

HHBC Happenings



Newsletter from Hickory Hill Baptist Church

Fall/Winter 2008 Issue

Greetings in the name of the Lord! We pray that this newsletter finds you and your family well and prospering in the knowledge of the Lord. You are receiving this mailing because you have had contact with Hickory Hill Baptist Church in some fashion. It is our joy to send this to you in order to keep you informed about what is *"happening"* in our local church. Friends, we are not shy about our goal. It is our deep desire to see many folks from our community joining in the worship, the service to God, and the fellowship of the believers at Hickory Hill Baptist. If you are already a member, then please use this media to stay informed about what is happening and how you can be a part of serving Christ through your church. If you are *not* already attending, do consider making HHBC your church home! We look forward to seeing you.

HHBC Focus this Quarter

- **Laboring to preach, understand, and apply the Gospel according to Mark.**
- **Training for, encouraging, and practicing evangelistic lives.**
- **Our Building Committee continues to meet and discuss our building grounds.**

Attention VBS is Coming



Children of all ages, join us for **Vacation Bible School** as we kick off the summer with a thrilling ride across the land down under on the Boomerang Express! As we travel across Australia, we'll discover the vastness of God's love, and we'll learn that no matter where we go or what we do in life-it all comes back to Jesus.

The Bible verse that our theme is based on this year: "God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might live through Him." 1 John 4:9 Holman CSB

Announcing the New Mid-Missouri Biblical Learning Center

Our local Concord Baptist Association (of which Hickory Hill Baptist is a member) is offering a new series of classes to meet the challenge of equipping leaders and church members to grow in their knowledge of God's Word and in their service to Him.

We will be hosting classes (certified by the Seminary) all over our local area. A student could enroll and pursue an actual diploma through the classes, or he/she could simply take classes that appeal to them individually. Anyone interested in being a better student of God's Word should consider taking these very reasonably priced courses.

The first class offered will be a Survey of the New Testament (a general introduction, overview, and examination of every book of the New Testament). Classes will begin January 13 from 6-9 pm. They will meet each Tuesday for fifteen weeks. This is an opportunity to receive college level, certified courses on God's Word right in our neighborhood. The cost is \$100 per course and a one-time registration fee of \$25.

For more information, contact the association at (573) 635-4832 or Pastor Ryan Haider at (573)298-1559.

From the Pastor's Pen

As our last newsletter spoke of the *privilege* and *joy* of being the Church of Jesus Christ, this month we would like to talk about one of the central *functions* of being the Church.

The Church exists to bring glory to God. That means that God has called us and made us into a people for Himself *so that* our transformed lives in this world would make His name great and bring fame and honor to Him.

One of the central ways that we work to bring glory to God as a local church is by witnessing about the Gospel and declaring what God has done in his Son, Jesus Christ (a.k.a. **evangelism**). We do not share and teach the Gospel *just because* that's what churches do. Neither do we witness because we like the prestige of reporting big numbers of "decisions". Rather, our evangelism efforts come from a desire to see God glorified! And God *is* glorified through our evangelism for two reasons. (1) Evangelism is the declaring of the wonderful things God has done in his Son, Jesus Christ. That brings glory to God. (2) When men and women repent and believe in the Gospel that we proclaim, that results in another person living a life for God's glory. *So that* glorifies God.

That answers the primary reason *why* we do evangelism. The question I'd like to address now is *how* do we do evangelism, as a church, for the glory of God. We will take the next few newsletter articles to address this question.

The first and most important component of evangelism (*i.e.* sharing the Good News of Jesus with an individual) is to be personally familiar with the Gospel. Amazingly, most people in America have never heard the *true Gospel*. Many think that they know Christianity and that they have subsequently rejected it, but in reality, they haven't rejected the Gospel at all because they've never truly heard the true thing. They've heard *half-Gospel* or *fake-Gospel*. So first and foremost, let's be clear about what the Gospel means.

The word "Gospel" literally means "good news." The word can be used to refer to a variety of messages, but when Christians use the word *Gospel*, we are referring to God's *good news* as prepared for in the Old Testament, and as revealed and documented in the New Testament. God's good news, God's *Gospel* is the story of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of His Son, Jesus Christ. So the Biblical Gospel is not primarily a message about how to be happy, wealthy, healthy, or anything like that. The Gospel at its center is the true, historical story of what Jesus Christ did some 2000 years ago.

The whole world stood under the condemnation of God because everyone who disobeys God and rebels against God (in other words, everyone who **sins**) must incur God's wrath and punishment. That meant that every human must die and that they must suffer God's punishment forever.

But the first part of the Good News is that all along, God has been making a group of people for Himself, to know and love as His prized people for eternity. He was calling out a group of people to redeem and to be reconciled with.

So in order to be reconciled with those people, He first of all made his eternal Son, named Jesus, a real human being. Then He empowered His Son to live perfectly pleasing to Him for his whole life on earth. At the appropriate time, God actually *charged* Jesus with the sins of all of the people God was redeeming and reconciling. He considered it as though *Jesus* had committed all of their sins. And, at the hands of the Romans, God the Father *punished* all of those sins *in Jesus* on the cross.

Jesus so fully and completely paid the full price for all of those sins that three days after he died, he rose again from the grave. He will never die again. This was to *prove* that the penalty of the sins he died for was completely over and done. Then he was lifted up to heaven and he was given all dominion and authority. Today, Jesus is Lord of all creation.

That is the Gospel. How do you respond to that Gospel? What action does it require of us? Very simple. Mark 1:15 – “Repent and believe in the Gospel.” When we repent and believe in God’s Gospel, our sins are part of the sins that Jesus *suffered the penalty for* on the Cross. We are forgiven. And in place of our sins, God *credits to us* the perfect life that Jesus lived. If we belong to Jesus, we stand forgiven and covered in the righteousness of Jesus before God.

So we *repent* (meaning we embrace a new Lord for our life, Jesus instead of our own desires) and we *believe* (meaning we trust and cling to what God has done for us in Jesus as our only hope for being made right with God).

That is God’s Gospel, and that is how every human being ought to respond to hearing God’s Good News. I pray that everyone who receives this newsletter will repent and cling to Jesus Christ as our only hope before God. Whether you consider yourself a Christian or not, our duty is the same: turn from your sins and trust in Jesus alone. Next time we will discuss some specifics of how to go about *sharing* this message with others for the glory of God.



Thoughts on Marriage

In Genesis 1:27-28, God created man and woman in his image. He blessed them and told them to be fruitful and multiply. Then he said that one day, a man should leave his father and mother and he should cleave to his wife. The two shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24) Thus God created, established, and defined marriage. Marriage is a gift from God.

Some time back I came across an article by a preacher named John Rollins writing on the subject of marriage. He teaches us that, aside from our joy and contentment in Jesus Christ, our spouse is our love and delight in this world. Below is an excerpt from Mr. Rollins writing:

“I have no doubt that where there is much love there will be much to love, and where love is scant, faults will be plentiful. A true wife is her husband's better half, his lump of delight, his flower of beauty, his guardian angel, and his heart's treasure. He says to her, ‘I shall in thee most happy be. In thee, my choice, I do rejoice...God's appointment is my contentment...’ She is the light of his home, the comfort of his soul, and [for this world at least] the soul of his comfort.”

Here's the point: although as Christians we find our final and ultimate joy in Jesus Christ, yet, for those whom God has blessed with the gift of marriage, they have received an incredible joy and privilege. If you have the joy of being wed, be sure to repeatedly thank God in this coming Thanksgiving and Christmas season. And, if you have the *added* privilege of, not only being wed, but of having a marriage that puts God first, that seeks to model biblical faithfulness, and that helps instead of hinders your relationship with God, then get down on your knees and spend this holiday season thanking and praising our Lord for his kindness to you in your marriage.

God bless you; God bless your spouse; and God bless your marriage.

- Ronald Dusheke, Deacon

Bible Trivia

Q1. Where did Peter find a coin to pay the temple tax?

Q2. Why was Miriam stricken with leprosy in the wilderness?

November Dates

Nov. 23rd, 6:00 pm HHBC, Thanksgiving Dinner, Meat and Potatoes provided. Bring a side dish

Nov. 26th, No evening service (7 pm)

Nov. 27th, Happy Thanksgiving, Be sure to direct your thanks to God for his grace

Nov. 30th, Fifth Sunday, No evening service

December Dates

Dec. 3rd, Business Meeting, 7 pm

Dec. 12th, Outing to Capital City Christian Church for “Journey to Bethlehem”. Leave HHBC at 6 pm, Plan on dinner afterwards

Dec. 21st, Christmas Adult and Children’s Choir Program

January Dates

**Jan. 4th, Evangelism Training, 6 pm
“Cultivating Gospel Relationships”**

Jan. 11th, Cultivating Gospel Relationships-Commitment Sunday, 10:30 am

Jan. 13th, Classes begin, Mid-Missouri Biblical Learning Center

Jan. 18th, Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Jan. 25th, Cultivating Gospel Relationships-Bring Your Friend to Church, 10:30 am

Sunday School/Bible Study 9:30 am

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Bible Trivia Answers:

Q1—In a fish’s mouth, Matthew 17:27

Q2—She rebelled against Moses’ leadership,
Numbers 12:1-2, 10
