

Editorial Thought...

God Is Love? Really?

"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." - 1st John 4:8 [NIV]



Daniel Seay

What is wrong with the world? The simple answer is that it is hostile in mind and engaged in evil deeds. We are the crowning glory of the creation of God. We were created to live and bring glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And, instead, we are hostile toward the One by whom and for whom all things were created. That is what is wrong with the world.

Many in this world ask about what appears to be injustices and the many calamities that befall the innocent in our societies. They ask, *"If God is so powerful and so good and so loving, why do bad things happen, especially to good people?"* Typically, these questions are asked with a certain level of "high mindedness" and a comfortable – even judgmental – disdain for God. The answer, of course, is that the question is not being asked correctly. The question needs to be asked properly in this way, *"How on earth can a Holy and Righteous God know what I did and thought and said yesterday and not kill me in my sleep last night?"*

Now, that's a question! Those who don't ask it that way don't understand the issues. To them, the problem is always *"out there"*, as if people are *"worthy"* of receiving the various and splendid gifts of God. Let's ask this question: *"Why are we here today?"* I mean, why have we not been consumed and devoured by the wrath of God already? Why does God patiently hold off and reserve His judgment and wrath against us? Now that's a question without an answer... *unless...* unless you believe in the power of love. *"This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with Him."* (1st John 4:10 – MSG).

Stephen Fry, an Irish comedian (so called) and espoused atheist, was asked by a TV commentator what he would say if, at his death, he were to encounter "God". He responded this way: *"I think I'd say, 'Bone cancer in children?' What's that about? How dare you. How dare you create a world in which there is such misery that is not our fault. It's not right. It's utterly, utterly evil. Why should I respect a capricious, mean-minded, stupid God who creates a world that is so full of injustice and pain?' That's what I would say."*

Mr. Fry is not alone in his feelings, unfortunately. There are many who believe in the Supremacy of Man. Their attitude is *"How dare God!"* To them, man is the measure of all things. There is nothing more *"supreme"* than man. However, people who understand the issues realize, and trust in, the Supremacy of Christ. They wonder how mankind can even think about stealing Christ's air in order to breathe, because – indeed – all things in heaven and on earth are His. The difference is this: The first group want to believe in an *omnipotent but not sovereign* God. To them He's like a cosmic bell hop who needs to be available at our beck and call. To those who believe in the Supremacy of Christ, He is both *omnipotent and sovereign* and, by that very fact, deserves our worship and obedience. And we are grateful for whatever blessings He permits to come our way. And since He is a *loving God*, He brings to us every spiritual blessing in the universe (Ephesians 1:3). *"What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are. But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who He is or what He's up to."* (1st John 3:1 – MSG).

News And Notes

Our Prayer List

Bud Daniel, Austin Clark, Sheridan Penrod, LuAnn Gann, The Robin Wilson family, Josh Wallace, Josh Werner, Billye Werner, June Brant, Donna Spader, Alice Jones, Daker Elessor Diana Nordin, Dick Cox, Barbara Shank, Gary Scoggins, Andy Huffman, Joe Kreutzkamp, John & Helen Meyer, Our Elected Officials and all World Leaders.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
[James 5:16b]

Statistics

For The Week Of February 8th, 2015

Sunday Class	16
Sunday AM	24
Sunday PM	8
Wednesday PM	6
Contribution	\$602.00
YTD Budget (6)	\$4410.00
Difference Year-To-Date	-\$644.50
Savings Account Balance	\$1,140.89

2nd Corinthians 9:12 – 'Your generosity is doing great things

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: Alice Jones (19)

Anniversary: -A-Edgett (12), A-McCollam (23)

COMING EVENTS

February Valentines Fellowship Luncheon

* Today @ Noon – Men Serve the Women

Tulsa Workshop Coming Soon

- Wednesday-Sunday, March 18th to 21st, 2015-

Our Annual Valentines Lunch

Our annual Valentines lunch is today at noon. The men will serve the women. It's going to be a great lunch. Don't miss it.



Agenda For Sunday, February 15th, 2015

Theme:

NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD

Today's Topic:

"God Is Love? Really?"

AM Class: *"HAVE YOU PRAYED ABOUT IT?"*

Film Series – Moderated By Dan Seay

10:30 am: *"...The Way Of Love"*

Text: 1st John / Romans 8 / John 15:13

1 pm: *"Devotional"*

At The End Of Our Lunch Together

Wed. Bible Study: *"Isaiah The Prophet" Study* - Wade McCallie, Moderating

Special Prayer Requests

Pray Special And Specific Intercessory Prayers For:

June Brant	Gary Scoggins
Billye Werner	Ruth Kinnick
Diana Nordin	Allen Sullivan
Sheridan Penrod	Andy Huffman
Robin Wilson	Pat Murphy
Austin Clark	Roy Bays
Ray and Imogene Hearn	Art and Janice Mischler
Bill Fisher	Sophia Cannady
Josh Wallace	Jeanie McDonald
Rozalyn Boggs	Norman Gann family

Carpenter Place To Pickup Pantry

The Carpenter Place Children's Home will be here March 19th to pick up our pantry donations. We need to stock up now so as to be ready for their arrival. Let's do this!

The Tulsa Workshop

