

# ***The First Baptist Messenger***

Established 1836

*Dr. Fred A. Malone, Pastor*

---

**Volume 2009**

**OCTOBER**

**Issue No. 9**

---

***“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”***

*by John Newton*

*“Unto you therefore which believe, He is precious.” 1 Peter 2:7*

One of the important activities we need for our spiritual growth and maturity is to spend time daily in quiet meditation and communion with our Lord. Although Bible reading and prayer are absolutely necessary, it is still possible to engage in these pursuits without ever experiencing real communion with Christ Himself.

John Newton has given believers an excellent text for extolling and meditating upon Christ. This worship of our Lord reaches its crescendo in the fourth stanza when Newton lists ten consecutive titles for Jesus: Shepherd, Brother, Friend, Prophet, Priest, King, Lord, Life, Way, and End. In the fifth and sixth stanzas, Newton realizes that a Christian's praise of Christ's names will always be inadequate until He is finally viewed in Heaven. But we must never cease trying.

The story is told of this converted slave ship captain preaching one of his final sermons before his home-going at the age of eighty-two. His eyesight was nearly gone and his memory had become faulty. It was necessary for an assistant to stand in the pulpit to help him with his sermon. One Sunday Newton had twice read the words, “Jesus Christ is precious.” “You have already said that twice,” whispered his helper, “go on.” “I said that twice, and I am going to say it again,” replied Newton. Then the rafters rang as the old preacher shouted, “JESUS CHRIST IS PRECIOUS.”

*How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.*

*It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the troubled breast;  
'tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary, rest.*

*Dear name! The Rock on which I build, my Shield and Hiding place,  
My never-failing Treasury, filled with boundless stores of grace.*

*Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King,  
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my end, accept the praise I bring.*

*Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought;  
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.*

*Till then I would Thy love proclaim with ev'ry fleeting breath;  
And may the music of Thy name refresh my soul in death.*

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

---



## FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

"Are you sure you are saved?"

1 COR 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

Do you have a full assurance of your salvation? Paul calls us to make sure. Peter called believers to "make your calling and election sure (2 Pet. 1:10)."

There were "false brethren" in the NT churches (2 Cor. 11:26) along with false prophets and false apostles. So, because of the remaining sinfulness of the Corinthians, Paul exhorted them to make sure, to examine themselves, to see whether they are in the faith...to test themselves.

The goal of examining yourself is not to continue in doubt, but to become sure of your salvation. Because assurance of salvation gives wings to love to God and man, worship in joy and thanksgiving, comfort in trials, faithful obedience to God's commands, forgiveness of other's sins against you. The old Puritans taught that Assurance is a taste of heaven on earth. So, as you read this column, have the honesty of soul to examine yourselves!

1. Assurance of salvation is possible. John wrote to believers in Jesus Christ:

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

God wants believers in Christ to know, to have full assurance, that they are safe eternally in Christ.

Other places encourage Christians to pursue this full assurance of salvation:

Heb 6:11 And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end,

So, if any of you have doubts about your salvation, that you are a true Christian, be sure that God wants you to be sure. But how do you do that?

2. Full Assurance has three grounds to it. And you have to take them in proper order to find this full assurance

a. First, the first ground of assurance is that you must believe the promises of Jesus Christ in Scripture made real by the Spirit of God. Assurance begins with faith alone in Christ alone for your salvation. Jesus said:

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Assurance of salvation begins with faith alone (not our worthiness) in Christ alone. Not faith in ourselves, not even in the strength of our faith in Him. You cannot have faith in your faith and find assurance. Faith is not a perfect work which makes us worthy before God, it is an empty hand that reaches out to Christ Himself, risen from the dead, and takes hold of Him as Savior and Lord according to His promise to receive sinners. A weak faith may take hold of a strong Christ and be

safe. His atoning blood is sufficient to save the worst of sinners who trust Him alone to keep His promises, not themselves.

b. Second, the second ground of assurance is the evidences that we have truly believed in Christ alone. These are a love for Him, a growing love for others, a seeking to keep all His commandments, and changes in oneself only explained by God's work in the heart:

1 John 2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him:

6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

1John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Loving God and His commandments (all 10 plus other NT commands) is an evidence of true faith in Christ. This faith which depends on Christ for salvation, always works out in the life through seeking obedience and growing in the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, meekness, faithfulness and self-control (Gal. 5:22).

You don't have to be perfect in this life to be sure, but you must desire to be perfect in all that God has commanded those saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. If you can see change in your desire and seeking to obey God, and show growth in the fruit of the Spirit, then you can be more sure that God has saved you.

c. Third, the third ground of assurance is the inner witness of the Holy Spirit that you are a child of God:

Rom 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

This "witness of the Spirit" is the final confirmation of our assurance of salvation. He convinces our spirit that God has adopted us as His child through faith alone in Christ alone.

This witness may be strong or weak at times, depending upon whether we have sinned, or are strongly tempted, or are going through great trial. But the fact that we have faith in Christ's sufficiency at such times is evidence that the Spirit is at work in us.

When all three of these grounds of assurance are found in the heart and life, we have a taste of heaven on earth, a full assurance which enables us to have great joy in Christ and great strength in faithfulness.

So, are you sure you are saved? We are to examine ourselves periodically, take account, of our evidences of salvation. Not to live in doubt and fear, but to make sure that we are trusting in Christ alone through faith alone...for faith in Christ alone always works out in the life by love to God and man (Gal. 5:6):

Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. — Pastor Malone



## *ARBCA Missionary Focus*

Meet one of the missionary families we support through our offerings:  
The Ramoses– CHILE

Omar writes:

Warm greetings in Christ from beautiful Chile. We pray that the Lord in His grace and mercy will guide all of you in His perfect will. May our trust in Christ grow and His greatness be our motivation as we serve Him, our sovereign King. Here's a brief update from the congregation in Santiago:

1. Community of Grace Christian Church (Iglesia Comunidad de la Gracia) has continued its progress towards becoming formally established, and we are currently involved in the training of future members. We are especially working with two men, Fernando Herrera and Obed Rupertus, who are taking a course in discipleship related with "The process of establishing a church in the light of the pastoral letters. Pray that God would give us the necessary wisdom to understand how to form a work that is biblical and Reformed.
2. I have been preaching a series that seeks to further develop members whose lives are consistent with Christian principles through subjects such as "The Discipline of the Christian Life." We've also been developing a questionnaire based on the Scriptures and the Confession of 1689.
3. We give thanks to God that since February of this year we have three more regular attendees: Monica, Daniela, and David, as well as Evie, a visitor from Australia who is here in transit, while studying.
4. And lastly, during the first week of September, the church will hold an official ceremony to commemorate its constitution, with Jim and Nancy Adams, as well as our brother Don Donell visiting with us then. We want to have a beautiful and significant ceremony to mark this landmark even in the life of this congregation. I thank the Lord that we can count on you, who have supported us with your prayers and offerings these past years, which we hope will culminate with the definite establishment of the church in Chile so that we might move forward with our mission of glorifying the Lord and proclaiming the eternal Word of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

-- A brotherly hug from Chile.



## *ARBCA Missionary Focus*

Meet one of the missionary families we support through our offerings:  
The Perrons – Raymond and Diane - CANADA

Raymond writes:

We certainly marvel at the fact that our holy God uses us to serve for the praise of His glory. It is a very humbling fact as well as a great matter of gratefulness.

The churches of our association are enjoying a season of peace and stability for which we are thankful to our God. For one reason or another, our province has not been much affected by the economic crisis. Though it is obvious that the situation is fragile, our church members have not suffered the loss of jobs. Nevertheless, in Quebec City the paper mill is going through a tough time and this is one of the main employers in our area.

In St. Jerome, our brother Pascal Denault, is taking off the whole summer in order to complete the writing of his master's thesis. In Lac Megantic, Pastor Richard Gagnon and the congregation pray that God would raise or send another officer to help him out, as he is the only elder at this point. We are quite pleased with our church planting project in Aylmer, with Andre and Carole Pinard. On Aug. 15, we held our ministerial meeting in Aylmer in order to meet and encourage the handful of people gathering there every week.

Jasmine, Pastor Jean Lepine's wife, in Rouyn-Noranda, is now on sick leave, suffering from exhaustion. She seems to be doing better but your prayers would be appreciated for our dear sister.

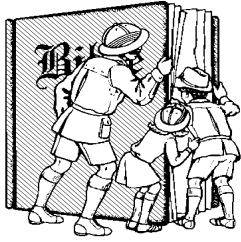
In Quebec City, our church is still receiving visitors who came to know us through our radio station ministry. Thus far, our radio station has been a powerful tool for proclaiming the Word of God as well as making our church known in the city. Concerning the radio station, we are on the verge of an important development, as shortly we plan to ask for a license to broadcast in St. Jerome. This new station would transmit our Quebec radio stations' programs.

Our pastoral training ministry is still moving along. After having Dr. Fred Malone for a course on Hermeneutics last April, we will have Pastor Bob Selph for a pastoral theology class at the beginning of September. We ask for your prayers for our Centre d'etudes Reformees Baptistes as we are discussing an important and bold project that would allow us to start providing a full and accredited program.

Before the end of summer, we are planning to publish a few booklets in French under our new publishing name, La Banniere de La Verite (The Banner of Truth). We already have four booklets that are ready to be printed.

Thank you for the privilege of reporting to you our prayer requests, and we receive yours in the same spirit.

Coram Deo



# Book Room Review

## Lectures on the Law and the Gospel

by Stephen H. Tyng (1800-1885)

From the cover:

*This difference between the Law and the Gospel is the height of knowledge in Christendom. Every person who assumes or glories in the name of Christian should know and be able to state this difference. – Martin Luther*

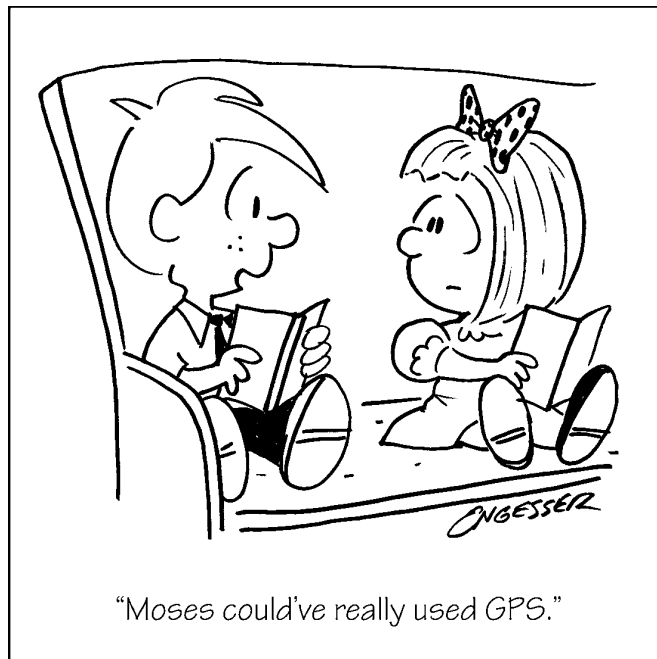
*We divide this Word into two principal parts or kinds: the one is called the 'Law,' the other the 'Gospel.' For all the rest can be gathered under the one or other of these two headings. Ignorance of this distinction between Law and Gospel is one of the principal sources of the abuses which corrupted and still corrupt Christianity. – Theodore Beza*

*There is no point on which men make greater mistakes than on the relation which exists between the law and the gospel."*  
-- C. H. Spurgeon

The lectures in this book were first delivered to the congregation of St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia, and then published in 1833. A second edition was printed in the same year, and was circulated and sold very rapidly. God was pleased to use them in the awakening and instruction of His children, with many precious instances of conversion resulting from the reading of them.

Stephen H. Tyng was ordained to the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal church in 1821. His first parish was in Georgetown, D.C., in 1821-23, and then the Queen Anne parish, Prince George County, Maryland, in 1823-29. He was called to the rectorship of St. Paul's church, Philadelphia, in 1829, then to the Church of the Epiphany in 1838, where he served for twelve years. In 1844 he was invited to St. George's church, New York City, where, entering upon his duties in 1845, he labored for more than thirty years as rector, and was retired as rector emeritus in 1878. His book, *The Christian Pastor*, is also published by Solid Ground Christian Books.

*[You may purchase this book from our Book Table for \$8.00]*



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

# Newsbytes and Announcements



**Christian Coach Fired After Student Converts:** Gerald Marsazalek, a high school Christian wrestling coach in Dearborn, Michigan, claims he was muscled out of his long-tenured coaching job by the school's principal, a devout Muslim, because the administrator was angry over a student wrestler who had converted to Christianity from Islam. Marsazalek coached wrestling for 35 years in the Dearborn public schools, amassing more than 450 wins. In addition to being added to the Michigan High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, he was named "Sportsman of the Year" by the All-American Athletic Association. Despite Marsazalek's success, however, principal Imad Fadlallah of Dearborn's Fordson High School ordered the administration not to renew the coach's contract, allegedly in retaliation over the student's conversion and to continue a campaign of flushing Christianity out of the school. According to a statement from the Thomas More Law Center, Dearborn is one of the most densely populated Muslim communities in the United States. An estimated 30,000 of its 98,000 residents are Muslims, and roughly 80 percent of Fordson High School's students are Arabic, many of them Muslims. [Church Around the World – Nov. 2009]



**India Added to Religious Freedom Watch List:** The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom in August added India to its list of countries it is most closely watching. The commission said the Indian government fails to punish those who commit violence against religious minorities. The move preceded the first anniversary of the Orissa pogrom by Hindu extremists against local Christians. India strongly protested being added to the list, which includes Afghanistan, Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Laos, Russia, Somalia, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Venezuela. [Christianity Today, October 2009]



**Ban Sought on Korean Missionaries:** The South Korean government discussed plans in August to bar Christian missionary travel to the Middle East due to safety concerns. About 80 missionaries were expelled from the region in July and August. Iran and other Muslim countries have asked South Korea to bar the missionaries. [Christianity Today, October 2009]



**Facebook Folly:** The next time Jonathan G. Parker wants to burglarize a house, maybe he'll stick to his priorities. Police say the 19-year old Fort Loudon, PA, teen burglarized a nearby Martinsburg, PA, home, rifling through drawers and cabinets before making off with a pair of diamond rings on Aug. 28. But before leaving the home, police say Parker stopped to check his Facebook profile on his victim's home computer and neglected to log off. Police easily tracked down the teen and charged him with a felony burglary count. [World Magazine, October 10, 2009]



**Knife Fight:** Boy Scouts in the United Kingdom are being told to leave their knives at home for campouts, but this time it's not the Nanny State that is cutting off Great Britain with ultra-safe advice. It's the UK's version of *Scouting Magazine*, the in-house publication of the Boy Scouts, that has advised boys to abandon their penknives. A spokesman for the Boy Scouts in the United Kingdom said, "We believe that young people need more places to go after school and at weekends, where they can experience adventure without the threat of violence or bullying and the need to carry weapons." But many dispute the classification of Swiss Army Knives as weapons, instead calling them tools. [World Magazine, October 10, 2009]



**The Recession and Giving:** +5.5% Change in giving to religious organizations and churches in 2008 (total of \$106.89 billion); - 2% Change in overall giving in 2008 (\$307.65 billion), the first decline in overall giving since 1987. [Christianity Today, August]



**Restrictions in Singapore:** A Christian couple, Ong Kian Cheng and Dorothy Chan Hien Leng, were sentenced by a Singapore court to eight weeks in prison in May for giving out Christian tracts to Muslims. It was Singapore's first full trial under the Sedition Act, which is used to discourage racial and social hostility within the country. [Christianity Today, August]

---

## On the Lighter Side

A sign on a refrigerator magnet, with which many of us might identify, said this: "I have a certain amount of things God wants me to do on this earth. Right now, I'm so behind, I'll never die."

### Bulletin Bloopers:

Exercise classes: Ladies, are you interested in talking off a few of those unwanted pounds?

(If only *taking off* pounds was that easy!)

~~~~~



## October 2009

|                                                                                                                                           |                    |                                                                                     |                                                       | 1                                                                                           | 2                     | 3                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
|                                                                                                                                           |                    |                                                                                     |                                                       | (J. Dighton)                                                                                | (J. Durham)           | (M. Durham)          |
| 4<br>LORD'S DAY<br>Morning Worship<br>Fellowship Meal<br>1:30 Afternoon<br>Worship<br>Lord's Supper<br>(J. Edwards)                       | 5<br>(L. Efferson) | 6<br>Ladies' Evening<br>Study<br>6:30 pm<br>(@Suzanne<br>Eschete's)<br>(S. Eschete) | 7<br>6:30 Pr. Mtg.<br>PraiSing Him<br>(B. Fudge)      | 8<br>(B. Gardner)                                                                           | 9<br>(F. Hunt)        | 10<br>(B. Hurst)     |
| 11<br>LORD'S DAY<br>Morning Worship<br>10:45<br>Fellowship meal<br>Evening Worship<br>6:00<br>(M. Hurst)                                  | 12<br>(R. Hurst)   | 13<br>Family Life<br>Fellowship @<br>the Malone's<br>6:30<br>(W. Johnson)           | 14<br>6:30 Pr. Mtg.<br>PraiSing Him<br>(R. Johnstone) | 15<br>Ladies Bible<br>Study<br>9:30 a.m.<br>(M. Kelly)                                      | 16<br>(J. Kemp)       | 17<br>(J. Kennedy)   |
| 18<br>LORD'S DAY<br>Morning Worship<br>10:45<br>Fellowship meal<br>Men's Theology<br>Class - 5:00<br>Evening Worship<br>6:00<br>(G. King) | 19<br>(L. King)    | 20<br>Ladies' Evening<br>Study<br>6:30 p.m.<br>(@ Suzanne's)<br>(R. Lee)            | 21<br>6:30 Pr. Mtg.<br>PraiSing Him<br>(M. Lee)       | 22<br>(F. Malone)                                                                           | 23<br>(C. Mayeux)     | 24<br>(I. McKnight)  |
| 25<br>LORD'S DAY<br>Morning Worship<br>10:45<br>Fellowship meal<br>Evening Worship<br>6:00<br>(B. Miizell)                                | 26<br>(S. Moody)   | 27<br>(B. Owens)                                                                    | 28<br>6:30 Pr. Mtg.<br>PraiSing Him<br>(M. Owens)     | 29<br>Ladies Bible<br>Study<br>9:30 a.m.<br>Deacon's<br>Meeting<br>6:30 p.m.<br>(B. Phares) | 30<br>(Brenna Phares) | 31<br>(Elish Phares) |

*Please pray for the families in ( ) each day!*

### October Birthdays:

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 3- Kevin Owens     | 12 - Knight Roddy |
| 4 - Carrie King    | 17 - Ginger Hung  |
| 4 - Levi Durham    | 22 - Cobb Kelly   |
| 5 - Brandin Walker | 23 - Keith Owens  |
| 7 - Frances Durham | 26 - Francis Hunt |
| 7 - Bryan Hurst    | 27 - Taun Mizell  |
| 7 - Robert King    | 31 - Sheri Axsom  |



Autumn brings many visible changes. God makes lots of foods and grains ready for harvest. He also tells us that if we sow in peace, we, too, can raise a harvest.

Find and circle the bold (dark) words from James 3:17-18, NIV.

"But the **WISDOM** that comes from **HEAVEN** is first of all **PURE**; then **PEACELOVING**, **CONSIDERATE**, **SUBMISSIVE**, full of **MERCY** and **GOOD FRUIT**, **IMPARTIAL** and **SINCERE**. **PEACEMAKERS** who **SOW** in **PEACE** raise a **HARVEST** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**."

C S P E A C E L O V I N G F  
 O U E U X W C E Y T P R W R  
 N B A U L T J C O R E I I U  
 S M C P R X K F W I A G S I  
 I I E M E R C Y I I C H D T  
 D S T C E R U D M Z E T O S  
 E S I V X J C U P W M E M D  
 R I H E A V E N A W A O H P  
 A V M P J M K L R T K U V W  
 T E O C G O O D T G E S S L  
 E H A R V E S T I B R N Y O  
 X H D D R Q Q E A Z S E D B  
 S I N C E R E E L S Y S O W  
 G I P U R E S O Y C E S E F

# Cookies for Friends

Autumn is the perfect time of the year to sow kindness and reap a "harvest" full of friendships. Make this special treat to share with someone.

### What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup cooked or canned pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 1/2 cups diced, roasted almonds
- 1 cup chocolate pieces
- Raffia or fall-colored ribbon (optional)

### What you do:

1. Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
2. Beat in egg, pumpkin and vanilla.
3. In separate bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon.
4. Add dry mix to creamed mixture.
5. Add almonds and chocolate pieces; mix thoroughly.
6. Drop by teaspoons onto well-greased cookie sheets.
7. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until lightly browned.
8. Cool on racks. Makes about six dozen.
9. Stack two cookies on top of each other. Then tie them like a present with the raffia or ribbon. Give the cookies to friends and family to thank them for their friendship.

*Let the little children come to Me...*"

## Where We Meet

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

Visit our website:  
[www.fbcclintonla.com](http://www.fbcclintonla.com)

## 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 - "Prai Sing Him"

## First Baptist Church

12329 Jackson Street  
PO Box 552  
Clinton, La. 70722  
[www.fbcclintonla.com](http://www.fbcclintonla.com)

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

**Non-profit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Permit No. 5**  
**Clinton, LA 70722**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

