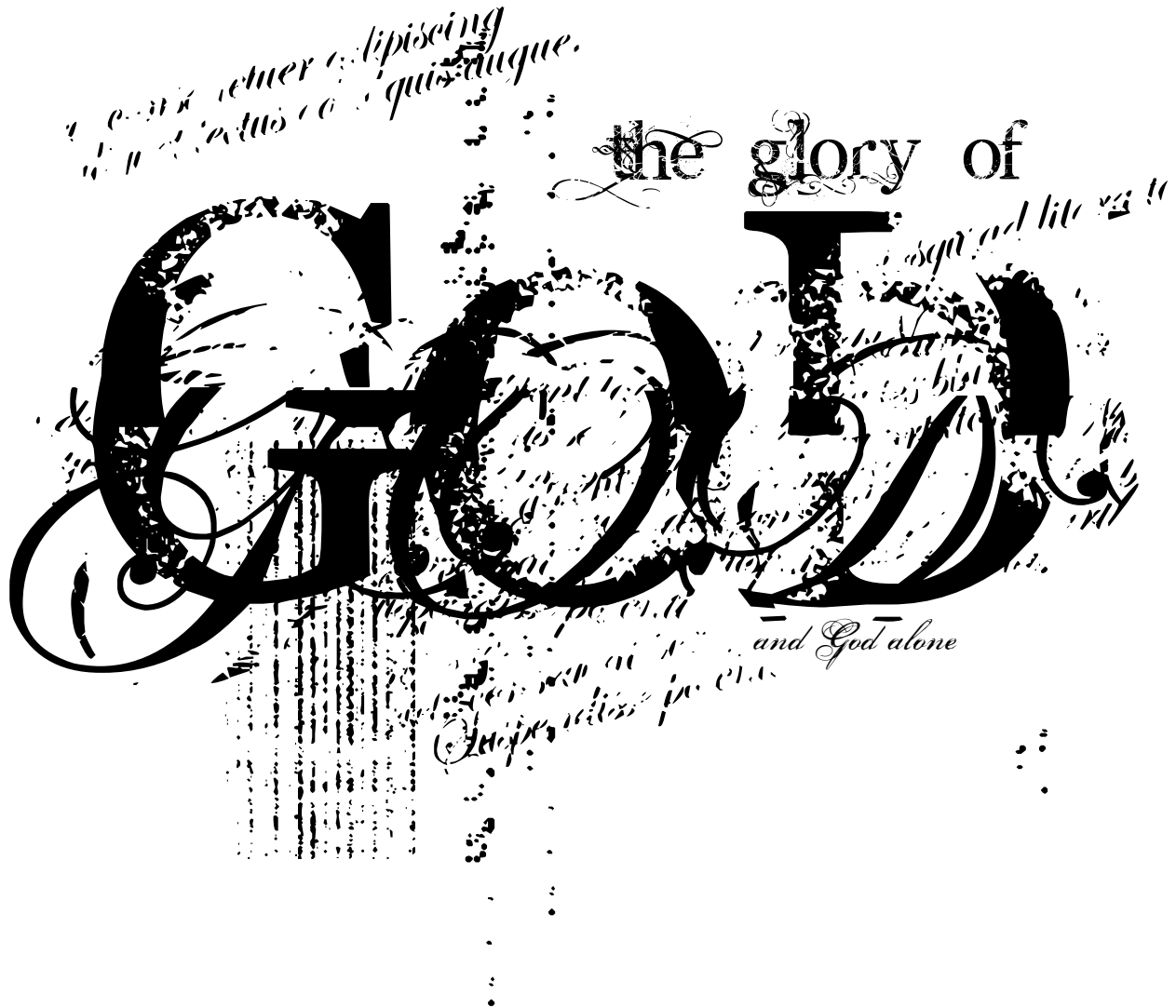


The Sentinel

A WARTIME NEWSLETTER

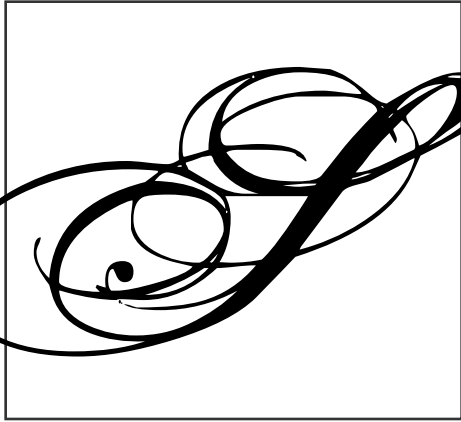
February 2010 Edition non for profit Issue 2 vol. 1



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The Sentinel Newsletter



“So he may run who reads it...” Habakkuk 2:2

“Let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

The Sentinel, A WARTIME NEWSLETTER, serves as an extension of the preaching and teaching of Strasburg Baptist Church. Our goal is to inform, equip and deliver to you spiritual encouragement according to biblical study.

If you, or someone you know would like to be added to our mailing list, whether by e-mail or usps, just let us know. It's free of charge.

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from the editor

may the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of his sufferings...

listen to Paris Reidhead's sermon- 'Ten Sheckels And A Shirt' -and hear the story of two young moravians who were concerned for the glory of God. [www.sermonaudio.com]

- mw

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Corrections Policy

If you, as a member of our church, feel we have printed anything in error and would wish to graciously present us with our mistakes, please use the provided information above to do so. Only necessary corrections will be published.

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. AMEN.

Jude 1:24-25

Soli Deo gloria!

Glory to God Alone

by Gregg Schalk

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" Isaiah 6:3

Johann Sebastian Bach, the Einstein of music, signed on his composed music sheets SDG, Soli Deo Gloria. This Latin phrase means glory to God alone. Bach attributed glory to God alone for the music and not his efforts. That Latin phrase was developed during the Reformation in the 16th and 17th Centuries along with four other sayings to distinguish the "Protestants" from the Roman Catholics. These five sayings were called the Solas. The first four were Sola Scriptura (by scripture alone), Solus Christus (by Christ alone), Sola Gratia (by grace alone), and Sola Fide (by faith alone). The fifth, Soli Deo Gloria, is the foundation for the four other teachings, as we will see.

What do we mean when we say "glory to God alone"? To put it in human terms, we give athletes glory because of some feat we thought was unattainable. When a Jamaican broke the 100m dash with astonishing speed during the Olympics, we gave him accolades and honor to a performance we thought humanly unachievable. People glorified him for what he did and who he was in running. However, God is to be glorified alone for who He is, because no one is like Him, and for what He does, because no one can act like Him.

In a feeble attempt to define glory, we can say God's glory is the manifestation from God revealing His holiness. His holiness can be thought of as all the attributes of God. To list a few - love, creativity, goodness, grace, mercy, long-suffering, all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-presence. No other being is like God. That is why we say holy, because God is separate and has no reliance on anything or anyone. Glory is the expression of this holiness. In Isaiah 6:3, when the seraphim were crying out "*Holy, Holy, Holy,*" they were telling Isaiah of God's immeasurable attributes and perfections. The seraphim tell us God's holiness is disclosed as God's glory. It fills the whole earth. In other words, glory is declared in His divine presence and actions. Holiness describes God as the perfect being who alone creates and sustains all things, provides for our salvation, perfects those who are His and most importantly pursues His glory with absoluteness.

We see God's glory on display through creation as stated in Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork." Only God is to be glorified for creating and sustaining the physical world (Rev. 4:11). Creation is self-evident of a creator, but man does not want to give this glory to God (Romans 1:18-20). Man, who is part of the creation, does not want to give God the glory or even acknowledge Him at all. Because if he proclaims Him as the creator, then he as part of the creation has to submit to the Creator. So man in his foolishness and pride speculates how the world has come about. The perfect example is man's theory of evolution. Man has given creation the glory for creating itself. God is clearly seen in the created order, but man refuses to know the truth and give God the glory. Because they suppressed the truth, "*they did not glorify Him as God*" (Romans 1:21).

However, because of His great mercy, God alone provides for our salvation out of our stupor (Ps. 3:8, 62:2). While we intentionally have closed our eyes to the truth of God, He opens them to see His glory (2 Cor. 4:6). When He does this, we become like Isaiah "So I said: "*Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.*" (Isaiah 6:5). We see our own self as undone and in need of cleansing and purging of our sin because we have fallen short of His glory (Rom. 3:23). We do not see our own self as we truly are, completely corrupted, until we are faced with God's glory. But God, rich in grace, provides the only means for salvation from our sinfulness into His glorious family giving us an inheritance through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:24, Heb. 2:10-13). **Soli Deo Gloria** teaches that God alone is the author and perfecter of our salvation (Heb. 12:2). We can not obtain or add to our salvation or even assure the completion of it; God alone gets the glory (Eph. 2:4-10). Just as God alone rescued the nation of Israel from the Egyptians, He works alone to deliver us from the powers of darkness (Col 1:13, 2 Cor. 4:6). Our salvation was accomplished by God through the perfect atoning blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ, giving us the faith in that atonement by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Not only does God provide for our salvation alone, but He provides for our sanctification alone. Sanctification is God enabling us to live a freer life from sin while in our current body, while making us Christlike. "*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it*" (1 Thess. 5:23-24). Nothing we do will add to our sanctification; it is by the power of God from the indwelling Holy Spirit working in us. When we see fruit of the Spirit coming from our lives we can give God the glory, because fruit is the manifestation of God working in our lives (Gal 5:22-23).

Why is ascribing all the glory to God alone important? Because God passionately seeks His own glory with absolute finality. To God nothing is more important than His glory. Isaiah 48:9-11 states "*Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; For how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.*" Romans 11:34-36 declares why God is to get all the glory; "*For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*"

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Glory Revealed

by Bob Hausmann

Have you ever seen the glory of God? Maybe just a glimpse, or a fragment, or a taste, or a shimmer?

You should answer yes, if you have ever paused to take in a beautiful awe inspiring sunset, or soaked in a panorama of mountain peaks that renders you speechless, or wondered at the immensity of it all while looking at dancing stars and distant galaxies. All of these manifestations in creation are glimpses, fragments, tastes, and shimmers – pointers to the glory of God.

God is magnificently glorious and He desires for His glory to be **seen** and **reveled in** by you and me. To fulfill this desire, God purposefully made the world around us to show forth His glory – “*the heavens declare the glory of God*” (Ps 19:1). So, when a sunset makes us pause and wonder, or a mountain view takes our breath away, or a starry night draws us to ponder deep things, we are simply witnessing to the purposes of God – that He desires for us to see His glory and rejoice in it.

The fact that the glory of God is seen in creation says that God is a revealing God. God is in the business of showing Himself to us so that we will know Him. So, in creation, God discloses something about Himself in the things He has made, namely “*His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made*” (Rom 1:20).

We need God to reveal and disclose Himself to us. We cannot start from ourselves and arrive at correct thoughts about God without His input. We need Him to tell us about Himself – we need Him to show us His glory.

If God only revealed His glory in creation, our understanding and rejoicing in Him would be limited and small. But God has not just revealed Himself in creation. He has spoken to us in His word and more fully in His Son. Listen to the writer of Hebrews:

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things,

through whom also He made the world. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

We learn at least two things here. First, God has spoken and disclosed Himself to us through the prophets - that is, in the Bible. So, if we want to know God, if we want to see what God has said about Himself, if we want a greater taste of the glory of God, then we must soak ourselves in the spoken word of God, the revelation of God, the Bible.

Second, we learn from Hebrews that the final revelation of God to us is His Son, the Lord Jesus – “*in these last days He has spoken to us in His Son*”. Jesus is final Word of God to us, the final revelation, the final self-disclosure. We need no other word from God after Jesus.

Philip once said to Jesus “*Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.*”. And Jesus replied “*He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father.’*” (John 14:9)

What Jesus is saying is that He is enough! If we want to understand what God the Father is like, if we want to know who God is, if we want to see all that the Father is about – then we must look to Jesus. Jesus is a full disclosure of God to us.

Creation gives us a taste of God’s glory and it is marvelous. However, if we want more, if we really want to know and understand and immerse ourselves in the glory of God, then we must rivet and fix our eyes on Jesus.

Again, the writer of Hebrews:

[Jesus] is the radiance of [God’s] glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrew 1:3)

Do we hear that? “*Jesus is the radiance of God’s glory*”. In other words, Jesus is the shining forth of the infinite greatness and worth of God. Or, the sum of God’s perfections that radiate forth and cause worship and adoration when seen by man is found in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the revelation of the glory of God.

There are two ways we can see the glory of God in Jesus Christ – in His person and in His work.

The fact that Jesus, the person of Christ, is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, means that Jesus is going to exhibit the nature of God in His person. And, since God is glorious in His nature, it follows that we will see the glory of God exhibited in the person of Jesus.

So, it is not surprising that a look at the person of Jesus reveals God’s glory. For example: Jesus is *all powerful* – He calms the raging sea; Jesus is *compassionate* – He heals the blind and lame; Jesus is *wise* – He silences the questions of the religious leaders; Jesus is *meek* – He calls the children to Himself; Jesus is *patient* – He carefully instructs the masses; Jesus is *merciful* – He restores a denying apostle to Himself; Jesus is *holy* – He is unlike any other in His sinless perfections; Jesus is *obedient* – He fulfills the will of the Father in laying down His life for His friends; Jesus is *faithful* – He keeps all those given to Him by the Father; ... and on and on we see God’s glorious nature revealed in Jesus Christ. Jesus is glorious in His person – showing forth the character and nature of an infinitely great and worthy God.

The Apostle John sums it up like this:
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. ... And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-2,14)

So, when we look at the person of Jesus, we see the glory of God stunningly revealed. However, it is the work of Christ on the cross where the glory of God shines most brightly.

Jesus, the Son of God, became man and dwelt among us for a singular purpose – *to give His life a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28)*. It is in the laying down of the sinless life of Christ, for rebellious enemies of God, that the

continued on page 8

Living Soli Deo Gloria

by Preston Sanders

pastor, Strasburg Baptist Church

SOLI DEO GLORIA is a Latin phrase which means, “Glory to God Alone.” Actually, the most accurate translation is, “To God Alone the Glory.” As created beings of God’s creative work we were first and foremost created to glorify our Creator in all we do.

I’ve listed below just a few of the ways we glorify God while here on this earth. May we in every way have the faith to give glory to God alone in all things (Soli Deo Gloria).

We Glorify God when we, through faith, believe God will do all that He has promised in His Word

Romans 4:20-21 *Yet he (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.*

We Glorify God when we are united as followers of Christ

We have unity in Him and glorify Him when we speak His truth as if we all have the same heart and are speaking with the same mouth. This is the truth He came to testify and teach.

Romans 15:5-9 *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy...*

We Glorify God when we speak of His mercy

God has shown His mercy to all believers in Christ: The merciful gift of grace in salvation through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross.

As we share the gospel message, we share His mercy. To God alone be the Glory.

We glorify God when we live good lives and perform good deeds in a way that gives Him the glory and not us

We must ask God to show us our hearts true motives. That’s the only way we can know for sure if we are living in such a way as to bring glory to Him and not ourselves.

1 Peter 2:12 *Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

Matthew 5:16 *In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*

We glorify God when we praise Him, honor Him and revere Him.

Psalms 22:23 *You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!*

We Glorify God when we bear fruit for Him

The Father is glorified in the work of the Son and He is also glorified in the fruit-bearing of His disciples (Matthew 7:20; Luke 6:43–45).

John 15:8 *This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

We Glorify God by what we do with our bodies

Therefore, do not do anything with your body that would bring dishonor to God. Think about this verse when you get dressed in the morning, before you go on a date, or before you participate in any activity.

1 Corinthians 6:20 *You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*

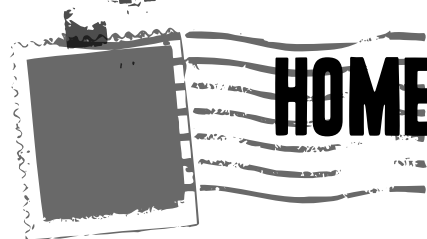
Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Preston

“ *The Father is glorified in the work of the Son and He is also glorified in the fruit-bearing of His disciples.* ”

from the **FRONTLINES:**

IN THE TRENCHES

Update & Review



HOMEFRONT:

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

by: Caleb Schalk

HOWMANYPEOPLE would be willing to move from a small town in Missouri to inner Kansas City, to a street with barred windows?

Probably not many, but that's exactly what Bethany Hartzler did. She did it because she knew that God was telling her to witness to the youth there.

Before moving to Kansas City, Bethany knew that she was called to full-time missions. However, Africa was thought to be the calling. God showed her that the African jungles were not where she was most needed: it was the "concrete jungles." The Inner City.

"When I came to Kansas City," Bethany said, "I thought to myself, 'What is the need?' and I found out that the need is Christ." She discovered many charity programs in the city, and the

people there know where to go to get free handouts but handouts void of Christ. She notes that even the youth have a sense of entitlement and are used to having things just handed to them. This leaves them asking what God can give them as well. Bethany would like to see this mindset change. She is having them make baby blankets for an orphanage in Africa, where they will then receive a picture of a baby in the blanket. A lesson to remind them of helping hands.

Bethany focuses her ministry on the kids in her neighborhood. They come over to her house every day after school and she plays games with them while showing them the love of Christ. On Tuesdays, she holds a Bible study. She hopes that a focus on helping others will help

them to begin to ask, "What can I do for God?", and that that will hopefully point them to Jesus. "These kids," Bethany says, "Their home life is bad... Their education is bad... Most of them go to church.....but they stay in their circle of poverty because they just ask, 'What can God give me?' They need Jesus, and then they will have life."

Bethany has several Bible verses taped to the wall inside her house to remind the teens of scripture. One of her favorite Bible verses is John 10:10 which reads, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

"I just see," Bethany says, "how much the thief has stolen and killed and destroyed the family structure and culture, and

all of that, and so just the whole concept that's what the thief came to do, but God is a lot more powerful and He wants to give life and *true* life."

Bethany continues, "My vision is basically just to see people meet Jesus. The needs are so big... it's like a spiderweb of needs in the inner city, and the only real solution is real relationships and encounters with Jesus... And so my vision is to keep God glorified in everything and to see people have that encounter with Jesus."

Bethany has found a possible building to house a youth center and requests prayer on whether or not the building is right. Please pray for Bethany Hartzler as she works as an ambassador of Christ to show these kids that they need a Savior. +



deliberate
discipleship

DISCIPLES OF JESUS are kept by Jesus. Pretty amazing actually. It is just what Jesus does. Jesus comes to us, dies for us, saves us by His substitutionary death

and victorious resurrection, makes us alive, works holiness within us, ... and then He keeps us unto the end.

Here is the way Jesus prayed to the Father: "*Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.*" (John 17:11-12)

We are kept by Jesus. He prays

for us. He keeps us. He guards us from destruction. It has always been that way with the Lord. He keeps His own.

The Psalmist says it like this: *I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; ... The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul.* (from Psalm 121)

A follower of Jesus can have

strong confidence of being kept by Jesus to the end. When the way is hard and the path is difficult and your strength is gone and you feel like giving up ... look to the Keeper of your soul and trust Him to keep you to the end.

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 24-25)

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Gone for Good?

by Leeann Kline

CHURCHES IN AMERICA go to great lengths to provide ministry opportunities to students and aid them in their journey from elementary to high school. But to what extent does the church help students transition from high school to college?

In an article found in collegeleader.org, seven in ten Protestants ages 18 to 30 — both evangelical and mainline — who went to church regularly in high school said they quit attending by age 23, according to a survey done by LifeWay Research.

The staggering data may point to the church's inability to prepare students heading off to college.

Donna Dick, 21, majoring in Elementary Education, attended the small youth group of First Southern Baptist of Jerseyville, Illinois and explained that the only guidance she was given came out of engaging in routine Bible study and Sunday school lessons.

David Ezzell, 20, a Church Music major, attended Millennium Youth Church, the youth group of Word of Life Church in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Although his spiritual convictions were heavily influenced by topical Bible studies and prayer times that his church facilitated, Ezzell said, "I feel like a lot of the spiritual training I got happened with the ministries I was involved in."

Churches have done many positive things in raising their congregation's youth. Besides dividing up students based on grade differences and discussing age appropriate material, churches have adapted to reach and to minister to upcoming generations. "They [the church] engaged the students really well and met students where they were at," said Ezzell.

Ezzell emphasized that churches should help students adopt doctrinal foundations and encourage students to figure out the reasons why they attend church. "Once you [students] do that, it will be easier to find one [church] in college," said Ezzell.

Encouraging churches to be more proactive in training students, Dick hopes churches will provide answers to students by tackling tough issues and getting involved in student's lives outside of the sanctuary.

Andy Herbek, 21, an Intercultural Studies major from Hastings Evangelical Free Church of Hastings, Nebraska is grateful for how his church invested in his life. His church promoted the youth group's involvement in different facets and ministries of the church. By not isolating students in their own department or section of the church, the church was able to connect varying generations in the congregation with each other.

On an individual level, Herbek believes that the greatest thing a church can do is to help students install within themselves a personal responsibility towards spiritual disciplines. Once applied, this lifestyle habit will affect students far into the future.

"How you [students] live now is going to be how you live later in life. In regards to spiritual disciplines, the person you are in high school is the person you will be in college and in life," said Herbek.

The church's influence extends beyond reaching just youth. It also extends to their parents. "The reason why students haven't stuck with church is because their parents aren't in church," said Herbek. "You can't have a good youth/college ministry if you don't have a good adult ministry."

Regardless of how well the church supports its graduates, students should realize the importance of the body of Christ. And the church should remember that its interaction with youth has long lasting ramifications.

What is your hope in?

The Sentinel asks, you answer. by Rebekah Bricker

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. 1 Peter 3:15

“My hope is in God’s truth and grace that I am saved not by anything I’ve done... otherwise I’m lost.”

-Rodger Gillihan

“My hope is in Jesus(!) and his message being taken to the world.”

-Tami Todd

“My hope is in Christ who is my Savior, Comforter, Guide and Provider. Ps. 119:49-50”

-Lori Baker

Featured Hymn & Prayer

Suggested for reading & meditation on the glory of God. *Perhaps in your prayer closet.*

From a Puritan prayerbook: The Valley of Vision

Lord, high and holy, meek and lowly, Thou hast brought me to the valley of vision, where I live in the depths but see Thee in the heights; hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold Thy glory. Let me learn by paradox that the way down is the way up, that to be low is to be high, that the broken heart is the healed heart, that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit, that the repenting soul is the victorious soul, that to have nothing is to possess all, that to bear the cross is to wear the crown, that to give is to receive, that the valley is the place of vision. Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from deepest wells, and the deeper the wells the brighter Thy stars shine; let me find Thy light in my darkness, Thy life in my death, Thy joy in my sorrow, Thy grace in my sin, Thy riches in my poverty, Thy glory in my valley.

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Matthew Bridges, 1851

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne:

Hark! How the heavenly
anthem drowns

All music but its own!

Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee;
And Hail Him as thy matchless
King Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love:
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified;
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,

But downward bends His
wondering eye
At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life;
Who triumphed o’er the grave,
Who rose victorious to the strife
For those He came to save;
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death my die.

Crown Him the Lord of heaven:
One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through

Him given
From yonder glorious throne.
To Thee be endless praise,
For Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, through
endless days
Adored and magnified.

Crown Him the Lord of years:
The potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou has died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity.

FYI:

Personal copies of the Church Calender of Events, Birthdays & Anniversaries are available at the church office during normal office hours, or in the church foyer.

Becoming, a Disciple Now

by Abigail Bricker

Seriously curious about this year's Disciple Now weekend, I was excited to be given the assignment to interview youth director Scott Todd about it. As we talked, I was encouraged about the direction for this year's event.

Youth from the surrounding communities, grades 6 through 12, are invited to come for a Friday evening through Sunday morning event. As in years past there will be Bible study, games and time of corporate worship. The Youth will be staying in homes hosted by gracious members of Strasburg Baptist Church. As usual there will be plenty of delicious food to enjoy!

The theme for this year's Disciple Now is 'Becoming' and will be centered around Romans 12:1. *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship."* The focus of the weekend will be on our walk with Christ.

Parents, support your teen to attend this encouraging weekend. Youth, invite your friends to come! Becoming begins March 12 at 6 o'clock. Registration forms will soon be available.

Becoming (growing to be) a disciple (one who believes and helps to spread the teaching of another, in this case Jesus) now (at this present time) is our goal. Won't you come and join us on this journey?

Choir practice will begin Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:00 pm for the Easter Cantata. Practices will be held every Sunday at 5:00 pm and Wednesday's at 6:00 pm. You may attend one or both weekly practices. Please sign up in the foyer if you would like to participate. We encourage you to come and help us worship our Lord in song!

On Saturday February 6th Men's Movie night will resume its monthly schedule. Men, bring your lawn chairs and come watch "Chariots of Fire". Movie food, i.e. popcorn, hotdogs, pop, etc will be provided. Food at 6:00 movie starts at 7:00!

On February 7th all regularly scheduled evening ministry activities will be cancelled. You are encouraged to put a pot of soup on the stove and invite family, friends and acquaintances over for a "Souper Bowl" gathering! Watch the Bowl game if you like, play some games, fellowship, Maybe even spend some time in the Word and in prayer during halftime! These are just a few ideas for activities, suggested by those who have participated in "Souper Bowls" of the past.

M.O.M.S. is sponsoring a "Jesus Loves Me Party" for moms with small children. We will meet in the gym at 10:00am on February 12th. We have also scheduled a trip to Monkey Bizness in Olatha on Feb. 26th. Cost is \$5 per child. We will meet in the Price Chopper Parking lot and car pool at 9:00 am. Contact Karen Davis or Misti Henry for more information.

After taking the month of January to rejuvenate Rena's ready to get back in the swing of things. The Women's Ministry will resume the Ladies Night Out in February. Ladies come join the fun February 12th at 7pm for an exciting evening of BUNKO!! Bring a snack to share and come prepared for a wonderful time. An exciting new and interesting twist has been added to the Secret Sister ministry. You can be a Super Secret Sister for a month at a time! Please contact Rena Ruckdeschell for more information.

The family of Paul Purvis would like to extend the following invitation: "We are having a reception at the Memorial Building in Pleasant Hill to celebrate Paul Purvis' 90th birthday on February 14, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Paul's friends are all invited to attend. No gifts please.

Join us on February 28th as we celebrate with those in our church family that have decided to follow the Lord in baptism. This special service will be at 6:00pm and will be immediately followed by a finger food fellowship. Bring a finger food to share!

If you would be willing to serve as an usher please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the foyer or contact Roger Kemerling. Ushers serve on a monthly basis.

WE are looking for Children's Church volunteers to work with children from kindergarten through 2nd grade. Ideally we would like to have a 3 month rotation which will take several volunteers. Please contact Pam Albrecht if you are able to serve in this capacity. Volunteers will receive lesson plans a week in advance.

The visitor ministry is in need of some ladies (or men!) to bake and deliver cookies to first time visitors. If you have cookie baking skills and like to meet new people this is your opportunity to shine!

Contact Shelly Jones for more information concerning this exciting ministry.

There are many opportunities for Bible Study. Prayerfully consider joining one! Presently the following studies are:

Mondays @9:45am Saints in Training are studying the Book of Revelation.

Monday @ 6:30pm First Place

Tuesday@10:00am A women's study titled "Embracing Gods Grace Meets at Rena Ruckdeschell's home.

Wednesdays@7:00pm Inductive Bible Study, observation, interpretation & application- an adult study that meets at the church

Alternating Thursdays@7:00pm The Genesis Study-a men's study that meets @ Kevin Harris' home (Feb 4th and 18th)

Alternating Thursdays@ 7:00pm A Chronological study of the Gospels- a men's study that meets at the church

Alternating Thursdays@7:00pm Humility: True Greatness- a women's study that meets at the church. Childcare provided.

When we don't see in all Scripture that God receives all the glory, our hearts are cold and our affections are not with God. We are not seeing what really matters, the glory of God and our true joy in Him. Anything that receives glory, whether ourselves or something else, is idolatry. Hell is reserved for those idolaters who don't see the infinite worth of the God of glory (Mal. 2:2, 2 Th. 1:9-10). We don't in any way determine the worth of God's glory; that alone belongs to God. We only acknowledge the infinite worth of God's glory. We must come to realize that God's glory is the true source of our joy and soul satisfying love. The glory of God is the chief end of all His work and God's passion for His glory is united in His goodness towards those behold His glory (2 Cor. 4:15).

How do we give God glory? We give God the glory when we worship Him in all of life, like J.S. Bach who declared SDG on all his work. We can't distinguish between secular and sacred. We don't give God glory on Sunday alone, but 24 hours a day 7 days a week we are to glorify God. All of life is to be lived to the glory of God and when we can do that we also can truly enjoy life like God intended. The more we give glory to God alone the more we enjoy Him. Can we put SDG on our thoughts, on what comes out of our mouths, on our purchases, on our televisions, on our computers, or even on our tax returns?

Soli Deo Gloria

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. Psalms 29:2

"Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power to the Lord our God! Revelation 19:1

Recommended Reading from The Sentinel

Crazy Love by Francis Chan

The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

glory of God is most fantastically seen.

On the cross, two things meet – the grace of God and the justice of God – and they meet in Jesus. God would have been fully justified to NOT send Jesus to the cross but rather to simply have destroyed man for His sinfulness. It would have been an exercise of just wrath for God who owes man nothing but justice and wrath.

But, God was not content to simply exercise justice. God is also gloriously gracious – lavishing love on the undeserving. That is what we see in the cross of Jesus. On the cross, God pours out wrath on Jesus instead of on guilty sinners. And, on the cross, grace is poured out to all who will believe on Jesus to save them from their sins. So, because of the glorious cross of Christ, God is now both *just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.* (Romans 3:26)

The cross of Calvary is the place where unbounded grace and unfettered wrath meet in the work of Christ to save sinners – and it is the most breathtaking display of the glory of God ... ever. No other revelation of the glory of God is as humbling, awe-inspiring, worship-inducing, jaw-dropping, heart-stopping, joy-creating, life-giving, ... than the cross of Christ. The cross of Christ is the pinnacle display of the glory of God to man.

God desires for you and me to see His glory revealed in Jesus – in both His person and His work on the cross - and then to revel in what we see. God calls us to look unto His beloved Son for salvation while we "*greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory*" (1 Peter 1:8). Do that! Look to Jesus, find your sins forgiven in Him, see the majesty of Christ and the sufficiency of His cross, and then shout for joy at the revelation of the glory of God!

Oh Lord, may you open the eyes of our hearts to see the "*light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*" (2 Corinthians 4:6)

from the SBC Library:

Monthly Book Give Away!

If you are an avid reader, be sure to sign up for the drawing that may possibly put a new book into your hands. Every month the SBC Library will be giving away two books.

THE TITLES OF THIS MONTH'S BOOKS ARE:

Just Do Something, a Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will
by Kevin DeYoung

&

The Bookends of the Christian Life
by Jerry Bridges & Bob Bevington

To be a in the drawing, CONTACT: Judi Hausmann 816.540.5123 with your name and number.

Be in the Word, Church.

Be in the Word.