

Sunrise Christian Church

March 2010 Family Newsletter



The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, **“Behold! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”** John 1:29

Quotes about God and Christ

from the movie *“Luther.”*

“Those who see God as angry do not see Him rightly but instead look upon a curtain as if a storm has been drawn across His face.

If we truly believe Jesus Christ is our Savior then we have a God of love. And to see God in faith is to look upon His friendly heart.

So when the Devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death in hell tell this: ‘I admit I deserve death in hell, what of it?! **I know One who suffered and died in my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ Son of God, and where He is so shall I be also!**’”

Oh, our sin-sick world!

Nihilism currently is a popular belief that there is no universal truth or reality that undergirds moral values; and that ultimately existence is meaningless. A nihilist is a person who accepts or champions nihilism, who is an absolute skeptic and who believes in the truth of nothing. Therefore, nihilism (from the Latin *nihil*, nothing) is the philosophical position that values do not exist but rather are falsely invented.

This is nothing new since the apostle Paul quoted from the philosophers of his day, saying that if there is no resurrection of the dead, then **“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”** (I Cor. 15:32).

Yet we do have hope! Christ’s resurrection from the grave means that we too will be resurrected. Jesus is the first fruit of what will be a great harvest! Therefore, when you met those who doubt, tell them: yes, my belief in a future resurrection is based on faith (absolute confidence in the One who made the promise), but it is also based on historical evidence: Christ’s resurrection from the grave was attested to by over 500 people, and even accepted by His enemies! (I Cor. 15:6-9).

So, what Christ did, one day we shall also- **“for He who promised is faithful”** (Heb. 10:23).

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, **“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”** **“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed”** (John 8:31-32&36).

When asked what things they liked about our church, people said:

- ☺ Faithfulness to God’s word
- ☺ The sense of community- people care for one another
- ☺ A willingness to volunteer
- ☺ Our practices (Lord’s Supper, and baptism)
- ☺ Our future
- ☺ Our past
- ☺ Our leaders

So, how would you answer this question?

SCC’s missions update:

The members of Sunrise Christian Church have agreed that a “tithe,” 10% of what is given shall go to mission projects. In doing this they honor God!

Our current mission projects are:
Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA)
Overseas Outreach (Rick Deighton)
Christian Children’s Ranch
Love INC
Boise Bible College
Boise Christian Retirement Home
Cove Christian Camp

During February, Cove Christian Camp had a junior and senior high school winter retreat.

The kids (54 in number) were able to do some fun things as going snow skiing, get to make new friends, and to increase their faith. This was the first time the camp has had one and so congratulations to those who helped to put it on and make it a success!

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Boise Bible College is nearly finished making plans for their Spring Conference, which will be May 11-13th. This year's main speaker may be familiar to you, **Dr. LeRoy Lawson**, originally was from Tillamook, Or. He is a preacher (Tigard, Or. and Mesa, Az.), missionary, author, and past president of Hope International College. This year's conference theme will be, "*Twenty-first Century Leaders for a Twenty-first Century Church.*" So watch for more information to come out about this event.

Also in news from the college, a BBC graduate and her husband are ministering in a small Alaskan village- one serviced only by air. **Angela Hayden** teaches in a one room school house there while she and her husband Taylor share the good news of Jesus Christ with the villagers. Please keep them in prayer.

What a wonderfully small world we live in!

I recently attended an Ontario Chamber of Commerce luncheon. The speaker that day was Sarah Bradbury, from XL Hospice. She knows our daughter Jennifer from years past when they were campers together at Cove Christian Camp. They now stay in touch by way of emails and Facebook and hope to catch up soon in person. The power of a good Christian camp!

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Did you know?

That until the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 that the oldest Old Testament manuscript written in Hebrew language dated only as far back as 900 years after the birth of Christ? And so, there had always been a question as to whether what we have had been accurately transcribed through the years. But with the discovery of the Dead Sea scroll containing the book of Isaiah, people could compare what we have with what was written nearly 1,000 years previous. Their work shows that what we have is nearly 99.9% accurate, with no changes made to doctrine.

Hurrah for Biblical Archeology! It continues to give us the evidence needed to support our faith!

And, did you know that in 1961 a stone inscribed with the name "Pilate" on it was found in the Mediterranean coastal city of Caesarea? Pilate, or Pontus Pilate as we know him, was the Roman governor who the Bible says had Jesus put to death.

And there has always been a question about David, Israel's second king. See, although scripture has many references of him, it wasn't until 1994 that archeological evidence was found. A stone victory pillar was found in the ancient city of Dan in northern Israel. On it is inscribed "house of David." David ruled in Israel about 3,000 years ago and so what a find!

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The Restoration Movement

The Restoration Movement- known now as the Churches of Christ, Christian Churches, and the Disciples of Christ, began in the hearts of men and women in the early days of America. They came from various denominations- Methodist,

Baptist, and Presbyterian mainly, but reached unchurched people across a wide area of the then mid- America. Most prominent in the frontier areas of Pennsylvania, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Ohio, these early leaders spread out across America from there. At that time America was not largely a Christian nation, yet soon revivals became popular. In 1801, following the lead of James McGready, Barton Stone attended a revival in the then wilderness area of Cane Ridge, Kentucky. This event was part of the Second Great Awakening, a time of spiritual revival in America. Into this wilderness came a large numbers of people (estimated between 12,000 and 20,000) to hear between 30 and 40 preachers of various denominations preach nothing but the gospel. The crowds were made up of people of all kinds- the governor of the state, prostitutes, devout worshipers, gamblers and robbers, as well as people of all color. This spread an interest in Christianity back into the homes and hollows where these people returned. One of the lessons learned from this experience was that people were less interested in what denomination a person was from than they were the message of the hope found in only in Jesus Christ (not unlike today). This revival undercut the then popular Calvinistic theology; instead man was free to choose Christ, that the "whosoever" of John 3:16 meant everyone! Yet, because of their participation in this mixed denomination/ non-Calvinistic revival, Barton Stone and four others met with resistance and persecution from the Presbyterian synod through whom they were licensed. Protesting against the insistence of uniformity to a doctrine based upon a creed, instead they sought the right to preach the gospel of grace as found in Scriptures and personal freedom of interpretation. Understanding that God had given in the scriptures all that was needed to believe, they sought fellowship with

other like minded believers. Perhaps the greatest document to come out of this group is known as **The Last will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery:**

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THE PRESBYTERY OF SPRINGFIELD sitting at Caneridge, in the county of Bourbon, being, through a gracious Providence, in more than ordinary bodily health, growing in strength and size daily; and in perfect soundness and composure of mind; but knowing that it is appointed for all delegated bodies once to die; and considering that the life of every such body is very uncertain, do make and ordain this our last Will and Testament, in manner and form following, viz.:

Imprimis. We will, that this body die, be dissolved, and sink into union with the Body of Christ at large; for there is but one body, and one Spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our calling.

Item. We will that our name of distinction, with its *Reverend* title, be forgotten, that there be but one Lord over God's heritage, and his name one.

Item. We will, that our power of making laws for the government of the church, and executing them by delegated authority, forever cease; that the people may have free course to the Bible, and adopt *the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.*

Item. We will, that candidates for the Gospel ministry henceforth study the Holy Scriptures with fervent prayer, and obtain license from God to preach the simple Gospel, with *the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven*, without any mixture of philosophy, vain deceit, traditions of men, or the rudiments of the world. And let none henceforth take *this honor to himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.*

Item. We will, that the church of Christ resume her native right of internal government,—try her candidates for the ministry, as to their soundness in the faith, acquaintance with experimental religion, gravity and aptness to teach; and admit no other proof of their authority but Christ speaking in them. We will, that the church of Christ look up to the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest; and that she resume her primitive right of trying those *who say they are apostles, and are not.*

Item. We will, that each particular church, as a body, actuated by the same spirit, choose her own preacher, and support him by a free-will offering, without a written *call* or *subscription*—admit members—remove offenses; and never henceforth *delegate* her right of government to any man or set of men whatever.

Item. We will, that the people henceforth take the Bible as the only sure guide to heaven; and as many as are offended with other books, which stand in competition with it, may cast them into the fire if they choose; for it is better to enter into life having one book, than having many to be cast into hell.

Item. We will, that preachers and people cultivate a spirit of mutual forbearance; pray more and dispute less; and while they behold the signs of the times, look up, and confidently expect that redemption draweth nigh.

Item. We will, that our weak brethren, who may have been wishing to make the Presbytery of Springfield their king, and wot not what is now become of it, betake themselves to the Rock of Ages, and follow Jesus for the future.

Item. We will, the Synod of Kentucky examine every member who may be suspected of having departed from the Confession of Faith, and suspend every such suspected heretic immediately, in order that the oppressed may go free, and taste the sweets of Gospel liberty.

Item. We will, that Ja-----, the author of two letters lately published in Lexington, be encouraged in his zeal to destroy *partyism.* We will, moreover, that our past conduct be examined into by all who may have correct information; but let foreigners beware of speaking evil of things which they know not.

Item. Finally we will, that all our *sister bodies* read their Bibles carefully, that they may see their fate there determined, and prepare for death before it is too late.

(In it you can hear the echoes of the very things we value today)

-To be continued-

Your friend in Christ, *Bill*