

Winn's Creek Baptist Church NEWS

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August 2015

The Pastor's Corner

In July, we talked about the threefold division of God's Will. We said that there is a sovereign will (God is in ultimate control), a moral will (right and wrong), and an individual will (sometimes God calls someone to a specific purpose).

This month, I'd like us to look at the subject of God's law. Traditionally, God's law is also divided into three different sections. There are: Ceremonial Laws, Civil Laws, and Moral Laws. Below I took some basic definitions of these divisions from Philip Ross and John Mackay, and slightly reworded them with examples (hopefully it makes them clearer).

- Ceremonial Laws present a basic picture of the Gospel as the Hebrew people worshipped at the Tabernacle and the Temple. These laws were fulfilled by Christ, who made the ultimate once-and-for-all sacrifice. Therefore, these laws no longer apply to believers today. In other words, Christians don't have to symbolically wash their hands before entering church, and they don't have to make altars of uncut stones for sacrifices, because Christ is the sacrifice and He has washed His children clean and made them acceptable before God.
- Civil Laws were the laws given to the Hebrew people to help protect and govern them as a nation. Rules such as "Eye for Eye, and tooth for Tooth" (Exodus 21:24) helped provided a stable system of guidelines that helped to organize the people as the nation of Israel. But now, through Christ, both Jew and Gentile can become God's children...therefore not all of these laws particularly apply, although many of their underlying precepts still do.

- Moral Laws show people how to live. An example of these would be the Ten Commandments from Exodus 20. The moral laws are still in effect. People who have not accepted Christ's sacrifice will still be judged for not fulfilling these laws. With that being said, Christians don't live by the moral laws to be approved by God, because they could never fulfill them perfectly enough to do so! But with the help of the Holy Spirit, Christians try to be obedient to the moral laws out of their love for God, and to present a testimony that draws people to Christ.

Now for us as New Testament believers, even though we aren't made righteous by external obedience to a set of rules, God's moral law still shows us our inadequacy and sinfulness, and our need for a redeemer. Paul puts it this way in Romans 3:19-20.

19 Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. 20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. Romans 3:19-20 (NLT)

Furthermore, just because Christ paid the price for our disobedience, this does not mean that we should live in open sin and rebellion. Paul puts it this way in Romans 6:15-18,

(continued)

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(The Pastor's Corner continued)

15 Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not!**16** Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.**17** Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you.**18** Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living. Romans 6:15-18 (NLT)

Now why is this so important? So often in our culture, we will hear half-truths about God. People will quote 1 John 4:8 and Matthew 7:1 ("God is love" and "Do not judge"). These people will say that God loves everyone and wants them to be happy, so they can basically live however they want. They also say that we should not tell others about their sin. We should just live and let live, there is no law when it comes to God, and people can just do as they choose. Furthermore, they say that when people lovingly try and point out sin...they claim that they are cherry picking which things in the Bible that they choose to obey.

Let's try to deal with these items one at a time. First of all, God is Love, but He's also Holy. If you read the section from 1 John 4 where it says "God is Love", just two verses later you have this,

9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 1 John 4:9 (NLT)

God loved us enough to provide the sacrifice of His own Son to pay the cost for our sin - our disobedience to the law. God is love...but he can't overlook disobedience just like loving parents can't overlook disobedience.

Secondly, we have "Do not judge". Again, these people read Matthew 7:1, and then they ignore the rest of the chapter. Just four verses later in verse 5, Christ says,

Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye. Matt 7:5 (NLT)

What is Christ really saying? He's saying make sure you deal with your own sin first before trying to help another with their sin. Christ does say that after you've removed the log... YOU WILL SEE WELL ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH THE SPECK IN YOUR FRIEND'S EYE. In other words, don't judge others unless you have judged yourself first!

Thirdly, we have the complaint that Christians cherry-pick which of God's laws we choose to obey. But Christians don't have the luxury of cherry-picking scripture. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says,

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 2 Tim 3:16 (NLT)

When it comes to the context of God's Law, there were indeed some modifications regarding their application in the New Testament. In Acts 10, God clearly showed Peter that some of the ceremonial dietary laws no longer apply to NT believers. Christians can now eat bacon! Furthermore, In Matthew 5:38 & 39, it's clear to see that Jesus says that we should be forgiving instead of wanting justice. In other words, we no longer cut off a

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person's hand if they steal something. We don't go out and stone adulterers.

That being said, as far as the moral law, this law still shows us how to live, it shows us our sinfulness, and our need for Christ.

Moreover, if something is listed as a sin in the Old Testament, and then someone else comes along in the New Testament and reiterates again that this is something a person shouldn't do...then we can be certain that it is sin and God does not want His people involved with it!

This is not cherry-picking scripture. This is properly understanding God's definition of sin, and understanding the traditional way of dividing God's law that has been accepted by most of Christianity for over 1,000 years.

Pastor Jim



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

(To add a name, please contact Joani Layman,
434-476-7982)

- 1ST John Courtney - B
Corey Overstreet - B
Vince Loftis - B
- 3rd Ray Montgomery - B
Mary Elizabeth Magnotto - B
- 4th Kelly Fears - B
Katlyn Smith - B
- 7th Luther & Linda Conner - A
- 9th Linda Hart - B
- 10th Joyce Ratliff - B
- 13th Miriam Burton - B
- 14th Aiden West - B
- 18th Cecelia Owen - B
- 19th Kimberly Martin - B
- 22nd Russell Ashby - B
Alex Turner - B
- 24th Steve Stewart - B
Skeeter Conner - B
- 27th Maxine Martin - B
Conner Alexander Abbott - B
- 28th Deborah Montgomery - B
- 30th Tom & Kelly Fears - A
Kayla Dawson - B
- 31st David Epps - B
Madison Gunn - B



*You are invited
to a baby shower
for Joey and Amanda Ambrose
and their baby boy
on Sunday, August 2nd,
from 1:30-3:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall.*

*They are registered
at Target and Wal-Mart.*



Come enjoy "A Night of Song & Celebration" with The Community Choir on Sunday, August 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church, South Boston. Guest soloist will be Rebecca Whitlow.

The Community Choir is made up of singers from Ash Avenue Baptist, Dan River Baptist, First Baptist, First Presbyterian, Hunting Creek Baptist, Main Street United Methodist, and Winn's Creek Baptist (Carolyn Cook and James and Debra Stewart). There will be no Bible Study or choir practice at WCBC on that evening.

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WCBC Grass Cutting Crew: *Pictured from left to right:* Sonny Dickerson, Mike Spencer, Buster Dawson, Owen Satterfield, Wayne Holt, and Bill Murphy; Stover Owen (not pictured).

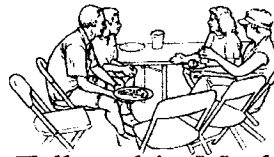
These are the volunteers who presently, or in the past, have maintained the church, cemetery, and parsonage grounds...a hot and thankless job. Be sure to let them know how much you appreciate their dedication and hard work!

CHOIR NOTE – August is “vacation month” for our church choir. We will not have the usual twice-weekly choir practice, and we will not be providing a choral anthem during the Sunday service. Instead, there will be special music on Sundays in August. If you would like to provide either vocal or instrumental music for morning worship in August, please see Carolyn Cook to volunteer.

When we resume choir practice after this break, we will begin practicing for our Christmas cantata, in addition to a wide variety of anthems for Sunday services. We hope you'll consider joining us in the choir—no tryout necessary, just come and make a joyful noise with us!

VBS Note of Thanks

Thanks to everyone who helped with VBS in July, and particularly to Kelly Henderson who headed it all up. Our “Journey Off the Map” was a great success, with 40 children attending and 20 adult workers. If you'd like to see video highlights of VBS 2015, you can find the link through the church website (www.winncreek.org).



Fellowship Meals

We, the Social Committee, would like to say “thank you” to you all who come and

fellowship with us when we have a meal. The month of July was so hot, and we did cool foods for the fellowship meal - sandwiches, salads and fruits, and lots of wonderful desserts. Thank you all again, and we'll see you at the next meal. **(There will be no fellowship meal in August.)**

DRBA Leadership Conference – Sunday, August 23, 3:30-6 p.m. at Dan River Baptist Church. “Moving from Me to We” Session One: Teacher Improvement/Teacher Methods; Session Two: Care for Students and Outreach (You will learn: How to engage and motivate your class and How to organize for care and growth). See Pastor Jim or call Dan River Baptist Association office if you would like more information.



GIVE
Blood

NEXT BLOODMOBILE:

Saturday, August 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Please contact Joani Layman to donate or help at the

blood drive. Every unit of blood donated can save up to 3 lives!!!

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AUGUST SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES



Sundays (unless otherwise announced)

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
(Adult Choir will take a vacation during August)

Wednesdays (unless otherwise announced)

7:00 p.m. Men's & Women's Bible Study
(Adult Choir will take a vacation during August)

Thursdays 7:30 p.m. Praise Team practice (2nd & 4th Thursdays)

Sun., August 2 1:30-3:00 p.m. Baby Shower for Joey & Amanda Ambrose's baby boy
7:00 p.m. "A Night of Song & Celebration" – First Baptist, South Boston
(No Bible Study or choir practice at church tonight)

Sat., August 8 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Bloodmobile**

Sun., August 23 3:30-6:00 p.m. DRBA Leadership Conference – Dan River Baptist Church

No Third Sunday Fellowship Meal in August