

"BUT THE
WORD OF
THE LORD
ENDURES
FOREVER."
NOW THIS
IS THE
WORD
WHICH BY
THE GOSPEL
WAS
PREACHED
TO YOU.

- 1 PETER 1:25

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The Trumpet

Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! ~Joel 2:1

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From the Pastor's Heart

"We equate our opinions with truth,"
~Jerry Bridges, *Respectable Sins* (p.141)

For several months, we've been studying this book in our Sunday morning small group. This week we continue in Chapter 17: Judgmentalism. In preparing for this Sunday's group discussion and to encourage our body, I would like to share some quotes on freedom in Christ:

Liberty from Human Religion - Don Fortner

"When the Son of God sets men free, he frees them from the customs and traditions, practices and labors of human religious inventions (Col. 2:20-23; I Tim. 4:1-6; II Tim. 3:1-5).

No man, no pastor, no church has the right to impose practices and behavioral rules upon men that God has not specifically revealed in Holy Scripture. We are not, and must never try to be lords of other men's consciences. And we must never allow ourselves to be brought into bondage by others."

Defining Legalism (In Sanctification) - Sam Storms

"Legalism is the tendency to regard as divine law things which God has neither required nor forbidden in Scripture and the corresponding inclination to look with suspicion on others for their failure or refusal to conform."

Bridges contends that the sin of judgmentalism is one of the most subtle of the respectable sins "because it is often practiced under the guise of being zealous for what is right" (141). But are we really only zealous over our own convictions? Bridges also deals with the appropriate means of judgment - that is, speaking the truth of God's Word in love to those who are clearly sinning in lifestyle or conduct. In that case, Bridges says, "it is the Bible that is judging, not ourselves." Sadly we have a hard time differentiating between accountability and judgmentalism. We judge the trivial things and often miss out on stirring one another up in the weightier matters. Not only that, but unbelievers (and many believers) have learned to use Scripture (erroneously) against Christians who would point out areas of sin (often citing "judge not, lest you be judged). And, unfortunately, many Christians have not treated others, especially non-Christians, kindly or compassionately. While Scripture is sharp and painful like a sword when it cuts, it also has the power to restore. Let's not become comfortable slicing in only one direction.

It's a good book. Read it, but as Keith Mathison said, "A word of warning is required when reading this book. If while reading you catch yourself thinking, 'I really wish so-and-so would read this book,' then it is especially for you. We are all guilty of at least some of these sins some of the time. We all need reminding that every time we sin, we despise God (2 Sam. 12:9-10). Most of all, we all need reminding that Jesus died on the cross that all of our sins (even the sin of judgmentalism) might be forgiven. "

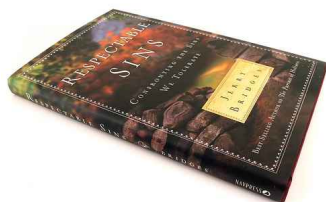
ABOUT THE BOOK

As Christians, we believe that all sins are considered equal in God's eyes. Yet while evangelicals continue to decry the Big Ones--such as abortion, adultery, and violence--we often overlook more deceptive sins.

It seems we have created a sliding scale where gossip, jealousy, and selfishness comfortably exist within the church. In short, some sins have simply become acceptable.

Author Jerry Bridges believes that just as culture has lost the concept of sin, the church faces the same danger. Jerry writes not from a sense of achievement, but from the trenches of his own personal battles. Drawing from scriptural truth, he sheds light on subtle behaviors that can derail our spiritual growth.

Throughout, Jerry encourages victory over personal sin through the gospel's transformative power. This release is perfect for readers who long to thoughtfully examine their lives and discover a deeper walk with God.



Anniversaries & Birthdays



May 2
Mary Ann Elston
Catherine Elston

May 3
Faith Bounds

May 12
Karen Pearce
Aimee Plummer

May 15
Frances Couvillion

May 16
Faith Hirsch

May 18
Sean & Ann Green
♥ 18 years ♥
Allen & Aimee Plummer
♥ 17 years ♥

May 20
Christy Grayson

May 24
Chris & Jill Hirsch
♥ 22 years ♥

May 26
Kylie Hough

May 28
Jason & Jemima Deutsch
♥ 15 years ♥



Women's Night Out

Tuesday, May 5
6.30pm

[Newk's](#)

7423 Youree Drive
Suite 100

RSVP to Karri Hough
no later than Sunday,
May 3rd!!

Movie or Coffee
at Youree Starbucks
to follow!
(We'll decide over dinner!)



Lacey & Vicki Wallace
are pleased to announce
the commencement exercises
For the Home School Graduation
of their son

Hayden Lacey Wallace

Friday, May 22, 2009
at 7:00 p.m.

University Church of Christ
2045 E. 70th Street
Shreveport, Louisiana



Reception immediately following ceremony

Trinity Trip to Lake D'Arbonne



Friday, May 1
through
Sunday, May 3

If you can't come
to camp,
Just come for the day!

For More Information:
Michael & Christy
Grayson
318-469-9282
318-560-3861

Fight the Good Fight of the Faith Joe Hansen

I Timothy 6:12--"Fight the good fight of the faith...". These are strong words from the pen of Paul the Apostle. Look at these also from the pen of Paul: "...I press on...straining forward...I press on toward the goal...of God in Christ" Phil. 3:12-14; "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith..." II Timothy 4:7; "So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control..." I Corinthians 9:26,27; "...For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience when your obedience is complete." II Corinthians 10: 3-6; "...Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus." I thought Jesus was the Prince of Peace, the gentle Shepherd? What is all this about: fighting, soldiers, war, discipline, pressing on, etc. (There are many other such terms kin to these that I have not pointed out). Look at Matthew 10:34--(Jesus is speaking) "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword..."

What is the reason for all this kind of exhortation? The following are some reasons: "The thief (Satan) comes not but to steal, kill, and destroy!" Satan just wants to see things, especially things belonging to God, and Jesus Christ, burn. He is a liar. He comes to deceive with the purpose of leading each human to hell. The world is not any better. It hates the things of God. Look at Ephesians 2:2--"...following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience...". The world system, philosophy, age, etc. is against God, is anti-Christ. The world is in a fallen state because of the fall of Adam. It is, therefore, dead and under the power of sin and the result of sin, death. This is not the whole story. Man, himself (you and I) are in the same boat. We are dead spiritually without Christ and happy to be in such a state. The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked who can know it (Jeremiah 17:9). We in our flesh seek the all that is bad, all that is against God. We are slaves of sin, slaves of the devil outside of Christ. Even as Christians, we still yield to the temptations of the flesh and seek pleasure instead of God. See also I John 2: 15-17 : "For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life --is not of the Father but is from the world". In a word 'we cannot be passive' in this battle, this war-

fare. We must fight the good fight of faith. We must be persistent even when we seemingly see no fruit, but seem to be going backward. For example, in the public school system the Bible was taken out, prayer was removed, and anything 'Christian' was eliminated or squashed. How did this come about? In a day, a month, a year? No, the humanist John Dewey in the early 1900's got together with others of like mind and wrote the humanist manifesto, and set up a strategy for removing the Bible, prayer, and anything Christian in the public school system. They persisted over the years and in the 1960's and following all of these were declared unconstitutional. They achieved every one of their goals. If we want to win out over temptation, self, and the devil we must devise a strategy. The Scriptures give us the strategy. We just need to learn it and apply it. Use it. Holiness, godliness takes time and it takes every believer using the Spiritual Disciplines to achieve their goals.

Look at what Scripture gives as part of the strategy. In God's call to Jeremiah 1: 9, 10--Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdom, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, ...".

"Wait a minute!" you might say to me: "I thought we were trying to build holiness and godliness in our lives, and it says here we have to tear down and destroy?" Let's finish the verse before we answer the question. "...to build and to plant".

Sometimes we have to remove obstacles to our spiritual growth before we can build upon the foundation. Everything has to have a foundation. Jesus Christ is our foundation. We have to build upon Him. 'Line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little there a little' using the language of Isaiah 28: 10 and following. We are a part of our culture. Instant this, microwave that, on and on. We are going to have "to fight the good fight of faith" if we want spiritual growth, holiness, maturity. Painstaking step by painstaking step, work and effort. In the movie 'The Robe' Richard Burton played a Roman Centurion who touched the shroud (called the robe) that Jesus wore at His crucifixion. In one of the scenes Mr. Burton was preparing for leaving for a destination. While standing erect in one spot, he started putting on his armor (the armor similar to the armor mentioned in Ephesians 6). He put on each piece. The

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belt, the breastplate, shoes, helmet, shield, and sword. He was assisted in putting on the breastplate and then handed the other pieces which he then put on. Ephesians 6:14-17 lists them as follows: The belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the helmet of salvation, the shield of faith, and the sword of the Spirit. Paul says in vs10,11,13: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you might be able to stand against the schemes of the Devil...Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand firm". In the movie "The Return of The King," Théoden performed a similar act when he was preparing for battle. He would stand there while his armor-bearers helped him put on his armor. We must do the same thing daily! Yes, the Lord will enable us, but we can not just sit back on our laurels. We must do it daily.

Hebrews 5:14 says--"But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil". You and I both need to build upon the foundation of Jesus Christ by using the Spiritual Disciplines of prayer, intake of the word, fellowship with the saints, obedience, etc. We need to pray for one another. The battle is raging. The battle for the mind of believers is always there. Satan will not give up. Let us go to Him who won the victory on the cross, and conquered death and the grave. Through The Lord Jesus Christ we can do all things!!!

Overwhelmed by God's Blessings

Let the sea roar,
and all its fullness;
let the field
rejoice, and all
that is in it.
~1 Chronicles
16:32

In all your ways
acknowledge
Him, and He
shall direct your
paths.
~Proverbs 3:6

Audrey Hirsch competed last weekend in the USA Gymnastics, level 8, Regional Championships in Atlanta, Georgia. She was one of 14 girls selected to represent Louisiana. What an awesome recovery from her scary sinus infection & surgery 3 months ago. Thank you, God, for your healing power!



Audrey brought home a medal!
She placed 9th on the Balance Beam & 11th in the All-Around.

GEAUX Grace Lott!



Grace Lott earned a SUPERIOR rating at the National Federation of Music Club's Shreveport-Bossier Junior Festival for piano at Centenary College in February. Congratulations, Grace!

Hayden Wallace: Second in Pro-Life Oratory Contest

The National Right to Life has announced the winners of its local Pro-Life Oratory Contest. The competition was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at the Catholic Center in Shreveport. Area high school juniors and seniors gave presentations on the tragedy of abortion, euthanasia, infanticide or fetal stem cell research.

Taylor Cox, a senior at Airline High School, won first place honors in the Bossier competition. Taylor posed an opening question to the audience, asking, "What does eighteen days to you?" His answer: after only eighteen days from conception, a baby has a beating heart and deserves our protection. Taylor was awarded \$150 for his informative presentation.

Hayden Wallace, a senior home-schooler, won second place in the Bossier division. Hayden lamented the millions of babies aborted since 1973, stating that the number of babies aborted is greater than the entire population of the west coast states of the U.S. combined. Hayden received \$100 for his insightful remarks.

In the Shreveport division, first place honors went to Jaeyoon Chung, a junior at Evangel Christian Academy. Jaeyoon spoke about the

tragedy of euthanasia, condemning the ancient and cruel practice in Korea of abandoning and elderly parent or grandparent at a gravesite because they are a burden on the family. Jaeyoon was awarded \$150 for her thought-provoking comments.

Second place in the Shreveport competition was captured by Maddison Pennington, also a junior at Evangel Christian Academy. Maddison pointed out that women may think by abortion that they are ridding themselves of a problem, but in fact they are adding additional emotional and physical problems to their lives. Maddison received \$100 for her well-researched presentation.

Other winners of \$25 awards were Anthony Fabio, a junior at Caddo Magnet High School; Claire Powell, a junior at Byrd High School; Young Cho and Lauren Moody, both juniors at Evangel Christian Academy.

The two first place winners, Taylor Cox and Jaeyoon Chung, will now advance to the Louisiana state finals, which will be held in Shreveport on Friday, May 1st at the Louisiana Knights of Columbus Convention. The state prizes are: First place- \$500 cash and Second

place- \$250 cash. The state winner will then represent Louisiana at the national contest.

The national contest will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina at the National Right to Life Convention on June 20th, 2009. The national prizes are: First place- \$1000; Second place- \$750; Third place- \$500; Fourth place- \$250. The first place winner will present his or her speech at the National Right to Life Convention banquet.

State Director of the Oratory Contest, Susan Flanagan of Shreveport, commended the students for speaking out in defense of life. "These students are so inspiring to me," she said. "Their courageous stand for protection of life at all stages is awesome!" Local judges, also very complimentary of the outstanding student speakers, were Steve and LaBetha Casey, Frank Monahan, Elizabeth Keene, Les Justus, and Cecile Stroble.

For more information about the Pro-Life Oratory Contest, now in its 21st year in the Shreveport-Bossier area, please contact Susan Flanagan at 944 Unadilla Street, Shreveport, La. 71106 or call 318-861-6879.



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End-of-the-Season for AWANA

Sunday night, May 31, AWANA will go on hiatus until August or September. For our first year, it's been fun and profitable! Trinity's children have been memorizing Scripture, cultivating relationships with many members of the body, and they've had a great time, doing it!

May 24th, the children will open our evening worship service by sharing some of the things they have learned with the TBC family.

PARENTS: Remind your children that following their presentations, they will return to the fellowship hall for the semester's final awards ceremony and trip to the AWANA store.





PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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Proclaiming the Sovereign Grace of God
through Faith in Jesus Christ Alone.

We're on the web!
www.TBCShreveport.org

What a Boundless, Fathomless Ocean

Eternal love moved the heart of Jesus to relinquish heaven for earth—a diadem for a cross—the robe of divine majesty for the garment of our nature; by taking upon Himself the leprosy of our sin. Oh, the infinite love of Christ! What a boundless, fathomless ocean! Ask the ransomed of the Lord, whose chains He has dissolved, whose dungeon He has opened, whose liberty He has conferred, if there ever was love like His!

What shall we say of the ransom price? It was the richest, the costliest, that Heaven could give. He gave Himself for us! What more could He do? He gave Himself; body, soul and spirit. He gave His time, His labor, His blood, His life, His ALL, as the price for our ransom, the cost of our redemption. He carried the wood and reared the altar. Then, bearing His bosom to the stroke of the uplifted and descending arm of the Father, paid the price of our salvation in the warm lifeblood of His heart!

What a boundless, fathomless ocean! How is it that we feel the force and exemplify the practical influence of this amazing, all commanding truth so faintly? Oh, the desperate depravity of our nature! Oh, the deep iniquity of our iniquitous hearts! Will not the blood drops of Jesus move us? Will not the agonies of the cross influence us? Will not His dying love constrain us to a more heavenly life?

