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## "Telling the Truth"

*A word from the pastor*

*I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh," -- Romans 9:1-3*

Let me begin by saying thank you to Travis Rogers for his willingness to take up the pen for us at GRBC and carry on the ministry that our friend and former elder Walt Lawrence had begun. It is my hope that through the efforts put forth to produce this newsletter, you will be better connected to all that the Lord is doing here at

GRBC. Moving into this new year, approving a new budget, seeing the Lord raise up new leaders, and searching for a new staff member has me thinking a lot about faithfulness and Kingdom growth. I cannot help but wonder.....**What If?**

The Bible calls us to have a proper balance. On one hand, we are called to plan (Romans 15:22-29). On the other hand, we are called to confess that we do not know if God will keep us alive to carry out those plans (James 4:13-17). We are called to expect results from our gospel labors (John 14:12-14) but we know that not every seed planted bears the same fruit (Matthew 13:1-9). So what are we to do? We make plans and hold our plans with a loose hand of the Almighty. As a great missionary once said, let us "Dare great things for God, and expect great things from God". And we want to dream of great gospel growth, but we want to pursue it by humbly seeking to simply be faithful. With those balances of God's sovereignty and our responsibility, it is a great joy to dream, plan, and wonder "what if"? What if God even modestly blessed our labors? What would Maturing Christians, New Leaders, New Gospel Gatherings, New Christ Exalting Ministries, and more Christians look like in the next 5 years?

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## ***"Telling the Truth" (cont'd)***

**What if God** worked through 100 of our saints as they shared the gospel once a month? Then over the course of one year 1,200 people would hear the gospel. If we did this for five years, that number would be 6,000.

**What if God** used each Community Group & Bible Fellowship to reach one person for Christ each year? Then there would be fifteen baptisms the first year and 75 baptisms in five years. If God did this, we would see transformational growth in five years.

**What if God** used 30 of our families to bring two new children each to our Children's Bible classes? Then we would see an additional 60 new children learning great lessons each year.

**What if God** used Truth, Community, Prayer, Worship, and Missions to strengthen and transform families? We would see hundreds of marriages that reflected the Gospel. We would see hundreds of children raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

**What If God** used each Adult Group to raise up one leader to help start a new group?

**What if God** allowed us to train and send one new Church Planter every other year?

**What if God** used you to invite one new neighbor over for a meal every month or allowed you to share your story of Christ to one friend whose life was falling apart or used your testimony of a transformed life to give hope to marriages that are broken? How many lives would be impacted? How many souls encouraged?

**What If** is a way to help us see what it would look like if (and when) God blesses our labor towards seeing our vision, which comes right from Matthew 28:19-20, realized. Our vision is "Multiply: Disciples Making Disciples" It is a vision which expects kingdom growth from God who works through His people reproducing themselves in others. It is a vision where people say to others, "follow me as I follow Christ." This is the culture we seek to develop and continue here at GRBC. And we long for everyone to fully participate in the process.

Dreaming **What If** for the glory of God with you and for you.

With a sincere love for the body of Christ,  
Pastor Rick

## Missions Update

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)*

Our calling as a biblical community of faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is to be a witness of Christ. We are seeking God’s face and power in order to refresh our vision for evangelism and missions with the anticipation of His grace doing great things in and through GRBC. Our current Mission Supports

### Locally

Crisis Pregnancy Center

### Globally

All India Prayer Fellowship, India

West Indies Covenant Ministries, Trinidad.

We are asking you to continue to pray for God to open opportunities for missions and evangelism for GRBC. If you have questions or comments about our current missions work, would like to lead a mission team next year, or have ideas for new outreach and missions opportunities, please contact Ken Butler, Pastor Rick, or the church office.

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## Financial Review

*For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. {II Corinthians 8:3-7, ESV}*

What a joy to serve in a congregation of faithful & generous people! By God’s grace your generosity has helped us meet our budgeted needs for last year. We now embark on a new budget year, with new ministry goals. As the Elders of GRBC, we invite you to continue in the pattern we have seen from you. Give yourselves completely to the Lord and to each other. The fruit of this will be a people who excel in the act of grace giving for the purpose of seeing the church grow spiritually and the kingdom of Christ expand numerically.

	<u>Weekly Giving for September, 2013</u>	
New Annual budget (2013-2014)-----	258,594.44	
Weekly Budgeted Needs-----	4,972.97	
	9/1----- 6267.88	9/22--- 2888.25
	9/8----- 4825.60	9/29--- 5900.00
	9/15--- 5259.00	Total: <b>\$25,140.73</b>

## *Theological Reserve*

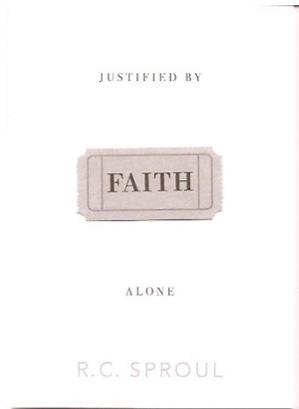
THEOLOGY. What's the first thought that comes to your mind? Is it boredom? Perhaps a few examples of division through doctrine? Then again, maybe your first thought was passion. Where does theology rank in your life's desires? For far too many, it's simply a word which never even comes to the surface. Many Christians choose to leave it in the background while focusing on simply loving Jesus. Is this an acceptable norm or is there a hidden danger? I would dare say the latter. My reasoning isn't overly complicated. If you don't understand the God of the Bible, along with His beautifully righteous attributes, how can we ever hope to properly worship Him? 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." As a living example, Scripture speaks of the Bereans who examined the Scriptures daily to see if the teachings they had heard were true (Acts 17:11).

So the latest debates on abortion may not be your thing. Maybe you don't really care about the difference between credobaptist vs. paedobaptist or amillennialism, premillennialism, & postmillennialism. While all of these can be wonderful discussions to partake in, they are all worthless if God's attributes and His redeeming gospel are left out. When I say theology, it is my hope that your first thoughts be of God's sovereignty, love, righteousness, glory, etc. Out of this knowledge, all else will come in time. Out of this knowledge, one can build their very foundation as a Christian. If we don't know God, we can never know God's will for our lives. So, how do we know God? It's easy! He's given us His revealed Word so that we may understand that which was previously a mystery (Ephesians 3:4).

Each month, we will focus on a theological topic of some variety and post it in this section of the newsletter. It's my hope that, if you have never previously given it a thought, you may grow in your desire to know the purity of the gospel and dive head first into the inspired text God has given to us. May we never think we know enough about our glorious Creator and may we never grow stagnant in our desire to learn as we are continually transformed by the renewing of our minds. Soli Deo Gloria!

In Christ,  
Travis Rogers

## ***Recommended Reading***



### **Justified By Faith Alone**

by **R.C. Sproul**

*Crossway Books (2010)*

*Reviewed by: Travis Rogers*

For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves.

Join R.C. Sproul as he walks you through the doctrine of justification by faith alone. By nature, the Catholic Church and Protestant Church are divided on this issue. In fact, this was one of the key issues of the Reformation. Walk with Sproul as he touches on the life of Martin Luther and the roots of the Reformation. Learn about the Catholic teaching of purgatory alongside the Evangelical teaching of the imputed righteousness of Christ.

Sproul first goes over the Catholic doctrine of justification then covers the Evangelical doctrine. He finally goes on to teach the nature and role of saving faith before concluding with the biblical relationship between faith and works.

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## ***Quotables***

"We want our congregations to be one where everyone gossips the gospel." -- *Thabiti Anyabwile*

"No human heart is so obstinate that the Spirit cannot conquer and convert it." -- *Steven Lawson*

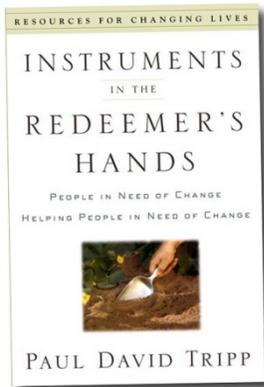
"A redemption which pays a price, but does not ensure that which is purchased -- a redemption which calls Christ a substitute for the sinner, but yet which allows the person to suffer -- is altogether unworthy of our apprehensions of Almighty God." -- *Charles Spurgeon*

"If our adoption were not permanent, we would have great reason to fear. Our sin might yet condemn us." -- *John MacArthur*

"Indifference to sin is a moral blemish, and he who hates it not is a moral leper." -- *A.W. Pink*

# Off the Shelf

(GRBC bookstore notables)



## **Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands**

by **Paul David Tripp**

*P&R Publishing (2002)*

In many ways, the church today has more consumers than committed participants. We see church merely as an event we attend or an organization we belong to, rather than as a calling that shapes our entire life.

Many of us would be relieved if God had placed our sanctification in the hands of trained professionals, but that simply is not the biblical model.

God's plan is that through the faithful ministry of every part, the whole body will grow to maturity in Christ.

Tripp explains how his work follows an "all of my people, all of the time" model. If you followed the Lord for a thousand years, you would still need the ministry of the body of Christ as much as you did the day you first believed. This need will remain until our sanctification is complete in Glory.

This is a comprehensive treatment of how God uses people as tools of change in the lives of others, people who themselves are in need of change.

# ***The Gospel Project***

*by Karen McSpadden*

I love to hear my four year old daughter read the Bible.

Except that she can't read.

Instead she turns the pages and happily recalls every Bible story she's ever learned.... all at once. Usually it's a story of how Jesus and Moses made the giraffes before going to rescue Jacob from the whale. She beams at me, and I laugh before trying to unscramble things.

Too often children's classes can make the same mistake. In our good desire to educate our children about the Bible, we can fill their minds with stories and facts and names that are great morality tales but lack a common thread. *The* common thread. More than simply a collection of virtues and vices, the Bible is the story of God's grand redemption plan worked out through His Son. Every page points to Christ.

The Gospel Project is designed to do just that. Yes, Moses and giraffes and Jacob all make appearances in due turn, but the real hero is Christ Himself. Each small story is tied back to The Story of God's plan to redeem the world He made. As a parent and a teacher, that is the lesson I want our children to remember when they've long left my class-- not that they should *be better* or *know more* but that Christ is everything. He is the power of creation and the faithfulness of covenant and the beautiful, bloody sacrifice of redemption. I want them to know Him, and that's why I am so excited about the Project. I'm excited to play silly games and sing worship songs but really I can't wait to weave another bit of that red thread into their lives each week. Join us as the Gospel Project takes flight and the Story begins.....because it doesn't end on Sunday. Talk about it at lunch, or in the park, in the car. Throw it back and forth with a baseball or bring it up with teddies and a tea party but *tell* His story to your children.

We're here to tell it with you.

## ***Corporate Worship***

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

For many, a new year means a fresh start. As we begin our new calendar 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.

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## ***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.

Most of our communities groups have relaunched. 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	
Steve Watkins	10/8
Sandy Gwynn	10/10
Brian Tooley	10/18
Millicent Notyce	10/19
Moses Culbreath	10/20
Ken Butler	10/21
Avanti Benson	10/27
Tommie Ammons	10/31

ANNIVERSARIES	
William & Trena Stephen	10/1
Rich & Marti Lipscomb	10/16
Gregory & Avanti Benson	10/24

## *Important Dates*

<b>Every Wednesday</b>	<b>Ladies study (5:30 p.m.)</b>
<b>Every Wednesday</b>	<b>Men's book study (6:00 p.m.)</b>
<b>Every Wednesday</b>	<b>RA's, GA's, and Mission Friends (6:00 p.m.)</b>
<b>October 2, 16</b>	<b>CORE Community Group (6:00 p.m.)</b>
<b>October 12</b>	<b>CORE Second Saturday Standard (6:30 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.)</b>
<b>October 27</b>	<b>Reformation Day Celebration</b>
<b>November 18-25</b>	<b>Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week</b>
<b>November 24</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Banquet (6:00 p.m.)</b>
<b>December 8-11</b>	<b>Mission trip to Charlotte, NC to help at Operation Christmas Child Processing Center</b>

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

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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.