

Cross-Centered Preaching

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18).

I marvel that many of my brethren today who talk about a renewal of cross-centered preaching seem to know so little about what it means to preach the cross of Christ.

To preach the cross is to preach the gospel, for Paul equates the preaching of one with the other (1 Cor. 1:17-18; Romans 1:16). But if one preaches the gospel as God's power for saving, he must teach man's need for obeying it for God will take vengeance on those who do not obey it (II Thess. 1:6-8).

By Lowell Blasingame One cannot preach the cross without preaching

this. To preach the cross of Christ is to preach the shedding of His blood, for it was while there that His side was pierced “and forthwith there came out blood and water” (John 19:34). To preach His blood, one must preach the church that He purchased with it (Acts 20:28), that those reconciled by the blood of the cross (Col. 1:20) are reconciled “in one body” (Eph. 2:16) which is His church. One can't preach the cross and not preach the importance of the Lord's church in our salvation.



Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Kevin Simpson	Patsy Rhodes (Relative of Toni Herd)	Jerry Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Uncle)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Quinton Addison (April Jenkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Yolanda Stewart (Michael Bassie's Sister)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Austin Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Grandfather)	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's Niece)	Camden, grandson of Steve Pruitt (friend of Greg Lanier)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Johnny Richardson

May Birthdays

- 1-Bethany Marchman
- 2-Taylor Bethea
- 2-Emily-Anne Rouse
- 3-Paula Davis
- 10-Ian Norman
- 10-Ryan Hasty
- 11-Scott Perkins
- 12-Daphene Whatley
- 12-Patrick Davis
- 13-Anna Grace Long
- 13-Jana Hall
- 13-Peyton Vines
- 15-Bryce Daniels
- 18-Ty Randolph
- 19-Madison Bradshaw
- 19- Amanda Graves
- 22-Sarah Holliday
- 24-Andy Roberts
- 25-Chuck Hahn
- 26-Fallon Hartsell
- 28-Barbara Weeks
- 28-Candy Long
- 31-Rachel Tolliver

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mother, Nicole Pender!
- ☒ - Ladies' class this Thursday 7:00 p.m. at Joannetta Lauderdale's house on "Heaven."
- ☒ - Elle Vaughn, baby daughter of Scott and Genna, continues to develop well!
- ☒ - Continue to pray for Ken and Susan Sullivan.
- ☒ - PARENTS: Please register your children for VBS online at www.auchurch.com/vbs.
- ☒ - Congratulations to Seth and Laura Humphrey on the birth of Frances Olivia on Tuesday!
- ☒ - We rejoice at the baptism of Jeromy Swann!
- ☒ - David Ogle is scheduled to have hip surgery on May 28th.
- ☒ - Congratulations to the newly married couples: York and Amanda (Graves) Smith and Nathan and Becky (Harris) Smith!
- ☒ - Congratulations to those graduating from high school this month: Parker Godwin and Jude Hosey!
- ☒ - Please remember Sara Lail's grandfather, Glynn Laxson, as he recovers from heart bypass surgery.
- ☒ - Extending sympathy to the family of Tyler Hudson in the loss of his grandmother, Betty Hudson this week.
- ☒ - Toni Herd's cousin, Pam Bailey, had back surgery on Friday.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Louise Pack, grandmother of Anna and Christopher.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Chuck Hahn's niece, Rebecca Davis.

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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Beautiful In Its Own Time

By David A. Padfield



Thoughts to Ponder

Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure' (Isaiah 46:10)

The Old Testament is a collection of 39 books given to man by our God. These books vary in style from the impassioned preaching of the prophets to the reflective wisdom of Solomon.

Ecclesiastes begins with the elusive phrase, "Vanities of vanities." It means "absurdity, frustration, futility or nonsense." The point the writer makes throughout the book is that life is utterly futile without God. In the first two chapters we take a tour with Solomon in his quest for happiness, but we return empty handed.

In the third chapter we read: "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to

We can never stand back far enough to view things as our Creator does. Our God declares "the end from the beginning" (Isa. 46:10). God sees the beauty of the changing scenes of life.

throw away; A time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace." (Ecc. 3:1-8).

We have no control over most of the events listed in these verses. The time for planting and harvesting depends on the changing of the seasons. Our "time to weep" is usually associated with another's "time to die." If it were up to most of us, there would never be a "time of war." Immediately after showing there is "a time for every purpose under heaven," he informs us God

(Continued on page 2)

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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(Continued from page 1)

has "made everything beautiful in its time" (**Ecc. 3:11**). But how could death, war or weeping ever be beautiful?

One of our problems is we are often desperately nearsighted; we look at the events of the moment and forget their relation to the greater scheme of things. We can never stand back far enough to view things as our Creator does. Our God declares "the end from the beginning" (**Isa. 46:10**). God sees the beauty of the changing scenes of life. Let us notice a few of the beautiful times which often escape our attention.

The Beauty Of Parenting

It is amazing how fast our children grow up! We need to enjoy them while we can. We will never regret the time we spend with our children; it is an investment in the future. Are you too busy to enjoy your children?

One of the most haunting secular songs I have ever heard is Cats In The Cradle. It tells the story of a little boy who keeps asking his father to spend time with him. The father keeps putting him off. The boy keeps telling his father he wants to be like him when he grows up. Finally the little boy is a full grown man who has no time for his father. Like father like son.

The values that will guide our children throughout life will be learned in our homes. What values are your children learning?

Some parents are so busy trying to "make a living" they forget to "make a life." What good is the money we earn if we can not enjoy it? Solomon reminds us "that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor; it is the gift of God" (**Ecc. 3:13**).

Husbands And Wives

Sociologists claim that one reason for the increasing divorce rate among middle age couples is they have built their entire lives around their children -- then the children

leave home. Each spouse is then left in an empty house with a stranger. Husbands and wives must learn to enjoy time together.

In the first seven chapters of Proverbs, Solomon admonishes the young man about the dangers of fornication. As a way of avoiding sexual sin, the young man is told to "drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well" (**Prov. 5:15**). These words simply mean the sexual desires were to be fulfilled in the marital relationship. Solomon also said, "Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured with her love. For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, and be embraced in the arms of a seductress?" (**Prov. 5:18-20**).

Children need good parents, but they also need to see a good example of a husband and wife. The children need to know that their parents are madly in love with each other. Where else will they find a proper example to pattern their marriage after?

Christians Must Grow

When one obeys the gospel, he is considered a "babe" in Christ (**1 Pet. 2:1**). God expects his children to grow up! There is a time to be a babe in Christ, and a time to be a mature Christian. One of the qualifications of elders is that they not be a "novice" (**1 Tim. 3:6**). A man can be 65 years old and still considered a "novice."

While studying with a "babe in Christ," I can exercise all of the patience in the world. However, when I find those who have been Christians for 30 years and still behaving like children, my patience wears a bit thin.

Conclusion

Though our lives are constantly changing, let us learn to see the beauty in each stage. Let us pray God will "teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (**Psa. 90:12**).



Let It Go

By Jefferson David Tant

A popular song is "Let It Go," from the movie "Frozen." The title reminds me of a Biblical principle.

As humans, we tend to want to hold on to things—possessions, relationships, anger, bitterness, ill feelings. Of course, some "possessions" are proper, but others are harmful and destructive.

In summer sometimes children fly kites. As the breeze lifts them in the air, the children are excited as their kites soar in the skies. But then the fun is over and the kites are pulled back and saved for another day.

Sadly, that's just what happens too often with hurt feelings, anger and bitterness, etc. Oh, we may let them loose for a time, but then we enfold them once again when the occasion is right. But we must realize that these negative feelings do more harm to us than to those who are the object of our bad feelings.

I may have some resentment towards Joe, and he may live 1,000 miles away. So I seethe and fume from day to day, and may toss and turn in bed, having trouble sleeping. Meanwhile Joe may be going about his normal activities, unharmed by my arrows of anger. Sometimes he may be aware of my ill will, but it doesn't change the course of his life even though he may be saddened by my attitude.

A question asked in **Jeremiah 8:22**: "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has not the health of the daughter of my people been restored?" Job speaks of one who "dies with a bitter soul, Never even tasting anything good" (**21:25**). Is there a cure for my mental distress? Most certainly, for the Great Physician has some good balm for the illness.

Paul wisely counsels, "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (**Eph. 4:31-32**). Paul also addresses cures for the diseased heart: "Put on therefore, as God's elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, if any man have a complaint against any; even as the Lord forgave you, so also do ye: and above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to the which also ye were called in one body; and be ye thankful" (**Col. 3:12-15**).

It may not be easy to change bitterness to kindness and forgiveness, for even medical remedies for physical ail-

ments can be painful, but God helps us change. "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." (**Luke 18:27**).

So, instead of kites, we can take lessons from balloon flying. At times I have witnessed the release of balloons. Children (and sometimes older folks) have gathered for a great balloon release, and they cheer as the balloons are released to fly away into the sky, sometimes carrying messages. And wouldn't our lives be happier if we determined to release those harmful feelings that weigh us down? Sometimes it is feelings even about ourselves that need to be released.

I recall an incident when a person who had wronged another made yet another apology. The recipient of the apology responded in words like, "I distinctly remember forgetting that some years ago." He wanted the apolo-gizer to no longer punish himself.

Aren't there times when we need to release our own balloons? Years ago we had a young woman live with us for a time. One day she came to me with much weeping. She had committed fornication the night before, and was overcome with remorse. She asked me to pray for God to forgive her. I told her, "I can't do that, because God won't know what I'm talking about." She looked puzzled, so I went on. "Haven't you repented and asked God to forgive you?" "Yes," she replied. I went on, "God has told us that when he forgives, he forgets (**Jer. 31:34**), so he won't know what I'm talking about. Now, what you need to do is forgive yourself. In a sense, you are telling God to move aside and let you handle your own case, because you what to punish yourself some more."

And we do that sometimes, becoming depressed because of our weakness and failures. Even though Paul considered himself the chief of sinners, he did not continue to beat himself up, but joyfully accepted his forgiveness. "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life" (**1 Tim. 1:15-16**).

"Let it go, let it go, let it go."

