneous view. As a matter of fact, that very idea was one of the main errors of Socinianism. The original Socinians were 16th-century heretics who denied that God demands any payment for sin as a prerequisite to forgiveness. They insisted instead that He forgives our sin out of the sheer bounty of His kindness alone. They argued that if God demanded an atonement—an expiation, a payment, a reprisal, or a propitiation—for sin, then we shouldn't really call it "forgiveness" when He absolves us. They claimed that sin could either be paid for or forgiven, but not both. In other words, they defined forgiveness in a way that contradicts and contravenes justice. They were essentially teaching that God could not maintain the demands of His justice and forgive sins at the same time. They thought of forgiveness and justice as two incompatible ideas.

Scripture expressly refutes that idea. One of the most glorious

truths of the gospel is that God saved us in a way that upheld His justice. Justice was neither compromised nor set aside; it was completely satisfied. God Himself was thus fully propitiated. And our salvation is therefore grounded in the justice of God as well as His mercy. That is what the apostle Paul meant when he said in Romans 1:17 that "the righteousness of God [is] revealed" in the gospel. It's also what the apostle John was saying in 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive." He doesn't set aside justice and grant us an unholy amnesty; He forgives because it is an act of justice to do so.

Now, there is a bit of a paradox in that idea. Justice is the moral quality that cries for the punishment of evildoers. Justice fairly screams for retribution whenever a wrong is done: "The wicked shall not be unpunished" (Proverbs 11:21). "[God] will by no means clear the guilty" (Exodus 34:7). We understand instinctively that it is unjust to let evil go unpunished. The truly righteous long for God to deal with evildoers. Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the Temple featured this plea for justice: "Hear thou from heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, by requiring the wicked, by recompensing his way upon his own head" (1 Chronicles 6:23). According to Revelation 6:10, the souls of those martyred for their faith constantly cry to God, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"

God will judge evil, and that is a good thing. We look forward to that day when the Judge of all the earth will judge the deeds of the wicked and purge evil from the universe. He will not compromise His own righteousness by allowing one sin to go unpunished. Jesus said, "There is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known" (Matt. 10:26). Every sin, even the secret ones, will be brought out in the open and judged. Justice screams for retribution of sin, and God is a God of perfect justice, so He will not let one sin go unpunished. How then can He forgive sinners?

That's what the atonement is all about: Jesus paid the full penalty of sin on behalf of those who believe. Their sins have already been judged at the cross. "[Christ] Himself bore our

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Church Happenin's

- Friday, Apr. 2 Good Friday Service, 7 PM
- Saturday, Apr. 3 Jackie Frost Memorial Service, 11 AM; potluck luncheon to follow
- Sunday, Apr. 4 Easter Breakfast, 9 AM
- Wednesday, Apr. 7 Upward Bound Share-A-Dish, 11:30 AM at 1404 Dillon Rd.
- Monday, Apr. 12 Council Meetings, 7 PM—If you would like to participate in the ministries at FBC, please join us. Elders & Deacons meet at 6:30.
- April 12-17 Pastor Bruce away at “Together for the Gospel” conference
- Saturday, Apr. 17 Men’s Breakfast, 8 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday, Apr. 18 1st Quarter Business Meeting, meeting briefly after service.
- Wednesday, Apr. 21 Upward Bound Trip to Woodburn Tulip Farms and shopping center
- April 23-25 Summit to Summit Adult Christian Retreat, Wildhorse Canyon
- Monday, Apr. 26 Elder Meeting, 6:30 PM

Future Events



- Thursday, May 6 National Day of Prayer @ FBC
- August 13-15 Family Camp 2010
- October 22-24 Mid-Columbia Men’s Camp & Mid-Col. Women’s Retreat

BIRTHDAYS!

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Rachel Weatherly | April 1 |
| Tonya Aldrich | April 7 |
| Doris Kahler | April 10 |
| Amanda Hodson | April 11 |
| Kara Yates | April 12 |
| Rose Olson | April 17 |
| Jennifer McLean | April 18 |
| Rusty Hicks | April 27 |
| Kelsey (Hicks) Herman | April 28 |
| Kathleen McCarty | April 28 |



** If your birthday doesn't appear on the list, that means we have no record of it. Please let Lora know in the Church Office, and we will add you to our lists.



Jackie Frost Memorial Service

Jackie Frost went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, March 28th. There will be a Memorial Service for her on Saturday, April 3rd at 11 AM at First Baptist Church. A potluck Luncheon will follow the service. If you are able to help by bringing a dish, the family would be very grateful.



Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 4th, 9 AM

Join us for our Annual Easter Breakfast at 9 AM in the fellowship hall Easter morning. Please bring an egg-dish, casserole, or quiche if you are able.

Business Meeting

Sunday, April 18th

Meeting briefly following the morning Service in the Church Sanctuary.



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sins in His own body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24). Redefine the atonement to remove the idea that Christ suffered the judgment for sin in our place, and you destroy the heart of all gospel truth: "Not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

One of the great mysteries not revealed in the Old Testament but fully revealed in the gospel is a clear answer to the age-old question of how forgiveness is possible without compromising the justice of God. Christ fully satisfied God's justice on behalf of those whom He saves. He bore the penalty of their sin when He died on the cross. The gospel declares "His righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (Romans 3:26).

Christ offered a full atonement that included payment in full for all the sins of every sinner who would ever believe. "[God] made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21)—"whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness" (Romans 3:25). "He Himself is the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 2:2).

Our thoughts about such things are almost always too shallow. We take God's mercy for granted and ignore His holy justice. But a right view of God will always exalt His righteous hatred for sin as much as it magnifies His love and mercy. God's mercy is not some maudlin sentiment that causes Him to forget about His holiness and set aside His righteous anger against sin. The demands of righteousness must be fully and completely satisfied if God is ever going to forgive sin. He cannot and will not simply overlook sin as if it didn't really matter.

In other words, the gospel is not only a message about the love of God. It is that; but it is not only that. The true gospel magnifies His justice as much as it magnifies His love.

When was the last time you thought of the gospel as a message about divine justice?

We tend not to think in those terms. Invariably, when you hear the gospel presented these days, all the stress is on the love of God, and His righteous abhorrence of sin is rarely even mentioned.

"God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life." We love to talk about forgiveness, but rarely is there any attention given to the fact that God demanded payment for sin in full, and if that payment had not been made, there would never have been any forgiveness whatsoever:

"Without shedding of blood there is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22).

Resurrection Sunday is proof positive that all who are forgiven and pardoned by Christ's blood will be raised and glorified by His power to enjoy the full inheritance of eternal life! Thanks, Phil, for the reminder.

Happy Easter,

Pastor Bruce

THANKS

"Dear Family,

You have exemplified the Body of Christ to us in recent months through your many kindnesses. During LaDonna's illness and our grief, you have been a wonderful source of encouragement. Thank you for carrying us to the Lord in prayer. We needed you. Thank you for knowing that and showing up to love us."

~ Gordon & Kathleen McCarty

"The Family of Floyd Branson Jr. would like to say thank you for all the prayers, support and providing the meal at the services. Thank you for thinking of us during the time of our loss."

~ The Branson family

"I would like to thank the Church family so much for the lovely cards and sweet prayers."

~ Debbie DeHaven



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, Apr. 17, 8 AM
Meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

Men's Breakfast meets on the third Saturday of each month.

Upward Bound



Apr. 7th

Share-A-Dish

Meeting at 11:30 AM at the home of Gary & Dee Dillon (1404 Dillon Rd.) Lunch begins at noon.

Apr. 21st

Trip: Woodburn Tulip Farms

Leaving the Church at 8:30 AM. Lunch in Woodburn. Tour of the farms, then shopping in Woodburn.

For more information on Senior Ministry activities, please contact Gary & Dee Dillon at 541-490-4602.



Spotlight on Missions



By Marian Warrenka



Radha & Samen
Manickham

Providing support, pastoral training, translation, and church planting to Cambodians

(From their recent prayer letter.)

“We want to thank the Lord and we also want to thank so many of you who sent in your generous gifts to get the Ministry Center in Cambodia restarted. The middle of March the construction will resume. We are now only \$25,000 away from completing the first stage of this Center.

I can't wait to see it finished because we want to move in and start ministries that many, both Cambodian Christian and non Christian, have been waiting for.

We really need this Ministry Center. The 'Ministry Center' is a multipurpose facility and it will benefit the ministry in Cambodia tremendously. It will serve as a Bible training center, vocational training center, retreat center, literature development and resource center, print shop, a clinic and provide a place for non-Christian kids coming to high school in the city.

The Ministry Center is in a central location for many provinces in the Northwest area and other areas as well. It will not only benefit the Christians, but also will benefit the non-Christians. By having the Ministry Center in one central location we are reducing the operational expenses (because moving place to place will cost much more money). So when the center is in useable form, it will push ministry among Cambodians forward and will also save a lot of funds to help other ministry.

We want to reach out to the non-Christian Cambodian, by showing them that God cares for everyone and so do we. We desperately need to have this center in useable condition so we can launch those ministries mentioned above.”

- Please pray for the heart of Cambodians to be open to the Gospel.
- Please pray for the funds to finish the ministry center in Cambodia.
- Please pray for God to provide for the great financial needs of Radha & Samen. They have lost some of their support and are not \$2,924 short every month.

Ellie & Lila Quezada

Working in translation & training in Oaxaca, Mexico.

The Quezadas will be in Hood River May 19-27 and June 7-July 17. They will need housing and a car. They need to get their immigration papers renewed. Lila will also be taking 2

Midwifery classes while here. Please pray for God's guidance, provision and direction for them.

Jon & Nancy Swanson

Providing Christian resources, activities and training to college students through Campus Ambassadors.

Jon & Nancy will be moving from Portland to Spokane, WA, where Jon will be working on 10 different college campuses in eastern Washington and Idaho.

Jon will be sharing about his future plans for ministry on Friday, May 7th at Grace Baptist Church in White Salmon. More information will be coming soon. Plan on joining us! may be written to FBC and marked for the Dominican Trip in the name of one of the participants.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION

The team would like to thank our church family for your support, prayers, and participation in the Dominican Dinner. As we are busily preparing to go, it is good to know that so many are supporting us. Please continue to pray for unity, organization, and good health as we prepare to leave in May.

Coin Bank Fund-Raiser

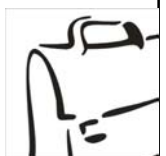
Please bring in your full mission banks by April 11th. We have raised \$697.54 from the coin banks so far, thanks to your generosity! You can also donate directly toward the trip or one of the participants by turning in donations marked with Dominican trip and the person's name.

Clothing for Haitian Relief

Please bring in good used or new clothing for our mission team to take with them to help the needy. The weather is warm there, so we are looking for light-weight long pants or capris (no shorts), modest short-sleeved shirts or blouses, and shoes (no flip-flops). Items may be left in the office or given to a member of the team.

We Need Suitcases

Some of our team are in need of light-weight zippered suitcases to take with them to the Dominican. If you would like to loan or donate a suitcase, these can be brought to the church office. Please put your name inside the suitcase so we can be sure to return them to the right people!



FIDELIS

NOTES

By Doris Kahler

Fidelis Missionary/Pastoral Supply is a designated fund in our Church budget, totally dependent on free-will offerings. Our group makes items requested by mission hospitals and our local nursing homes, and collects various items needed by missionaries, Christian schools, and other Christian organizations. We also raise funds and collect items to assist with local area ministries such as the Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC), Child Evangelism, and Columbia Gorge Young Life.

We use:

- Lots of old, part-cotton sheets of any color or design for roller bandages and wipes for mission hospitals.
- New or good used baby clothing and blankets for the PRC and mission hospitals.
- Fabrics for making clothing protectors, wheelchair arm bags, neck pillows, therapy cubes, and walker bags for nursing homes.
- Health care items such as cotton balls or rolls, sterile and non-sterile exam gloves, 4"x4" gauze pads, and adhesive tape for mission hospitals.
- Cancelled stamps, which will be sent where they can be sold to collectors to raise funds for missions.
- Christian literature, such as daily devotionals, magazines (please no *Guide Posts*), biographies, books, teaching materials, Bibles and Concordance. These will be sent to Christian Resources International, which will distribute them to missionaries all over the world.
- Monetary Donations. (Please make any checks out to First Baptist Church, and mark any funds for Fidelis.)

Praise! We were able to make a supply of clothing protectors and walker bags from donated fabrics. We also made a supply of surgical bonnets, surgeon caps, glove holders, sterile wrappers, half-sheets, and wipes from white sheets that had been donated. These will be sent to the Gearys for use in their mission hospital.

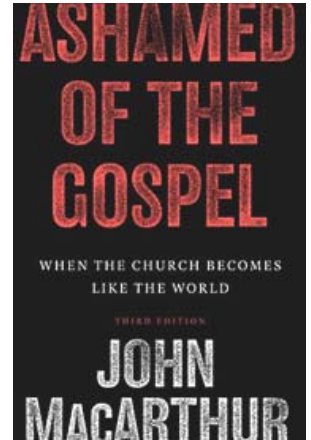
Thank you for your donations of old sheets and fabric. Our collection box for sheets and items from the list above is on the bottom shelf under the window in the church office.

If you have any questions about our work, or would like to find out how you can help, please contact Doris Kahler at 541-386-5388.



Book of the Month

By John MacArthur



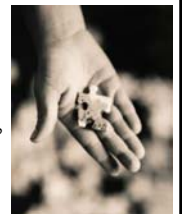
In the late 1800s, Charles Spurgeon warned that the church was drifting away from the purity of the gospel, candy-coating God's Word rather than boldly proclaiming the truths of Scripture. As a result, Christianity's influence in nineteenth-century England was severely weakened. One hundred years later, John MacArthur, troubled by the seeker-sensitive movement and an emphasis on pragmatism within the church, sounded the same alarm with the first edition of *Ashamed of the Gospel*.

In this newly revised and expanded edition, MacArthur gives an overview of developments in the seeker-sensitive movement since his book was first published in 1993. New material traces the line of pragmatic philosophy from the seeker-sensitive movement through the Emergent phenomenon, explaining why the latter is a philosophical heir of the former—and an even greater danger.

Ashamed of the Gospel bears a message the church just can't ignore: that we dare not water down the gospel or be ashamed of communicating its convicting message. It's a warning of the spiritual consequences to come if Christians continue to compromise biblical doctrine and the preaching of the Gospel. This masterful work challenges the church to return to the roots of the Great Commission and encourages a steadfast preaching of the Word of God.

Bible Based Counseling

Pastor Bruce Parker and Joan Kulper offer biblically based counseling, free of charge, in the areas of: individual, family, marriage, and pre-marriage. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office or Joan Kulper at (509) 493-3901.



First Baptist Church

1889 Belmont Dr.
Hood River, OR 97031



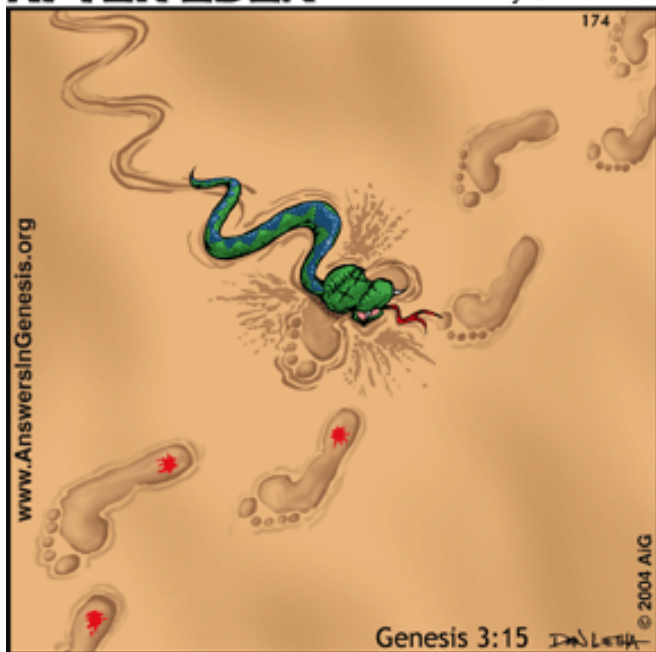
Evening Service

Friday, April 2nd, 7 PM

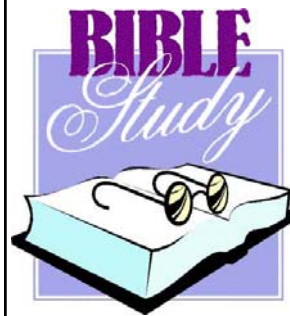
Join us in remembering the
death of our Lord.

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



Saviour crossing



New Ladies Groups Forming

**Thursday Evenings
Beginning April 15th**

Meeting at 6:30 PM at the church, this group is designed to be a discussion-based study group that will be working through basic church doctrines and Bible study methods. If you are interested in participating in this group, please contact Lora Weatherly at fbhoodriver@gorge.net.

Beginning in the Fall

Sandy Parker and Joan Kulper will be heading up this group and are looking for feedback on good days and times for this study. If you are interested in participating with this group, please contact Joan at rjkulper@gorge.net or Sandy at sandyparker@gmail.com.