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"Telling the Truth"

A word from the pastor

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. (Romans 12:9-13 NASB)

Our great passion as elders for this congregation is to see God glorified and enjoyed through the lives that have been transformed by the gospel. This means we long to see each one of us experience a consistent and continual

growth in our walk with Christ,. The kind of growth that flows from lives that are transparent and honest about our struggles. The kind of growth where addictions to sins of all sorts are broken and we are set free to live in a newness of life.

Two things are necessary for this kind of life changing, God glorifying, Christ enjoying experience to happen. First, real change begins on the inside (Romans 12:1-2). It begins with our mind/will coming into conformity with God's. We must have the mind of Christ; we must love the things God loves. This change of thinking, this having the mind of Christ, begins and ends with a growing knowledge of the Word of God. As was mentioned to the elders in a recent service, the Bible must be our friend.

Second, real outward transformation is nurtured and flourishes in community life together (Romans 12:9-13). It is together we live out the "one another" passages of the Bible. It is in community we use our gifts to serve and care for others. It is in community we are able to love one another as Christ commands us to do. It is in community we live out our calling to make Christ known to the world. Romans 12:9-13 reminds us that while Christ's saving work is personal to each one of us, it is never private. The growth and joy in the faith God intends each of us to experience can't happen outside of being devoted to one another in love.

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How will you grow this year? How will you endure hardships? How will you stay devoted to Christ? How will you care for the saints this year? How will you practice hospitality this year? Your elders long for our good and growth and this is why we have sought to simply stress our approach to discipleship this year. Sunday morning Bible study and our Corporate Worship service encourages our growth in understanding God's word and our Community Groups encourage proper and practical application of that truth. So, for us to encourage our growth and equip you for God's purposes, we are asking two things of you. First, simply make a commitment to study your Bible with your church family. Get connected to our Bible Fellowship Classes and come to Worship prepared to listen to God's Word. Second, get (or stay) connected to a Community Group. These groups are the perfect place and opportunity for you to devote yourself to others in love.

We love you with the affection of Christ Jesus and are anticipating great things from God for GRBC this year.

-- Pastor Rick



Growing in Grace

We desire our children at Green Run Baptist Church to come to faith in Christ, embracing the Gospel and growing to love God first and their neighbor as themselves. The following is an explanation of the two facets of our children's ministry, summarizing their philosophy, structure, and purpose.

The **Bible Fellowship** classes will serve to instruct children in the foundations of the Christian faith, particularly focusing on the story of redemption, centering on the Person of Jesus Christ. This year we are using the curriculum *Treasuring Christ*, which is a systematic approach of teaching the whole Bible redemptive story. The children will study a large portion of the later part of the Old Testament summarized into four topics: Blessing and Betrayal, Kings and Prophets, the Redeemer Lives, and Hope Amid Hardship. They will see afresh the nature of man, the character of God, and the hope we have in Christ. This year the children, preschool through 5th grade, will begin their time at 9:00 in a combined catechism class. Children ages 4-10 (preschool-5th grade) will be taught the New City Catechism in a fun and interactive way for the first 10 minutes of the hour. They will then split up into their age-graded classes:

2-3s Lamanda Tooley/Kim Veldkamp

PreK and Kindergarten: Kelly Watkins/Robin Cook

1st-2nd grade: Tiffany Rogers

3rd-5th grade: Melissa Woody

Our 6th and 7th graders will be taught by Travis Rogers and our 8th-12th graders will be taught by Brian Tooley. They will be using the *Treasuring Christ* curriculum as well, but will each begin in Genesis 1. Their areas of study are summarized as: 1. Back to the Beginning; 2. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: Keys to God's Blessing; 3. The Law of the Promise; 4. The People of God. They will start with the beginning of the redemptive story and be reminded afresh of God's sovereignty as Creator, man's corruption because of sin, and the beauty of redemption in Christ.

Wednesday Night Praise Kids is a time in which we seek to cultivate God-centered affections in our children through a growing awareness of God's good creation. This will be done through a varied, selective, and exciting study of music, science, church history, art, and geography. Though our world is certainly corrupted by human sin, much of the truth, beauty, and goodness that are reflective of God's character are still graciously visible. The Gospel enables and invites us to see God's good creation through redeemed eyes, relishing the majesty of God and responding in worship. We will learn to more beautifully praise God through music, wonder at God through observable scientific properties, marvel at God's providence throughout history, observe reflections of God's creative beauty through art, and broaden our understanding of the people of the world and their cultural variety. We aim to grow our children in their understanding of God's creation, teaching them to more deeply worship God as Creator.

In all things we aim to continually demonstrate the glory of Christ in the Gospel to our children, so that they might worship and follow Jesus as Lord and mature in genuine Christlike character. May God be glorified in our efforts!

-- Pastor Stephen

Theological Reserve

There exists a world of silence. However, instead of peace, it's a land ravaged by a war that most cannot see. There is a form of resistance but, when compared to the general population, they are in the minority. Sadly, this world being described isn't hypothetical or imaginary. Nor is it a distant land yet to be discovered. No, it's the very world we live in and, as it stands, we are slowly destroying ourselves. Thankfully, there's hope in the form of a cure. All we have to do is stand up.

You may be scratching your heads right about now, wondering what I'm talking about. Please read on and allow me to clarify. The world I'm referring to is called the church. I'm convinced, within every Christ-honoring church, there is the potential to fall in the combat of spiritual warfare. Scripture is very vocal in this fact. This is why we need to continually be encouraging and sharpening one another in our path of sanctification. Another area where the ravages of war tend to plague churches is in their love for evangelism. We're called to teach all nations of Christ (**Matthew 28:19**). In a world that hates us (**John 15:18**) and is at war with God (**Romans 8:7**), we're called to be the resistance (**1 Corinthians 1:23**). As for the final outcome, we know that not all will believe and that there will be an ultimate eternal darkness with weeping and gnashing of teeth for all who don't know Christ.

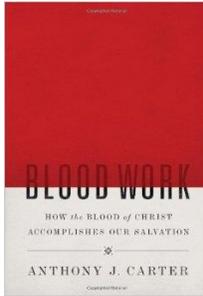
Ask yourself when the last time was you were presented with an opportunity to stand up and preach Christ crucified. Did you take advantage of the opportunity or did you remain quiet? There are a number of reasons why we may remain quiet when opportunity presents itself. Some may get nervous. Others may have a fear of public speaking. Others may lack confidence. While all of these are valid concerns, where do they stack up in the grand scheme of things?

Life isn't lived inside a bubble in complete isolation from the outside world. For every action taken, not only does one need to accept the consequence on his life, but he also needs to accept responsibility for the impact it has on the lives of those around him. A life without Christ will ultimately lead to eternal death. It's through the proclamation of the gospel that God makes Himself known to the unbeliever. Sadly, evangelism has steadily been reduced to the other guy's job. It's taken a back seat to the struggles of daily life and the already tight time constraints. As the bride of Christ, my fear is that we've simply lost our evangelistic fervor. How can this be when Scripture tells us the very souls of men are at stake? I love the way Charles Spurgeon had a zeal for evangelism. He understood God's sovereignty yet he also understood God's natural method for bringing new saints to Himself. Spurgeon said, "We believe in predestination; we believe in election and non-election: but, notwithstanding that, we believe that we must preach to men, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and ye shall be saved,' but believe not on him and ye be damned."

There will come a day when the unsaved will hear of their inability to save themselves. Would you rather they hear it from you first or from God Himself on the day of judgment? Evangelism is a joyful privilege that encompasses our entire lives. It's an opportunity to preach Christ crucified and extend the offer of eternal life to all who will believe. Is there no sweeter encouragement?

--Travis Rogers

Recommended Reading



Bloodwork

by **Anthony Carter**

Reformation Trust Publishing (2013)

Reviewed by: Travis Rogers

What did the blood of Christ accomplish? This is the question that seems to provide many similar answers that couldn't be further apart.

In this book, Anthony Carter sets out to touch on some of the foundational aspects of what took place in the atonement. He begins by giving a basic overview regarding the history of animal sacrifices. Even from the beginning, there was blood. With each chapter, he shows not just what the blood set out to accomplish but what it actually accomplished.

While nothing is particularly earth shattering, it is thorough enough to be captivating. For those who are well learned on the subject, it will prove to be a great refresher. For those who may just be learning, it will suit you well to begin here.

Quotables

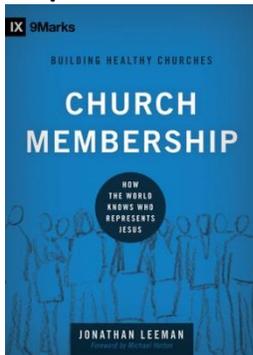
"Because God loves, He chooses. Love by nature must be particular, specifically designed for a beloved. To love all the same without discrimination or distinction is to not love at all." – *Anthony Carter* (Bloodwork, pg 92)

"If a man is in error, no matter how trivial, it can do him no good to continue in that error. Especially, it can do him no good to dwarf his mind, and stunt his intellectual powers, in order that he may continue in it unmolested." – *John Quincy Adams* (Baptists, The Only Thorough Reformers, pg 36)

"The sovereignty of God and his supremacy over all of life causes one to see everything in relation to more things because they all relate to God and God relates to all things" – *John Piper* (Contending for Our All, pg 145)

Off the Shelf

(GRBC bookstore notables)



Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Jesus

by Jonathan Leeman

Crossway (2012)

Why should you join a church?

Becoming a member of a church is an important, and often neglected, part of the Christian life. Yet the trend these days is one of shunning the practice of organized religion and showing a distaste or fear of commitment, especially of institutions.

Jonathan Leeman addresses these issues with a straightforward explanation of what church membership is and why it's important. Giving the local church its proper due, Leeman has built a compelling case for committing to the local body.

Financial Review

I Chronicles 16:29 says “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.” What an amazing reminder that first and foremost our giving is an act of worship. It is our righteous response to God’s goodness and grace. In giving, we are able to tangibly and visibly show ourselves that we really do trust God. We give as an overflow of our faith in Him. So, let us encourage you as you prepare each week for the part in our service where we receive the offering to view it as a part of our corporate worship. And let us say to you, your generosity in giving over the past year is evidence of your grace filled love for Jesus.

With our faithful and sacrificial giving, we want to give glory to God through the ministry here at GRBC by being faithful stewards of His blessings. We believe the Lord has put this congregation in this community for the purpose of making much of His glory, even as we seek to expand His kingdom to the ends of the earth. So we ask that you would continue to pray for our church leadership as we seek to be good stewards of what He provides through you. We cannot accomplish our mission without God’s blessings upon us. Our confidence is in His power to accomplish His purposes for His glory and our joy.

What would we ask of you as we begin this new year? First, delight in Christ. Be amazed at what God has done for you through Christ, our Lord and Savior! Second, pray. Pray that God would continue to give this congregation a gospel-driven generosity to support our missions & ministry through the church budget. Pray for direction as we plan new community outreach opportunities. Finally, continue to do your part. Pray that God would give you the grace necessary to give and support the ministry of GRBC. Look for ways to continue to use what God has given you to build up this church and expand His kingdom. Look for ways to give beyond what you think you can do and see what God will do. We are convinced that God blesses the church that intends to use those blessings to reach others (Psalm 67).

With sincere love in Christ and joy for your partnership in the Gospel,
The Financial Team, GRBC

Annual budget (2013-2014)-----\$265,594.44
Weekly Budgeted Needs-----\$5,107.59

Monthly Giving for July/August, 2014

July 6 th ----- \$8,040.10	August 3 rd ----- \$7,180.10
July 13 th -----\$5,548.37	August 10 th -----\$5,486.00
July 20 th ----- \$3,992.16	August 17 th ----- \$4,033.05
July 27 th ----- <u>\$3,423.16</u>	August 24 nd -----\$2,995.91
\$21,003.79	August 31 st ----- <u>\$5,543.76</u>
	\$25,238.82

Corporate Worship

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

As we continue yet another 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. We are on an adjusted summer schedule now for our Sunday evening. Services will resume up in August. 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 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— All children (ages 2-7th grade) are meeting upstairs and going through a study called, "Treasuring Christ".

Student Bible Fellowship Classes— Students in 8th-12th grade will meet in the CORE room with Brian Tooley.

Adult Bible Fellowship Classes— All of the adult classes are meeting together in the Fellowship Hall @ 9:00am

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 the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. Ken & Nancy Butler's group 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. Rick and Alyson Crews' group meet Sunday nights at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Important Dates

September 16	Financial Peace University (6:30 p.m.)
September 20	Ladies Prayer Breakfast (9:00 a.m.)
September 29	Ladies Bible Study (6:00 p.m.)
November 15	Ladies Prayer Breakfast (9:00 a.m.)
November 17-24	Operation Christmas Child Collection Week

BIRTHDAYS

Jim Anderson	9/4
Jeania Doddy	9/7
Joanna Lupton	9/7
Kevin Sowell	9/10
Lexi Holley	9/11
Nancy Jones	9/14
Alex Watkins	9/22
Adam Baugus	9/25
Jill Matthews	9/27
Lamanda Tooley	9/28
Reginald Culbreath	9/29
Lincoln Kugler	9/29
Steve Watkins	10/8
Donavon Benson	10/9
Sandra Gwynne	10/10
Gabriel Barnett	10/14
Ian Nelson	10/14
Leila Barnett	10/15
Marianne Mehaffey	10/16
Corey Hannah Sr.	10/17
Brian Tooley	10/18
Landon Veldkamp	10/18
Millicent Notyce	10/19
Moses Culbreath	10/20
Luke Doddy	10/20
Laura Kugler	10/20
Ken Butler	10/21
Hannah Nemier	10/24
Avanti Benson	10/27
Lena Hannah	10/27
Christina Jones	10/28
Crystal Graham	10/29
Tommie Ammons	10/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Donald & Sandra Kurtz	9/15
William & Trena Stephen	10/1
Rich & Martie Lipscomb	10/16
Gregory & Avanti Benson	10/24
Stephen & Melissa Woody	10/26

The Green Runnings is a bi-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.