

Ft. Wayne Primitive Baptist Church Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 7

September 13, 2009

Prayer Requests/ Announcements

- Pray for personal and church revival
- Pray for our leaders
- Sister Jenny Allard facing hernia surgery and pneumonia
- Semadeni Family
- Earl Semadeni in Afghanistan
- Charles Carlton recovering from burns from farm accident
- Melissa Green continuing to be treated for Cancer

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Throwing Stones **Pastor Michael D. Green, Jr.**

So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. - John 8:7 KJV

When I was a youngster, my mama warned me about the danger of throwing stones. Little did I know then that advice would come in handy as an adult. Jesus taught this spiritual lesson in John 8. It is advice that serves young and old alike. I believe it to be especially important to those who identify themselves as Chris-

tians. If God's people are going to be effective in letting Christ shine in their lives, they absolutely must cease from hurling stones at others.

In John 8, the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman to Jesus. She was caught in the act of a sexual sin. They knew that the law required such a person to be stoned and wanted to see how Jesus would deal with this adulteress. Jesus stooped down as they were hurling their accusations. He wrote on the ground as they spoke. Then, he spoke the words in verse 7, and continued



to write on the ground. They were convicted by his challenge and dropped their stones, oldest to youngest. Jesus and the woman were the only two left. Finally, he does not condemn her but commands her to go and sin no more.

How many times have we engaged in stone-throwing?

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Fall Bible Study/Fellowship

The members of Ft. Wayne PBC discussed starting a Thursday night Bible Study/Fellowship this fall. We initially plan

to meet at Pastor Green's house at 7:00 on these evenings. The tentative dates are as follows:

October 1

October 15

October 29

More information will be forthcoming!

Throwing Stone Contd.

We catch someone in an act of sin and use it as an occasion to tear them down. Our behavior towards others going through trials is not unlike a tiger pouncing on a wounded animal. As Christians, we might attempt to whitewash our stone-throwing with scriptures or claim to be taking a stand for morality. We utter comments such as “justice must be served” or “the law commands us thus and so” in an effort to sanctify our stone-throwing. This ought not to be so! We should pause during these occasions and carefully think about why we are picking up that rock.

Christ-like behavior necessitates us defaulting towards compassion. This is an important lesson of Jesus’ encounter with the stone-throwers. Sadly, many followers of Christ lose their compassion along the way. We begin to think more highly of ourselves than we ought and hold others to a

standard that we cannot meet. I believe that Jesus reminded the scribes and Pharisees of this fact as he wrote on the ground. We do not know for a certainty what he was writing, but I speculate that he was scribbling the names and sins of that particular group of stone throwers. This exposure caused them to drop their stones.

The bottom line is that we have all fallen short of God’s standard. We have all missed the mark. We are sinners! Therefore, we have no right to hurl stones at others. This does not negate Biblical responsibility and moral accountability. However, such is always to be tempered with compassion. If scriptural discipline must be exercised, it is also to be administered with great compas-

sion.

It is amazing to ponder the thought that Jesus would have compassion on us. He was the

only sinless man to live on the Earth. He would be just in condemning us because of our shortcomings, yet he continually manifests compassion upon those who

are sinners, sick, lame, etc. He continues to exercise mercy towards us as he intercedes on our behalf today! May we strive to follow His standard and quit the stone-throwing. My mama always followed her warnings with the admonition that we should ‘just be nice’ to one another. Timeless advice indeed!!

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: - 1Pe 3:8 KJV

Christ-like behavior necessitates us defaulting towards compassion. This is an important lesson of Jesus’ encounter with the stone-throwers.

Biblical Jewels—Pastor J.C. Stanaland

Psalm 84:10 *“For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.”*

There is no better place to be than to be the “*courts*” of the Lord; in a place where the presence of the Lord is clearly felt; especially, in Church on the Lord’s Day. Being in Church on the Lord’s Day “*is better than a thousand*” days spent in the most happy activity this present world can afford. The point is, there is nothing better than being in Church where the Lord wonderfully reveals His presence. The Psalmist declares that he would rather have the lowest position in the Church (“*a doorkeeper in the house of my God*”) than to enjoy the carnal joys of the world (“*dwell in the tents of wickedness*”).

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Food for Thought

Pastor Cayton Nowell

Dear Ones,

In 1 Peter 1:13-16, we read,

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

Here, Peter exhorts those who are waiting for Christ’s return, to *discipline* themselves to follow His steps *now*, and to be more like Christ *now*.

To ***“gird up the loins”*** means to prepare yourself (and here, he means your mind) to be able to perform well. Like 1st Kings 18:46, where Elijah tucked his

skirt and tightened his belt to be able to run swiftly, had he not done that, his skirt would have hindered him in running. And so, there are activities of the mind that hinder us in running the Christian race. Get control of those things and get them out of the way.

Next, ***“be sober.”*** This is to think clearly. The word of God is the prescription for this. There is no better source to help us have the “mind of Christ” and to walk pleasing to the Lord. So, fill the prescription and take the medicine! Next, ***“hope to the end.”***

There is no reason to ever lose hope in the Lord. He loved us, saved us, called us, and keeps us! What else could he have done to prove His love for you? And so, we prove our love in return, by not fashioning ourselves according to our former

lusts, but by fashioning our conversation (i.e., our conduct) to be like Jesus in all the ways. His word shows us that He modeled for us. This is the path of holiness; and, He calls us to follow in this path *each day*. So, “Gird up the loins of your mind” and be obedient children in following His steps and showing our love to Him.

There is no reason to ever lose hope in the Lord. He loved us, saved us, called us, and keeps us!

May God be close to you each day and may you feel His presence with you. May He bless you with all needed supplies of His grace, and, may you show much love to Him in following His steps.

In the love of Christ,
Elder Clayton Nowell

Biblical Jewels Contd.

He then tells us why: ***“For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”*** (Psalm 84:11). Therefore, let us not be distracted by the carnal joys and cares of this world, but focus upon the spiritual joys of the ***“courts”*** of the Lord and faithfully assemble ourselves to worship Him, seeking only to ***“be a doorkeeper in the house of my God”***.

Your Brother In Christ,

J.C. Stanaland

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*I therefore the prisoner of the Lord,
beseech you that ye walk worth of
the vocation wherewith ye are
called, with all lowliness and
meekness, with longsuffering,
forbearing one another in love;
-Ephesians 4:1-2*



Ft. Wayne Primitive Baptist church is comprised of a group of believers that strive to worship God according to the simple pattern of the New Testament. We believe in the sovereignty of God and that Jesus died to save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).

Ft. Wayne Primitive Baptist Church strives to be an oasis to those who have been exhausted by the worldliness of many of today's religious institutions. We worship according to the Biblical pattern of singing, praying, and preaching. What a blessing it is to come out of the world and be rejuvenated and instructed by the blessed word of God!

Our church consists of families that desire to worship God in spirit and truth. The Bible teaches that the whole family is to worship God together. Therefore, people of all ages are welcome to attend our worship services. You will find a loving group of people from varied backgrounds that love the Lord and his people. While far from perfect, we strive to honor God and follow His pattern in our actions as a church, families and individuals.

We warmly invite you to worship with us and experience the difference!

Important Dates!

2009 Fall Communion Meeting—September 20

2010 Spring Communion Meeting—April 17-18

2010 Fall Communion Meeting—September 18-19

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!