

Our purpose is to be a Biblical community of God's servants going into all the world reaching the unbelieving, the unchurched, and the unconnected and nurturing each other to become reproducing Christ-followers.



Crossings Community Church

“Communicating and Connecting with the Church

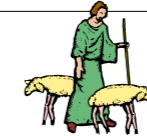
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JULY 2011

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A Word from the Shepherd's Pen



Filling Up the Wrath of God

The wrath of God is certainly not a popular subject in many churches today. Many church leaders and pastors have bought into the lie that they must give people what they want to hear so that people will continue their attendance in church and financially support the ministry. Pastors feel “under the gun” when it comes to proclaiming truth because quite frankly, the truth is not always a pretty thing. Judgment, sin, God's wrath, hell, etc...are not popular subjects and more often than not make people feel uncomfortable. But that does not mean that we should be silent on these and other difficult subjects as well.

In 1 Thessalonians chapter two the apostle Paul addresses the Thessalonians and recalls his love for them and ministry among them. He praises the church for being a godly example of following the message of the gospel that was preached to them. Paul

also reminds them of the persecution that they suffered from their own countrymen which is similar to what happened in the churches in Judea. The churches in Judea suffered hardships at the hands of their own fellow countrymen, the Jews, whom Paul describes as having “killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets (1 Thess. 2:15).” Because of the fact that they prohibit the preaching of Jesus Christ, Paul says that they are “displeasing to God (2:15b).” But then Paul makes an interesting statement regarding the actions of these opponents of the gospel; he writes that, “... they constantly fill up their measure of sins, but wrath has come upon them completely.”

Interestingly, Paul was certainly not hesitant to write of the wrath of God. In fact, he refers to the fullness of God's wrath. Paul is also not hesitant to say that God's wrath has come upon those who are filling up their measure of sin. These are

unrepentant, rebellious sinners who take no thought to the wrath and punishment of God. They shake their angry fist at God's plan and do whatever they can to oppose it. It is just a matter of time until the full wrath of God is poured out upon a person who lives in constant hatred of God, rebelling against Him and opposing Him. A frightening thought for anyone who takes the holiness and wrath of God seriously!

The preference in our pleasure-driven culture is to picture God as a tolerant Father who will allow His children and even His enemies to act however they wish, all the while, loving them for who they are. After all, that is the way of the world, tolerate and love everyone no matter what and by all means--do not offend anyone, especially with the gospel! David Platt in his book, “Radical” states that, “The gospel reveals eternal realities about God that we would sometimes rather not face. (continued on page 4)



Children's Summer Calendar

Crossroads (5th-6th gr.) @ 6:30
July 3rd & 31st
Aug. 14th

Family Movie Nights @ 7:00
July 16th—Apple Dumpling Gang
Aug. 20th—Toy Story 3

Kid's Praise & Worship Night @ 6:30
July 10, Aug. 7

Kid's Play (Birth-Preschool) @ 10-11
July 7 & 14
Aug. 4 & 11 & 18 & 25

Kid's Bible Study (K-6th) @ 11-12
July 7 & 14
Aug. 4 & 11 & 18 & 25

Cooking Camp (K-6th) @ 9:30-1:00
July 18-22

CEF Good News Camp (Age 5-12)
July 25-29 from 9-3



Disciplining Children

Last month we looked at ways to discipline children. This month I want to consider that many times discipline can be prevented.

1. Children need to be treated age appropriately. An entire day of shopping with no nap may end in bad results because your child is tired and not because your child is being disobedient.
2. Needs for food, warmth/coolness, thirst, toileting, and sleep need to be met for a child to thrive.
3. Is there a behavior pattern? There may be a reason your child doesn't want to wear his or her shoes, put on certain clothing, or go with a specific person. Investigate.
4. Kid's behaviors can be a result of a memory from the past.
5. Say what you mean and follow through. Don't threaten your child unless you have a plan to follow through on the threat.

For the full article on discipline, check out our website at crossingscommunitychurch.net Click "About Us" and then "Newsletters."

-written by Jen Rhine

Listen to that Squeak!

I worked as a mechanic for many years. One common problem I encountered was that of brake pads completely worn down and grinding into the rotors. Both are crucial for your car to stop, and this condition could cause a serious accident. Most do not know that brake pads have a little metal tab built in that squeaks for a few months before pads wear out and damage is done. If they would have listened to the subtle squeak, it would have saved them lots of cash, potential damage to their car, or hurting someone horribly.

Life can be like a freeway and we are a car cruising along. We can get caught up in the race of life and miss "squeaks" that call out "slow down, something's wrong!" Many of us easily get caught up in our work, daily events, school-work, and even ministry, missing those hints that it is time to slow down and take some time to recharge.

Margin in life is important. The term margin comes from the Latin meaning a border. Setting boundaries in life guards against over-committing our time, resources, and relationships. This is something that many of us overachievers struggle with. When we cross

over the boundaries wired into each of us too many times, it causes the "squeaks" in life. Just a few of the indicators can be stress, impatience, lack of compassion, confusion, depression, or even physical health problems. I have found that one of the major repairs for "squeaks" in our lives, is to stop running so fast and be still and silent before God. Meditating on scripture, praying, and applying what God has to say can bring us back to a place of rest with proper perspective on life. Solitude has become a lost practice in our digital society. It takes time, commitment and the will to be still! If you are encountering the "squeaks" that are unsettling your life, you may need to come to God's repair shop. He is patient and waiting for you there each day. Driving faster doesn't work! Don't wait too long to make an appointment with Him, it may cost you and your loved ones much more than just a tow truck bill and a brake job.

-David Fitzgibbons



Questions Part 2

written by Brad Rhine

Last month, we started a series on questions to ask yourself before entering into worship. The first question was “Why am I here?”

This month, we ask the second question: “What has God been doing in my life?”

Maybe you’re in the zone, so to speak. Maybe everything has been lining up exactly right for you lately. Everything’s coming up roses. If so, great! Give thanks! We serve a great and awesome God! Praise Him for how He’s working in your life!

On the other hand, maybe you’re in the midst of a season of trials. Work. Family. Health. Nothing is coming up roses, because everything is falling apart. Though it may be difficult, praise His name! Praise Him in the storm! It’s always amazing to me how my bad moods can be lifted simply by placing my focus on God and away from myself.

Most likely, you’re somewhere between those two extremes. But, “What has God been doing in my life?” is an important question to deal with before entering into worship.

GOD’S ACCURACY!!

God’s accuracy may be observed in the hatching of eggs. The eggs of the potato bug hatch in 7 days, while those of the canary hatch in 14 days. The eggs of a barnyard hen hatch in 21 days, a goose in 28 days and a mallard in 35 days. Notice they are all divisible by seven--the number of days in a week.



By Paula Rohrer

Each watermelon has an even number of stripes on the rind. Each orange has an even number of segments and each ear of corn has an even number of rows. All grains are found in even numbers on the stalks. The waves of the sea roll in on shore twenty-six to the minute in all kinds of weather.

Our God is an amazing God!

Psalm 139: 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.....

After three wonderful years of being the Women’s Ministry leader, it is time for me to heed the call to other areas of ministry. JoAnn Dilloway will give her time and talents as the leader of WOW. Please give her your support and encouragement.

Blessings,
Paula

Girlfriends groups

Ladies, if you are looking for a fun relaxing evening enjoying one another’s company, join us for one of our Girlfriend’s groups.

The Reading Rendezvous meets every other month to discuss our book of the month. For details contact Deborah Chu @ 381-6759.

The Cuisine Queens enjoy an evening out at a local restaurant. To RSVP call Reva Hall @ 684-1769 or JoAnn Dilloway @ 285-4369.



Cuisine Queens

Tuesday, July 26th
6:30@ Ciro’s Restaurant

(cont'd from page 1)

Filling Up the Wrath of God

We prefer to sit back, enjoy our clichés, and picture God as a Father who might help us, all the while ignoring God as a judge who might damn us. Maybe this is why we fill our lives with the constant drivel of entertainment in our culture – and in the church. We are afraid that if we stop and really look at God in His Word, we might discover that He evokes greater awe and demands deeper worship than we are ready to give Him.” (*Radical*, by David Platt, pg. 29) God’s patience has limits and many are testing those limits to see whether God really has a side to Him that is full of wrath.

Jonathan Edwards, a great preacher from the 18th century spoke often about the wrath of God and warned people often to escape the coming wrath of God. In his sermon, “Wrath Upon the Wicked to the Uttermost” Edwards compels his

listeners to consider the awesomeness of the wrath of God. Edwards stated, “What must His wrath be, who commandeth the sun, and it rises not, and seals up the stars! What must His wrath be, who shaketh the earth out of its place, and causeth the pillars of heaven to tremble! What must His wrath be, who rebuketh the sea and maketh it dry, who removeth the mountains out of their places and overturneth them in his anger? What must His wrath be, whose majesty is so awful that no man could live in the sight of it? What must the wrath of such a Being be, when it comes to the uttermost, when he makes his majesty appear and shine bright in the misery of wicked men? And what is a worm of the dust before the fury and under the weight of this wrath, which the stoutest devils cannot bear, but utterly sink and are crushed under it? Consider how dreadful the wrath of God is some-

times in this world, only in a little taste or view of it.”

God’s wrath is indeed a dreadful thing to consider. Those who reject God’s Son Jesus Christ as their only Savior will one day suffer the fullness of God’s wrath in a place of eternal torment called hell. This should cause all of us who have experienced and tasted the grace of God in our lives to praise Him for His goodness and to tremble before Him because He is holy. But it should also cause us to proclaim His Excellency to everyone. God is good. He is holy, just and righteous. God is gracious and desires that all men come to salvation.

But God is also going to pour out His wrath upon all who reject and oppose Him.

–Pastor Bill Hiestand

A Special Thanks

Thank you to all those who serve through our small groups, WOW and Men of the Cross. These ministries are of great encouragement and importance to the life of our church. Men and women are built up in the faith, relationships are fostered, and lives are changed. Know you are appreciated! Please encourage those leaders who have touched your lives while serving in these areas. May God richly bless you!

Thank You!



Upcoming Events

July Events

June 29th-July 3rd-Creation
July 10th—Family Praise
& Worship Night
July 14th—Women’s Picnic
July 16th—Family Movie Night
July 18th-22nd—Kid’s Cooking Camp
July 25th-29th—CEF Camp
July 29th-Aug. 8th—Mexico Trip

August Events

August 7th—Family Praise
& Worship Night
August 20th—Family Movie Night
August 21st—All Church Picnic

September Events

Sept 3rd-Flipside Fishing Trip
Sept 10th-Crossings Kids Pizza Party
Sept 17th-Family Movie Night

Thank You Gary!

One more note of special thanks to our elder and co-shepherd Gary Glass. He has faithfully served us over the past six years and is taking this coming year off. If you get the chance, take some time to show your appreciation.