

THE NEWSLETTER

A Ministry of Cornerstone Fellowship of Coatesville Pennsylvania

*The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor
Mr. Peter E. Jensen, Assistant Pastor of Youth Ministries & Group Life*

610-384-1375 or 610-384-1216
610-384-6757 (fax)
email: fbcccoatpa@aol.com
www.cornerstonefellowship1.org

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A CONFESSION

The older I get, the more the Holy Bible makes sense to me. Make no mistake, there is still much I don't understand and never will, but the basic message I get. There is a constant theme to the Scriptures and that is God's relationship with man and man's relationship with God. Now, you may not believe the message of the Bible, but, if you study it some, you can at least understand what the basic point is even though it was written by many people over thousands of years.

What I am about to do is give you an understanding of the Bible's message. Here is how I would condense it.

There is and has always been God. The idea of eternity or infinity cannot be fully comprehended by the human mind. God is the one and only supreme being who created everything that exists in the heavens and on earth. And by "heavens" I mean the universe and other galaxies. Although God is neither male or female, He is referred to in the Bible as the Heavenly Father. He is everywhere all the time. He knows all, sees all, and, ultimately, is in control of all.

God is spirit. I don't know what a spirit is or what a spirit looks like except what the Bible says it is and even that is not real definitive. But a spirit is a supernatural being that humans can't see.

God created man and woman in the form that we are today. We did not evolve from pond slime to apes and then from apes to man. The complexities of the human body alone are just too many to believe that we are the result of random chance. A fundamental law of science is that life cannot develop from non-life. With apologies to Gomer Pyle, shazaam does not come from non-shazaam.

God made man and woman with a free will. He placed them in the Garden of Eden and told them to enjoy life. He gave them one thing He did not want them to do and that was eat fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. What is evil? Evil is for the most part self-evident; that is to say we know it when we see it or experience it. But according to *The American Heritage Dictionary* evil is defined as: Something that is morally wrong; wicked.

When man and woman willfully disobeyed God it was called "sin." This is what is known as "original sin," and the Christian teaching is that this contaminated the nature of man and this contamination was passed on down through the ages and no human is exempt from it. This "contamination" - again, called sin - separates man and woman from God because He wants

nothing to do with sin.

The spiritual agent for evil in the world is a being called Satan. This is a biblical term. Like God, Satan is a spirit. The Bible suggests that before he became Satan, he was an angel but rebelled against his maker and so God expelled him from heaven. He has a limited amount of power, while God's power is unlimited. The two war for the souls of humans.

God chose the Hebrews as the people he would write history through. Thus they became known as God's "chosen people." That story is in the Old Testament beginning with Abraham who was the father of Isaac who was the father of Jacob and so on. These people today are known as Jews.

Then we move to the New Testament which is where the expansion of God's relationship to man moves from exclusivity with the Jews to include all people. God's message for mankind was brought by His Son, Jesus Christ. Don't ask me how God can have a son, I don't know. But He did. And so God sent Jesus to earth to accomplish two things. One was to demonstrate and teach us how to live according to God's will. Love for God and love for our fellow man was His emphasis.

The second reason God sent Jesus to earth was to pay the penalty for the original sin. God requires a price be paid for sin before He will forgive that sin and restore us into a right relationship with Him. That is what Jesus did on the cross. He took the sins of the world on Himself and taught that all who believe and trust in this sacrifice would be forgiven and made right with God.

And finally there is the promise of life after death in a place called heaven for those who repent and believe. That is the Christian belief system in 800 words. If you don't already believe it yourself, I hope you will study it seriously. Jesus Christ will change your life, FOREVER.

THE MEASURE OF A MAN

Some time ago, a book titled *Real Men Don't Eat Quiche* (Bruce Feirstein and Lee Lorenz) hit the best-seller lists. You've probably heard of it. Not so well known, though, is a similar book by the same authors titled *Real Men Don't Bond: How to Be a Real Man in an Age of Whiners*. Both books attempt to define masculine attitudes and behavior. Both attempt to influence men by proposing some questionable measures of masculinity.

Ultimately, of course, the measure of masculinity lies in the eye

of the one doing the measuring, just as the measure of femininity lies in the eye of the beholder. The more we care about how we "measure up" when compared with others, the bigger stake we have in the yardstick or tape measure we're up against.

Getting to the Heart

God's Word makes it clear that the measure God uses differs from the measure other people use. One early glimpse of God's scrutiny appears in 1 Samuel 16:7;

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

This passage comes from a text in which the prophet Samuel anoints a teenager, David, to be Israel's next king. King Saul, the nation's first monarch, was history, and tragic history at that. Saul had once been quite impressive, tall – the kind of person with whom people could identify (1 Samuel 9:2). What the people couldn't see was his heart, a heart that would rot in arrogance, unfaithfulness, and insecurity.

Centuries have passed since Saul and David walked on earth, yet people haven't changed much in the standards by which they judge others. The outside remains more important than the inside to most people. Magazine models have charming smiles, luxuriant hair, blemish-free skin, and muscles we can easily see! Their physique is triangular, broad at the shoulders, narrow at the hip. This is the picture the world presents to us as standard.

None of this is to say that men who measure up to the standards set for models are automatically bad just because they look good. But real men are real men for reasons other than that they drive expensive sports cars, wear pricey jeans that look used even when they're new, drench themselves in designer cologne, or whiten their teeth to attract "real women."

Remember, sin always focuses our attention on the wrong things – using faulty measures to evaluate or judge. Let's think about what sin looks like. What kind of words would you use to describe sin?

In the eyes of sinners, sin often appears quite attractive. It appeals to things that bring us pleasure. In fact, when used in the way God intended, many of the things that tempt us are good things. Sex within marriage is a good thing. A great meal brings us great pleasure. Love for one's family is a good thing. But when we find ourselves looking for sexual pleasure outside the boundaries God has set, when we stuff ourselves full to the detriment of the health God wants us to have, when we place loyalty to our family above our commitment to our Creator, we turn our lives upside down and inside out in disorder.

The devil knows how to dress; were people to see the real devil or discern the true nature of sin, they would flee in horror! As attractive as sin looks from the outside, it is absolutely hideous in reality. Consider all that sickens, kills, tortures, and destroys: that's the real face of sin.

The true measure of a man (or woman for that matter) can be taken only in the heart. So what does God see when he looks into **our** hearts? Sin! Sin on the outside; sin on the inside. And there is only one cure. Our hearts cannot be cured. They must be replaced. Each of us needs a new heart.

Years after God chose David to be king, David discovered this need. He prayed, *Create in me a clean heart, O God* (Psalm 51:10). The word used for *create* evokes an image from Genesis 1, where we are told that God created everything from nothing but His Word. David was asking God for a heart transplant, a completely new and clean heart.

God's Word of forgiveness created that heart in David. And God's Word of grace in Jesus Christ, in His cross and open tomb, creates new hearts in us, too. You see, real men and women have hearts that beat to the rhythm of repentance and faith. Believing, godly hearts thrill at the relief Christ provides in His forgiveness and the renewal worked by His Holy Spirit.

Those new hearts pump humility. When our will conflicts with God's will, real men (and women, too) give in – give in to God. Real men have hearts strong in love, but not the kind of love that glares from seductive ads or is featured on tonight's sitcom. Real men love with real love like this:

But now I want to lay out a far better way for you. If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

*Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.*

Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good. We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us! But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love. (1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13)

READ YOUR BIBLE

Continuing to provide suggested passages to help you toward achieving the discipline of studying God's Word, please use the

following as your guide for the month of June. We will never understand how to walk the Jesus way unless we immerse ourselves in the guidebook He has provided -- the Bible.

June

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Psalm 147:1-11 | 16. Luke 12:35-48 |
| 2. Proverbs 4:10-19 | 17. Mark 13:32-37 |
| 3. Ezekiel 34:20-31 | 18. Matthew 25:1-13 |
| 4. John 4:25-38 | 19. Luke 22:54-62 |
| 5. John 6:27-40 | 20. Ephesians 6:10-20 |
| 6. Romans 8:26-39 | 21. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 |
| 7. 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 | 22. Genesis 18:22-23 |
| 8. Psalm 30:1-12 | 23. 1 Samuel 1:9-18 |
| 9. Psalm 40:1-10 | 24. 1 Kings 3:4-15 |
| 10. Psalm 48:1-14 | 25. 2 Kings 19:14-19 |
| 11. Psalm 61:1-8 | 26. Mark 1:29-39 |
| 12. Psalm 107:1-9 | 27. Luke 11:1-13 |
| 13. Psalm 126:1-6 | 28. Luke 18:1-8 |
| 14. Psalm 146:1-10 | 29. Genesis 26:16-25 |
| 15. Ezekiel 3:16-21 | 30. Genesis 50:15-21 |

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16).

13 THINGS I WISH I'D KNOWN AT AGE 13

- 1- Life is not meant to revolve around me!
- 2- Don't expect your friends or family to be perfect. They are sinners just as you are and sometimes they're going to hurt you.
- 3- God will never hurt you or abandon you. When it feels like He has, it is because you have turned from Him. Just turn around.
- 4- Forgiveness is an act of the will and the path to freedom and peace. Make it a habit.
- 5- A very wise man once told me that "God's men and women bounce." So, when you are knocked down, get up and purpose to keep going by doing the right thing.
- 6- Do not be afraid of hardship. Put your hand in God's hand and let Him lead you through trials. He uses hardship in our lives to perfect us into His character. He loves us too much to leave us in our imperfect state!
- 7- Sometimes our difficulties are simply a result of our own sin or bad choices. Don't blame someone else. And don't blame God. Take responsibility, confess any sin or blame, and keep moving forward with His guidance.
- 8- "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." This kind of friend is rare. Choose your friends wisely and cautiously. Some people look great on the outside, but when you get to know them, they are not the kind of friends you need. Love them but be cautious in opening yourself up to them. The Bible says, "Jesus entrusted himself to no man because He knew what was in the heart of man" (John 2:24).
- 9- Don't focus on outward appearance. When you begin to bring others into your love, they forget all about the outward appearance.
- 10- Laughter is soothing to the soul. Laugh with your family! The memories are priceless and will bless your entire life.
- 11- Stay close to your brother and sister. Forgive their faults against you immediately. God has given you these specific siblings for your good and theirs. If you maintain a close relationship with them you will be blessed for your entire life.
- 12- Begin now to make it a habit to be in the Word daily, even if it is just a verse. You will be amazed how God uses the Holy Spirit to remind you of His guidance when facing challenges during your daily routine.
- 13- Pray, pray, pray! God is your Father. Just as your parents want to hear your thoughts and concerns, so does your Heavenly Father. He wants you to walk with Him, your hand in His. He wants to hold you in His lap while you share, while you cry, while

you laugh. Learn to tell Him everything! Simply talk to Him quietly throughout the day. That not only blesses you but it blesses Him.

Debbie Fischer - *American Family Association Journal*

QUOTE WORTH PONDERING

"I have never seen a FAITHFUL giver with financial problems. I know that is a remarkable claim. But it's true!"

Dan Celia - *American Family Association Journal*

(Celia hosts "Financial Issues" on American Family Radio. For more information, go to www.financialissues.org or dan@financialissues.org)



FATHER'S DAY is

Sunday, June 21.

Don't forget to wish your DAD
a **Happy Father's Day!**

SPECIAL BLOOD DRIVE

ON Thursday, July 30, 2015

TIME: 2-7 pm

Please make an appointment NOW!

Summer is a particularly hard time for the blood supplies needed for surgeries and accidents as more is needed and less is donated because of vacations, etc. Please consider giving the gift of life this year. You can make an appointment NOW by signing the appointment schedule found in the worship center, by emailing the church office (fbcccoatpa@aol.com) or by going to the American Red Cross website (www.redcrossblood.org), clicking on the link for the drive at Cornerstone and selecting a donation time. THANK YOU very much.

A STORY TO PONDER

A young lady named Sally relates an experience she had in a seminary class, given by her teacher, Dr. Smith. She says that Dr. Smith was known for his elaborate object lessons.

One particular day, Sally walked into the seminary and knew they were in for a fun day. On the wall was a big target and on a nearby table were many darts. Dr. Smith told the students to draw a picture of someone that they disliked or someone who had made them angry, and he would allow them to throw darts at the person's picture.

Sally's friend drew a picture of the person who had stolen her boyfriend. Another friend drew a picture of his little brother. Sally drew a picture of a former friend, putting a great deal of detail into her drawing, even drawing pimples on the face. Sally was pleased with the overall effect she had achieved. This activity continued until everyone had drawn a picture per the professor's instructions.

Then the class lined up and began throwing darts. Some of the students threw their darts with such force that their targets were ripping apart. Sally looked forward to her turn, and was filled with disappointment when Dr. Smith, because of time limits, asked the students to return to their seats. As Sally sat thinking about how angry she was because she didn't have a chance to throw any darts at her target. Dr. Smith began removing the target from the wall.

Underneath the target was a picture of Jesus. A hush fell over the room as each student viewed the mangled picture of Jesus; holes and jagged marks covered His face and His eyes were pierced.

Dr. Smith said only these words... "in as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me." (Matthew 25:40)

No other words were necessary; the tear-filled eyes of the students focused only on the picture of Christ.

Do you get the picture? – are other words necessary for us?

INFALLIBLE PROOFS

The Bible says that Jesus "presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:3). This is more than a historic statement made by Luke. It is a challenge to all the critics who would deny the literalness of the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Luke made the amazing and startling statement that Jesus was alive, He was seen by a great multitude of people and His resurrection was confirmed by a great number of convincing proofs.

Today, 2,000 years later, no other doctrine of the Scriptures has been more persistently attacked than the bodily resurrection of our Lord. And no wonder, for it is the keystone in the great arch of all Christian doctrine.

With the resurrection of Jesus, the whole structure of Christian doctrine stands or falls. If the resurrection could be disproved, Christianity would crumble in the dust and have less credence than the wildest myths of ancient Greece and Rome.

The devil knows this, and so his earliest and most frequent attack on the truth of Christ is against His bodily resurrection. The credibility of our Christian faith rests on the "many infallible proofs" that Jesus is alive.

*Christ is the life, the empty tomb
Proclaims His conquering arm;
And those who put their trust in Him
Nor death nor hell shall harm.*

Because Christ is alive,... we need not fear death!

IF WE TRULY KNOW HIM, WE WILL BE TRULY CHANGED

(based in part on thoughts of Kingsley Fletcher)

It is vital that we **know** the LORD personally and experientially by seeking His face and waiting upon Him in worship, adoration, meditation and even silence at times. When we come into His presence, we are changed in a way that should be visible to those around us. The Bible says: *Now the LORD is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the LORD is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the LORD's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the LORD, who is the Spirit* (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).

If you are around nonchurch people very much, you will quickly learn that they have a keen discernment even in their unsaved state. A stone-cold sinner can always tell the difference in those who really know God and those who are just religious (there are many "churches" for those who are "religious;" we are seeking to develop a fellowship where our people really know God). That difference will become even more crucial as we move deeper into this new millennium and closer to the great harvest of the last days.

We have to know Him and know one another to follow Him into the unknown together. He is going to lead the entire Church into a new place, just as He once led the nation of Israel across the river Jordan into a promised land. Before God could effectively fulfill His promise to the descendants of Abraham, He had to transform them into a **covenant-based nation** with a new identity and mind-set.

He was going to take the Israelites to a place they had never been before, and require them to do things they had never imagined. However, those who exited from Egypt did not want to live in covenant with God. Their rebellion was responsible for the delay in entering the Promised Land. Had the first generation obeyed God, then the world would have witnessed the miraculous transformation of a nation of slaves into a nation of conquerors. In one stroke, He intended to transport them from being the tail to being the head; from being beneath Egypt's thumb to being above all of the nations and inhabitants of Canaan. Can we learn a lesson from them? Are you in rebellion because you do not want to live in covenant with God?

The Church, as the spiritual people of God has the same opportunity in this millennium as did Israel in Moses' day. The LORD is out to transform the Church into a covenant-based spiritual nation with a new identity and mind-set! God is in the covenant business. The Bible is clear from beginning to end, that God desires His people to covenant with Him and with one another.

Our UNITY and identity is not based on common programs, or shared ethnicity or socioeconomic backgrounds. It is based solely on the blood covenant of God established through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Regardless of our various understandings and convictions concerning end-times events and timetables, we must agree that Jesus is coming for a victorious Bride without spot or wrinkle. That requires transformation, and so does the task of taking the gospel to every creature.

In the church, we can point to people who have become covenant-believers and say, "Hey, do you remember that guy? He used to be one of the biggest drug and alcohol addicts in the area. I don't know what happened to him, but it had to be big." The covenant of God transforms everything about us because it is God's way of conforming or reshaping us to the image of Jesus Christ. But covenant has a way of weeding out self-centered people and those who refuse to submit to authority of any kind. All of us have authority and submission issues to some extent to deal with in the course of our lives, but some people make their aim in life to rebel against everyone and everything that places limits and boundaries on their actions. Some Christians who match that description get conformed to Christ's image by the grating, pride-breaking and loving pressure of covenant love and become great leaders with servant's hearts. Most, however, quickly try to escape the influence and transparent atmosphere of covenant relationship because they are unable to bear its intimacy and openhearted submission of one to another.

Covenant IS the Christian life in Christ. So we must work at becoming and staying covenant believers.

NO-FOOD LOCK-IN

Another way you can help support our youth is to help them reach their personal goals in support of World Vision's 30-hour Famine project. Our youth will be attending a NO-FOOD LOCK-IN on Friday and Saturday, June 12-13 to learn what it is like in

many areas of the world, including our own nation, for kids that do not have enough to eat.

You can help by donating to World Vision through this youth project.

AND PARENTS - Encourage your kids to participate in this project that puts others before ourselves. See Peter Jensen for details and to find out how to line up sponsors/donations.

**SAVE THE DATE!
COME WATCH A MOVIE!
SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!**

Everyone is invited to come to the church on Saturday, June 20 at 6:30pm to see the film *Soul Surfer*. This film is the TRUE story of teen surfer, Bethany Hamilton, who lost her arm in a shark attack, and courageously overcame all odds to become a champion again. This is the story of her struggle to understand and adapt to her new life and how her faith enables her to accept this tragedy as blessing. The film stars Helen Hunt, Carrie Underwood & Dennis Quaid

Please come and bring your friends. This film is being shown by our youth. The cost is FREE, but we hope you will support our youth by visiting the refreshment table.

REMEMBER - Saturday, June 20 at 6:30pm.

YOUTH NEWS

DON'T FORGET!!

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (grades 6-12) - WEDNESDAYS, 7-8:30 pm weekly (following the Mid-Week Worship Celebration)! Come and experience it! Bring your friends!!

YOUTH SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP - THURSDAYS at 7pm (EVERY YOUTH is invited!) This group is on hiatus until fall.

YOUTH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP - for Jr & Sr High - 9:30 am Sunday mornings

Worship Celebrations - Sundays at 8:15 and 10:45 am and Wednesdays at 6:30pm

PLEASE HELP US OUT!

EMPTY INKJET PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Please donate your empty inkjet printer cartridges to the youth group to be recycled. A container is placed in the **coat room** to receive your donations. **KEEP THOSE CARTRIDGES COMING!** We appreciate every bit of help we receive.

EVENTS:

Friday-Saturday, June 12-13 – **NO-FOOD LOCK-IN** to benefit World Vision.

Saturday, June 20 - **MOVIE NIGHT** - *SOUL SURFER* Come to the church to view this film about a remarkable young woman. The movie is FREE. Refreshments benefit youth projects

Friday, July 10 - **ATKINSON SHELTER**

Saturday-Sunday, August 1-2 - **BEACH TRIP and OUTDOOR CONCERT**

CHILDREN'S NEWS

COOL KIDS - Children, 4 years old up through grade 3 are invited to participate in COOL Kids on Sunday mornings at both the 8:15 and 10:45 celebration services. Following the praise time and the reading of scripture in the Worship Center, kids are dismissed to ROOM 108. COOL Kids (Children Of Our Lord Kids) helps kids learn to celebrate Christ in a way they enjoy and become excited about.

Vacation Bible School - VBS will happen at Cornerstone from Sunday - Thursday, June 28 to July 2, 6-8pm. Children up through 5th grade are invited to come to **COSMIC CITY**.

The Children's Team is looking for folks who will help this year. If you can help with teaching, assisting, registration, refreshments, crafts, security, etc., please contact Melissa Alton or Dr. Jensen as soon as possible. VBS in the evening allows folks who work during the day the opportunity to participate. Please **DON'T WAIT** to be **ASKED!** Please volunteer **NOW!**

**SAVE THE DATE!!
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
SOULED OUT 2015**

(Remember, **SOULED OUT** is a festival of song and spoken word in praise of our Creator - God Almighty. Start inviting your friends **NOW!** Block out this date so you won't miss this wonderful day. Line up of musical groups will be announced at a later date but your favorite groups will be back. We will have praise and worship all afternoon and evening, special prayer events and activities for children and **DINNER** on the grounds.) Watch for posters & flyers to use. And please sign up to provide food. A wonderful day- **RAIN** or **SHINE!**

OPPORTUNITY TO BE GOOD HOSTS

During the months of June and July, Cornerstone will be hosting work camps for **GOOD WORKS**. These folks are individuals who are giving up their time (some of them their vacations) to come and assist **GOOD WORKS** with home restorations in the City of Coatesville and the surrounding area. Cornerstone will be their base camp. They will be eating and sleeping here. Some of these groups are coming here to work from as far away as Weymouth, Massachusetts.

We also will be host site for *Classical Conversations* training for 3 days in July. *Classical Conversations* is the home-school group that meets here at Cornerstone one-day a week during the school year in which several of our church families participate and which is dedicated to providing a classical education for children and youth based on Christian principles. Questions about **CC** can be addressed to Melissa Alton

SO, if you happen to stop by the church building during the summer on any of the days we have guests, please be friendly and welcome them to our area and to Cornerstone.

CONGRATULATIONS, MARLIN!

Congratulations, Marlin Smoker, for having an article printed in the publication *Highway News and Good News*, June 2015, a publication of Transport For Christ, International. If you get a chance, read it and give God the glory for Marlin's testimony.

LIFE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus speaks of building a house on the rock so that it can withstand all of the forces of nature versus the house built on sand that is subject to every whim of nature. The challenge placed before all of us is where we have built our homes (not our brick and wood homes but our lives). Are we securely placed on the rock (faith) or dangerously living on sand (sin)?

It happens so many times. There is a call and a hesitation at the other end of the line. The voice speaks: "I need to see you right away." The voice is halting and tense and it is apparent that something terrible has happened. The perfect family and the perfect marriage have come apart at the seams.

Somewhere along the journey, a relationship grounded on the rock has shifted to the sand. There begins a long and tedious process of evaluation. What went wrong? How did it happen? When did it happen? There is anger and fear. The house is surely to be swept away.

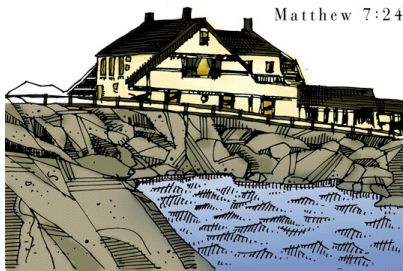
But then, after a few days, the anger and the fear subside. The question is asked, "Can we save this house, this family? Can this relationship be returned to the rock?"

The glue that will renew that house is made of two ingredients – love and forgiveness. It is the same glue that God has presented to us throughout the ages, that is, his love, his forgiveness (regardless of our sin or faithlessness).

The family asking for God's help, and searching deep within themselves, begins to look at themselves and their marriage. The hate and the suspicion begin to retreat. A new and stronger love begins to develop. The anger and the desire for vengeance give way to a kind of forgiveness only to be found in God-given love.

Therefore everyone
who hears these words
of mine and puts them
into practice is like a
wise man who built his
house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24



how severe the damage.

When we place our values and our lives on the shifting sands of fad or opinion, we are eventually destined to destroy our lives. We laugh at the older gentleman or woman going through a "mid-life crisis," trying to look and act younger, rather than enjoying the wealth of experiences life has provided.

One day, a good time later than the first, anxious call, another call comes and an appointment is made. The couple come in and they are holding hands. "We are back together" they say. Their house is back on the rock even more securely than before.

That illustration is no fairy tale nor is it a once in a lifetime experience. Any pastor who has worked with people in crisis knows that God's love and God's forgiveness can rebuild any house no matter

We are often tempted to turn away from the Rock (God) to the temptation of the Sand (Devil) because it looks or feels so good. But in so doing, we lose our roots and our reason to be. And the Devil is soooo good at temptation! We try to excuse it in our young people because they are just "curious" or only "experimenting." But it is just as dangerous and can have longer lasting consequences.

The challenge of our lives is to build a house on a rock and to keep it there. We can do that with prayer, worship and acknowledgment of our daily need for God's love and forgiveness. Sure, we will be tempted. At times, we might slip off the rock. But God's love and forgiveness are eternal! He will help us rebuild for an eternity.

READ Matthew 7:21-29

FIND THE WORDS

God Is ...

E	R	I	F	G	N	I	M	U	S	N	O	C	A
U	G	T	S	U	J	T	R	U	E	H	O	L	Y
N	U	N	R	U	H	G	O	O	P	M	S	U	F
C	C	T	I	G	O	I	O	E	U	O	U	F	A
O	O	O	I	R	R	I	R	O	S	S	O	I	I
R	M	R	M	O	E	F	C	U	D	T	E	C	T
R	P	N	L	T	E	F	O	A	L	H	T	R	H
U	A	G	I	C	N	L	F	U	R	I	H	E	F
P	S	L	T	S	A	E	B	U	R	G	G	M	U
T	S	T	O	E	C	W	T	I	S	H	I	H	L
I	I	A	J	V	N	I	P	O	S	G	R	H	T
B	O	E	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	I	N	M	O
L	N	R	G	R	A	E	T	N	G	I	V	O	L
E	A	G	R	E	R	I	G	H	T	U	N	N	L
E	T	E	R	N	A	L	A	T	R	O	M	M	I
B	E	L	B	A	H	C	R	A	E	S	N	U	O

a consuming fire
a spirit
compassionate
eternal
faithful
glorious
good
gracious
great
holy

immortal
invisible
jealous
just
light
longsuffering
love
merciful
most high
omnipotent

omnipresent
omniscient
perfect
right
righteous
true
uncorruptible
unsearchable
upright
wise

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!