

First Baptist Church, Kingsbury, IN 46345 (219) 393-1577

"Your poverty and contrition are not conditions, but blessed evidences of salvation."

February Schedule

1st Breakfast Reveille

4th Men's Basketball

6th Family Game
Night

9th Church Board
Meeting

10th Women's
Missionary
Fellowship

11th Older Men's
Basketball

18th Men's Basketball

20th Family Game
Night

25th Older Men's
Basketball

February Devotion

To this man will I look, even to him that is poor, and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word (Isa. 66:2).

The Lord, whose throne is in the highest heaven, and whose footstool is the earth, here speaks of a place of safety and rest in His presence for mankind. How?

He looks at mankind, though poor, miserable, and distressed, with His look of love towards them, so He brings them to look for mercy from Him.

But we are all naturally too rich in our own eyes, to be indebted to His grace; too stubborn of spirit, to bow to His staff; and too stout-hearted, to obey His voice, and submit to His righteousness.

Well, glory to the Lord! He has mercy for rebels, as well as a heaven for saints; yea, He makes

rebels into humble saints. How? Thus, *"The day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low"* (Isa. 2:12.) O soul, don't you see your poverty...your debt to law and justice, that you have nothing but rags to cover your nakedness? Give glory to the Lord. The day of the Lord is upon you, the light of truth has shined in you; and, as though there was not another man upon the earth, the Lord looks to you, even to you, you poor sinner."

You say, "I abhor myself; I tremble to look at myself—I am so poor, so miserable, so wretched! Surely, the Lord must turn away His eyes from me with loathing and disgust!"

No: to this man will I look, says the Lord. "Yes," says the humble soul, "If I

had but a contrite spirit, if I did but tremble at his word, I might think so, I should hope so: but I can see nothing in myself, why the Lord should look upon me, and love me. I tremble to be found in myself."

O, if the Lord had not looked on you as He did on Peter, you would never have had such a contrite spirit, nor such a trembling heart.

Your poverty and contrition are not conditions, but blessed evidences of salvation. Our Lord assures us, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 5:3.)

Do you know yourself as a humbled sinner in need of mercy? Raise your voice to the Lord and give unceasing praise to Him for His amazing grace!

Paraphrased from
W. Mason's daily
devotional (1784)

Jonathan Edwards Quotes

“The happiness of the creature consists in rejoicing in God, by which also God is magnified and exalted.”

“To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here.”

“The way to Heaven is ascending; we must be content to travel uphill, though it be hard and tiresome, and contrary to the natural bias of our flesh.”

Duke Raynald III

In the 1300's, in the land we now call Belgium, there was a duke by the name of Raynald III. He was grossly overweight and was commonly called by his Latin nickname, Crassus, meaning "Fat."

Now, it seems that Raynald had a violent quarrel with his younger brother Edward and Edward was so angry he led a successful revolt against him. But Edward did not kill Raynald. Instead, he built a room around Raynald in the

Nieuwkerk castle and he promised his brother he could regain his title and property as soon as he was able to leave the room.

This would not have been difficult for most people since the room had several windows and a door of near normal size, and none was locked or barred. The problem was Raynald's size. To regain his freedom, he needed to lose weight.

But Edward knew his older brother, and each

day he sent a variety of delicious foods. Instead of dieting his way out of prison, Raynald grew fatter. When Duke Edward was accused of cruelty, he had a ready answer: "My brother is not a prisoner. He may leave when he so wills."

Raynald stayed in that room for 10 years and wasn't released until after Edward died in battle. By then his health was so ruined that he died within a year... a prisoner to his own appetite.

“...a prisoner to his own appetite.”

Biblical Church Discipline – D. Wray

Objection:

"The practice of discipline could cause divisions."

Answer:

"Yes it could; but so could preaching the

Bible consistently. The fact is that obedience to Christ and his Word is more important than an artificial 'unity' built on disobedience and compromise. If discipline is carried on decently and in order, with the church acting

through its duly appointed officers, divisions should be kept to a minimum."

—————
This is objection 1 of 12 of Daniel Wray's book we will print over the next few months.

Gargoyles and the Church

Gargoyles were viewed two ways by the church throughout history.

1. Often gargoyles were used to assist the Church in conveying messages to the common people. Due to literacy being uncommon, images were the best way to constantly convey ideas. Gargoyles were used as a representation of evil. It is thought that they were used to scare people into coming to church, reminding them that the end of days is near.

2. It is also thought that their presence assured congregants that evil is kept outside of the church's walls.

However, some medieval clergy viewed gargoyles as a form of idolatry. In the 12th

century a church leader named St. Bernard of Clairvaux was famous for speaking out against gargoyles.

He preached, "What are these fantastic monsters doing in the cloisters before the eyes of the brothers as they read? What is the meaning of these unclean monkeys, these strange savage lions, and monsters? To what purpose are here placed these creatures, half beast, half man, or these spotted tigers? I see several bodies with one head and several heads with one body. Here is a quadruped with a serpent's head, there a fish with a quadruped's head, then again an animal half horse, half goat... Surely if we do not blush for such absurdities, we should at least regret what we have spent on them."

James Boice:

Five Basics for Political Involvement

1. Church and state must be separate from each other, in the sense that the church must not control national policy nor the state either establish or limit the free exercise of religion. But this does not mean that either church or state is independent of God.

2. Christians are free to seek elected office, and some should be encouraged to do so.

But elected officials do not have to be Christians to be effective leaders, and merely being a Christian does not in itself qualify one for any office.

3. The Bible gives Christians guidelines for approaching national and social problems, and Christians should seek to be consistently biblical in all their thoughts and actions. But the Bible does not necessarily give specific answers to problems, and reasoning from a biblical principle to a specific policy must be carefully done.

4. In attempting to advance a specific proposal, Christians

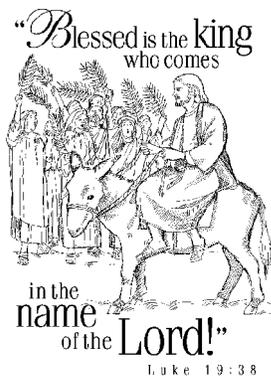
must depend on moral suasion, asking God through prayer to give their reasoning favor with those having different points of view. But they must not retreat from this high position to tactics of mere naked pressure of coercion.

5. Christians must think, work, and pray effectively, trying always to place their specific programs within the framework of an overall Christian world and life view.

And they must strive no less personally to model the reality suggested.



Blessed
are the
in Spirit
Poor



"Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases!" Ps 115:3

"The LORD does whatever pleases Him, throughout all heaven and earth, and on the seas and in their depths!" Ps 135:6

"All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth." Daniel 4:35

...there is no doctrine more **hated** by worldlings, as the great, stupendous--but yet most certain doctrine of the **Sovereignty** of the infinite Jehovah!

Men will allow God to be everywhere except on His throne!

Luther's Favorite Preacher

Martin Luther, referring to the *sin of worrying*, says: "I have one preacher that I love better than any other on earth; it is my little tame **robin**, who preaches to me daily. I put some crumbs upon my window sill, especially at night. He hops onto the window sill when he wants his supply, and takes as much as he

desires to satisfy his need. From thence he always hops to a little tree close by, lifts up his voice to God and sings his carol of praise and gratitude, then tucks his little head under his wing, goes fast to sleep, and leaves tomorrow to care for itself. *He is the best preacher that I have on earth!*"

God's Most Hated Attribute

They will allow Him to be in His workshop to fashion worlds and make stars. They will allow Him to sustain the earth and bear up the pillars thereof, or light the lamps of Heaven, or rule the waves of the ever-moving ocean.

But when God ascends His *throne*--then His creatures then gnash their teeth! And when we proclaim an *enthroned* God, and His right to do as He wills with His own, to dispose of His creatures as He thinks well, without consulting them in the matter--then it is that we are hissed and execrated, and then it is that men turn a deaf ear to us--*for God on His throne, is not the God they love!*

Continued below...

No doctrine in the whole Word of God has more excited the hatred of mankind, than the truth of the absolute sovereignty of God!

Opposition to divine sovereignty is essentially *atheism*--and were it not for sovereign grace, none of us would ever have followed the path to Heaven. I am daily more

and more convinced that the difference between one man and another is, not the difference between his use of his will--but the difference of *grace* that has been bestowed upon him.

"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns!" Revelation 19:6

Charles Spurgeon

"The great controversy between God and man has been, whether He or they shall be God; whether His reason or theirs, His will or theirs, shall be the guiding principle. If anything could frustrate God's will--then it would be superior to Him, God would not be omnipotent, and so would lose the perfection of the Deity,

and consequently the Deity itself; for that which did wholly defeat God's will, would be more powerful than He. To be God and yet inferior to another, is a contradiction!"

Stephen Charnock

Inside Story Headline

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. Newsletters can be a great way to market your product or service, and also to create credibility and build your organization's identity among peers, members, employees, or vendors.

First, determine the audience of the newsletter. This could be anyone who might benefit from the information it contains, for example, employees or people interested in purchasing a product or in requesting your services.

You can compile a mailing list from business reply cards, customer information sheets, business cards collected at trade shows, or membership lists. You might consider purchasing a mailing list from a company.

Next, establish how much time and money you can spend on your newsletter. These factors will help determine how frequently you publish your newsletter and its length. You should publish your newsletter at least quarterly so that it's considered a consistent source of information. Your

customers or employees will look forward to its arrival.

Your headlines are an important part of the newsletter and should be considered carefully.



"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

Inside Story Headline

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics, but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Word offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is

virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated

every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content.



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We Must Struggle Long and Hard

"So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then!" Joshua 14:11

It is refreshing to find Caleb so heroic at eighty-five. Most old people ask for easy places--but Caleb had a young man's heart. He did not seek easy things. He asked for a mountain which giants still held, saying that he would drive them out.

In the same way, it develops our own virtues and graces to have to fight to get possession of our inheritance.

God puts the gold deep down among the rocks, that we must dig and search for it if we would get it.

He gives a man a farm--but the farm has to be cleared and cultivated before it is ready to yield its harvest.

He gives a young man a fine education--but the young man must study hard to get it.

He gives a young girl splendid musical talent, and to get it developed into its possibilities, she has to spend months and years in weary practice.

God gives us great grace, holiness, meekness, patience, and likeness to Christ; but **we must struggle long and hard** with our old nature to obtain these gifts.

"Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling!"

Philippians 2:12

J. R. Miller

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Men's Breakfast and Study Resumes

After the usual winter break, the Men's breakfast / Study is set to resume on January 31st. The newest round of study will

be from the book of Exodus. Isaac Smith will be leading us in a study he is excited about. This will last about 8 weeks.

After that we will be, not only studying the book of James, but writing a commentary on it as we go.

Keep Close to Christ

A Christian minister was dying. He had a young sister whom he tenderly loved, and in whose welfare he felt the deepest interest. She came to pay the last visit, and receive from his lips the last words of advice. The words of a dying minister, realizing the *value of the soul*, and the *solemnity of eternity*, are important words. Taking her by the hand, and fixing his

eyes upon her with a loving look, he said, *"Keep close to Christ!"*

What could he say of more import? Her life-lesson was comprised in four words, *"Keep close to Christ!"* She had come to Jesus, she loved Jesus, she found happiness in Jesus; but the dying brother knew:

- the deceitfulness of the human heart;
- the power of the

world's fascinations,

- and the craft and subtlety of Satan,

...therefore he exhorts, *"Keep close to Christ!"*

What must we do--to keep close to Jesus?

We must keep close to *His Word*. Here He...

- reveals His mind,
- displays His love, and
- exhibits His beauty!

James Smith (1857)

E-mail
pastortim@fbckingsbury.org

Website
www.fbckingsbury.org

WMF News

The Women’s Missionary Fellowship (WMF) would like to invite all ladies to come to our next meeting. It is on February 10th at 6:30.

We will be working on special bags for foster children. This is a

white cross project.

We would love to have you attend. Fellowship, fun, and food!

Hope to see you there.

Ambassadors for Christ Study

Sunday evenings are dedicated to a study of the materials from Stand to Reason called Ambassadors for Christ.

It involves helps and

materials for entering into conversation with the unbelieving world we live in, and doing so in a respectful, and straight-forward way.

It starts at 6:00 and

ends at 7:00.

If you struggle with how to interact with people the Lord brings into your life, come join us and see if this might be helpful.

FBC KINGSBURY
PO BOX 47
KINGSBURY, IN 46345