

Banner

"You have set up a banner for those who fear you, that it may be displayed because of truth." Psalm 60:4



*"Pleasing God,
Making Disciples
of
Jesus Christ"*

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY OF QUIDNESSETT BAPTIST CHURCH

What is the greatest need in the world today? Each of us could quickly generate a list having merit. And if we extended the question into our world say in the form of a street survey, another list of merit would be produced. However, let me add a qualifier here in regards to the words "having merit" - the lists would have merit in a sense of a temporal nature meeting a temporal need. The highest priority of need in the world may range from world peace to economic stability to solving poverty or sickness. Again, if one thinks solely temporally and horizontally, these have merits, but they all fall short as the greatest need in the world today.

In fact, anything mentioned outside of what I am about to reveal

misses the mark when it comes to identifying the greatest need in the world. Don't be quick to label me "narrow-minded" or not looking at the big picture. Actually, go ahead and label me as such. The greatest need in the world today is singular and individual. It is forgiveness.

"The human experience lacks wholeness without forgiveness experienced."

Not forgiveness rooted in human-to-human reconciliation of wrongs but on the larger and most important scale - the forgiveness of God.

The human experience lacks wholeness without forgiveness experienced. Something is dead wrong in our world. It is called sin and its result - separation from God. Only God-initiated forgiveness fixes the problem. In this issue of THE BANNER, we will look at this greatest need in the world. May we be encouraged!!!

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GOSPEL GLIMPSES

The crowd pressed hard against each other. Religious leaders, curious seekers coming from various parts of the land, and even the locals gathered around to hear the teaching of Jesus. His authority and wisdom draws people as will always be the case when the Word of the Lord is empowered by the Lord of the Word. Luke gives us the scene - *On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal.*¹⁸ *And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus,*¹⁹ *but finding no way to*

*bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus.*²⁰ *And when he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you” (LUKE 5:17-20).*

In the midst of such profound teaching, we get a glimpse of an

“Are you rejoicing in the grace of forgiveness found in the Lord Jesus Christ?”

extraordinary act of friendship. Revisit verses 18 and 19. Talk about true friends! An impassable crowd? No problem. We go to the roof. Our friend needs Jesus and nothing will stop us from getting him a front row seat. And they were successful but what their friend got first was not fresh legs that would wear out but

the meeting of the greatest need of every individual. It is found in the gracious touch and words of Jesus in verse 20 - “Man, your sins are forgiven.”

The best words ever heard are “your sins are forgiven.” Not might be, not could be, but ARE forgiven.

Have you experienced such freedom in your soul? Are you rejoicing in the grace of forgiveness found in the Lord Jesus Christ? Maybe you have but have lost the wonder of being forgiven? Luke says the man went home “glorifying God” (LUKE 5:25). I think it is safe to say this heart attitude of praise wasn’t merely because of the ability to walk home!

Let’s also strive for a heart of worship over the wonder of forgiveness.

THE PASTOR’S PEN

Someone recently said to me, “I just don’t feel forgiven. I just don’t feel like God has forgiven me of all my sins.”

How would you counsel someone about this not uncommon response in Christians? It is clear we are emotional beings having feelings. The scriptures teach about the experiences of joy, peace, a clear conscience, and many other things associated with a forgiven child of God.

One of the challenges we face as believers is to ensure we don’t interpret our theology by our experience. We get in deep and dangerous waters when our interpretation of God, His dealings with us, and of His Word begins with our experience. Please don’t misunderstand me. We are called to a vital experimental knowledge of Christ. We are to know by experience joy, peace, love and the

other fruit of the Spirit in a way that makes the world see the reality of a living, knowable God through Christ. In order to get there and to live this true representation of Christianity, a proper understanding of the basis of Christian experience must be grasped - the forgiveness of God.

“Forgiveness is not based on a good feeling but on an unfulfilling promise.”

So, back to our Christian who doesn’t “feel” forgiven. There are numerous passages we would use to help the struggling Christian to understand this important truth that forgiveness is not based on a good feeling but on an unfulfilling promise. Let’s consider just one portion of scripture to support this truth.

In Matthew 12, Jesus is addressing a serious concern - blasphemy of the Holy Spirit but within the warn-

ing is a tremendous promise.

“Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people” (MATTHEW 12:31). There is no mention of feeling forgiven but the promise of forgiveness. Jay Adams in his book FROM FORGIVEN TO FORGIVING writes, “Obviously, when God forgives, He does not simply sit in the heavens and emote. So forgiveness isn’t a feeling. If it were, we would never know that we have been forgiven. No, when God forgives, He goes on record. He says so. If forgiveness were merely an emotional experience, we would not know that we were forgiven. What does God do when He goes on record saying that our sins are forgiven? God makes a promise. Forgiveness is not a feeling, forgiveness is a promise.”

May we learn to let promises determine our experience especially in the area of God’s forgiveness.



A PILGRIM'S PROGRES

John Bunyan
Banner of Truth
Hardbound, 379 pages

The book recommendation for this issue of THE BANNER is not “fresh off the press.” In fact, it is old. It was first published in February 1678 and has established itself as a Christian classic. One might even place Bunyan’s work in the category of “must read” for every Christian.

There are many editions of THE PILGRIM’S PROGRESS, but if you want a high quality hardbound, the Banner of Truth Trust edition is the choice.

Its value is nicely summarized by Augustus Toplady, “It is a masterpiece of piety and genius, and will, we doubt not, be of standing use to the people of God be so long as the sun and moon endure.”

QUOTABLE QUOTE

“It would tire the hands of an angel to write down all the pardons God bestows upon true penitent believers.”

WILLIAM BATES

The mature believer experiencing the pain of sinning against God knows all too well the depths of the hurt. It is a hurt felt toward the heart of God not the personal consequence of the sin. Too many believers look at sin from their standpoint and not from the grief it causes a loving, holy God. When this occurs, the ugliness of sin is lost. Believers will grow insensitive and allow harsh words, behind the scenes gossip and slander, or strains in relationship to go unresolved.

Have you ever wondered what went through the mind of Jesus and Peter the night of Peter’s denial? Luke gives us the account - *And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.”*⁶⁰ But Peter said, “Man, I do not know

WALKING WITH THE MASTER

*what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.*⁶¹ *And the Lord turned and looked at Peter (LUKE 22:59-61). Imagine how they felt when their eyes locked. Jesus feeling deep compassion while Peter experiences the penetrating gaze of God piercing his soul. The realization of the deep wound inflicted by sinning against his Master is forming. Peter sees his sin for what it is - a grieving and painful wound against a loving God. The only cure is restoration and that is from the One wounded - God. Our individual spiritual health is maintained when we respond as Peter did when the gaze of Jesus comes. And we know it will. May we experience such restoration through His forgiveness.*

DID YOU KNOW?



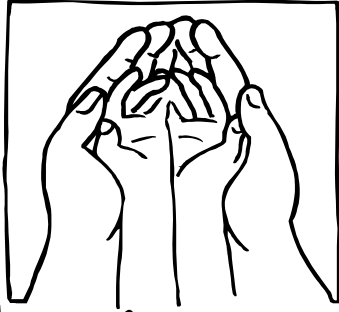
In this issue we will look at little-known facts about America’s mid-century evangelical resurgence. Did you know?

- Evangelical refers to a movement within Protestantism that emerged during the 18th century revivals that swept across Britain, Ireland, parts of Europe, and America.
- In the 1952 presidential campaign, a group of Christians led by former Youth for Christ president Torrey Johnson held their own “campaign” on the heels of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in an attempt to spark discussion of spiritual issues.
- During the movement, C. S. Lewis emerged as a voice of intellect within evangelicalism. The first editor of CHRISTIANITY TODAY, Carl Henry, even invited Lewis to contribute to the magazine. The magazine itself recently named Lewis’ MERE CHRISTIANITY as one of the top three books that shaped 20th century evangelicalism.
- The movement received much monetary clout from wealthy Christians. Individuals such as aluminum company president Herbert Taylor and oil tycoon J. Howard Pew, supported evangelistic organizations like Youth for Christ, Fuller Seminary, and CHRISTIANITY TODAY along with Billy Graham’s first television appearances. .

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QBC HAPPENINGS

JULY 2007

- AWI Pot Luck will be held on *Saturday, July 28th from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. behind the Youth Center*
- Combined ABF in celebration of our youth's missions trip to Virginia will be held *Sunday, July 29th*
- Men's Ministry Fellowship will be held *Tuesday, July 31st.*

AUGUST 2007

- Vacation Bible School will be held *Monday, August 6 through Friday, August 10.*
- Missionary Commissioning Service for Russ and Elaine Poland will be held *Sunday, August 26 in the p.m.*
- Young at Heart Lake George, N.Y. trip will be held on *Thursday, August 23rd*
- Men's Ministry Fellowship will be held *Tuesday, August 28th*

THE QUIDNESSETT

Banner

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