



CONTENT	PAGE
Telling the Truth	1
Breaking News	3
Financial Review	4
Theological Reserve	5
Recommended Reading	6
Quotables	6
Off the Shelf	7
Worship & Community Groups	8/9
Birthdays/Anniversaries	10
Important Dates	10

"Telling the Truth"

A word from the pastor

"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it." -- Matthew 10:37-39

Over the last several months, our Lord in His good providence, has brought our church family through a difficult season. We have been hit with severe sickness, where some of our own, it seemed, might be taken home to be with the Lord. We have had personal loss of

property and jobs. We have had more than one family endure conflicts that were unjust to say the least. I secretly began to think our church had become a dangerous place to attend.

Through conversations with other pastors who also have the privilege of serving faithful congregations, I realized that we are not alone in our challenges. And it has led me to ask the question of the Lord, "Why is all this happening?" I will not begin to tell you that I have had some great new revelation. I have simply been led back to the Scriptures which is where the Lord speaks to and shapes His people. And it is here where I think we find the answer to this question "Why would God ordain these difficulties, road blocks, and conflicts?"

In Matthew 10, Jesus makes an astonishing statement that is, if we are honest, hard to swallow. He who loves father, mother, son, or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me? He who does not willingly choose the hard road of cross bearing is not worthy of Me? The one whose life is abandoned to any pursuit other than Me is not worthy of Me? Friends, these are difficult words meant to crush any thought that to follow Jesus through an easy believe-ism would work. To

cont'd on next page...

"Telling the Truth" (cont'd)

follow Christ will cost you something.

So, what does this have to do with our challenges of late? I am convinced that our afflictions and difficulties are meant to be seen as a gift from the Lord, lavished upon us through His loving good graces. How can I say this? Our challenges are opportunities to examine our heart's affections. Suffering allows us to bear a cross and follow in the footsteps of our Lord, knowing it is through much tribulation that we will enter the Kingdom (Acts 14:22). And by it, through laying down our worldly ambitions and priorities, we are allowed to learn by experience what it means to lose our life and live fully abandoned to Him.

Friends, I am more convinced than ever that all we have faced of late is truly evidence that God is at work in this place. For when we can say that we have nothing left but Christ, we have finally understood the Gospel. The Gospel means we get God. As this Advent season continues, let us choose to die before we die (Matthew 10). Let our chastening lead us to deeper dependence upon our Lord and greater abandon for the cause of Christ. Remember that crown wearing does not come before cross bearing. Don't give up. Don't give in to the flesh or the enemy. Stay the course in Christ. Finish the race set before you. We will never know true and lasting joy nor will we ever know what heaven is all about until Christ is sweeter to us than any earthly relation, any worldly comfort, or more precious than any pursuit. And friends, afflictions and losses teach us this truth more than anything else.

Walking with you through this life's journey,
Pastor Rick



Breaking News

Welcome to our new Assistant Pastor

We want to thank the deacons for their hard work in prayerfully reviewing a number of very good candidates for this staff position. After several months of prayerful interviews and meetings, our church family, on Sunday, December 1st, affirmed the recommendation of the Council of Elders to bring Stephen Woody on staff as our new Assistant Pastor. He will begin as a part time staff pastor which we would like to make full time as soon as possible.

Stephen will work in two main areas of ministry under the direction of our Teaching Pastor. His focus will be on our discipleship and Great Commission efforts. He has a passion for seeing Reformed theology working itself out practically in the life of believers. He affirms our confession and has a deep love for the Doctrines of Grace as revealed in Scripture. We believe his passion for the gospel will be a great encouragement to this body and a driving force for new works in our community.

Stephen, Melissa, Levi, and Jacob should be making their transition to the area over the next few weeks. We are asking you to do a few things to help this process. First, (and foremost), add this young family to your prayer list. We bring them in as family and we want to care for them as such. Pray for their transition, housing needs, other part-time work, and their ability to connect quickly to our community. Second, make them feel welcome when they arrive. Invite them into your homes, take them out to eat, or whatever is necessary to help them feel welcome.

On January 5th, after the morning service, we will have a Fellowship Meal where we would like to do an old fashion pounding for them. No, this doesn't mean we are going to actually take turns hitting them. It means this will be an opportunity for you to bring in grocery items or paper goods that will help them get started.

We're looking forward to seeing all that the Lord is going to do through this ministry at GRBC!

The council of Elders,
GRBC

Financial Review

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed. {I Timothy 6:17-19, ESV}

The fortunes of this world can never be certain nor can they give any real security for the future. Our hope in this life and the next is the Lord Jesus. He will also provide for our every need. And what He gives, we enjoy and hold with an open hand, without worry or anxiety, for it is His. Because of that, in Christ, through the Gospel, we are called to live with outrageous generosity.

We want to thank those who continue to show this kind of gospel driven generosity through your giving at GRBC. Over the last two months, even with many economic challenges, your help makes it possible for our Great Commission work to continue. As we bring on staff our new Assistant Pastor, we simply encourage you to continue your faithfulness.

New Annual budget (2013-2014)-----\$258,594.44
Weekly Budgeted Needs-----\$4,972.97

Monthly Giving for October/November, 2013

October 6 th -----	\$6,105.00	November 3 rd -----	\$7,082.00
October 13 th -----	\$3,778.88	November 10 th -----	\$4,415.00
October 20 th -----	\$3,089.75	November 17 th -----	\$4,260.92
October 27 th -----	<u>\$4,178.81</u>	November 24 th -----	<u>\$7,086.00</u>
	\$17,152.44		\$22,843.92



Theological Reserve

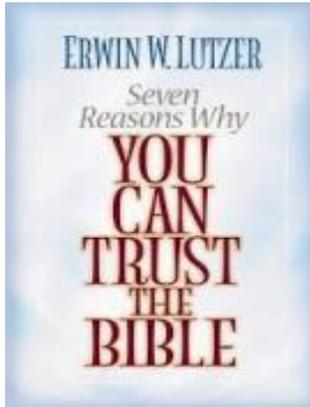
SOVEREIGN. Take a minute to ponder the depth of this word. The textbook definition refers to one who has supreme power or authority. But what does it really mean? Scripture declares that "the Lord has established His throne in the heavens and His sovereignty rules over all" (Psalm 103:19). What are the implications of such a word when used to describe our mighty God?

Picture an ancient ruler of a nation. He has absolute power and authority over all the land. His bidding will be done and there is no one to question his authority. However, even with all the power he may have, his sovereignty is severely limited. Never will he have the ability to extend the day (Joshua 10:13). Never will he have the means to resurrect the dead (John 11). Perhaps most thankfully, though he has the power to kill the body, never will he have the authority to cast one into hell (Luke 12:5). Indeed, such a king is not truly sovereign after all. Even this man will one day bow down before Another (Philippians 2:10).

Indeed, we serve an awesome God! All of heaven and earth is subject to His supreme authority. Nothing takes place in all of creation without our Lord's hands guiding it. Why then do we become burdened with doubt, anxiety, and despair? The Lord's sovereignty should bring delight and encouragement into our lives. He has promised joy to those in His presence (Psalm 16:11), to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory (Philippians 4:19), and eternal life to all who believe (John 3:15). If we truly believe in the infallibility of the Scriptures, it should naturally lead us to the point where we cast all our anxiety upon Him knowing that He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). In a world filled with doubt, let us be the shining beacons of hope. May the world see us, as Christians, and know there is something different about us. When asked how we can maintain this hope in even the darkest of times, let it be boldly proclaimed it is only because of the glorious hope we have in our sovereign Lord! May this sure and steadfast hope be as an anchor of your soul (Hebrews 6:19)!

In Christ,
Travis Rogers

Recommended Reading



Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible

by **Erwin Lutzer**

Moody Press (1998)

Reviewed by: Travis Rogers

Give skeptics 7 reasons to doubt themselves.

We live in a day where atheists and skeptics are so sure of themselves. There is a confidence in their own belief that the Bible is inaccurate, riddled with holes, and written by men filled with their own ideas. The notion that the Bible might actually be what it claims is ludicrous to them.

Unfortunately, many skeptics are better versed in their knowledge than many believers are in the Bible. Sure, Christians can cite Scripture passages. However, how many can cite historical data and scientific evidence that Scripture is the true Word of God? Lutzer does just that!

In this book, Lutzer focuses on seven areas in particular. He delves into a logical reason with the claims of the Bible. He jumps back in time with a historical reason regarding the reliability of the Bible. He expounds upon a prophetic reason with the predictions of the Bible. Feel humbled as you read a Christological reason surrounding the authority of Christ. Learn all about a scientific reason with the story of Creation. Read about a providential reason regarding the canon of Scripture. Finally, feel touched with a personal reason centering around the Word of God. Lutzer ends his book with a special section titled "For Doubters Only" that is meant to really challenge them to open their minds and ponder the reality of the Word of God. There really is no reason to believe otherwise!

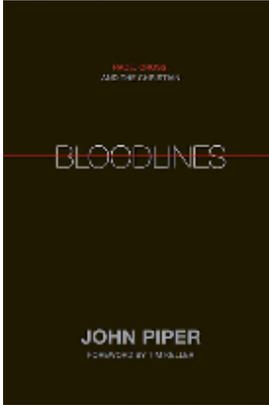
Quotables

"The Bible is either true, or it is a forgery; it is either a good book or an indescribably bad book; it is either the Word of God or the misleading, deceptive words of men. Let us not fall into the illogical views of those liberals who say that the Bible is not the Word of God, but nevertheless is a helpful guide for the church to follow. It is either a fact or a fraud." -- *Erwin Lutzer*

"What else do we contend for, but that the simplicity and purity of Christian doctrine should prevail, and that what men have invented and brought in along with it should be left behind and disregarded?" -- *Martin Luther*

Off the Shelf

(GRBC bookstore notables)



Bloodlines: Race, Cross, and the Christian

by John Piper

Crossway (2011)

Genocide. Terrorism. Hate crimes. In a world where racism is far from dead, is unity amidst diversities even remotely possible?

Sharing from his own experiences growing up in the segregated South, pastor John Piper thoughtfully exposes the unremitting problem of racism. Instead of turning finally to organizations, education, famous personalities, or government programs to address racial strife, Piper reveals the definitive source of hope—teaching how the good news about Jesus Christ actively undermines the sins that feed racial strife, and leads to a many-colored and many-cultured kingdom of God.

Learn to pursue ethnic harmony from a biblical perspective, and to relate to real people different from yourself, as you take part in the bloodline of Jesus that is comprised of “every tongue, tribe, and nation.”



Corporate Worship

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" (Psalm 122:1)

As we close out 2013 and ring in the new year at GRBC, let us be reminded that we are here to worship a God who always makes good on His word. In Jesus Christ, God has promised us renewal, freedom from the hold of sin and eternal salvation.

Our main gathering for corporate worship happens on Sunday mornings. However, we have begun a new Sunday evening service which begins at 6pm. This service is a great way to book end the Lord's Day with worship and offers those who, for good reasons, cannot make the morning service an opportunity to worship with the church family. Our passion is to encounter the Great and Glorious God through Christ exalting, gospel centered singing, prayers, giving, and preaching. Our worship should inform the mind with biblical truth and inspire the heart to live for the glory of God.

If you have questions about our services, or would like to find out how you can take serve in our worship gatherings, please contact Alyson for information about music ministry or one of the elders about helping with any other roles.

Sunday Morning Bible Fellowships

Biblical education is essential for the life of a healthy, growing congregation. In order for GRBC to better equip our congregation, we offer what we are calling Bible Fellowship Classes from 9-9:50am every Sunday Morning. These groups are intended to increase the opportunities we have to biblically educate people in every stage of life.

Children's Bible Fellowship Classes—we have five children's classes; Newborn's through age 1, 2's and 3's, Pre-K through K, 1st through 3rd grades and fourth through sixth grades. Our CBF classes all meet upstairs in the education building. Our curriculum for the classes is "The Gospel Project for Kids." This is three year overview of the entire bible.

Student Bible Fellowship Classes include students from 7th through the 12th grades and meets in the student room in the front of the worship center. Our student curriculum is "The Gospel Project for Students." They are currently working through the doctrine "Made in the Image of God".

Adult Bible Fellowship Classes--The **Cornerstone Class** is currently working through the Beatitudes, and is lead by Roy Ammons. They meet in the Multi-Purpose Room #1. Pastor Joe leads an adult class which is preparing to study the Pastoral Epistles. They meet in the Fellowship Hall. Doug Applegate leads the other adult class and they are working through the Gospel Project curriculum study on the implications of being made in the image of God. They meet in the Multi-Purpose Room #2.

Community Groups

At **GRBC**, we seek to genuinely practice 'doing life together'. Our small groups are made up of 8-15 individuals who meet at various times throughout the week, with the primary purpose being the practice and pursuit of genuine Biblical friendship & fellowship. Here, we meet with our friends and neighbors to wrestle with and apply the truth of God's Word, to experience gospel grace, to care for one another and to serve our church and community. These groups also provide opportunity to care for one another's practical needs.

Doug & Katie Applegate's group meets on Thursday nights at 6:30pm. Ken & Nancy Butler's groups meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Quinton and Jackie Rowe's group meets at 11am each Wednesday. Fred and Mary Preston's group meets on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month at 1pm.

If you would like more information about all our groups please contact the church office at 427-5087.



BIRTHDAYS

William Stephen	11/1
Carrie Sowell	11/5
Ron Miller	12/1
Donald Kurtz	12/6
Doug Applegate	12/9
Tiffany Rogers	12/11
Janet Culbreath	12/17
David Applegate	12/18
Mary Preston	12/23

ANNIVERSARIES

Fred & Mary Preston	11/7
Louis & Shirley Beasley	11/12
Brian & Lamanda Tooley	11/18
Quinton & Jackie Rowe	12/11
Moses & Janet Culbreath	12/22
Brady & Sheleen Mathews	12/25
Roger & Sharon Elmore	12/26
Travis & Tiffany Rogers	12/26
Robert & Lula Sawyer	12/29



Important Dates

Every Wednesday
Every Wednesday
Every Wednesday
December 8-11
December 14
December 24
January 5

Ladies study (6:00 p.m.)
Men's book study (6:00 p.m.)
RA's, GA's, and Mission Friends (6:00 p.m.)
Mission Trip to Charlotte, NC (OCC Processing Center)
CORE Christmas Party (1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
Christmas Eve Service (6:00 p.m.)
Fellowship Meal (following morning service)

The Green Runnings is a bi-monthly publication of Green Run Baptist Church.

Office: 1201 Rosemont Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23453; **E-Mail:** info@greenrunbaptist.com;

Website: www.greenrunbaptist.com; **Phone:** 757-427-5087 **Fax:** 757-430-1040

Teaching Pastor: Rick Crews, pastorcrews@gmail.com

Editor: Travis Rogers, junkmail_1982@yahoo.com

Submit information to Travis Rogers by the second Sunday of the month preceding publication by e-mail, in person or at the church office. The editor reserves the right to edit for content or space. May the Father be glorified in every word.