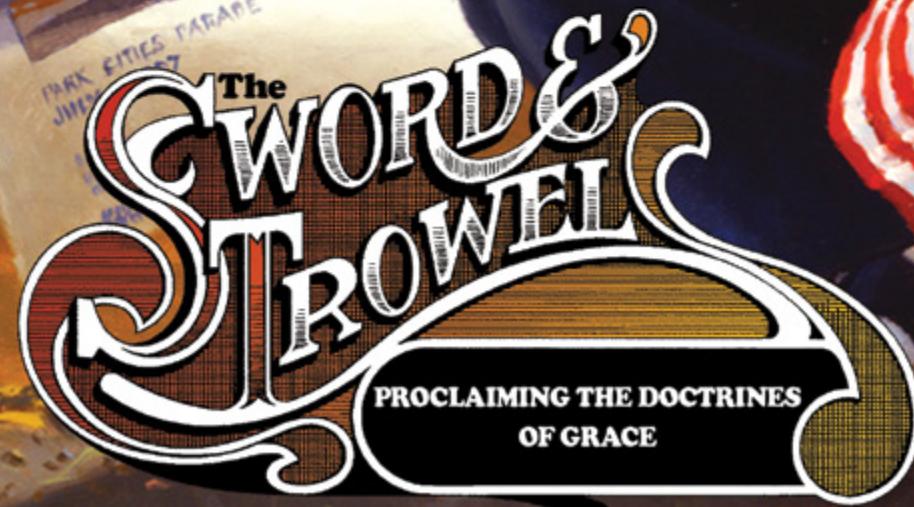
A painting of a young boy in a sailor suit sitting on a log, shouting with a red balloon in the background.

**The Clarion Call for  
Christian Education**

**Compelled by Love**

**If Leonardo DiCaprio  
Got Saved?**

**Heaven Tourism**





Permit me to dream for a moment. Imagine if Leonardo DiCaprio got saved. Then he could star in a Christian remake of the movie *Titanic*, and when he stood at the front of the boat and said, “I’m the king of the world!” Rose would say, “No you’re not, Jesus is.” Then he would repent of sins right there on the Titanic and start an on-boat evangelistic ministry called “Big Boat, Bigger God”. Then, when he died at the end of the movie it wouldn’t be nearly as sad, because he would be in heaven.

Millions would probably see the movie, especially if it was in 3D, leading to a worldwide revival and the spread of the gospel. Maybe DiCaprio and Kirk Cameron would team up to make a couple of movies. Maybe Steven Spielberg would get saved through DiCaprio’s influence. Who knows?

Do you ever wonder why stuff like this doesn’t happen more often? Why don’t more celebrities and shakers and movers get saved? 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 gives us some insight into this:

*For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.*

God doesn’t gravitate toward the people that the world gravitates toward. He gravitates toward the weak, the lowly, the ordinary, and the unimpressive. He calls those whom the world ignores. If God primarily saved rich, powerful, and beautiful people, those people might have some reason to boast before God. But God saves unimpressive, weak people, so that there might not be any boasting in his presence. And when God saves these people and uses them to spread the gospel, it demonstrates the power of God, not the power of the people.

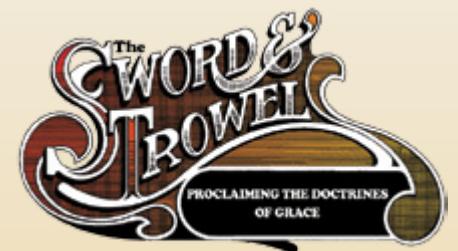
D.A. Carson described the Corinthian church as, “...a low-class operation with a few sophisticated exceptions.” I find that quote to be very encouraging, because it pretty much describes my church too. We are a low-class church, with me at the head of the pack. Sure, we have a few exceptions. We have a couple doctors, a few professors, and a few folks with lots of money. But not many. Our worship team is not overly impressive either. No one is going to think that they accidentally walked into a U2 concert when they come to our church. Our preaching isn’t anything to boast about either. We strive to do our best, but we’re not like Piper or Driscoll.

But God likes to work through ordinary, unimpressive people. God likes to use worship teams that occasionally train wreck and miss transitions. God likes to use ordinary preachers. God loves to use ordinary church members to do extraordinary things.

So I love my ordinary, low-class church. We’re just a bunch of weak people that love Jesus, and I love seeing God work through us. When we succeed as a church, it certainly won’t be because of our brilliance or influence. It will be because we serve a mighty God who does great things through weak people.

• • • • •

Stephen Altrogge, the author, works as a pastor at Sovereign Grace Church of Indiana, PA, where his main duties include leading worship, working with college students, and shining his dad’s shoes. He also has written a number of worship songs that have been included on Sovereign Grace Music albums. Stephen is the author of the book *Game Day For the Glory of God: A Guide For Athletes, Fans, and Wannabes*, which was published by Crossway Books in September 2008, and *The Greener Grass Conspiracy: Finding Contentment on Your Side of the Fence*, which was published by Crossway Books in April 2011. When not shining his dad’s shoes, you can find Stephen drinking coffee or playing video games.



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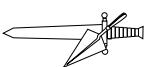
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Oil Painting by John Pototschnik titled, “After the Parade.” Permission granted to reproduce image – © John Pototschnik. Visit the artist’s web site at [www.Pototschnik.com](http://www.Pototschnik.com)



# International Fall Bible Conference

October 5-7, 2012  
Kinsey Drive Baptist Church  
Dalton, Georgia

יהוה כבָד מַונִי טוֹב קָרָא  
Translation: Glorifying God Through the Gospel



Baruch Maoz will be our guest speaker from Gedera, Israel. He was born to a Jewish family in Boston, Massachusetts. He immigrated to Israel in 1953, where he was converted to Christ while serving in the Israeli Army in 1963. Baruch joined *Christian Witness to Israel* in April of 1974, upon his release from the Israeli army following the October (Day of Atonement) War. As of 1979 he served as CWI Israel Field Director. In the course of his work he translated *The God Who Is There, Knowing God, Genesis Three* and many others; and edited over 50 books in Hebrew. He also wrote 61 theological papers, delivered in Germany, Britain, and the USA.

Baruch was the founding pastor of Grace and Truth Christian Congregation in Israel with 400 congregants and served from 1976 until 2008. He is presently engaged in a writing, teaching and preaching ministry in Israel and abroad.

## Fall Conference Schedule

Friday, October 5, 2012

7:00 PM

Baruch Maoz, speaker

Saturday, October 6, 2012

10:00 AM Brunch

speaker Baruch Maoz

Q&A Session following the message

Sunday, October 7, 2012

11:00 AM

Morning Worship

6:00 PM

Evening service, Baruch Maoz

Monday, October 8, 2012

7:30 PM

Channel 10 WDNN TV

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

10:00 AM

Channel 10 WDNN TV

Sponsored by Unity Baptist Church and Kinsey Drive Baptist Church  
For More Information call KDBC @ 706 277 3505 or UNITY @ 706 226 3026



# Could W. A. Criswell sign A "Statement of Traditional Southern Baptist Understanding of God's Plan of Salvation?"

by Thomas Ascol (used with permission)



After reading through some sermons today by the late Southern Baptist pastor and statesman, W. A. Criswell, I could not help but wonder if he would attach his name to the recent statement that Jerry Vines, Paige Patterson, David Hankins, Emir Caner and others have issued and signed. Of course, all we can do is speculate, but it might be worth reading his thoughts on some of the very doctrines that these brothers have addressed in their statement. I thought you would enjoy looking at a couple of his sermons that touch on pertinent subjects at hand.

For example, in a sermon entitled, "Doctrine of Predestination," Dr. Criswell quoted Isaiah

46:9-11 and then said, "That's our God! Now that's what you call foreordination. That's what you call predestination! That's Calvinism! And I am a Calvinist. That's good old Bible doctrine, and I believe the Bible! These things are in God's hands, and ultimately and finally, He purposed it and executeth all of it!

He preached a sermon in 1983, in the early days of the conservative resurgence, on Romans 9:15-16. The sermon is entitled, "The Bible Kind of Salvation." It is a masterful piece of homiletical work and includes a lengthy, favorable quote from Spurgeon near the end. Before that quote, Dr. Criswell made the following observations:

There is a general call, but there is also an effective call. In the great general call, most of them did not respond, most of them did not hear, most of them did not believe, most of them did not come; but always some came, some heard, some were saved—the effectual calling of God.

I read in Acts 13, verse 48, "When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the Word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." I turn the page again, and I read in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, "Brethren beloved, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation, whereunto He called you by our gospel." There is an effectual call. There are those who listen. God opens their hearts. God speaks to them, and they hear their name called, and they respond; the effectual calling of the elective choosing Spirit of the Lord.

It is an interesting study to compare these expressed convictions of this godly, influential Southern Baptist giant with those commended in the affirmation and denials of recently released statement.



Thomas K. (Tom) Ascol is an evangelical Christian pastor, author, and Executive Director of Founders Ministries. He is currently the senior pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, Florida.

Ascol serves as the Executive Director of Founders Ministries, an organization committed to the recovery of the Gospel and the reformation of local churches. He edits the *Founders Journal*, a quarterly theological publication of Founders Ministries, and has written numerous articles and contributed to several books. He regularly preaches and lectures at various conferences throughout the United States and other countries. He also authors the Founders Ministries Blog.



# **“...flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”** -John 16:17

by Blake Gentry

When my wife and I were dating, I took the initiative to study the Word of God with her. During our prior endeavors to learn about one another, she had mentioned the word ‘predestination,’ to which I was very passive. It was one of those strange biblical terms that I thought it best to just overlook. After all, I recognized God’s foreknowledge; of course He knew the future before it happened (Sarcasm intended)! I should note that at this point in my life, I was not yet a diligent student of the Bible. So, although I was unaware of what I had gotten myself into, I decided we would begin in Ephesians. As we opened chapter 1 and read through Paul’s greeting, I gracefully dodged something in verse four about God choosing people, only to read two words into verse five and get hit with a ton of bricks. “He predestined.” I immediately decided that perhaps Ephesians was not the place the Lord wanted us to begin.

Every true Christian believes that God is sovereign, but that definition of sovereignty is becoming increasingly ambiguous due to a widespread fascination with free will, specifically within the context of salvation. Baptists are quick to confuse, “Once saved, always saved” with the Calvinistic doctrine of the “Perseverance/Preservation of the Saints.” Many also promote unbiblical, absurd, and contradictory doctrines like the age of accountability. “Doctrines” such as these come at the expense of denying God’s glory in His sovereignty. Most will define foreknowledge and election as mere omniscience, explaining that, “God looked down through time and saw who would choose Him, which lead Him to choose them.” The tragic flaw is that said argument makes God’s will entirely subordinate to the will of man. Even so, it is crucial to be patient with our brothers and sisters. The verse cited above was specifically in reference to Peter recognizing Jesus to be the Christ, but its truth can also be applied to God’s giving of the revelation of His sovereignty. Therefore, we must ask the Lord for patience and steadfastness in sharing the knowledge of His complete control.



Blake & Bethany Gentry

My recognition of the Doctrines of Grace was indeed a gradual journey, but the Lord made it sweet. I learned quickly that these “Calvinistic” ideas were not based upon a misinterpretation of a few verses sprinkled here and there, but upon the whole of the

unadulterated Word of God. Upon discovering these truths to be completely inescapable, I was able to rest. I was dead in my trespasses and sins, for Adam had forfeited my ability to choose to do good. God in His abundant mercy elected me before the foundations of the world, based on no merit of my own. Christ came and sovereignly laid His life down and took it up again for His sheep. At the appointed time, He overwhelmed me with His grace and asked me not if I wanted to follow Him, but declared to me that I WAS His, and because He has promised to preserve me, I shall persevere.

In retrospect, the primary weights that held my own eyes closed to the reality of God’s sovereignty were utter denial and indifference.

Praise God that “Irresistible Grace” doesn’t play a role in regeneration alone, but that it is also an essential component of sanctification. Indeed, “Whosoever will” may come, but unless regenerated by the Holy Spirit, whosoever won’t.



Blake and Bethany enjoying the laughter of their son, Noah Haddon.

# The Dark Night in Denver – Groping for Answers

by Albert Mohler, President, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

The news hit the airwaves like a sudden onslaught, and the truth began to sink in. It has happened again. This time, 50 people shot while attending the midnight premier of the last in the Batman sequence, *The Dark Knight Rises*. According to press reports, a 24-year-old man burst into the crowded theater, wearing a gas mask and carrying an arsenal. After deploying what is believed to be tear gas, he opened fire with a shotgun, a rifle, and two handguns. At least 12 people are dead, and dozens are injured, many critically.

Over 100 police officers responded to the scene in Aurora, just a few miles from Columbine High School, where in 1999 two high school students killed 12 fellow students and one teacher in a rampage that also injured 21 other students. That school massacre became a milestone in the nation's legacy of violence. Now, yet another Denver suburb joins that tragic list.

The inevitable media swarm focuses on the data first — the who, what, when, and where questions. Then they, along with the public at large, begin to ask the why question. That is always the hard one.

The same vexing but inescapable question comes every time a Columbine happens or an Anders Behring Breivik attempts to justify his mass homicide. How could such a thing happen? How could a human being do such a thing?

There is no easy answer to this question. The easy answers are never satisfying, and they are often based in the confused moral calculus of popular culture. We assume there must have been a political motivation, a psychiatric disturbance, a sociological pressure... anything that will offer a satisfying explanation that will assure us.



Wave after wave of analysis is offered, and sometimes some horrifying clues emerge. But the moral madness of mass homicide can never be truly explained.

Christians are driven by instinct to think in biblical and theological terms. But, how should that instinct be guided?

## The Reality of Human Evil

First, Christians know that the human heart is capable of great evil. Human history includes a catalog of human horrors. The twentieth century, described by historian Eric Hobsbawm as the century of "megadeath," included a list of names such as Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin, Pol Pot, and Charles Manson. But those murderers did their killing from a distance, at least usually. Those who carry out the murders themselves are even more haunting to us. The young man arrested in this case, 24-year-old James Holmes, looks disarmingly normal.

The Fall released human moral evil into the cosmos, and every single human being is a sinner, tempted by a full range of sinfulness. When someone does something as seemingly unthinkable as this, we often question how anyone could do such a thing. The prophet Jeremiah spoke to this when he lamented, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick, who can understand it?" [Jeremiah 17:9]

Human beings are capable of unspeakable moral evil. We are shocked by such atrocities, but only because we have some distance from the last one. We cannot afford to be shocked when humans commit grotesque moral evil. It tells us the truth about unbridled human sin.

## The Grace of Moral Restraint

Second, we must be thankful for restraints on moral evil. Christians must

not underestimate the potential of any human being — ourselves included — to commit moral horror. We know ourselves to be sinners, and we know ourselves to be capable of sins we do not actually commit. Why do we not commit them?

God restrains human sinfulness. If the fullness of human sin was set loose, humanity would destroy itself. God restrains human evil by several means. First, he has created us in His image, and at least part of this image is what we call conscience. The moral conscience is a powerful restraint on human evil, and for this we must be exceedingly thankful. At the same time, the human conscience is also warped by the Fall and no longer fully trustworthy. We have developed the capacity to ignore the conscience, torture the conscience, and even misdirect the conscience by moral rationalization. Nevertheless, the restraint of the conscience is fundamental, and for that we must be very thankful.

God has also established institutions and orders that restrain human evil. As the Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 13, God gave us the institution of government in order to restrain evil and to punish the evildoer. He has also given us the institution of marriage and the family and the larger order of society in order to restrain evil. We

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# Reckless Abandon

by Dell Hyssong

After Thanksgiving dinner two years ago, six-year old Makayla was murdered by her cousin. Family members believe it was because Makayla positively displayed her love for Jesus.

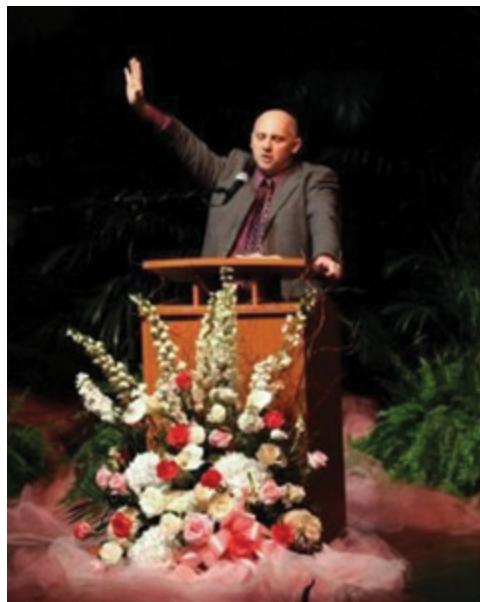
Her uncle, missionary and author David Sitton, wrote about the murder, his own encounters with cannibalistic tribes, and Christian persecution in his new book, *Reckless Abandon*.

The story of Makayla broke my heart and gripped my attention. Recently I asked Sitton to describe his six-year-old niece. He said, "Makayla was a multi-gifted little girl who was home-schooled by her mother. She was in ballet, sang and played the piano, and was a creative writer. Beyond all of that, though, she was a beautifully mature believer in Christ. Part of her home-schooling was to memorize Scripture and she was able to recite entire chapters from memory.

"I told her one time that I wanted to teach her a verse from the Bible and that she should memorize it. I said, "He that tooteth not his own horn, yea, it shall not be tooted." She scrunched up her cute little face and laughed, "Uncle David, that's not in the Bible!" So she had a fun sense of humor as well."

Just an hour before she was murdered, Thanksgiving night 2009, Makayla was dancing, playing the piano and singing praise songs to Jesus in the family room as a worship performance for her family. She stopped and asked her father if she could say something to her family gathered there. She said, "Thanksgiving is not just a time of eating lots of good food and being merry. Faith in Jesus must be communicated. If thanks aren't spoken, it's not really Thanksgiving, but only thanks-feeling."

(page 192, *Reckless Abandon*)



David Sitton preaching at the funeral of his niece, Makayla Sitton. In his book, *Reckless Abandon*, he describes her life as a Christian martyr.

The book, *Reckless Abandon* describes her murder and the murder of five other family members.

Makayla was the only one of six people shot to death who was shot more than once. Makayla was slaughtered with several point blank shots to the head and chest. The author and his family believe the gunman, who had witnessed Makayla's passionate expression of love for Jesus, must have so hated the light of Christ within her that he tried to extinguish it with a vengeance.

Author David Sitton wrote *Reckless Abandon* from his perspective as a missionary who has served the Lord for thirty-four years. He inspires and encourages readers to risk their lives for the gospel through his own story of working in cannibalistic areas of Papua New Guinea.

Most of us have had a relatively easy life. This book about his niece, Makayla, and his own missionary experiences really gets us to think about the sacrifices we may be required to make if we are going to take a stand for Christ.

I asked Sitton if he saw Christian persecution increasing today. He slowly replied, "In the time it takes to read these paragraphs, another Christian will be killed because of his or her faith in Jesus Christ. 160,000 believers around the world will be slaughtered this year alone... simply because they love Jesus. And it is accelerating all the more as radical Islam becomes more militantly violent around the earth."

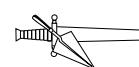
"The butchering of missionaries is horrifically beautiful. Horrible because of the indescribable torment endured by so many; but stunningly beautiful in their humble Christ-likeness as they are afflicted, persecuted, struck down; but not destroyed (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). As one Chinese Christian martyr confidently testified to his tormentors, "You can kill me, but you can't hurt me!"

"This is a biblical boldness: to plow through hostile resistance with the gentleness of Christ and loving the hate of those fierce enemies of the cross. God is glorified by these gospel risk-takers. The world's unharvested fields need many more like them. God calls all believers to be imitators of Christ and to live lives worthy of His name. There is nothing more powerful in evangelism than a life humbly laid down for Christ."



David Sitton, Missionary to New Guinea, has been a friend of the McKinney family for 33 years. Ron McKinney created this oil painting from a picture of Sitton's trip down the river Markham in Papua, New Guinea. It is a reminder of God's grace to the Nations.

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# Heaven Tourism

By Tim Challies, used with permission.

Travelling to heaven and back is where it's at today. Don Piper spent ninety minutes there and sold four million copies of his account. Colton Burpo doesn't know how long he was there, but his travel diary has surpassed six million copies sold, with a kids' edition accounting for another half million. Bill Wiese obviously booked his trip on the wrong web site and found himself in hell, which did, well, hellish things to his sales figures. Still, *23 Minutes in Hell* sold better than if he had described a journey to, say, Detroit, and he even saw his book hit the best seller lists for a few weeks. There have been others as well, and together they have established afterlife travel journals as a whole new genre in Christian publishing—a genre that is selling like hotcakes, or Amish fiction, for that.

I'll grant that the cost of this type of journey is rather steep (you've got to die, though only for just a few minutes), but it's a sound investment when you factor in the sales figures. I can think of quite a few authors who would trade a few minutes of life for 50+ weeks on the bestseller lists and a few appearances on TBN.

The most recent heaven tourist is Mary C. Neal. Much like Todd Burpo, who is responsible for taking his son's adventures to print, Neal only decided to write about her experiences many years after the fact, after all those other "I went to heaven" books began to sell in the hundreds of thousands. But that's definitely just coincidence. She initially self-published her book *To Heaven and Back*, but once it started generating buzz (i.e. selling lots and lots of copies), Waterbrook Multnomah stooped down and scraped it off the bottom of a shoe somewhere, and promptly re-issued it. With the extra marketing nudge, it has now made its debut on the New York Times list of best sellers. I gave it a skim – I just couldn't bear to read it all the way – and found that it is much the same as the others. In fact, it may be worse than the others in that it contains even less Christian theology, less gospel and far more New Age, sub-Christian nonsense. That a publisher of Christian books would even consider taking this to print is appalling.

I am not going to review *To Heaven and Back*. It's pure junk, fiction in the guise of biography, paganism in the guise of Christianity. But I do want to address a question that often arises

around this book and others in the genre: How do I respond to them? How do I respond to those who say they have been to heaven? When a Christian, or a person who claims to be a Christian, tells me that he has been to heaven, am I obliged to believe him or at least to give him the benefit of the doubt?

No, I am under no such obligation. I do not believe that Don Piper or Colton Burpo or Mary Neal or Bill Wiese visited the afterlife. They can tell me all the stories they want, and then can tell those stories in a sincere tone, but I do not believe them (even when they send me very angry and condescending e-mails that accuse me of character assassination). I am not necessarily saying that these people are liars—just that I am under no obligation to believe another person's experience. Here's why:

In the first place, we have no reason to believe or expect that God will work in this way – that he will call one of us to the afterlife and then send us back to our old bodies. The Bible says that it is for man to die once and then to experience the resurrection. There are many experiences we can have in a near-death state I am sure – dream-like experiences that may even seem real – but the Bible gives us no reason to believe that a person will truly die, truly experience the afterlife, and then return. Those who have a biblical understanding of life and death and heaven and hell will know that for a person to die and visit heaven, to experience sinlessness and the presence of Jesus Christ – for that person it would be the very height of cruelty to then demand that they return to earth. None of these books are at all consistent with a robust theology of heaven and hell, of the work of Jesus Christ, of the existence of indwelling sin. On the surface they may seem compelling, but in reality they raise far more questions than the few they may appear to answer.

In the second place, the very idea of God calling a person to heaven and back and then having that person share his experience in order to bolster our faith is the exact opposite of what the Lord desires for us. We have no reason to look to another person's experience of heaven in order to prove that heaven is real or hell is real. The Bible promises blessings on those who do not see and yet believe. Our hope is not to be in the story of a minister or toddler or doctor or anyone else who insists

they have been to heaven; our hope is to be in Jesus Christ as God has graciously revealed him to us in the Bible. Faith is believing that what God says in his Word is true and without error. You dishonor God if you choose to believe what the Bible says only when you receive some kind of outside verification. You dishonor God if you need this kind of outside verification.

A question remains: How do I respond to a Christian who has read these books and who finds great joy or comfort in them? You point that person to what is true. You will need to be careful with tone and timing, but ultimately, it will be a blessing for any Christian to direct his faith to the worthy object of faith. Faith will be strengthened by reading the Bible and believing it. Faith will be weakened by reading the Bible and believing it only after reading *90 Minutes in Heaven*. You can serve any Christian by directing him to the Bible and helping him to see that we are called to believe God on the basis of what he says in his Word, not on the basis of another person's experience. *90 Minutes in Heaven* and *Heaven Is For Real* and all the rest are not books that beautify the doctrine of heaven, but books that attack the doctrine of Scripture. The Bible insists that it is enough, that it is sufficient, that we have no need for further special revelation from God; these books insist that it is not.



Tim Challies

Tim Challies, a self-employed web designer, is a pioneer in the Christian blogosphere, having one of the most widely read and recognized Christian blogs anywhere ([www.challies.com](http://www.challies.com)). He is also editor of Discerning Reader ([www.discriminatingreader.com](http://www.discriminatingreader.com)), a site dedicated to offering thoughtful reviews of books that are of interest to Christians. He is author of *The Discipline of Spiritual Discernment*, published by Crossway.





## KDBC Publishes a New Hymnal: New Covenant Grace Hymnal

The great Christian composer J. S. Bach wrote, "The aim and final reason for all music should be nothing else but the glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit." This has been the passion of Gene and Betty Lindauere in the body of music they have written and performed during their 60 years of marriage.

For the past twenty-five years Gene and Betty Lindauere have been compiling a hymnal which expresses their faith and interest in providing sound words and music for the worshiper. Certain hymns composed by them under the name Genetty are included. This has been a true labor of love and perseverance. Kinsey Drive Baptist Church has published the 200 plus pages called, *New Covenant Grace Hymnal*, as a tribute to the Lindaueres.

God measures our gifts, not by the greatness of them, but by the self-denial expressed in giving them. What extraordinary gifts Gene and Betty possess. What great hearts they have. They give of themselves not only to the Lord and one another, but also to others. They have enriched everyone who knows

them in their sacrificing and sharing their faith, music and lives. Pastor McKinney said, "They have served the church all these years without any personal gain. On the contrary, they manage money well and are sacrificial givers to the Lord and Missions. Gene and Betty are givers, not takers."

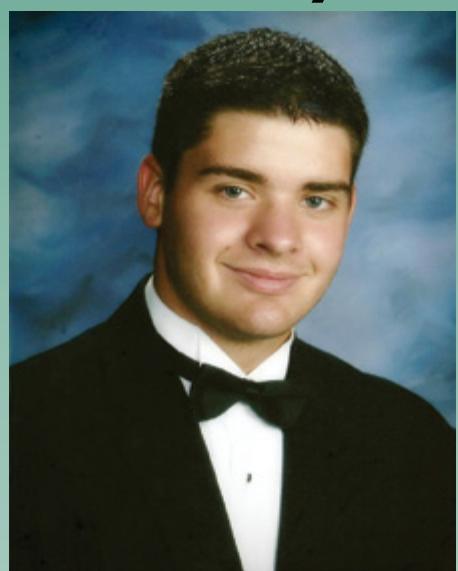
Mr. Lindauere is a graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education and a Masters of Music. He has performed with the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra in Maryland; American Light Opera Society of Washington, D.C.; Maryland University Orchestra and the John Ball Symphony Orchestra in Richland, Washington. He is the founder of the L'Abri Strings Orchestra and a member of the L'Abri Symphony Orchestra. His wife, Betty, is also a graduate of Duquesne University and plays piano, saxophone and cello. She has arranged music for the L'Abri Orchestra.

Someone has said, "to get the measure of a true man's capacity, note how much more he does than is required of him."



Ron McKinney, Pastor of Kinsey Drive Baptist Church, presents Gene and Betty Lindauere a copy of the published hymnal which they compiled. The Lindaueres have lead the music at Kinsey Drive Baptist Church for twenty years. To obtain a copy of the hymnal write to 2626 Kinsey Drive, Dalton, GA. 30720

## Mitchell Lynn



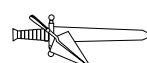
Paul addresses young Timothy in the first chapter of 2 Timothy 1: 3-5, "I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well."

Paul was thankful and grateful to God for what God had done in Timothy's life in implanting the seed of faith and recalls the work done by his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice in passing on to him the truth which is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mitchell Lynn graduated from Heritage High School in Ringgold, Georgia at the top of his class. As Valedictorian of his 2012 Senior class, he addressed the 5,000 attendees with words of gratitude to God. He had spent four years lettering in football playing defensive end and offensive tackle while maintaining a 4.0 gpa. His SAT score was 2290 and ACT was 36.

Providence provided that Mitchell would spend every other weekend with his grandmother, Jewel, in Flintstone, Georgia. His grandmother had watched "Majesty," the television program of

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# Compelled by Love

By Fred Zaspel - used with permission from the author

The service that the apostle Paul rendered to Christ was a costly one. We read of it in the book of Acts, and Paul himself tells us of it here and there in his epistles — whippings, beatings, abandonment, hunger, deprivation, insults, offenses of all kinds, and so on. He certainly was not in this for the money!

But if not money, then what? What was it that motivated him? What was the incentive?

Actually, the apostle answers this question in several ways. There are many good reasons for serving Christ. But in 2 Corinthians 5:14 he seems to get to the bottom of it:

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died."

The driving impulse, Paul says, is, simply, my awareness of "Christ's love." Indeed, a sense of His love "compels" me to serve Him.

The NIV translation here is helpful — "Christ's love." The ambiguity of the KJV (and of the Greek) — "The love of Christ" — has allowed room for some to misunderstand. Many have (mis)taken this verse to say that it was Paul's love for Christ that motivated him in His service. But that is not what Paul is saying here. He is speaking of Christ's love for us, not our love for Him.

Now it is all very true that we serve Christ out of love for Him. Of course. But given the fickleness of our love for Christ, it really doesn't constitute ultimate causes or deepest motives. What is it, after all, that gives rise to our love for Christ? The answer, clearly, is that we love Him because of His love for us.

Nor is Christ's love for us a mere sentiment of good will. For the apostle Paul, Christ's love has a specific point of reference — the Cross. That is how he explains: "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died." The cross of Christ is the very definition of His love.

Nor is it the Cross merely, but the Cross as specifically understood in terms of substitution — "one died for all, and therefore all died." Here is the love of Christ for us — it is the love of the Redeemer taking our place, bearing our curse, paying the full penalty of our sin, and freeing us from divine wrath that was due us.

Moreover, the Lord Jesus was no third party in the dispute, so to speak. He was not a substitute unrelated to the problem. No, He is Himself the God against whom we had sinned, the One whose wrath demanded our condemnation. Yet, amazingly, humbling Himself He assumed our station, took all our obligations and debts to Himself, and standing in our place bore our curse — the curse of His broken law and of His own wrath. "He who knew no sin was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor. 5:21).

And so Paul confesses, gladly, that it is this that "compels" him to serve the Lord Jesus. Gripped by an awareness of His matchless love he cannot but serve Him. If he could have sung from Isaac Watt's hymnal, doubtless, he would joyfully have sung with him —

Surely, this is a love like no other! This is the love of condescension, of sacrifice, and of rescue.

*But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
the debt of love I owe!*



Fred Zaspel holds a Ph.D. in historical theology from the Free University of Amsterdam. He is currently a pastor at the Reformed Baptist Church of Franconia, PA. He is also the interim Senior Pastor at New Hyde Park Baptist Church on New York's Long Island, and Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology at Calvary Baptist Seminary in Lansdale, PA. He is also the author of *The Continuing Relevance of Divine Law* (1991); *The Theology of Fulfillment* (1994); *Jews, Gentiles, & the Goal of Redemptive History* (1996); *New Covenant Theology* with Tom Wells (New Covenant Media); *The Theology of B.B. Warfield: A Systematic Summary* (Crossway, 2010). Fred is married to Kimberly and they have two grown children, Gina and Jim

*Here, Lord, I give myself away,  
'tis all that I can do.*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small!  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!*

Can there be a greater incentive to Christian service than this? Yes, we love Him! We love Him with all our hearts! But what has gripped us, what has captured our hearts, is this realization of His great Cross-love for us. And for this love we willingly and joyfully give ourselves in return to Him.



# Report on the Trip to Tortola, British Virgin Islands

John Hunter

Ron McKinney and I were blessed to be invited to speak at the 15th Annual Faith Baptist Church, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, Bible Conference. From the moment we got on the plane to fly to St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, on the first leg of our journey, the Lord's grace was evident. Ron and I and my wife Kathy were to have sat together but at the last minute were separated. The separation proved to be a great blessing as the Lord placed me by a Roman Catholic man from Minnesota who was struggling spiritually because of his study of Scripture. For two or three hours he asked one question after another on the vital issues of the faith.

When we arrived on St. Thomas, we went directly to the boat dock to take the ferry to Tortola where after a brief mix-up we met Brother Cecil Parillon of Faith Baptist Church, an old friend in the Gospel. The next five days were full of activity and blessing.

Ron and I each spoke four times. Ron spoke all four times at the Church beginning Sunday morning. I spoke three times at the Church beginning Sunday evening and on one of the Islands' most-listened-to radio stations. The Church was also gracious to allow each of us a night off when two men from the Church spoke. The two were Brother Jonathan Jn. Baptiste and Brother Derry Hodges. These men spoke the Gospel powerfully and thrilled our souls. Brother Derry has a PHD and along with Brother Jonathan and Pastor Parillon desires to start a Pastors' Training School.

Brother Ron's messages on "Imputation" were received enthusiastically. I spoke the first night on the "Importance of the Local Church" and the other nights on "Enduring Faith" from Hebrews chapters 1, 2, and 8. These messages were also well received. The people of the Church are well taught in the Word and appear to practice well what they hear.

When we were not preaching, we were able to enjoy our provided apartment with a beautiful view of the bay where the cruise ships came in, or we were being escorted around to see the sights of the Island by Brother Parillon or taken to Virgin Gorda, BVI, to see it. Sister Hanzel Parillon, the Pastor's wife, provided us with several lovely meals when we were not out and about being entertained at local restaurants.

The two great highlights of the trip, I believe all will agree, were the services at the Church where the Spirit seemed to manifest His presence exalting Christ and the prayer times in the apartment when Ron, Kathy and I called on the Lord, praising Him and seeking His blessing on the services. The sweetness of Christ's presence is a glorious blessing and we give Him all the praise.

Please continue to pray with us for Faith Baptist Church and the men involved in leadership and their desire to see the Pastors' Training School become a reality.



Faithful preachers of the Gospel, Brother Derry Hodges (seated left) and Brother Jonathan Jn. Baptiste take time to pose for a photograph with Ron McKinney.



From left: Hanzel and Pastor Cecil Parillon of Faith Baptist Church in Tortola, British Virgin Islands; and Pastor John and Kathleen Hunter of Anniston Alabama, USA.





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# The Clarion Call For Christian Education

Dr. Ronald W. McKinney

The former Chrysler CEO Lee Iacocca once said, ‘The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.’<sup>1</sup> This simple advice has a wide range of implications. I remember Dr. Norman Harper, one of the great pioneers of the Christian school movement, when asked the question, “What is the number one challenge in Christian education?” said without hesitation, “Keeping Christian schools Christian.” That is the answer. History proves that Christian schools have a long record of starting out Christ-centered fortresses for truth and godliness and drift into man-centered citadels of humanism. Classic examples are the American Ivy League colleges like Harvard and Yale. They were founded as Bible-centered institutions. I have seen the sign at McCallie school in Chattanooga, Tennessee with the Westminster Shorter Catechism answer to the goal of life, “The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.”

Dr. Paul Kienel, founder and president emeritus of ACSI said, “The ‘main thing’ in Christian education is to teach and train children of Christian families in such a way that they will honor Christ, family and Church.” The Bible says, “...that in all things he [Christ] might have the preeminence.” (Colossians 1:18). That includes education.<sup>2</sup> The Bible is the only rule for faith and practice in a Christian school! The Bible is respected and regarded as the infallible point of reference for all academic subjects and as the only reliable guide for Christian living. We are training the next generation with truth. There is nothing higher than that.

“There is no right way or wrong way in education, just find the best way for your children” is a philosophy of the Post-modernist. Every thing is relative. No

absolutes. It may be truth to you but not for me. Proverbs 1:7 says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” There is a right way in education...God’s way. There is a way that seems right to man but it is foolishness. The fear of the Lord is the chief part of true knowledge and wisdom. There is a right way and a wrong way.

Ephesians 6:4 states, “fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” A Christian father is responsible, not the State, not the school board, not the church, or any other institution, to teach and discipline their children in the fear of the Lord. When a father designates someone to be his substitute, they must have the same goals and purposes. Unbelieving parents are double minded and cannot reinforce the same goals as Christian parents. It is a divided house. It will not stand.

I am surprised how many non-Christian colleges and schools quote John 8:32, “...the truth shall make you free,” on their building.<sup>3</sup> The sad thing is, the teachers in those secular institutions think the word truth means man-made truth. God is speaking about his Holy Word. The Bible states clearly that there is a famine in the land... “It is a lack of truth.”

I am afraid that Christian school educators and parents may be so Biblically illiterate that they will not understand what these verses mean. Many of us left the secular and humanistic confines of the public school system because it was anti-God. The system does not recognize God or want God to have anything to do with it. We must keep Christ central and in clear focus in order to have Christian education. The Word of God must be the center piece of every discipline and every school activity.

Christian schools are to lead and inspire students to become mature followers of Christ. The home, school, and church are the major influences on a child. Because of the busyness of society, parents, we can lose sight of the “main thing.”

To all that are responsible, you have one mandate. “Keep the main thing the main thing!” If the fear of the Lord is the foundation and a determined focus of education... then don’t flinch. Be resolved to stand for the only truth that is real. Someone said, “One man with conviction is worth 99 with opinions.”<sup>4</sup> Surveys don’t mean a thing if you know the truth. I am not here to negotiate truth but to speak the truth as an Ambassador for Christ. We must deliver the truth, not edit it. Jesus said, “He that is not with me is against me...” Matthew 12:30.

“Keeping the main thing the main thing” is the goal. Glorifying Christ is the ultimate goal. Remember parents, the only thing in this life we may take with us to heaven is our children, provided they are born again and believe in Jesus Christ. A genuine Christian education then is priceless.

## FOOTNOTES

1. Copan, Paul. “Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing” Credo House Ministries 2011
2. Kienel, Paul. Founder and President Emeritus, Association of Christian School International. Comment (26.5) ACSI. (I read this 20 years ago and put it in my file for future reference.) It has been revised by Dr. Brian Simmons, President, ACSI.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.

I have a bibliography of more than 100 books on Christian Education from 1967-2012. They are written by some of the leaders in Christian Education such as Dr. John Blanchard, Norman Harper and Elmer Towns. Please contact me if interested at: RonaldWMKinney@gmail.com.



# The Pleasure of God in Election

by John Piper - used with permission

## Deuteronomy 10:14–15

Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it; yet the Lord set his heart in love upon your fathers and chose their descendants after them, you above all the peoples, as at this day.

In our study of the pleasures of God we have seen that from all eternity God has been supremely happy in the fellowship of the Trinity. He has delighted in casting his eye, as it were, out over the endless panorama of his own perfections reflected in the face of his Son. Between God the Father and God the Son there has flowed a love and joy so full and complete, and carrying so much of the essence of God, that it has stood forth from all eternity as a Person in his own right—the Holy Spirit himself.

If you could take the energy of all the billions of galaxies in the universe and measure it, you would get a reading that is simply a faint reverberation of that energy of joy and love that swells and streams and surges in the triune heart of God. Before there was anything besides God at all, God was supremely happy in himself.

We saw secondly that God is, therefore, absolutely self-sufficient. He has no needs and so can't be bribed. He has no flaws and so can't be blackmailed. He has no weaknesses and so can't be coerced or forced. In other words, he is absolutely free and does what he does because of his own good pleasure. “Our God is in heaven; he does whatever he pleases” (Psalm 115:3).

Thirdly, we saw that the creation of this spectacular universe is the overflow of God's joyful bounty. He did not create the world to make up for some deficiency in himself. He created because it's the very nature of fullness to overflow. It's the nature of unbounded joy to spread itself around. And so God rejoiced to make the universe as a kind of spin-off of his overflowing delight in his own glory.

Then, last week we saw that in this world which God has created, the great passion of his heart is to spread his reputation.

Again and again and again in Scripture we read that he acts for the sake of his name. His great goal is to magnify his fame and renown and the honor of his name in all that he does.

And when you stop and think about it this is the most loving thing that God could ever do; because the greatest benefit that human beings could ever receive is to know and share in the glory of God. So when God aims to make his glorious name known and admired and praised and enjoyed in every people and tongue and tribe and nation, he is acting in overflowing grace and love because this and this alone will satisfy the longings of the human heart.

## A People to Praise and Proclaim God

Today we carry our study one step further and discover that the way God intends to make a name for his glorious grace in all the world is to choose a people for himself. And as Jeremiah says, “He will make them cling to him that they might be for him a people, and a name, and a praise, and a glory” (Jeremiah 13:11). In other words, to extend the pleasure that God has in his own name, he calls out a people to enjoy and praise and proclaim that name. And the Bible calls these people “the elect.” That is what we want to look at this morning: the pleasure of God in election.

## The Election of Israel

We will take our starting point from the election of Israel in the Old Testament and then turn to the New Testament and see whether the church is thought of in a similar way.

Deuteronomy 10:14–15 describes the delight God had in choosing Israel from all the peoples of the earth.

14) Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it; 15) yet the Lord set his heart in love upon your fathers [literally: “the Lord delighted in your fathers to love them”] and chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as at this day.

Notice two things:

## God's Complete Freedom

First, notice the contrast between verses 14 and 15. Why does Moses describe the election of Israel against the backdrop of God's ownership of the whole universe? Verse 14 says: To God belongs everything in heaven and on earth. Then verse 15 says: Yet he chose you for his people.

Isn't the point to dispel any notion that God was somehow hedged in to choose this people? Isn't the point to explode the myth that each people has its own god and this god has a right to his own people but no more?

So Moses' point in saying, “God owns everything in heaven and on earth—absolutely everything—yet he chose you,” is to make clear to the Israelites that God was not locked in to choosing them. He had rights and privileges to choose absolutely any people on the face of the earth for his redeeming purposes. And therefore when he calls himself “their God,” he does not mean that he is on a par with the gods of Egypt or the gods of Canaan. He owns those gods and their peoples. And if it had pleased him, he could have chosen a totally different people to accomplish his purposes. The point of putting verses 14 and 15 together in this way is to stress the freedom and the universal rights and authority of God.

## The Way God Exercises His Freedom

The second thing to notice is in verse 15: the way God exercises his freedom is to “set his love upon the fathers.” That means that God freely chose to make Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob the object of his delight and love. God's love for the fathers of Israel was free and merciful and wasn't constrained by anything that the fathers were in their Jewishness or in their virtue.

One of the ways God makes this clear is that when Abraham has two sons, Ishmael and Isaac, God only chooses one of them, Isaac. And when Isaac has two sons, Jacob and Esau, even before they were born, God only chooses Jacob, not Esau, to continue the line of his chosen people. And Paul stresses in Romans 9:10–13 that the reason for this was to show that God's election is



free and unconditional. It is not based on Jewishness or virtue or faith; it is free, and therefore completely merciful and gracious.

## Why Did God Love and Choose Israel?

One other place in Deuteronomy where this is stressed is 6:6–7. Moses describes the election of Israel like this:

6) For you are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his own possession, out of all the peoples that are on the face of the earth. 7) It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love upon you [literally: delighted in you] and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples; 8) but it was because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath which he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

This passage teaches again the freedom of God's grace in loving and choosing Israel. Notice the question that verse 7 raises: Why did God "set his love upon you (or delight in you) and choose you"? Verse 7 says it was not because of their greatness. They were very small, unlikely candidates for being chosen by God. Why then did God delight in them and choose them?

## Because He Loved Them

Verse 8 gives two answers. First: "It is because the Lord loves you". Now remember what the question was from verse 7. The question was: Why did God set his love upon you? And the first answer Moses gives is: "Because he loves you." He loves you because he loves you. That is what I mean by the freedom of God and the freedom of electing love. He doesn't set his love upon them because they qualify for his love. He loves because he loves.

## Because of His Oath to Their Fathers

But what about the second reason Moses gives in verse 8 for why God loved Israel and chose them and brought them out of Egypt? He says that it is because God was "keeping the oath which he swore to their fathers." Does this mean that God's choice to love and save wasn't free after all? Was he bound to save them? I don't think so.

The oath of blessing (referred to in v. 8) had been given to Abraham in divine freedom. It was confirmed in freedom to Isaac not Ishmael; and it was confirmed in freedom to Jacob not Esau. And in the same way God was free at the Red Sea to save that rebellious (Psalm 106:7–8) generation or to let them justly be destroyed by Pharaoh. God's choice to rescue Israel at the Red Sea and make them into an earthly people for his name was free and merciful and gracious! It was simply an extension and partial fulfillment of that first free oath that God made to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.

## God's Self-Glorifying Purpose in Electing Israel

So I conclude from Deuteronomy 10:14–15 and 7:6–8 that the way God decided to make a name for his glorious grace in the Old Testament was to choose a people for himself from all the peoples of the earth and to make that people the showcase of his redeeming work. And so you read in Isaiah that God created Israel "for his glory" (43:7) and that he formed them "that they might declare [his] praise" (43:21). In other words, in order to extend the pleasure that God has in his own name, he chooses a people to enjoy and praise and proclaim that name. And so God has pleasure in election.

## The Election of Individuals in the Church

Now what happens in the New Testament with the coming of Christ? What happens is that God continues to rejoice in election, but now we move into a period when Israel as a people is no longer the focus of God's dealings. He turns for now to the Gentiles and begins to assemble new people for himself called the church. He's not done with Israel! But for now the focus is on the ingathering of the nations.

And since the church is not an ethnic group like Israel was, God doesn't elect a whole nation for earthly purposes like he did Israel at the Red Sea. Instead the New Testament speaks of election as God's choice of individuals to believe and become part of the redeemed people of God.

## The Joy of the Trinity

Let's turn first to Luke 10:21. The reason I choose this verse is because it is one of the two places in the New Testament where Jesus is said to rejoice, and my topic today is God's pleasure or joy in election. The

70 disciples have just returned from their preaching tours and reported their success to Jesus. Luke writes in verse 21:

In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes: yea, Father, for such was thy gracious will [literally: for thus it was well-pleasing before thee]."

Notice that all three members of the Trinity are rejoicing here: Jesus is rejoicing, but it says he is rejoicing in the Holy Spirit. I take that to mean that the Holy Spirit is filling him and moving him to rejoice. Then at the end of the verse it describes the pleasure of God the Father. NIV: "Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure."

Now what is it that has the whole Trinity rejoicing together in this place? It is the free electing love of God to hide things from the intellectual elite and to reveal them to babes. And what is it that the Father hides from some and reveals to others? Verse 22 gives the answer: "No one knows who the Son is except the Father." So what God the Father must reveal is the true spiritual identity of the Son.

So when the 70 disciples return from their evangelistic mission and give their report to Jesus, he and the Holy Spirit rejoice that God the Father has chosen, according to his own good pleasure, whose eyes he would open to the spiritual reality of his Son (cf. v. 23). They are glad that God has taken the initiative to choose a people for himself, and that it depends ultimately on the good pleasure of God.

God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are so bent on exalting God the Father that they rejoice when he exerts his wisdom and power and grace to choose a people for himself in a way that will confound all the man-centered expectations of the world. The wise are passed over in their pride and the babes, the unlikely, the helpless, are surprised with divine favor.

The tables are turned from what the world expects. The wisdom of man is put down. And the freedom of God's grace is exalted when the prime candidates of the world are

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# L'Abri Symphony Orchestra

Since 1992, the L'Abri Symphony Orchestra has grown from a 25 person String ensemble to a symphonic orchestra performing in one of the finest Convention facilities in North Georgia, the Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center, Dalton, Georgia.

The L'Abri Symphony Orchestra's beginnings can be traced to the fall of 1992, when Gene and Betty Lindauere, founders, began teaching strings, brass, woodwinds, percussion and piano at the L'Abri Academy of Fine Arts in Dalton, Georgia. The L'Abri Academy of Fine Arts was organized by Dr. Ron McKinney which emphasized a Christian World and Life view in the Arts. Mr. Lindauere was an orchestra conductor and teacher from Maryland and had taught over 6,000 students violin, viola and cello. The orchestra was under the direction of Gene Lindauere until 2002 when Tracy Coats took the baton.

Under the direction of Tracy Coats the orchestra moved to the Colonnade, the theatre and convention center in the Catoosa County Civic Center. During Ms. Coats tenure, the symphony grew and performed several concerts each year. The orchestra has now returned to its roots and has moved to the Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center.

The symphony is an entirely volunteer organization which crosses generations



and skill levels. A core of professional musicians, many of them music teachers, guide and mentor the amateur and student members, who range in age from mid-teens to senior citizens. No fees are charged, so even those who are struggling financially can participate, learn, and nurture their love of music.

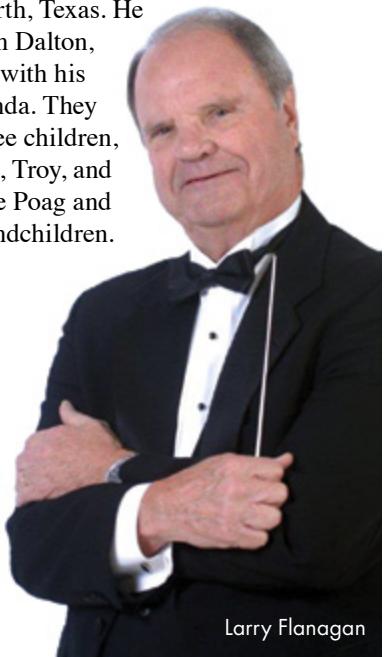
L'Abri is a faith-based orchestra that provides opportunities for area musicians to come together to play, learn, and grow in musicianship and to bring the orchestral experience to Dalton and Northwest Georgia.

The L'Abri Board of Directors has announced that Rev. Larry Flanagan will begin his tenure as music conductor in the fall of 2012. Mr. Flanagan spent 47 years as a Music Minister in churches in Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia, including 30 years as Minister of Music at First Baptist Church of Dalton, Georgia, until his retirement in 2009.

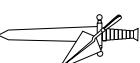
Larry Flanagan graduated from Belmont University, Nashville, Tennessee, in Music Education and continued his graduate studies in the School of Church Music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He resides in Dalton, Georgia with his wife, Linda. They have three children, Larry Jr., Troy, and Bridgette Poag and four grandchildren.



Seated: Shashank Gairola (left), General Manager of the Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center, and Alan Wells, President, L'Abri Symphony Orchestra signing contract with the Convention Center for L'Abri to be the resident orchestra. Standing from left are Board Members: Gene Lindauere, Jim Burdick, Ron McKinney, Betty Lindauere, Bob Shiflett, Cindy Shiflett, Glenda Rizer and John McDonald.



Larry Flanagan



# Tribute to Pastor Don McKinney

John G. Reisinger

March 20, 2009, a “prince in the house of Israel” crossed the river from which there is no return and entered the eternal land of Beulah. Don McKinney, a fellow laborer in the Gospel, as well as a dear personal friend, died last month. He was deeply loved and respected for his effective ministry as well as his personal godliness. I knew him for forty years and learned much from him. I would like to write a book titled, “Great Christians I Have known.” Don would be among those at the top of the list.

When I remember Don I think of the three men who were described as “David’s mighty men.” They are mentioned in II Samuel 23:8-12.

*8 These are the names of David's mighty men: Josheb-Basshebeth, a Takhemonite, was chief of the Three; he raised his spear against eight hundred men, whom he killed in one encounter.*

*9 Next to him was Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite. As one of the three mighty men, he was with David when they taunted the Philistines gathered at Pas Dammie for battle. Then the men of Israel retreated, 10 but he stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day. The troops returned to Eleazar, but only to strip the dead.*



Don McKinney (left) and John Reisinger, the original editor of *Sword & Trowel* and *Sound of Grace*.

*11 Next to him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. When the Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field full of lentils, Israel's troops fled from them.*

*12 But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field. He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the LORD brought about a great victory.*

The first mighty man, Josheb-Basshebeth, “raised his spear,” meaning he took the initiative, and fought and killed 800 men. Every one would have told him he was mad for taking on so many enemies at one time. But Josheb was not a man who played by percentages. He did what was right and necessary regardless of the cost or risk. One of our greater David’s men, Don McKinney, was like that. I do not know a single Christian who so willingly paid such a high price to fight for the truth of God’s sovereign grace as Don.

The second of David’s mighty men was Eleazar. Israel was confronted by the Philistines and they fled in fear. Eleazar was the one exception. He stood his ground and fought like a man till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword. One of the things that marked Don’s life and ministry was his determination to hold on to the sword of the Spirit as tightly as he could. When God showed him something in His Word, Don held on to it for dear life. On the night he was being tried for heresy for preaching sovereign grace he said, “I would rather push a fruit cart down the middle of Main street and sell bananas for five cents apiece, than I would deny that I owe all my salvation to the sovereign election of God’s grace.” He lost friends by taking an unpopular position when “that is what it says in the Book.” He had an uncompromising commitment to the truth of God’s word. The Bible stuck to him as if it grew there.

The third of David’s men was Shammah. Again Israel’s army was confronted by the Philistines in a lentil field. Again Israel fled in fear but Shammah planted himself in the middle of the field and fought and defeated the Philistines. I am sure



Don McKinney preached the Gospel for 70 years. He founded Heritage Baptist Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where he preached from 1970-2009.

many folks told Shammah, “it was only a lentil field. There are far more strategic places to defend.” Shammah would have said, “It is not just a lentil field, it is God’s lentil field!” Brother McKinney was jealous for all that belonged to God. What he did for His Lord was always first class. There were never any small things that could be neglected or skipped over. If God said something in His word, that was the end of the argument. Do it!

Don will be greatly missed even as his ministry lives on in many ways. The “living epistles” that this mighty man leaves behind will continue to demonstrate what true greatness is in the sight of God. He will forever be an inspiration to me as a Christian, a teacher, and a pastor. I bless God for the privilege and joy of knowing him and ministering the Gospel of sovereign grace with him.

# Reckless Abandon

continued from page 7

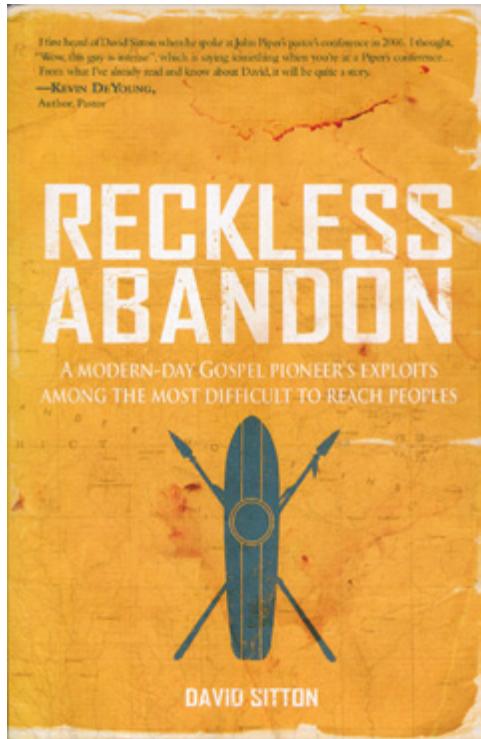
*Reckless Abandon*, available in paperback, inspires Christians to live with “reckless abandon.” I would encourage you to order a copy and be prepared to have your life challenged and changed.

David Sitton and his wife, Tommi, founded **To Every Tribe Ministries** where he currently serves as president. ([www.toeverytribe.com](http://www.toeverytribe.com)) *Reckless Abandon* is available online and in stores now.

#### Learn more at

[www.recklessabandonthebook.com](http://www.recklessabandonthebook.com)

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*Full Assurance*

Not saved are we by trying,  
From self can come no aid;  
'Tis on the blood relying,  
Once for our ransom paid.  
'Tis looking unto Jesus,  
The Holy One and just;  
'Tis His great work that saves us—  
It is not try, but trust!

No deeds of ours are needed  
To make Christ's merit more;  
No frames of mind or feelings,  
Can add to His great store;  
'Tis simply to receive Him,  
The Holy One and just;  
'Tis only to believe Him—  
It is not try, but trust!

—Anonymous

# Election

continued from page 15

passed over and God surprises everyone with his choice of the babes. This is what make Jesus and the Holy Spirit rejoice—the humbling of human pride and the exaltation of God's freedom and grace.

#### God's Two Goals in Election

This is exactly what Paul focuses on when he describes God's election in forming the church in 1 Corinthians 1:26–31. As I read it, listen for this: what is being opposed and what is being promoted in the election described in these verses?

Consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise [!] according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; but God chose [election!] what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption; therefore, as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord.”

The thought here is similar to the thought in Luke 10:21. God chooses freely who will belong to his people. And he chooses in such a way as to accomplish two things, which are really two sides of the same coin. In verse 29 the goal of election is “that no human being might boast in the presence of God.” The goal of God in election is the elimination of all human pride, all self-reliance, all boasting in man.

And the second goal of God in election, the other side of the coin, is given in verse

31: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.” In other words, take all boasting off of man and focus all boasting on God. Humble man and exalt Christ. Make man see his utter dependence on God's mercy and magnify the glory of free grace. That's why God has pleasure in election—it magnifies his name!

#### The Most Precious Act of Love in the Universe

But note this well! Those of you who know that you are sinners and ungodly and weak and helpless to save yourselves and yet have seen in Jesus an all-sufficient Savior, and by the grace of God have been drawn to cast your life on him and hope in him and follow him—you will count the electing grace of God as the most precious act of love in all the universe.

And you will say with the apostle Paul in Romans 8: “Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? . . . Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”



By John Piper.  
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# Quotes

God had an only son and he was a missionary. A poor, poor example of him I am. But in this work I now live. And in this work, I wish to die.

**David Livingstone,  
1813-1873, Missionary to Africa**

Remember, when you see a missionary coming home broken in body and weary in soul, it isn't the privations or dangers or things he's done that leave a deep hurt; it's the things he couldn't do that break his heart.

**Anonymous Missionary**

I have seen, at different times, the smoke of a thousand villages - Villages whose people are without Christ, without God, and without hope in the world.

**Robert Moffat, 1795-1883  
Pioneer Missionary to South Africa**

We do not truly understand the gospel if we spend all of our time preaching it to Christians. The gospel is a missionary gospel. It is a communication of Good News to people and in places where the name of Christ is unknown.

**David Sitton,  
President of To Every Tribe**

I know enough about Satan to realize that he will have all his weapons ready for determined opposition. He would be a missionary simpleton who expected plain sailing in any work of God.

**James O. Fraser, 1886-1938,  
Missionary to China**

At the moment when I put the bread and wine into those dark hands, once stained with the blood of cannibalism, but now stretched out to receive and partake the emblems of the Redeemer's love, I had a foretaste of the joy of Glory that well nigh broke my heart to pieces. I shall never taste a deeper bliss till I gaze on the glorified face of Jesus Himself.

**John G. Paton, 1824-1907,  
Pioneer Missionary to New Hebrides**

\* It is high time to make known the glad tidings in these dark regions of sin and spiritual bondage.

**Samuel Marsden, 1764-1838,  
Missionary to Australia**

I never made a sacrifice. Of this we ought not to talk when we remember the great sacrifice which he made who left His Father's throne on high to give Himself for us.

**David Livingstone, 1813-1873,  
Missionary to Africa**

When I get to Heaven they aren't going to see much of me but my heels, for I'll be hanging over the golden wall keeping an eye on the Lisu Church!

**Isobel Kuhn, 1901-1957,  
Missionary to China**

There is no neutral ground in the universe. Every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan.

**C.S. Lewis**

If we are going to wait until every possible hindrance has been removed before we do a work for the Lord, we will never attempt to do anything. \*

**T.J. Bach, 1881-1963,  
Missionary to Venezuela**

I like men whose vision carries them far beyond their own horizons.

**Kenneth Strachan, 1910-1965,  
Costa Rica**

It is remarkable that God began this work among the Indians at a time when I had the least hope, and to my apprehension the least rational prospect of success.

**David Brainerd, 1718-1747,  
Missionary to North American Indians**

The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It never needs a furlough and is never considered a foreigner.

**William Cameron Townsend, 1896-1982,  
Missionary to Peru and Mexico**

We are a bunch of nobodies trying to exalt Somebody.

**Jim Elliot, 1927-1956,  
Missionary martyr in Ecuador**

There are grave difficulties on every hand, and more are looming ahead - Therefore, we must go forward.

**William Carey, 1761-1834,  
Missionary to India**

What we need to be assured of is not that we possess an excellent system of doctrine and ritual, but that the gift of the Holy Spirit is a reality.

**Roland Allen, 1868-1947,  
Missionary to China**

We dare not go on awakening interest in the gospel unless somehow we can nourish and preserve the results.

**Clarence W. Jones, 1900-1986,  
Missionary to Ecuador**

Every step in the progress of missions is directly traceable to prayer.

**A.T. Pierson**

I do not know how to make a man think seriously about sin and judgment, and must look to the work of the Holy Spirit for any hint of such a working.

**Jim Elliot, 1927-1956,  
Missionary martyr in Ecuador**

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him"

**- John Piper**

"If you don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because you have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because you have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Your soul is stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great."

**- John Piper, A Hunger For God**

"If you live gladly to make others glad in God, your life will be hard, your risks will be high, and your joy will be full."

**- John Piper,  
Don't Waste Your Life Study Guide**

"Fight for us, O God, that we not drift numb and blind and foolish into vain and empty excitements. Life is too short, too precious, too painful to waste on worldly bubbles that burst. Heaven is too great, hell is too horrible, eternity is too long that we should putter around on the porch of eternity."

**- John Piper**

"The strength of patience hangs on our capacity to believe that God is up to something good for us in all our delays and detours."

**- John Piper,  
Battling Unbelief: Defeating Sin with Superior Pleasure**

"Christ did not die to forgive sinners who go on treasuring anything above seeing and savoring God. And people who would be happy in heaven if Christ were not there, will not be there. The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. It's a way of overcoming every obstacle to everlasting joy in God. If we don't want God above all things, we have not been converted by the gospel."

**- John Piper,  
God Is the Gospel:  
Meditations on God's Love as the Gift of Himself**

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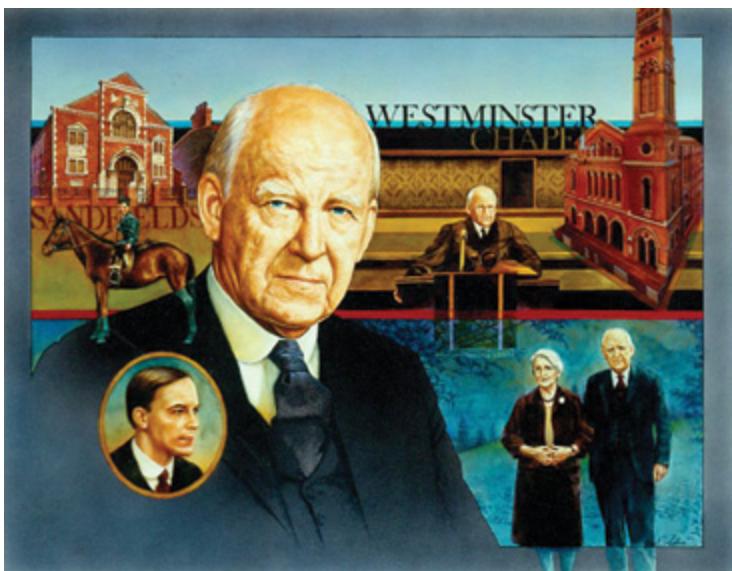
## **Martin Luther**

Martin Luther's Evangelical Discovery. The demands of study for academic degrees and preparation for delivering lectures drove Martin Luther to study the Scriptures in depth. Luther immersed himself in the teachings of the Scripture and the early church. Slowly, terms like penance and righteousness took on new meaning. The controversy that broke loose with the publication of his 95 Theses placed even more pressure on the reformer to study the Bible. This study convinced him that the Church had lost sight of several central truths. To Luther, the most important of these was the doctrine that brought him peace with God. With joy, Luther now believed and taught that salvation is a gift of God's grace.



## **C.H. Spurgeon**

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-92) was England's best-known preacher for most of the second half of the nineteenth century. In 1854, just four years after his conversion, Spurgeon, then only 20, became pastor of London's famed New Park Street Church (formerly pastored by the famous Baptist theologian John Gill). The congregation quickly outgrew their building, moved to Exeter Hall, then to Surrey Music Hall. In these venues Spurgeon frequently preached to audiences numbering more than 10,000 - all in the days before electronic amplification. In 1861 the congregation moved permanently to the newly constructed Metropolitan Tabernacle. From <http://www.spurgeon.org/aboutsp.htm>



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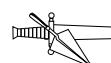
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## Dark Knight

continued from page 6

are surrounded by a complex of laws and statutes and social expectations and civic associations. All these function to restrain evil.

At the foundation of these restraints is the fear of God, which, even in an increasingly secular society, still retains a more powerful force than is often acknowledged.

### Evil Answered at the Cross

Third, we must admit that there will be no fully satisfying answer to these questions in this life. Christians know that God is sovereign, and that nothing is outside of his control. We also know that he allows evil to exist, and human beings to commit moral atrocities. We cannot allow the sovereignty of God to be denied and evil allowed its independent existence. Nor can we deny the reality of evil and the horror of its threat to be lessened. We are reminded that evil can be answered only by a cross.

### Theologian Henri Blocher explains this truth vividly in these words:

"Evil is conquered as evil because God turns it back upon itself. He makes the supreme crime, the murder of the only righteous person, the very operation that abolishes sin. The maneuver is utterly unprecedented. No more complete victory could be imagined. God responds in the indirect way that is perfectly suited to the ambiguity of evil. He entraps the deceiver in his own wiles. Evil, like a judoist, takes advantage of the power of good, which it perverts; the Lord, like a supreme champion, replies by using the very grip of the opponent."

We must grieve with those who grieve. We must pray for Gospel churches in the Denver area who will be called upon for urgent ministry. We must pray for our nation and communities. And we must pray that God will guard ourselves from evil — especially our own evil. And we must point to the cross. What other answer can we give?

## Mitchell Lynn

continued from page 9

KDBC on Monday nights. She began coming to church in Dalton even though it was an hour away because she believed the "Doctrines of Grace" (She had read Dr. David Martyn Lloyd-Jones). When Mitchell was in 7th grade he started coming with her on alternate Sundays. Jewel was faithful to teach Mitchell about the sovereignty of God and he believed salvation is by Christ alone.

In an interview with Mitchell, he said, "I know that it is all of God. God has to save you. It's not your choice but God's." Since he could drive as a Junior in high school, he continued to come, now bringing his grandmother with him.

He is now a freshman at the University of Georgia and will study medicine with undergrad study in Bio-chemistry. His last words to me at a fellowship gathering were, "Pastor Ron, please find me a good church to attend while I am at Georgia." How many 18-year-old freshman in college are interested in expository preaching and attending church as a priority? "May the Lord go with you, Mitchell."

## Quotes

*Teaching theology to a heathen will not bring him to faith in Christ. He may learn the evangelical vocabulary and verbally affirm the truth. He may accept the truth of a list of gospel facts. But without a divine miracle to open his blind eyes and give him a new heart, he will only be a theologically informed pagan, not a Christian. ~ John MacArthur*

*"All our infirmities, whatever they are, are just opportunities for God to display His gracious work in us." ~ Charles Spurgeon*

*"All that God has to do to harden people's hearts is to remove the restraints. He gives them a longer leash. Rather than restricting their human freedom, He increases it. He lets them have their own way . . . It is not that God puts His hand on them to create fresh evil in their hearts; He merely removes His holy hand of restraint from them and lets them do their own will" ~ (Sproul, Chosen By God , 145).*

## Beware: The Bible Is About to Threaten Your Smartphone Focus

By John Piper

Are apps a threat to God-focus? Yes. But it works both ways. Fight fire with fire.

If you are reading your Bible on your computer or your smartphone or your iPad, the presence of the email app and the news apps and the Facebook app threaten every moment to drag your attention away from the word of God.

True. Fight that. If your finger offends you, cut it off. Or use any other virtuous violence (Matthew 11:12) that sets you free to rivet your soul on God.

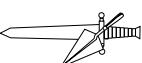
But don't take mainly a defensive posture. Fight fire with fire.

Why should we think of the Facebook app threatening the Bible app? Why not the Bible app threatening the Facebook app, and the email app, and the RSS feeder, and the news?

Resolve that today you will press the Bible app three times during the day. No five times. Ten times! Maybe you will lose control and become addicted to Bible! Again and again get a two-minute dose of life-giving Food. Man shall not live by Facebook alone.

I'm serious. Never has God's voice been so easily accessible. The ESV app is free. The OliveTree BibleReader app is free. And so are lots of others. Let the Bible threaten your focus. Or better: Let the Bible bring you back to reality over and over during the day.

John Piper (@JohnPiper) is the Pastor for Preaching and Vision at Bethlehem Baptist Church (Minneapolis, MN) and the founder of Desiring God.



# What Our Family Lives For



A J and Ruth Gibson with children (from left) Christian, Jonathan, Katelyn, and Hudson. A J Gibson is the Field Director for Mexico with To Every Tribe Ministries. His family will be based in Oaxaca, Mexico. Contact: aj@toeverytribe.com

We live to love and enjoy Jesus...  
Jesus is our Treasure

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." – John 14:21

We live to obey and follow  
Jesus... Jesus is our King

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." – Matthew 28:19

We live to humbly serve others...  
Jesus is our Master

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." – John 13:14

We live to love and forgive  
others... Jesus is our Savior

"A new commandment I give unto you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." – John 13:34

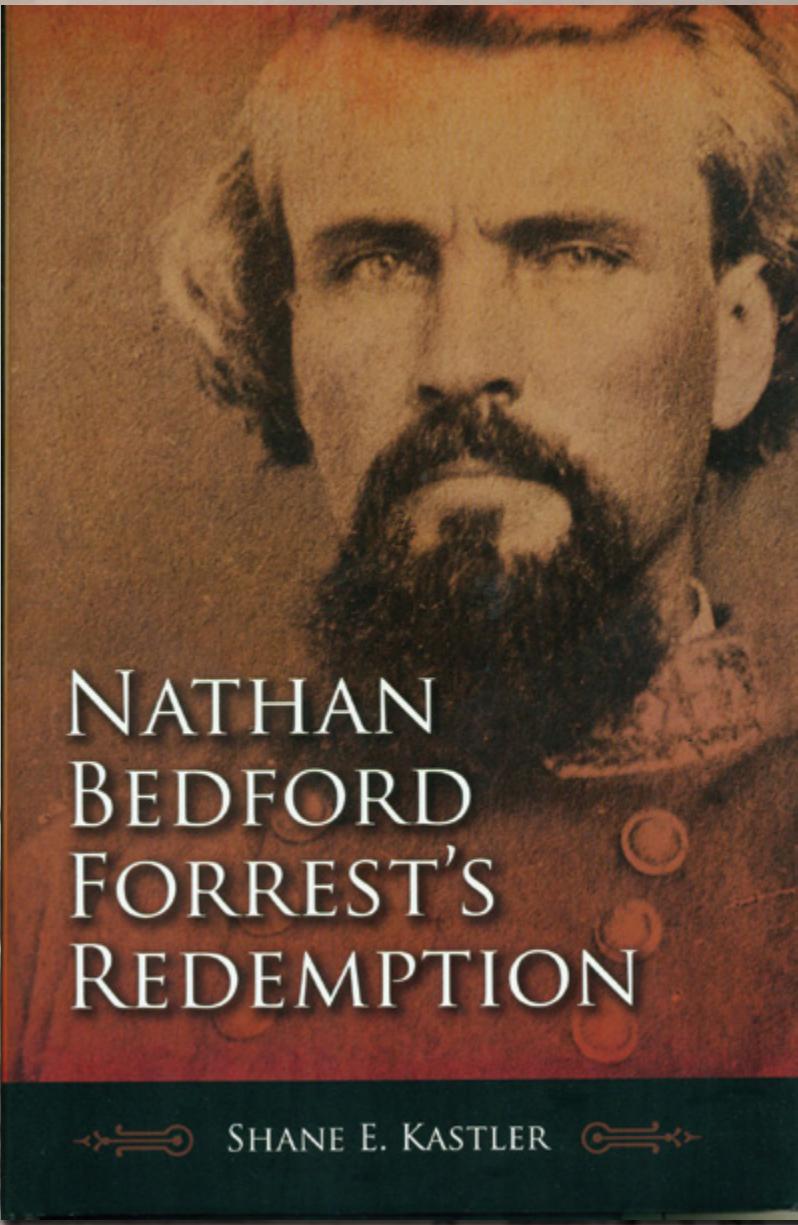
We live to be more holy like  
Jesus... Jesus is our Example

"For those God foreknew he also predestinated to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." – Romans 8:29

We live to make Jesus famous...  
Jesus is our Hero

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." – 1 Corinthians 10:31





Books are available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Books-a-million and Pelican Publishing. Retail price is \$23 but may be purchased at a discount from some distributors.

Famously referred to as “that Devil” by Union general William T. Sherman, Nathan Bedford Forrest is remembered by history as a fearsome yet skilled Confederate leader whose reputation has been marred by accusations of cold-blooded murder and racism. However, many may be surprised to know that the former slave trader and early member of the Ku Klux Klan eventually dedicated his life to God and became a staunch advocate for African Americans. This spiritual biography follows Forrest from his childhood through his conversion to Christianity in 1875, revealing a humble side of the enigmatic historical figure. Focusing on the roles various individuals played in bringing the former general to Christ, details on Forrest’s final years document his radical transformation from a ruthless warrior to a pious Christian.

“If all you know about Nathan Bedford Forrest is that he was ‘first with the most,’ you don’t know the real Forrest; you need to read this book.” -Michael R. Bradley, author, *Nathan Bedford Forrest’s Escort and Staff*

“This description of redemption shows that even the worst of sinners can be changed into trophies of God’s grace.” -Rob Gallion, pastor, First Baptist Church, Ridgway, Illinois

“A must-read for those seeking redemption or for those who have found it. This book will take you on a journey that only the grace of God can give.” -Travis Yates, director, Ten-Four Ministries

### The Author is Shane Kastler

I serve as Pastor of Heritage Baptist Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana. I was ordained as a Southern Baptist minister and graduated from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity) and Northeastern State University (Bachelor of Business Admin.). I co-host the radio program “Church & State” every Thursday on KELB radio in Lake Charles, and I write a weekly newspaper column for the “Linn County News” of Pleasanton, KS. My wife Erin and I have 3 children: Andrew, Savannah, & Karissa, whom we homeschooled.

