February 5, 2023

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

New Sunday School Classes

They start today! Tom Keller is teaching a New Members' Class for five weeks in the gym. Bob Dimmitt is teaching a Systematic Theology class in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday Night

Sign up for this Wednesday's Hot Dogs & Hamburgers meal in the hall. Adventure Club starts in the gym at 6:20 p.m. Youth begins at 6:30. Adult Bible Study begins at 6:45.

Palentines' Party

February 9! This will consist of dinner together and then going to the Sheffields' house to play board games. See Shawn Champion for all the details.

Senior Saints' Valentine Banquet

The Senior Saints are having a Valentine Banquet Lunch after morning worship next Sunday, **February 12**, featuring great food and musical entertainment. Sign up in the hall!

Senior Saints' Lunch

The Senior Saints will travel to Swainsboro and have lunch at the Coleman House on Tuesday, **February 21**. Sign the list in the hall and meet at the church at 9:30 a.m.

Oyster Roasts!

Our Annual Oyster Roasts are coming up! Please invite friends and family! There is no charge. The men's event is Thursday, **February 23**, and the churchwide event is Friday, **February 24**. Both dinners begin at 6:00 p.m. These are good times of fun, fellowship, and outreach. Oysters are provided. You can bring side dishes or desserts if you wish. There are always hot dogs for those who don't care for oysters. Sign up!

FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt Senior Pastor 912-398-4363 bob@fabchurch.com Tom Keller
Assoc. Pastor/Senior Adults
912-308-3767
tom@fabchurch.com

Church Phone: 912-355-0949 office@fabchurch.com www.fabchurch.com

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Romans 14:7-8 Pew Bible pp. 949

Hymn, bulletin p. 5

"Christ Our Hope in Life and Death"

Prayer of General Confession Bob Dimmitt Romans 10:9-13 Pew Bible p. 946

Hymn, bulletin p. 6

"We Come, O Christ, to You"

Scripture Reading Psalm 70 Howard Ernst Pew Bible p. 484

Hymn, bulletin p. 7

"His Mercy Is More"

Message Bob Dimmitt

Marriage, Homosexuality,
Gender Issues or Confusion, Creation:
Male and Female Distinctions
Living the Christian Life in 2023 #4
Genesis 1:26-31, Pew Bible pp. 1-2
Romans 1:22-27, Pew Bible p. 938

Hymn, bulletin p. 8 "Doxology"

A.M. Notes

Marriage, Homosexuality, Gender Issues or Confusion, Creation: Male and Female Distinctions #5 Living the Christian Life in 2023 Genesis 1:26-31 and Romans 1:22-27 There is often a painful context to debates about sexuality. Is our view of sexuality as expression of creator or creature worship? In Romans when Paul describes the move from creator-to creation-worship, one of the first places this self destructive exchange expresses itself is in the realm of sexuality. Gender distinctions are a gift from God to be celebrated, not obliterated. Does our view of sexuality redefine love and hate? The way we define love and hate is based on how we see people.

Every sexual drive and behavior becomes justified as "normal mammalian behavior" according to a majority today who are simply mimicking Alfred Kinsey. Advocates of this evolutionary worldview have stated that their gospel was a sexual one. ...that sex was their wedge for reorienting all human relations.



Important Upcoming Dates

February:

Palentines	TBA
Senior Saints' Valentine's Luncheon	12:00 p.m.
Savannah Ghost Pirates Game	
Senior Saints' Lunch in Swainsboro	9:30 a.m.
Men's Oyster Roast	6:00 p.m.
Family Oyster Roast	6:00 p.m.
	Senior Saints' Valentine's Luncheon Savannah Ghost Pirates Game Senior Saints' Lunch in Swainsboro Men's Oyster Roast

March:

10 Gym Night TBA

April:

- I Family Easter Event
- 2 Easter Cantata
- 9 Easter Breakfast

,	Laster Di Cariast	
16	Quarterly Members' Meeting	TBA
16	CMI Speaker: Jonathan Sarfati	6:00 p.m.
16	After Church PM Fellowship	7:00 p.m.
21	Women of Light Banquet	6:00 p.m.

May:

6 Mother & Daughter Tea TBA

June:

- 18-23 D3 High School Camp
- 26-30 Vacation Bible School

July:

24-27 Older Children's Camp TBA

ver since the fall of Man in the Garden there has lurked a suspicion of God in the human heart; that God, if there is one, is bound to be against us, forbidding us natural pleasures and repressing us psychologically and restraining us from developing our full human potential. The result is the alienation of the human spirit from God, and in extreme cases the denial of anything that smacks of God, even to the extent of denying that humans have a spirit, and attempting to believe that humans are nothing but matter. —at the same time our awareness of our real guilt and shame of our actual personal sins adds to the sense (and rightly so) that God, if He exists, must be against our sins. – How can this alienation and hostility be removed? In the incarnation of the Son of God and His death on the cross.

Excerpt from Being Truly Human

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death



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hope

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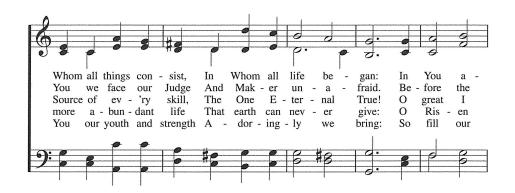
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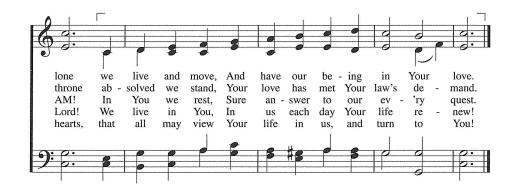
Christ

our









Words: Margaret Clarkson Music: John Darwall

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His Mercy Is More



Doxology



Music: Jimmy Owens; arr. Mark Rice

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Articles

Five Hard Lessons Learned from the Fall of a Once Revered Evangelical Leader

By Jim Newheiser, August 7, 2019

Many of us have been shaken by former church leaders who have fallen away, most recently Joshua Harris. *Dangerous Calling* by Paul Tripp has been the "go-to" book to warn pastors and seminarians against living a double life which can lead to spiritual shipwreck. Yet three of the five men whose endorsements appear on the back cover have failed in their ministries in recent years. They were not heretics but were the evangelical/reformed superstars who were plenary speakers at our megaconferences. We bought, endorsed, and gave away their books. They powerfully and accurately preached the gospel. How could such a thing happen?

There are also less-publicized cases of professing Christians falling away. For example, the seemingly perfect home-school mom with seven children who abandons her marriage, her church, her faith, and even her children as she runs off to live with another woman. What caused her to turn away so radically?

Thankfully, God's all-sufficient Word helps us to understand these tragic situations and warns us concerning ourselves and those we love.

1. It is possible for a false professor to rise to the top.

Some of the saddest accounts in Scripture are also the most helpful as we deal with hard situations. For example, Christians who have struggled with sexual sin find hope in David's restoration after his fall (2 Sam. 11-12; Psalm 32; 51). For cases of apostasy, we have the tragic example of Judas. Judas was not merely one of the multitudes who followed Jesus or even merely one of the seventy whom Jesus sent out (Luke 10). He was one of the few chosen twelve apostles. Most likely, he preached and worked miracles when he was sent out with the others (Luke 9). When Jesus warned that one of them would betray Him, apparently the other apostles didn't suspect him, saying to themselves, "Of course it must be Judas."

In the same way, the fallen evangelical leaders preached and wrote powerfully. They rose above ordinary pastors to become plenary speakers and best-selling authors whose books were endorsed by the other "big names" in reformed evangelicalism. Men can rise to the top and even be used of God while still being lost themselves. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?" and then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practices lawlessness" (Matt. 7:22-23).

2. Beware of ambition.

James warns, "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment" (James 3:1). Ambition is not always bad. Paul teaches that it is good for a man to aspire to church leadership to serve (1 Tim. 3:1). Paul also has the ambition to do great things for the progress of the gospel in new places.

But ambition can be exceedingly dangerous when one seeks success and adulation rather than the glory of God. While God alone knows exactly why a particular leader fell, I believe that misdirected ambition is usually a factor. Just as Judas was able, as an unregenerate man, to do what it takes to rise to the top among the followers of Jesus, unsaved but talented and ambitious men can do what it takes to rise to the top in their evangelical circles today.

Josh Harris was raised in the evangelical home-school sub-culture where even as a teenager he gained recognition. In his early twenties, he wrote best-selling books on courtship which earned him further acclaim. Then, while still a very young man, he was made the lead pastor of an influential mega-church. He wrote more books, served on strategic boards, and spoke at large conferences. He, like others, built a brand/platform and expanded his following with his social media presence. Sadly, he apparently reached when he had a different audience he wanted to impress. He couldn't continue to hold to biblical principles and be successful with this new audience. Neither side will allow you to serve two masters (Matt. 6:24). Now it appears that Josh is using some of the same skills and methods he used to gain success in evangelicalism to pursue his new worldly ambitions.

In a similar way, an ambitious young woman may grow up in the evangelical community in which the greatest recognition goes to the lady who marries, stays at home, has lots of children, and home-schools. She pursues this path, not because she loves God and is trying to follow His Word but to be successful in the community of which she is a part. She may fall away when she is drawn to seek acceptance from the secular culture (Rom. 12:1-2) and thus chooses to live in conformity to its values.

3. Take the biblical warning passages seriously.

Scripture clearly teaches the Perseverance of the Saints—that those whom God has truly saved cannot be lost (John 6:37, 40; 10:27-29; Rom. 8:31-39). This is a great comfort and encouragement to know that our eternal security does not rest in our strength but God's. But the truth of "once saved always saved" does not mean that we can ignore passages which encourage us to persevere and warn us against falling away. While there are some unbelieving leaders who know that they are hypocritical wolves, Scripture warns that some are self-deceived—believing that they are saved when they are not and never have been (Matt. 7:21-23; 1 John 2:3-4, 19). The book of Hebrews contains many chilling warnings to those who have had some experience of God's gospel goodness. They are exhorted not to harden their hearts and turn away (Heb. 3:13-15; 10:26-31).

God's Word warns against complacency, especially in the face of temptation. "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you – unless indeed you fail the test" (2 Cor. 13:5).

We are not expected to be passive as God works to preserve us. He works through our efforts. "Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble" (2 Pet. 1:10). One of the means God uses to keep us in the faith is the biblical exhortations to self-examination and effort. If you sense that you are moving in a dangerous direction, take heed. Turn to the Lord, asking Him to speak to you through His Word to build up your faith. Seek godly counsel.

4. Thank God that He exposes, removes, and replaces false shepherds.

While many have expressed sympathy for the fallen former church leaders, I believe that the Lord is much more concerned for the sheep who have been harmed by their former shepherds' abandonment of Christ and His church. Woe to such false shepherds (Ezek. 34:2), who fed themselves by soaking up the adulation of the crowds and making a great deal of money with their high salaries, book sales, and honorariums (Ezek. 34:2-3, 8). Many of the sheep who trustingly relied upon the spiritual food they offered are scattered, feeling abandoned and bewildered (Ezek. 34:4-6). The harm done by their fall is in proportion to the good they formerly appeared to be doing. The sheep look at the faithful shepherds who remain and wonder, "Are you like them? Will you also abandon us?" Just as God judged the false shepherds of Israel, He ultimately exposes and removes the false, self-serving shepherds in the church and replaces them with more faithful shepherds who will care for His sheep (Ezek. 34:9-16).

5. Pray that we will finish well.

The removal of Josh Harris from the evangelical/reformed scene is in sharp contrast to the recent departure of David Powlison who entered glory this past June. By the grace of God, David was faithful to Christ and His gospel to the very end. Let our ambition be to follow in David's footsteps so that as our lives are ending, we may say with the Apostle Paul, "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Tim. 4:6-8). Pray this for yourself and pray for your leaders, especially for those who have a big platform. Pray that if Josh Harris is a true believer who has stumbled that God would graciously restore him. May God give us grace to be faithful to the end. �

What Your Biology Teacher Didn't Tell You About Charles Darwin

By Philip Moore

Charles Darwin is a great British hero. That's hardly surprising, since he was one of the most influential thinkers of the past 200 years. I happened to live opposite Darwin's former lodgings when I was a student at Cambridge University, so I looked out each morning on a blue plaque hailing him as one of the greatest Britons who ever lived. I'm not saying he didn't deserve that commemorative plaque, but I should point out that he wasn't a British hero but a British villain. You don't need to be a Bible-thumping evangelical to question whether Darwin's thinking deserves to be given a bit more thought.

Whatever your views on origins and evolution, we can hopefully all agree that, at present, we give far too much honor to the British thinker who justified genocide.

Devaluation of Humans

Darwin didn't hide his view that his evolutionary thinking applied to human rac-

es as well as to animal species. <u>The full title of his seminal 1859 book was On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life</u>. He followed up more explicitly in *The Descent of Man*, where he spelled out his racial theory:

The Western nations of Europe . . . now so immeasurably surpass their former savage progenitors [that they] stand at the summit of civilization. . . . The civilized races of man will almost certainly exterminate and replace the savage races through the world.

Thankfully, most British people today are embarrassed by the racist rhetoric that undergirded the late-Victorian British Empire. What's astonishing is how little they understand that Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution provided the doctrine behind its white supremacism. Whereas the British Empire of the early 19th century had been dominated by Christian reformers such as William Wilberforce, who sold slave badges that proclaimed, "Am I not a man and a brother?", Darwin's writings converted an empire with a conscience into an empire with a scientific philosophy. Four years after Darwin published *The Origin of Species*, James Hunt turned it into a justification for slavery. In his 1863 paper, "On the Negro's Place in Nature," he asserted: "Our Bristol and Liverpool merchants, perhaps, helped to benefit the race when they transported some of them to America."

<u>Christian reformers had spent decades in the early 19th century teaching Britain to view non-European races as their equals before God</u>. In a matter of years, Darwin swept not only God off the table, but also the value of people of every race with him.

Enabling Genocide

Victorian Britain was too willing to accept Darwinian evolution as its gospel of overseas expansion. Darwin is still celebrated on the back of the British £10 note for his discovery of many new species on his visit to Australia; what's been forgotten, though, is his contemptible attitude—due to his beliefs about natural selection—toward the Aborigines he found there. When *The Melbourne Review* used Darwin's teachings to justify the genocide of indigenous Australians in 1876, he didn't try and stop them. When the Australian newspaper argued that "the inexorable law of natural selection [justifies] exterminating the inferior Australian and Maori races"—that "the world is better for it" since failure to do so would be "promoting the non-survival of the fittest, protecting the propagation of the imprudent, the diseased, the defective, and the criminal"—it was Christian missionaries who raised an outcry on behalf of this forgotten genocide. Darwin simply commented, "I do not know of a more striking instance of the comparative rate of increase of a civilized over a savage race."

Meanwhile, several thousand miles away, Cecil Rhodes was gleefully embracing Darwin's thinking as justification for white expansion across southern Africa. He was so inspired by Darwinian evolutionist Winwood Reade's The Martyrdom of Man that he later confessed, "That book has made me what I am."

What it made him was the architect of one of the most brutal and immoral acts of European expansion and genocide in history. Rhodes wrote in 1877:

I contend that we are the finest race in the world and that the more of the world we inhabit the better it is for the human race. . . . It is our duty to seize every opportunity of acquiring more territory and we should keep this one idea steadily before our eyes that more territory simply means more of the Anglo-Saxon race, more of the best, the most human, most honorable race the world possesses.

If what Rhodes believed sounds shocking to you—and I hope it does—then understand that he was simply stating what he drew from the works of both Darwin and Francis Galton, Charles Darwin's cousin, who extrapolated his cousin's thinking to pioneer racial eugenics.

Select Your Choice

I've used British examples because I'm British, and it seems more polite to point out the errors in my own national worldview than in that of other nations. I could've pointed out how Darwin's thinking was used by late 19th-century Americans to justify acts of genocide against Native Americans. I could've pointed out how Hitler and his Nazi philosophers used it to justify wars of expansion and horrific holocaust. I could've pointed out how Communist Russia used Darwinian evolution to justify its liquidation of non-Russian people groups within the Soviet empire. I could've pointed out how it was used by Serbs to justify their genocide against Croatians and Kosovans.

But I don't have to. The British example is enough to make us question whether Charles Darwin was truly a British hero at all. At least we should strip him of his place on our £10 banknote and stop protecting his thinking from the scrutiny it deserves in school classrooms, in TV documentaries, and in the corridors of power.

Because whether or not you agree with his thoughts on evolution, you should at the very least *want* to discover he was wrong.

Whom would you rather discover was right all along? The Christian reformers of the early 19th century, like William Wilberforce and the Earl of Shaftesbury, who argued from belief in divine creation that slaves should be freed and that children shouldn't be forced to work themselves to death in factories for having been born to the wrong parents? Or Charles Darwin, who argued from belief in a godless beginning to the universe that natural selection is a virtue and that, consequently, acts of genocide are part and parcel of the way the world was always supposed to be?

In the words of Jesus himself, "By their fruits you will be able to judge their teaching." �

here should be something about Christians (us) that the world can't quite understand. I don't mean that people would think of us as strange or weird but that they would certainly see something different about us.

Instead we kind of blend in. There's nothing different about us. We are conditioned to think, talk and believe in the way the culture encourages us to think, talk, and believe, but we forget that our culture isn't a Biblical one.

As Christians we ought to feel some discontentment here. We ought to feel like this world is not our home. YET many of us do feel at home here, at home in our world and comfortable in what we have.

The Martyr's Oath

Missionary of the Week

Jim & Karan Romaine Church Planting International - Queens, NY

Romaine India Report

February 2023

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers and support for my recent ministry trip to Bhubaneswar, India, traveling with Pastor Jason Cunningham. We went to minister to the pastors of the Reformed Gospel Fellowship. Normally we have between 35 and 40 pastors attending this conference but this year the Lord blessed us with over 80 pastors! We thank the Lord for keeping us in good health and protecting us all along the way.



Daily Teaching

I taught on the Book of Philippians and Jason taught on Introduction to Theology. I believe the lessons were a help to the pastors as we received many positive responses. Here you can see some pictures from the conference and the Sunday House Church meeting where I preached on "Barnabas, the Encourager."

Sunday House Church Meeting

Thank you again for your prayers and generous gifts.

Dr. Jim Romaine



Worship & Prayer



Communion at our Closing Service

dmitting our real motives of our anger exposes us...who wants others to know what we were thinking at that moment during that last argument? Our anger clearly communicates the following: I demand that you love me on my terms. I will prove that I am right at all costs. Proving that you are inexcusably and outrageously wrong is one way to prove that I'm right, and that I'm a victim of your ridiculous iniquity. I want to be in control. You should obey me, listen to me, and attend to my every want. How dare you cross MY almighty will?

David Powlison, Good and Angry

Nursery February 5 Babies:

Carolyn Blanton, Sonja Clements, Cindy Wise

Toddlers:

Jan DeLoach, Rebekah Helmick
Preschoolers:

Avalon DeLoach, Amy Keller

Nursery February 12 Babies:

Lynn Ernst, Jeanie Groover, Beth Lewis

Toddlers:

Michael & Karrie Walker **Preschoolers:**

Barbara Mason, Rachel Beatty

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If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service, drop a note in the offering plate

drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons

This Week at FABC			
Today			
Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.		
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.		
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.		
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.		
Tuesday			
Joy Class	9:00 a.m.		
Men's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.		
Women's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.		
Wednesday			
Supper: Hot Dogs & Hamburgers	5:30 p.m.		
Adventure Club (in gym)	6:20 p.m.		
Youth (in Fellowship Hall)	6:30 p.m.		
Bible Study (in Sanctuary)	6:45 p.m.		
Thursday			
Senior Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m.		
Women's Bible Study	6:15 p.m.		

Lockup Deacons for February: Howard Ernst, Ron Fowler



Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

Babies

"Systematic Theology" Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt
"New Members" Gym Overhang: Tom Keller
"John" Piano Overflow: Steve Jackson
"Lies Women Believe" Organ Overflow: Tamera Smith

Room 3:

Children and Students

Toddlers Room 24 Susan Su, Deborah Focht Pre-K Room 25: Emily Wise, Kamee Roberson/ Michael and Ruth Kleinpeter K, 1st and 2nd Grade Room 28: John and Pam Humphrey Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills 3rd-6th Grade Boys Room 202: 3rd-6th Grade Girls Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton Room 204: Youth Guvs Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion Room 206: Youth Girls Room 208: Jessica Dimmitt, Avalon DeLoach

Kay Stanford, Saundra Bridges