

The Dover Dove



*June 2015 Newsletter of Dover Baptist Church Phone (804) 784-5681
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Dr. Todd Kube, Pastor*

Grace and Peace to you church in the Name that is above all names: Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

It's the month of June and VBS (Vacation Bible School) is upon us. I trust that everyone is signed up to help and prayers have begun! I was reviewing the literature and first session deals with "Sin Separation." And while I accept the premise wholeheartedly, the topic does beg the question, "What is sin anymore?" In moral terms, there is a generally sentiment that we are making moral progress in our society – just ask any proponent of gay-marriage. Thus, I thought it would be beneficial to share an article that I have read concerning the myth of moral progress. The article is by Max Aplin and excerpts are included as follows.

"Many people in Western countries today clearly believe that, on balance, human beings are progressing morally, that people's behavior is, generally speaking, becoming better and better, even if the rate of progress is slow. I think this is probably even the majority viewpoint. How often have you heard someone say, for example, referring to some evil act or other, 'How could this happen in the twenty-first century?' The implication is that we might expect the evil thing in question to have happened in unenlightened times gone by, but in our enlightened time of greater moral awareness and progress it is surprising that such a thing can occur.

"Sadly, this idea that people are making moral progress is nothing more than a myth. It fails to properly take account of recent history or what goes on in the world today. And it fails to appreciate the corrupt state of the human condition.

"In some ways at least, it is really quite strange that anyone believes that people are progressing morally. Humans have been around for thousands of years, yet very recent history and even the present day provide us with numerous examples of terrible evils that have been and are committed.

"Take murder as a key example. Is it really true that people today and in recent times have been less inclined to commit murder than they were some centuries or millennia ago? The Nazi Holocaust, for instance, that murdered six million Jews, is still within living memory. The slaughter in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge that resulted in the deaths of millions took place as recently as the 1970s. And more recent still are the murder in Rwanda of almost one million people in one hundred days in 1994 and the following deaths of millions in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"Even at the present time, murder is something that occurs frequently in our world. The militants belonging to the group in Iraq and Syria known as ISIL are busy murdering people with great relish. Drug gangs in Mexico are currently killing thousands every year, far more than just a few years ago. I also recently saw a report by the United Nations that gave the latest figure for the number of minors who are murdered each year in the world, and the figure took my breath away. I can't remember exactly what it was, but I think it was over 100,000.

"Besides murder, there are plenty of other evils in our world that are very widespread. Sexual violence against women and the sexual abuse of children are both extremely common, as any reasonable person would have to agree. And is it really the case that these things occur less often than they did some centuries ago? I admit that I am not in a position to make an accurate comparison, but I can't help thinking that anyone who says they are declining has a lot of convincing to do.

"I could list many other terrible things that have gone on in the world in the recent past or that go on today, but I think there is no need. In short, it should be obvious that the evils that occur in our world at the present time are enormous. I would suggest that those who believe that the world is slowly becoming a morally improved place and that people are basically learning how to behave better are deluding themselves. It is true that terrible evils took place in the more distant past as they do today, but to suppose that people are progressing morally is, in my firm view, just a myth.

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“I think modern Westerners look back to things like slavery that were openly accepted in the past in our part of the world, and they think that the criminalization of such things points to progress in people. Or they look at changes in attitude like the way in which racial prejudice has decreased in Western countries in recent decades, and they think this means that people are behaving better than they used to.

“What they fail to recognize, however, is that other evils have arisen in Western countries to take the place of those that have become less of a problem. When slavery was legal, for example, freely available abortion, a terrible offence to God, was illegal. (Abortion has been practiced for thousands of years, even though it used to be more dangerous for the mother's physical health than it is today.) At the present time, by contrast, it is legal in most Western countries and widely practiced. So-called 'gay marriage', something else that is enormously offensive to God, was also not on the agenda as it is increasingly today. In fact, at that time, unlike today, most Westerners rightly recognized that homosexuality is a serious distortion of God's created order.

“My point is just that fashions in morals come and go, even if change takes place slowly. At any moment in time, in each part of the world some things are probably improving and becoming more as God wants them to be, and other things are getting worse and more displeasing to God. But the idea that people are progressing morally fits badly with recent history and what goes on around us.

“Looking at the world around us, then, should not lead us to believe that human beings are more or less making slow moral progress. I would even go so far as to say that placing hope in the moral progress of humanity is an exercise in futility.

In fact, I would suggest that according to honestly-evaluated human experience, there is surely something terribly wrong with the entire human race. Even if only a minority of us commit what are commonly viewed as the most heinous types of acts, there is still something genuinely bad about all human beings. All of us at times have consciously chosen to do things that we know are morally wrong. Moreover, we are unable to choose to act perfectly. It is simply not possible for someone to decide that they will live a perfect life from that point forward. There is something morally damaged about everyone at a very deep level.

“In biblical parlance, we can say that all human beings have sinned and are under the power of sin. This is a very difficult and in some ways mysterious subject, but it is extremely serious. You often hear people joking about sins or about acting immorally, but to do that is to be tragically deceived. To do anything wrong is to defy almighty God, and the foolishness of that can hardly be overstated. If God is just, as he is, and if justice involves punishing wrongdoing, as it does, then it is enormously foolish to do something wrong. You are basically inviting God to punish you. And there is a sense in which defying the infinite God is infinitely serious.”

KID'S STUFF
By Donna Martin
Youth & Children's Director

Our Yard Sale will be on June 6th from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. You can drop off items Sunday after church on May 31st, Wednesday, June 3rd, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm and Friday, June 5th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Items will be collected in Heritage Hall. Your donations are greatly appreciated. We are collecting all items. Any items not immediately picked up after the yard sale will be donated to the Goochland Clothes Closet or Goodwill. This is a fund raiser, and we really appreciate your support.

Vacation Bible School will soon be here, and I am learning all kinds of things about science and how it complements God's ultimate design. I cannot wait to see you there!

There will be a mission project for the youth on June 20th. There will be painting in Heritage Hall.

Due to the full schedule there will not be a special outing this month.

God Bless,
Donna

WMU

The **WMU** will meet on June 9th at 11:00 am in the church Library.

The **WMU** Project for June will be to continue with collecting Over-The-Counter Meds for the Goochland Free Clinic.

Also, we are collecting greeting cards and note paper, envelopes and stamps for the inmates at the Womens' Prison. Please see Ethel Javins or Barbara Stone for more information.

DEACONS' MEETING

The Deacons will meet on June 8th at 7:00 pm in the church Library.

DEACON OF THE MONTH

JUANITA DECK

COMMUNION SERVERS

Robin Angle Suzanne Mills
Chad Hammack Gary Tolley
*Juanita Deck

BELL RINGERS

June 07 Lindsay Roberts
June 14 Elijah Higgs
June 21 Genna Hammack
June 28 Dakota Higgs

NURSERY WORKERS

June 07 Maye Higgs
 Gail Cochran
June 14 Joanie Collins
 Sara Rowe
June 21 Janice Gordon
 Jean Eyrolles
June 28 Audrey Smith
 Genevieve Wood

PRAYER

**I do not undertake to say
That literal answers come from Heaven,
But I know this--that when I pray
A comfort, a support is given
That helps me rise o'er earthly things
As larks soar up on airy wings.**

**In vain the wise philosopher
Points out to me my fabric's flaws,
In vain the scientists aver
That "all things are controlled by laws."
My life has taught me day by day
That it availeth much to pray.**

**I do not stop to reason out
The why and how. I do not care,
Since I know this, that when I doubt,
Life seems a blackness of despair,
The world a tomb; and when I trust,
Sweet blossoms spring up in the dust.**

**Since I know in the darkest hour,
If I lift up my soul in prayer,
Some sympathetic, loving Power
Sends hope and comfort to me there.
Since balm is sent to ease my pain,
What need to argue or explain?**

**Prayer has a sweet, refining grace,
It educates the soul and heart.
It lends a lustre to the face,
And by its elevating art
It gives the mind an inner sight
That brings it near the Infinite.**

**From our gross selves it helps us rise
To something which we yet may be.
And so I ask not to be wise,
If thus my faith is lost to me.
Faith, that with angel's voice and touch
Says, "Pray, for prayer availeth much."**

- Ella Wheeler Wilcox



June 2015

Dower Baptist Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 5:00 PM Youth/Children Pizza & Choir Practice 5:30 PM Fellowship Meal & DVD Presentation 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice & Team Kids Meet	4	5	6 8:00 AM Yard Sale
7 9:00 AM Prayer Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service & Communion Service	8 7:00 PM DEACONS' Meeting	9 10:30 AM WMU Meeting 7:00 PM VBS Meeting for Workers	10 6:00 PM Children & Youth Choir Practice Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Practice & Team Kids	11	12	13
14 9:00 AM Prayer Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	15	16	17 5:30 PM Snack Meal 6:00 PM VBS	18 5:30 PM Snack Meal 6:00 PM VBS	19 5:30 PM Snack Meal 6:00 PM VBS	20 Pictorial Directory
21 9:00 AM Prayer Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 2:30 PM Nursing Home	22	23 Pictorial Directory	24 6:00 PM Children & Youth Choir Practice Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Practice & Team Kids	25 Pictorial Directory	26	27 Pictorial Directory
28 9:00 AM Prayer Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	29	30				



Dover Baptist Church

2015 Daily Bible Reading Plan

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|-----------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| [] June 1 | [] June 6 | [] June 11 | [] June 16 | [] June 21 | [] June 26 | [] June 31 |
| • Deuteronomy 5 | • Deuteronomy 10 | • Deuteronomy 16 | • Deuteronomy 21 | • Deuteronomy 22 | • Deuteronomy 29 | • Deuteronomy 30 |
| • Psalms 88 | • Psalms 94 | • Psalms 103 | • Psalms 108-109 | • Psalms 116 | • Psalms 119:49-72 | • Psalms 123-125 |
| • Isaiah 33 | • Isaiah 38 | • Isaiah 43 | • Isaiah 48 | • Psalms 112-113 | • Isaiah 56 | • Isaiah 62 |
| • Revelation 3 | • Revelation 8 | • Revelation 13 | • Revelation 18 | • Isaiah 50 | • Matthew 4 | • Matthew 10 |
| [] June 2 | [] June 7 | [] June 12 | [] June 17 | • Revelation 20 | [] June 24 | [] June 30 |
| • Deuteronomy 6 | • Deuteronomy 11 | • Deuteronomy 17 | • Deut. 28:20-68 | • Revelation 21 | [] June 25 | • Joshua 2 |
| • Psalms 89 | • Psalms 95-96 | • Psalms 104 | • Psalms 119:25-48 | • Revelation 22 | • Deuteronomy 31 | • Psalms 123-125 |
| • Isaiah 34 | • Isaiah 39 | • Isaiah 44 | • Isaiah 55 | • Deuteronomy 25 | • Psalms 119:97-120 | • Isaiah 62 |
| • Revelation 4 | • Revelation 9 | • Revelation 14 | • Matthew 3 | • Psalms 116 | • Isaiah 58 | • Matthew 10 |
| [] June 3 | [] June 8 | [] June 13 | [] June 23 | • Isaiah 52 | • Matthew 6 | |
| • Deuteronomy 7 | • Deuteronomy 12 | • Deuteronomy 18 | [] June 23 | • Revelation 22 | [] June 27 | |
| • Psalms 90 | • Psalms 97-98 | • Psalms 105 | • Deut. 28:20-68 | • Revelation 23 | • Deuteronomy 32 | |
| • Isaiah 35 | • Isaiah 40 | • Isaiah 45 | • Psalms 110-111 | • Revelation 24 | • Ps. 119:121-144 | |
| • Revelation 5 | • Revelation 10 | • Revelation 15 | • Isaiah 49 | • Revelation 25 | • Isaiah 59 | |
| [] June 4 | [] June 9 | [] June 14 | • Revelation 19 | • Revelation 26 | • Matthew 7 | |
| • Deuteronomy 8 | • Deut. 13-14 | • Deuteronomy 19 | [] June 18 | • Revelation 27 | [] June 28 | |
| • Psalms 91 | • Psalms 99-101 | • Psalms 106 | [] June 18 | • Deuteronomy 31 | • Deut. 33-34 | |
| • Isaiah 36 | • Isaiah 41 | • Isaiah 46 | • Deuteronomy 22 | • Psalms 119:97-120 | | |
| • Revelation 6 | • Revelation 11 | • Revelation 16 | • Deuteronomy 23 | • Isaiah 57 | | |
| [] June 5 | [] June 10 | [] June 15 | • Revelation 19 | • Matthew 5 | | |
| • Deuteronomy 9 | • Deuteronomy 15 | • Deuteronomy 20 | [] June 17 | • Revelation 21 | | |
| • Psalms 92-93 | • Psalms 102 | • Psalms 107 | [] June 17 | • Revelation 22 | | |
| • Isaiah 37 | • Isaiah 42 | • Isaiah 47 | • Deuteronomy 22 | • Revelation 23 | | |
| • Revelation 7 | • Revelation 12 | • Revelation 17 | • Deuteronomy 24 | • Revelation 24 | | |

Suggested daily prayer from 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Hebrews 4:12 ... Dear LORD, Help us to understand. Help us to understand that all Scripture is "GOD-breathed" and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that YOUR people may be complete, equipped for every good work. For YOUR word is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. LORD, help us to understand.