



Light of Faith

Faith Baptist Church of Godfrey, IL

FROM THE TOP

by Pastor Tom Olney



While recently cleaning out my office drawer, I ran across a little article by the old Puritan, Richard Baxter. I read it and remembered why I clipped it. It was so good, I had thought to commit it to memory, that I might quote it and periodically contemplate its profound truth. I have many good intentions, but I did find it, and now pass it on to you to consider and remember well:

“It is a most lamentable thing to see how most people spend their time and energy for trifles, while God is cast aside. He who is all seems to them as nothing, and that which is nothing seems to them as good as all. It is lamentable indeed, knowing that God has set mankind in such a race where heaven or hell is their certain end, that they should sit down and loiter, or run after the childish toys of the world, forgetting the prize they should run for. Were it but possible for one of us to see this business as the all-seeing God does, and see what most men and women in the world are interested in and what they are doing every day, it would be the saddest sight imaginable. Oh, how we should marvel at their madness and lament their self delusion! If God had never told them what they were sent into the world to do, or what was before them in another world, then there would have been some excuse. But it is His sealed word, and they profess to believe it.”



—Richard Baxter

THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

by Mr. Jerry Fair, Administrator



I would like to share with you the tract that one of our seventh graders, Michael Vaughn, wrote by himself this past summer. He called it, *"It's All Part of God's Plan."*



On July 18, 2011, I was just a normal twelve year old boy. I loved sports, hunting, hanging out with friends, being the oldest of five kids, and the idea of starting 7th grade in a few weeks.

On July 19th, everything changed. I'd been too tired, worn out, and pale, so I went to my doctor and within hours was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. More tests showed that I have a rare form of leukemia, the

Philadelphia Chromosome, which is more aggressive and dangerous. I've been in the hospital a lot since then having chemotherapy to try to stop this cancer and save my life.

I guess I could get upset about having cancer, but I'm OK with it. *It's all part of God's plan.* I believe that God made me and has a plan for my life. I know that He loves me, so I know that His plan for me will be the very best one. He's already given me the greatest gift of salvation and eternal life in heaven, so I can trust Him with my life here on earth.

My salvation is important to me. If I weren't sure that I would go to heaven when I died, then surprises like cancer would really be scary. I know that as long as I am alive and willing God is going to use me. Maybe God's plan for my cancer is that I will be able to tell you about my salvation.

First I had to **agree**: 1) I am a sinner (For all have sinned. Romans 3:23). 2) Sin is punished. (The wages of sin is death. Romans 6:23). 3) I can't save myself. (Not by works... we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us. Titus 3:5). Then I had to **believe**: Jesus Christ, God's Son, paid for my punishment and can be my Savior. (While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8). Finally I had to **confess**: I tell God what I believe. (If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9). I accepted Jesus as my Savior, and I will be praying that you will, too.

The doctors said it would be a miracle if Michael's blood count would go up very quickly after receiving a bone marrow transplant from Timothy, his younger brother. Well, God performed a miracle in quickly raising his blood count to where he got to go home several weeks early. So far his reports have continued to be good. To God, be the glory.

Dates to Note

FEBRUARY 3-4

Mississippi Valley

Basketball Tournament

Every year we begin this wintry month with games to warm us up! Nothing quite like the excitement of seven or eight teams all giving their best at dropping that ball through the hoop! Great family time of fun, food, and fellowship! Plan now!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Adult Valentine Banquet

The first part of our "Family and Home" weekend begins with a catered Valentine supper and a Bible challenge from our weekend guest speaker, Pastor Richard Callahan from Archdale, NC. A special evening, it begins at 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

"Family & Home Day"

Continuing our Family and Home weekend the blessing will be yours in the 9:00 a.m. split session of ladies with Mrs. Callahan and the men with Pastor Callahan. All services will all be centered on strengthening the home and family.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

"Go Ye Into All the World"

Our friend and missionary, Matt Barfield of International Partnership Missions will be speaking in all three services.

SEPTEMBER 16-21

Evangelist Will Rice

LIGHT OF FAITH

by Pastor Brent Van Sickle, Youth & Assistant Pastor



Have you ever played the game “telephone?” It is a game in which you get a whole string of people together and the first person in line whispers a sentence to the next person in line. This is repeated from one person to the next until the last person in line tells the whole group the phrase as he perceived it. It is amazing how much can be lost from what the first person says until the last person. “Telephone” is a humorous game, but really underlines a very

real problem in communication: misunderstandings. When any person converses, writes, emails, texts, IM’s, etc. another person, their goal is to communicate one meaning. You want to be understood; you don’t want people to “put words in your mouth” or alter what you have said.

Don’t you think God is the same way with His Word? Didn’t He communicate His Word through holy men under the Spirit’s inspiration to write at specific times to particular people with one meaning to convey? If so, shouldn’t we really toil to become as skilled as possible at figuring out what God has said? Here are some tips to help you become a better interpreter of the Bible.

1. Pray and ask the Spirit to teach you His Word.
2. Don’t ignore the context (surrounding verses, chapters, etc.)
3. Find the AIM (author intended meaning)
4. Interpret what you read literally unless there are clues in the text to lead you otherwise.
5. Ask questions of the text you are reading: who, what, where, why, when, how?
6. Realize that the Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
7. Use helps such as commentaries, dictionaries, word studies, etc.
8. Compare Scripture to Scripture (let clear passages help interpret more difficult passages).
9. Compare everything you are taught with the Bible.

Message of the New Year

I asked the New Year for some motto sweet,
Some rule of life with which to guide my feet;
I asked and paused; he answered soft and low;
“God’s will to know.”
Will knowledge then suffice, New Year?” I cried;
And, ere the question into silence died,
The answer came: “Nay, but remember, too,
“God’s will to do.”
Once more I asked, “Is there no more to tell?”
And once again the answer sweetly fell;
“Yes! this one thing, all other things above,
“God’s will to love.”
—Anonymous

What’s Happening

JANUARY

1	New Year’s Day (10:00 a.m. service only)
3	School resumes
5	Ladies’ Bible Time resumes
6	MVCS Homecoming Game
7	MVCS Homecoming Banquet
8	Lord’s Table, 7:00 p.m.
16	No School, MVCS
21	Youth Rally, Columbia, MO
29	Youth Night & SNAC
30	MVCS Spirit Week

FEBRUARY

3–4	MVCS Invitational Tournament
11	Valentine Banquet Guest Speaker, Pastor Richard Callahan
12	Family & Home Sunday ~Pastor & Mrs. Richard Callahan~
19	Men of Valor/Ladies for Christ Youth SNAC
20	No School, MVCS
26	Youth Night

MARCH

3	Men’s Prayer Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Golden Corral
4	Kite Sunday
5–9	MVCS Early Registration Week
9	Half-Day School, MVCS
11	Missionary Curt Young Sunday School & Morning Church
16	No School, MVCS
18	Matt Barfield Sunday
19–23	Spring Break, MVCS
24	Ladies’ Prayer Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Church
25	Youth Night
30	Athletic Banquet

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Pastor Tom Olney

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Got a Minute, Ladies?

by Lee Olney



A question to ponder...

Why-ever would we who have entrusted our souls to the care of the Lord Jesus—the Everlasting Father—find ourselves entertaining even a *drop* of worry and fretting? It is like a little child who jumps with utter trust from a high place into her father’s waiting arms, but in teen years, shies away from her parents’ biblically-based advice, believing her thinking to be wiser than their “obsolete” notions. Why is it difficult to settle and rest comfortably in the *truth* that the God of the Bible, the Creator, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords is able to do “*exceeding above all that we ask or think*” and is worthy of our trust? Is it safe to trust God in everything? Does God know the beginning from the end and all that is in between? Does He have our times and those of our loved ones in His hand? Either He does...or He doesn’t.

May I share with you a jotted-down list of “everlastings” from God’s Word that I have found to be *exceedingly* satisfying and consoling?

“everlasting kindness,” Isa. 55:18

“everlasting arms,” Deut. 13:27

“everlasting joy,” Is. 51:11; 61:7

“everlasting mercy,” Ps. 103:17

“everlasting love,” Jer. 31:3

“everlasting light,” Isa. 60:20

“everlasting life,” Dan. 12:2; John 3:16, 4:14, 5:24, 6:40; Matt. 19:29; Gal. 6:8.

“everlasting kingdom,” II Pet. 1:11

“everlasting strength,” Isa. 6:4

“everlasting consolation,” II Thess. 2:16

“everlasting foundation,” Prov. 10:25

“everlasting priesthood,” Ex. 40:15

“everlasting gospel,” Rev. 14:6

Vine’s Expository Dictionary defines “eternal” and “everlasting” saying, “While *aiionios* (eternal) negatives the end either of a space of time or of unmeasured time, and is used chiefly where something future is spoken of, *aidios* (everlasting) excludes interruption and lays stress upon permanence and unchangeableness,” (underlining added). Philippians 4:4-7 just lights up, blinking off-and-on with joy at that blessed bit of information! Ladies, it is safe to trust the Lord, come what may.

to be sure of Heaven

1. Acknowledge to yourself and to God that you have sinned and deserve the penalty of death.
“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Rom. 3:23)
“There is none righteous, no, not one.” (Rom. 3:10)
2. In sorrow for your sins, turn from them to God and ask His forgiveness.
“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” (Isa. 55:7)
3. By faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, believing that he died in your place on the cross of Calvary.
“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Weekly Services

Sunday

Bible Study Hour 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.