



The Bethany Banner

Bethany Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
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May 2018

A Word From the Pastor's Study

In our Wednesday Night bible lesson time we are going through the book of Revelation. This past week we looked at the first of the seven pastoral letters that Jesus Christ sent to the seven churches in Asia. Ephesus is a place well-known to readers of the Bible. It was the city to which Paul wrote one his most vital correspondences and the location of his words of warning to the elders of the church at Ephesus in Acts 20.

What makes this first letter so important for the Christian is where the focus of Jesus's condemnation lies in the midst of what overall is a pretty genteel and praiseworthy letter. The minister (the "Angel" of v.1) is commended for his faithful obedience in his life, and for the watchful eye he has brought to false apostles as well as his "hatred" of the doctrine of the Nicolations, which the

text tells us, Jesus also hates. So what is the problem at Ephesus? Well in v. 4 we are told that they have forsaken their "first love". Now what can Jesus be talking about here? What could be the first love that the pastor and the people of Ephesus have left behind?

Well, take a moment to ponder this question. What comes first in the life of the believer? Husband? Wife? The Church? What is it? For the lover of Christ what comes first is Christ. It was doing the preacher and the folks at Ephesus no good to be blessedly right on the Nicolations if they did not keep Christ and Him Crucified as the central part of their ministry at Ephesus. Whenever we think about what we do here at Bethany this example has to be at the forefront of our minds. Are we keeping Jesus, our "first love" first in our life and heart? Is the gospel more precious than gold?



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Sunday Preaching Schedule

May 6 Micah 7:14-20
May 13 Micah Overview #1
May 20 Micah Overview #2
May 27 John 17:1-5

Bible Reading Plan for Month

April 29-May 5 Esther 1-4
May 6-May 12 Esther 5-10
May 13-19 Ecclesiastes 1-4
May 20-May 26 Ecclesiastes 5-8
May 27-June 2 Ecclesiastes 9-12

Important Dates for May

Deacon Meeting May 6
Mugs and Muffins May 6
Registration Due for Music Conf. May 6
Session Meeting May 10
Mother's Day Brunch May 12
Graduation Service May 20
Registration Due for Horizon/Quest May 20

Larger Catechism Question

WLC Question #97

Q. 56 How is Christ to be exalted in his coming again to judge the world?

A. Christ is to be exalted in his coming again to judge the world, in that he, who was unjustly judged and condemned by wicked men, shall come again at the last day in great power, and in the full manifestation of his own glory and of his Father's, with all his holy angels, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, to judge the world in righteousness.

Missionary of the Month

Christ's Church is a missionary church, seeking to grow the Kingdom by the means of grace. This month we would like to highlight the ministry not of a "missionary" but one of our most important sites of "missions", that being the hospital in Sahiwal. Probably the most unique of all the mission work of the ARP, this place of physical healing is also a great testimony to the work of the Great Physician in the saving of souls.



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Youth Corner Announcements

Youth groups will end for the summer on **Wednesday, May 23rd**. We will resume in September.

- Happy 17th Birthday Jalen! (on the 1st)
- Happy 15th Birthday Tyler! (on the 15th)
- Happy 6th Birthday Walker! (on the 18th)
- Our graduates service and covered dish dinner will be held on **Sunday, May 20th at 6pm**. We will be celebrating Anna Rhyne and Joey McGill who are graduating Clover High School as well as Grier Jones who is graduating from the College of Charleston.
- Operation Christmas Child shoebox items for the month of May are **T-shirts**. Please place donations in the box upstairs beside the bulletin board.

Our verse for this month is:

*"Honor your father and your mother,
that your days may be long in the land
that the Lord your God is giving you."*

Exodus 20:12

Session Report

The session met Thursday April 5th at 7:00pm for their regularly scheduled meeting. Items taken up included approving the return of regular session visitation with the congregation, pastoral needs at Bethany, and specific opportunities for outreach in our wider community.

Deacon's Report

The Deacon's met April 8th before Sabbath School. They spoke about completed projects at the manse, issues with the printers, approved new storage space for the fellowship hall, a new shed and discussed other work needing done.

Christian Education Report

In April, the Committee on Christian Education held a supper as a way of showing our appreciation for all of their hard work this past year. Each teacher had an opportunity to share highlights from their year. Thank you as well goes to McGill's Feed Room for hosting this event.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting

In April at 6:30pm we will continue our new pre-prayer meeting bible study through the book of Revelation. This month we will be looking through the letters of Christ to the Seven Churches. We warmly welcome all to come!



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Monthly Prayer Requests

We will continue to be in prayer for a presbytery and nation that we will covenant to prayer for through this month. We are going to highlight the Canadian Presbytery, and the nation and people of Panama.

Prayer Needs:

Dollie Douglas, Hayes Faulkner, Sarah Faulkner, Janice Patterson, Betty Campbell, Winifred Callister, Peggy Wells, Theodore McClure, Garland Davidson, Geneva Smith, Bible Release Time, Good News Club, Andrew Brunson, Rev. George Bush, Kenneth Moses, John Bailey, and Samantha Johnson. Spiritual warfare, the President, end to abortion, our church planters, missionaries, and all the members and friends of the Bethany ARP Church.

Devotional Verses

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." –

Romans 5:1-5

Psalm of the Month

"I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations. For I have said, "Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens." "I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: 'Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations.'" *Selah*

And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints. For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? *Who* among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the LORD? God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all *those* around Him. O LORD God of hosts, *Who is* mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You."

Psalm 89:1-8

Quote of the Month

"Terror in a soul because of God is as vivid a form of consciousness as any physical sensation; and if the objective existence of matter is proved by external sensation, the objective existence of God is proved by internal consciousness. Man is not terrified by a nonentity." -- W.G.T. Shedd