

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

We sing a beautiful hymn in our church entitled “How Deep the Father’s Love”, and part of the first line reads *“How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure, that He should give His only Son to make a wreck His treasure.”*

Can you sense the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus unfolding? First from the purpose of the Father and then the willingness of the Son to execute His Father’s plan? Do you see the objects of such deep love? US! Not “us” who are good. Not “us” who are deserving. Not “us” who are pretty and lovable.” The objects of the Father’s deep love are wretched sinners! We who by nature and choice are God’s enemies become His treasure

through grace and unmerited mercy.

The Apostle Paul penned, under the inspiration of God’s Spirit, one of the most profound prayers ever - *“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God (Eph.3:14-19).”*

In this issue of THE BANNER, we are going to explore such love!

Inside This Issue

GOSPEL GLIMPSES <i>“Such Love”</i>	2
THE PASTOR’S PEN <i>“The Untied Knot”</i>	2
WALKING WITH THE MASTER <i>“Does His Love Flow Freely?”</i>	3
BOOK REVIEW <i>“Respectable Sins”</i>	3
DID YOU KNOW? <i>“The Gnostics”</i>	3
QBC HAPPENINGS <i>“April and May”</i>	4

The Quidnessett BANNER

GOSPEL GLIMPSES

The Gospel of John often becomes the first place a new believer is encouraged to walk with his or her newly-discovered Savior. That is good advice. Even good advice for the “veteran” Christian.

Sink deep into John’s Gospel, especially chapters thirteen through seventeen, and one walks away overwhelmed from exposure to the Lord’s heart and the love of the Father and Son for His seeking child.

Charles Ross was a Scottish pastor who wrote a worthy commentary on John chapters 13-17 entitled, “The Inner Sanctuary”. One excerpt reads, “On the night of His betrayal, Jesus Christ revealed the deepest concerns of His heart to His disciples.” One of those concerns was for them to know, not just “head-

wise”, but “heart-wise” the deep, deep love of the Father and Son for them. This concern extends to all who know Jesus Christ as Lord. He wants us to know such love.

In the great abiding chapter of John’s Gospel, chapter fifteen, Jesus makes a statement which is unfathomable in its depth of understanding. It is found in verse nine - “*As the Father has loved me, so have I love you.*”

Don’t read on. Stop. Read that verse. Again. With the heart, with the voice, with the head. With all that is within you. While you are meditating upon its riches, humbly pray for understanding. A felt understanding. The Puritan Thomas Watson said, “Leave not off reading the Bible till you find your hearts warmed. Let it not only inform you but inflame you.”

To be inflamed with the love of Christ goes counter to the world we temporarily occupy. Counter not only in opposition and misunderstanding, but counter in the necessary discipline it takes to get inflamed.

I must confess two cars in front of me in the drive-through for coffee may easily try my patience. That is not a good thing. The “have it quickly, fast-food mentality” of our world causes great friction against the work necessary to be inflamed by the Word of God.

The grand hymn says, “Take time to be holy, Speak oft with thy Lord; abide in Him always and feed on His Word”. Taking time to be holy means taking time to be inflamed. Remember an inflamed heart with God’s love will be an obedient heart toward God’s will.

THE PASTOR’S PEN

I guess as an ex-sailor, though there never really is an “ex” in the sailor’s heart, I should be fond of knots. In my Navy days, I observed many types of knots tied by a seasoned Boatswain Mate. A real work of art, but I am not fond of personal knots. You know the kind. Either in one of your children’s shoes or your own where the solution is a lot of time or a pair of scissors.

I was on a plane recently, aisle row and the couple seated next to me had a knot like I have never seen. It was a necklace or maybe two that was a “rat’s nest”. The husband attempted to untie it. His effort lasted from departure from the gate to take-off. Maybe ten minutes. He passed it to his wife. I admired her perseverance. She labored with that knot the entire flight from Providence to Detroit. From my vantage point, she

made about as much progress as her husband did - the “rat’s nest” remained an untied knot.

Have you realized the love of God resembles an “untied” knot? There is no levity in my statement, but security. Sure, we may eventually untie any literal knot, but when it comes to God’s love for us, no untying no matter the effort will accomplish the task.

Paul gives us the security of this “knot” in Romans, chapter eight - “*For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:37-39).*”

So, that means when I make attempts to “untie” the knot of God’s love which may be interpreted my doubting God’s love for me, it re-

mains tied. Someone has said, “*He that lacks assurance converses with the devil not God. The devil wants me to mistrust God and doubt His love.*”

My fears, my doubts, my unbelief, my rebellion (yes, we still have that tendency), my fretting . . . all these “my” attempts to “untie” God’s love are squashed by His marvelous grace.

One of the great encouragements to perseverance in the faith lies in the truth of grace working ALL THE TIME. My awareness of grace working isn’t the issue. The working of truth in the redeemed heart continues whether recognized or not. Thanks be to God for the lavishing of His love manifested directly to the soul, but experienced or not, it remains a knot untied. Faith clings to the truth of the untied knot of God’s love, not the experience of the untied knot of God’s love.



RESPECTABLE SINS

Jerry Bridges

NAV PRESS, HB, 185 pages

The title of Jerry Bridges' book catches the eye. Is there such a thing? Bible-believing Christians would shout, "no way". Yet, the book reveals the subtlety of sin in such a manner that we may allow "tolerable sins" in our lives.

Quoting from the back cover, "Jerry Bridges returns to his trademark theme of holiness and addresses a dozen clusters of specific 'acceptable' sins that we tend to tolerate in ourselves - such as jealousy, anger, pride, unthankfulness, and judgmentalism." In his admonitions, Jerry offers a message of hope in the profound mercy of the Gospel and the transforming grace of God as the means to overcome our subtle sins."

This is a good book sure to help in your Christian life. It will challenge you to search for "respectable sins" which may have been tolerated all too long!

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"There is no higher priority in the believer's life than to delight himself in the love of Christ."

MAURICE ROBERTS

The liberty and energizing experi-

ence of the love of God shed in our hearts (Romans 5:5) does not make one a storage bin of such love, but a channel of such love. We receive not to store, but to give. That should be Christianity 101.

Jesus tells us the identifying marks of His children are a continuance in His Word (John 8:31) and a visible love (John 13:34-35).

If I am a channel for the love of God, how is that measurable? Taking the marks Jesus gives of being His child, let's measure up.

First would be my own hunger for the Word of God coupled with the desire to obey the Word of God - *"If you abide (continue) in my Word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:31-32).* My ability to be a chan-

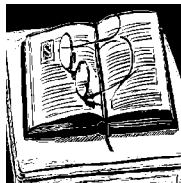
WALKING WITH THE MASTER

nel of Christ's love to His church and His world rests on my own personal nourishment by the source of such love. A dry well offers no refreshment and a "plugged" channel prevents free flow. It only takes a quick look into the heart to see where a well goes dry and a channel gets clogged - selfishness, apathy, lack of time with the Lord, etc.,

A second measurement of whether I am a refreshing well and clear channel is my actual involvement in acts of love. John makes it quite clear love does not rest in "a good feeling" but actively pursues manifestation - *"Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth (1 John 3:18)."*

Take time this week to see what kind of well or channel you are.

DID YOU KNOW?



Have you ever heard of a group called The Gnostics? In its earliest forms, this heretical movement challenged the Colossian believers and was addressed by the Apostle Paul in his New Testament letter to them. Did you know?

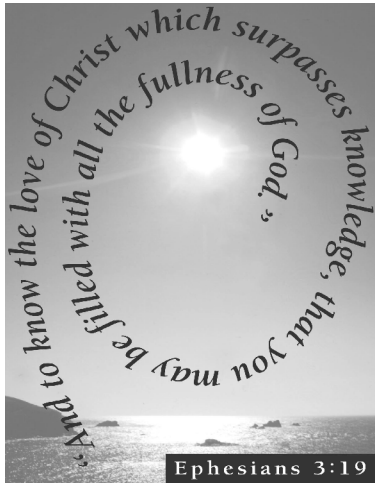
- The Gnostics had their own "gospels," such as the Gospel of Philip and the Gospel of truth. They were all written later than Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and none of them were ever considered Scripture by the majority of Christians.
- Gnostics believed they were the elect, spiritual ones who alone had the "seed" of the divine trapped inside their bodies.
- Salvation for the Gnostics was escape from the material world, not deliverance from sin.
- Gnostics believed there were actually two Gods, and that the God of the Jews was an evil or ignorant creator who deceived people.
- When it came to interpreting scripture, especially the Old Testament, the Gnostics offered strange and bizarre conclusions. For example, many believed that Eve was right to take the serpent's advice and eat from the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden.
- Gnostics certainly stood out in stark contrast. They called themselves "enlightened" and the Christians called them heretics.

QUIDNESSETT BAPTIST CHURCH
6356 Post Road
North Kingstown, RI 02852-1896



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
North Kingstown, RI
Permit No. 140



SUCH LOVE AS THIS!!!

QBC HAPPENINGS

APRIL 2008

- Men's Ministry Kick-off will held Friday, April 4th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- Young at Heart monthly fellowship will be held, Tuesday, April 8th at 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- Second Saturday of service will be held April 12th, meeting in the library at 8:45 a.m.
- Family Life Weekend to Remember will be held Friday, April 18th through Sunday, April 20th at the Hyatt Regency in Newport.

MAY 2008

- Missions Conference will be held Friday, May 2nd through Sunday, May 4th.
- Second Saturday of service will be held May 10th, meeting in the library at 8:45 a.m.
- Young at Heart monthly fellowship will be held, Tuesday, May 13th at 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- Mexico Short-term Missions trip will be held May 14th through May 21st.

THE QUIDNESSETT

Banner

"Pleasing God,
Making Disciples
of
Jesus Christ"



The Quidnessett Banner is the bi-monthly newsletter of Quidnessett Baptist Church. It is free of charge and readily available for all who would like to be placed on our mailing list. If you desire to receive The Quidnessett Banner in your home, simply contact the church office.

QUIDNESSETT BAPTIST CHURCH

6356 Post Road

North Kingstown, RI 02852

401-884-9111

Email: office@qbchurch.org

Website: www.qbchurch.org