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Dr. Fred A. Malone, Pastor

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“Who is on the Lord’s Side?”

by Frances R. Havergal

“Offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body as instruments of righteousness...” Rom. 6:13

As Christians, we are to take our place in God’s army and not be ashamed to be counted as one of His. Believers are too often content to sit on the sidelines and merely observe the spectacle. The work of the gospel, inviting individuals to be personally reconciled with God, is an urgent task, not a spectator sport. It demands our whole-hearted, zealous involvement.

This militant hymn text by Frances R. Havergal was originally entitled “Home Missions,” and was written in October 1877. It was based on the Scripture setting in I Chronicles 12:1-8, where a very select group of soldiers was preparing to join King David in warfare against the enemy. The poem later appeared in *Loyal Responses*, published by the author in 1878. “Who is on the Lord’s Side?” has been used for more than a century to challenge Christians to make a definite commitment to follow Christ in spiritual warfare.

*Who is on the Lord’s side? Who will serve the King?
Who will be His helpers, other lives to bring?
Who will leave the world’s side? Who will face the foe?
Who is on the Lord’s side? Who for Him will go?
By Thy call of mercy, by Thy grace divine,
we are on the Lord’s side - Savior, we are thine!*

*Not for weight of glory, not for crown and palm,
enter we the army, raise the warrior psalm;
But for Love that claimeth lives for whom He died:
he whom Jesus nameth must be on His side!
By Thy love constraining, by Thy grace divine,
we are on the Lord’s side – Savior, we are thine!*

*Jesus, Thou hast bought us, not with gold or gem,
but with Thine own lifeblood, for Thy diadem;
With Thy blessing filling each who comes to Thee,
Thou hast made us willing, Thou hast made us free.
By Thy grand redemption, by Thy grace divine,
we are on the Lord’s side – Savior, we are thine!*

*Fierce may be the conflict, strong may be the foe,
but the King’s own army none can overthrow!
Round His standard ranging, vict’ry is secure,
for His truth unchanging makes the triumph sure.
Joyfully enlisting, by Thy grace divine,
we are on the Lord’s side – Savior, we are thine!*

[information taken from *Amazing Grace* by Kenneth W. Osbeck]



FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

Traditions -- Good and Bad

Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Col 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

Col 2:10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

1. Everyone has a tradition. The word comes from the Latin, meaning "handing over, passing on." Families, churches, workplaces, schools, all have traditions, beliefs, customary ways of acting. We are affected in our behavior by our traditions far more than we know or recognize. Everyone has traditions.

Jesus criticized the Pharisees because they had a way of neglecting the commandments of God by their traditions. They found a way not to honor their parents by inventing a tradition to dedicate such money to God, then later revoking their pledge to use it for themselves instead of their parents:

Mar 7:8 "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

Mar 7:9 He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition."

When even religious traditions violate God's commandments, we have sinned against Him.

Paul warned in Col. 3:8 that the unbelieving world has traditions held sacredly. Political correctness in our culture threatens what pastors say about sin in the pulpit, as well as Christians in their personal witness at work and school. The world has traditions of no absolute morality, the end justifies the means, suggestive dress, drunkenness, pre-marital sex, filthy humor, cursing, grumbling, racial hatred, etc. But Paul warns us not to be taken captive by worldly philosophies of men.

Families have traditions learned for generations such as outbursts of anger, harsh criticism, unwillingness to forgive, unwillingness to apologize, yelling, ridicule, sarcasm, godless humor, pride, wasteful spending, harsh discipline of children, no discipline of children, and a thousand other things. Workplaces have traditions of cursing, sexual jokes, complaining, and laziness. Churches have traditions of

"that's the way we have always done it", gossip, slandering, and a critical spirit.

Everyone has a tradition. But Jesus and Paul tell us that man-made traditions must be overcome by Christians if they wish to follow Christ and His teachings. We are called to examine everything and every area of our lives as Christians and honestly ask questions: "Am I obeying the commandments of God in every area? My speech, my thoughts, my decisions, my spending, my time, my family behavior, my workplace and school-place behavior?" When you become a Christian, you are forsaking man-made tradition and creating a new culture, a new tradition in Christ. Is it so with you?

2. God has a tradition. Jesus said it was His gospel of grace and God's commandments. Paul said it was His Christ-centered teaching of submitting to Christ and obeying His commandments.

God has spoken. He has not stuttered. All Christians are to reconstruct their lives by His truth. This means that we have to quit living according to any bad traditions inherited from our family's behavior, our co-workers' behavior, other students' behavior, even other Christians' bad behavior.

God made Adam and Eve to love God with all their heart and their neighbor as themselves. That was to be the human tradition. We now know that this love is further defined by the 10 Commandments (Rom. 13:8-10). Christians are called to reclaim the human soul as it was meant to be, to resist the world's traditions, to recapture their own souls for the holy commandments of God, and to put on a Christ-like culture of love and grace. And we are to model and teach this before our children.

So what tradition are you following? Is there any area of life wherein you are "becoming expert" at ignoring the commandments of God to follow your own traditions? Are you neglecting any commandment of God by following your traditional way of doing things?

If so, you need to repent of sin, of ignoring God and His Word, and of justifying your sin because "that's the way I am," or, "that's the way I was taught." Jesus Christ came to destroy the traditions of men and set up the tradition of God. Look to Him in everything and bring glory and honor to Him in the way you live. For He said: "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments (John 14:15)." That's our new tradition!

--Pastor Fred

2Th 2:15 So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.

From Spurgeon's Morning and Evening

"And be not conformed to this world" Romans 12:2

If a Christian can by possibility be saved while he conforms to this world, at any rate it must be so as by fire. Such a bare salvation is almost as much to be dreaded as desired. Reader, would you wish to leave this world in the darkness of a desponding death bed, and enter heaven as a shipwrecked mariner climbs the rocks of his native country? then be worldly; be mixed up with Mammonites, and refuse to go without the camp bearing Christ's reproach. But would you have a heaven below as well as a heaven above? Would you comprehend with all saints what are the heights and depths, and know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge? Would you receive an abundant entrance into the joy of your Lord? Then come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean thing. Would you attain the full assurance of faith? you cannot gain it while you commune with sinners. Would you flame with vehement love? your love will be damped by the drenchings of godless society. You cannot become a great Christian-you may be a babe in grace, but you never can be a perfect man in Christ Jesus while you yield yourself to the worldly maxims and modes of business of men of the world. It is ill for an heir of heaven to be a great friend with the heirs of hell. It has a bad look when a courtier is too intimate with his king's enemies. Even small inconsistencies are dangerous. Little thorns make great blisters, little moths destroy fine garments, and little frivolities and little rogueries will rob religion of a thousand joys. O professor, too little separated from sinners, you know not what you lose by your conformity to the world. It cuts the tendons of your strength, and makes you creep where you ought to run. Then, for your own comfort's sake, and for the sake of your growth in grace, if you be a Christian, be a Christian, and be a marked and distinct one.



ARBCA Missionary Focus

Meet one of the missionary families we support through our offerings: The Brennans- Matthew, Barbara, Simon & Timothy
IRELAND

Matthew writes: To try and describe the changes that have occurred in Ireland over the past 12 months would not be possible in a brief report. All I will say is that everything has changed! The economy continues to be in freefall, unemployment is rising and immigrants have returned to their own countries or wherever they can chase their next job. All the indications are pointing to 17 to 19 percent unemployment by the end of the year. There is even some talk of the IMF stepping in to help sort out our economy. A country that was the envy of Europe a few short years ago is now among the sick relatives of the European Union family.

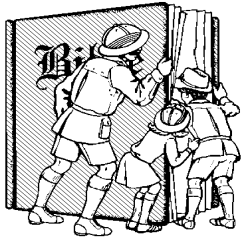
These are testing and challenging times for our small country. Ministering and working in these conditions, I am praying and looking for any sign of people seeking spiritual help in their difficulties. As of yet, I do not meet anyone asking deep spiritual questions. Looking across the country, no other minister is seeing any such spiritual concern. That is why I would ask those of you who haven an interest in the Gospel in Ireland, to pray for a spiritual hunger during these days of economic stress. The government will seek to meet the material needs of people, but our job is to show people their greatest need – their need of Jesus. We remind ourselves that 150 years ago God brought mighty revival to Northern Ireland, and such a thing is possible with God again.

Here in Clonmel we continue to be conscious of God's goodness to us as a church. We are seeing people come to the church for the first time and return again. We are also seeing people move away for work reasons and we are adjusting to such losses.

We are planning to have four theological students work with the church over the summer. During that time we will be making a big effort to visit from door-to-door with specially produced literature, do street work, and seek to make fresh contacts in the area.

I was struck by a comment by D. A Carson in which he says, "If God had perceived that our greatest need was economic, He would have sent an economist. If he had perceived that our greatest need was entertainment, He would have sent us a comedian or an artist. If God had perceived that our greatest need was political stability, He would have sent us a politician. If He had perceived that our greatest need was health, He would have sent us a doctor. But He perceived that our greatest need involved our sin, our alienation from him, our profound rebellion, our death; and He sent us a Savior."

Ireland's need is such a Savior!



Book Room Review

Mere Christianity

By C. S. Lewis

From the back cover:

"One of the most popular introductions to Christian faith ever written, *Mere Christianity* has sold millions of copies worldwide. The book brings together C. S. Lewis's legendary broadcast talks of the war years, talks in which he set out simply to 'explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times.' Rejecting the boundaries that divide Christianity's many denominations, Lewis provides an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear a powerful, rational case for the Christian faith. It is a collection of scintillating brilliance that remains strikingly fresh for the modern reader and at the same time confirms C. S. Lewis's reputation as one of the leading writers and thinkers of our age."

"Lewis seeks in *Mere Christianity* to help us see religion with fresh eyes, as a radical faith whose adherents might be likened to an underground group gathering in a war zone, a place where evil seems to have the upper hand, to hear messages of hope from the other side." – Kathleen Norris

"Lewis is the ideal persuader for the half-convinced, for the good man who would like to be a Christian but finds his intellect getting in the way." – *New York Times Book Review*

"Lewis, perhaps more than any other twentieth-century writer, forced those who listened to him and read his works, to come to terms with their own philosophical presuppositions." -- *Los Angeles Times*

[You may purchase this book from our Book Table for \$7.00]



"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Proverbs 17:22

Newsbytes and Announcements



Akins Commends, Cautions Calvinist Advocates: [from 2009 Southern Baptist Convention, Baptist Press – by Jeff Robinson, director of news and information at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY]

A healthy Christian is one who balances his theological beliefs with a humble and Christ-like life, Daniel L. Akin said at the annual Founders Ministries breakfast in Louisville, KY. Akin, president of Southeastern Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., spoke from 3John, exhorting Founders attendees June 23 to live graciously in the manner of two men named in the epistle, Gaius and Demetrius, and not in the manner of Diotrefes, who was egotistical and rejected authority.

Akin is one of the architects of the “Great Commission Resurgence Declaration” that led to the approval of the Great Commission Task Force during the SBC annual meeting’s evening session June 23.

“One of the things that is at the heart of the Great Commission declaration is that we would have a radical reorientation of the way we live life, the way we look at life, the way we do life,” Akin said. “What we profess, our creed, needs to be more in alignment with our deeds. And is we really do believe that Jesus is the only Savior, and if we really do believe that there is an eternal heaven and an eternal hell, it makes all the difference. If that is ever before your mind’s eye day in and day out, I promise you, it will change your priorities. It will change the way you do church. It will change the way you lead your people to change the way they think about who they are as devoted disciples of the Lord Jesus.”

Akin expressed a deep appreciation and kinship with Founders Ministries, a group that, according to its website, seeks the recovery of the SBC’s Calvinistic roots. Akin noted 10 points of appreciation for Founders, citing the group’s commitment to:

- A robust understanding of the Gospel and the biblical reform of local churches
- Confessionalism and sound doctrine
- Regenerate church membership within local congregations
- The recovery of biblical church discipline in local congregations
- Expository preaching that is both theological and practical
- Biblical inerrancy
- Penal substitutionary atonement
- Salvation by grace alone
- God’s sovereignty and providence
- The glory of God in all things

Akin followed with seven areas of caution for Founders and others within the SBC who hold to Reformed doctrine:

- Don’t emphasize Calvinism to such a degree as to exclude non-Reformed Christians. He urged Founders to take a balanced, loving approach to other Christians.
- Take the high road in their rhetoric, even when others do not.
- Avoid coming across as a theological elitist.
- Be known as a Great Commission Calvinist in the mold of William Carey, founder of the modern missions movement.
- Participate in healthy church planting.
- Do not be known more as a follower of John Calvin than of Jesus Christ.

Akin, who affirms four of the “five points” of Calvinism, concluded with further encouragement for Calvinists in the SBC by reading a written statement he said had been carefully crafted.

“Please hear my heart this morning,” he said. I absolutely do not think those who sit in this room are to be simply tolerated as redheaded step-children, country cousins who we pray will not show up at the picnic. I don’t think you are a weird minority in the Southern Baptist Convention and if I have ever sounded like that, I hope that you will forgive me. I never, ever want to give you that impression.

“I see you as a significant and important part of our family. I want you to know that I sincerely want to partner with you and all Southern Baptist who love the Lord Jesus, who love the Gospel, and who love the nations.

“Contrary to what some feel – and I think their number, though vocal, is small – I don’t want to run you out of the Southern Baptist Convention. I will stand against those who might try. You are real Southern Baptists who are Calvinists, who represent a vital and important stream in our history. My prayer for you and our convention is: let’s wed, in a healthy balance, our creeds and our deeds for the glory of God, for the good of the nations as we seek to fulfill the final marching orders of our crucified and risen Savior.”

(Note: The above article was included in its entirety)



August
2009

S	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 (B. Fudge)
2 LORD'S DAY Fellowship Meal 1:30 Lord's Supper (B. Gardner)	3 (F. Hunt)	4 Evening Ladies' Bible Study @ Suzanne Eschete's 6:30 p.m. (B. Hurst)	5 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (M. Hurst)	6 (R. Hurst)	7 (W. Johnson)	8 (R. Johnstone)
9 LORD'S DAY Morning Worship Fellowship Meal Evening Worship 6:00 (M. Kelly)	10 (J. Kemp)	11 (J. Kennedy)	12 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (G. King)	13 (L. King)	14 (R. Lee)	15 (M. Lee)
16 LORD'S DAY Morning Worship Fellowship Meal Evening Worship 6:00 (F. Malone)	17 (C. Mayeux)	18 Evening Ladies' Bible Study @ Suzanne Eschete's - 6:30 p.m. (I. McKnight)	19 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (B. Miizell)	20 (S. Moody)	21 (B. Owens)	22 (M. Owens)
23 (B. Phares) LORD'S DAY Morning Worship Fellowship Meal Evening Worship 6:00 30 (W. Sager)	24 (Brenna Phares) B. 31 (Schindler)	25 (E. Phares)	26 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (P. Purpera)	27 Deacon's Mtg. 6:30 (K. Roddy)	28 (P. R. Roddy)	29 (J. Rogers)



August

Birthdays: 5 – Lydia Johnstone
 8 – Peter Purpera
 9 – David Sevier
 13 – Kathryn Roddy
 22 – Charity Axsom
 29 – Austin Smith
 30 – Chloe Carline
 30 – Skip Moody
 30 – Susan Sevier

Children's Corner



Upon your hearts

The Bible is the perfect guidebook for living God-pleasing lives. Deuteronomy 6:6-8 (NIV) tells us how to remember the Scriptures.

Use the picture clues and Word Bank below to finish the verses.

WORD BANK	
children	road
commandments	sit
down	Talk
foreheads	Tie
hands	up
hearts	walk
home	



“These (1) _____ that I give you today are to be upon your (2) _____. Impress them on your (3) _____. (4) _____ about them when you (5) _____ at (6) _____ and when you (7) _____ along the (8) _____, when you lie (9) _____ and when you get (10) _____. (11) _____ them as symbols on your (12) _____ and bind them on your (13) _____.”

Answers: (1) commandments; (2) hearts; (3) children; (4) Talk; (5) sit; (6) home; (7) walk; (8) road; (9) down; (10) up; (11) Tie; (12) hands; (13) foreheads

Memory Verse Games



Memorizing Bible verses is a great way to get God's Word into our hearts and minds.

Memory-Verse Memory Game

What you need:

- Index cards (two for each word in the Bible verse)
- Crayons and markers
- A Bible verse

What you do:

1. Choose a different color for each word in the verse. Write that word on two different cards. (Non-readers can draw pictures.)
2. Mix up the cards and spread them out (face down) on a table or floor.
3. Players take turns trying to uncover cards that match. For extra difficulty, try finding the word pairs in the order they appear in the verse.

The Vanishing Memory Verse

What you need:

- Dry-erase board, markers and eraser
- OR chalkboard, chalk and eraser
- OR large piece of construction paper, pen and self-stick notes
- A Bible verse

What you do:

1. Write down the verse and read it (alone or with a partner).
2. Take turns erasing (or covering with self-stick notes) one word at a time. Then read the verse, remembering what word went in each blank.
3. Eventually, the board will be blank, and you'll be able to recite the whole verse!

Let the little children come to Me...

Where We Meet

12329 Jackson Street
Corner of Jackson & Church St.
Clinton, LA 70722

When We Meet

Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study
10:45 a.m. - Morning Worship
12:15 p.m. - Fellowship Meal
6:00 p.m. - Evening Worship

Wednesday Schedule

6:30 p.m. - Bible Study &
Prayer Meeting
Children - "Praising Him"

First Baptist Church

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Dr. Fred A. Malone, Pastor
Church: (225) 683-5153
FAX: (225) 683-4768

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