



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ August 2015

Here comes Jesus!
He Walked on Water!

Rehoboth Baptist Church
6th Annual Family Fun Fair



August 15th Lots of Games, Food, & Stories
11:00 - 3:00 It's FREE and All are Welcome!
132 Moulton St(rt 118) (508) 252-6437
Rehoboth, MA RehobothBaptistChurch.org

Are you ready for the Fun Fair?

Are you ready to do your part?

Are you spreading the word?

We need your help!

How will you help, so that the gospel will be shared and pray that we will see the miracle of new birth.

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea,... Matthew 14:22-26a (NKJV)

Mustard Seed Contents ~ August 2015

RBC in Transition.....	1
Mission News.....	2
Quiz Answers:.....	3
Here Comes Jesus.....	3
Thoughts about Worship.....	4
The Remedy for Paralyzed Sinners & Fallen Saints.....	5
Focus First and Most on God.....	5
Quiz: Jesus' Miracles.....	6
I'm Confused about God.....	6
Brennan Manning on God's Love.....	7
Thoughts on Preaching.....	8
August 2015 Calendar.....	9
September 2015 Calendar.....	10

Visit us at: www.RehobothBaptistChurch.org
Email: Pastor@RehobothBaptistChurch.org
Mustard Seed Email: DLA85@Dlitttlehale.com

RBC in Transition

In the midst of transition, that is where Rehoboth Baptist Church finds itself today. You may be asking yourself if this is a good thing or a bad thing. Take a moment with me to look at this transition, and all that surrounds it.

Some might think that the word "transition" is cold, emotionless, or business-like, but we need to have a common understanding of what it means.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines "transition" as: "Passage from one place or state to another; change"

The word "transition" describes perfectly, and simply, where we find ourselves. We are in a state of change. We are in the state, or condition, of changing from one pastor to our next one. I could also describe it as, "the journey from where we were to where we will be."

I know that some are still feeling the loss of Ron Bridge as our Pastor, and that is expected. But we, as a body, need to now be looking forward.

Philippians 3:13-14 (ESV) "*Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*"

There is much to be thankful to the Lord for about Pastor Ron and Mickie:

- For having given us so many years with them.
- For having grounded us in solid doctrine and teaching.
- For having left the church in the hands of a very solid Elder Board and Deacon Board.
- For the other things that I do not have enough space to list.
- For having prepared an extensive package of information to help us in this time of transition. This package includes:

* Scheduling pulpit supply up to the end of October with men that are familiar to most of us.

--> August 2nd – Brian Labosier

--> August 9th – Seth Rogers

--> August 16th – Brian Labosier

--> August 23rd – Brian Hess

--> August 30th – Brian Hess

* Men that can help us when we start to look for candidates.

* Various ministry contacts and information.

* And much more.

The elder board will not be establishing a search committee before September. This is based on Pastor Ron's advice, and I believe that there is great wisdom in this.

In Christ's Service,

Bob Price, Chairman of the Elder Board



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ August 2015

Mission News

In August, we will be praying for **Wayne and Joyce Raychard**, missionaries with Africa Inland Mission in Kenya. Africa Inland Mission is an evangelical Christian mission agency serving across Africa. Their heart is to see the worship of Jesus Christ spread over the continent of Africa. Through individuals with lives fully committed to Him, and collectively through Christ-centered church communities.

The church in Africa is growing daily, but with over 900 African people groups who have not heard the Good News of Jesus, there is much work to be done.

Their missionary team is diverse, and includes outreach workers, church planters, medical personnel, a broad network of logistical and support personnel, pilots, teachers, accountants, engineers, and more.

They are committed to being and making disciples of Jesus Christ. "...I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb...And they cried in a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God, Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Revelation 7:9-10

Wayne and Joyce returned to Kenya in January, 2015, to begin their final 2 years.

Here are highlights from their July newsletter:

In mid-May they traveled to Tanga, Tanzania to attend the graduation of their team members from Kiswahili school and bring them back to Kwale in Kenya. Language study is an ongoing challenge, and each team member has their own Kenyan language helper. They meet 3 times a week, and spend at least 2 hours a day doing independent study and review.

Beside weekly team meetings, the members must complete a 3 month session in formal Kiswahili language study. The team members are involved in various areas of service such as nursing, local government, community health, teaching, and new ideas in farming.

Most of the team attend the local church in Kwale town. Everything is done in the language of Kiswahili, which is quite a struggle, but helps their language skills. Several Digo Christians from Wayne and Joyce's previous ministry during the 80's and 90's, and a few new believers have begun meeting in the village where members of the team now live. This presents new challenges for both these young missionaries and this new body of believers in Jesus, but they are doing well.

Their goal is to develop a simple, reproducible church model that fits Digo culture and does not depend on outside resources.

Wayne and Joyce praise the Lord for the blessing of 2

new granddaughters born in March and May. They now have 7 grandsons, and 7 granddaughters!

Prayer requests:

-> please pray for Joyce as she goes in for another eye check-up this week. She was told in April that the cataract in her left eye should be ready to be removed in August or September. Her vision is very limited, and because of optic nerve damage, her right eye has only peripheral vision.

-> pray for the new team members as they adjust to their living situations and begin to build new networks of relationships. Pray for unity and quick assimilation to culture and language, so that the Gospel can continue to reach these people.

-> please pray for safety in this country

Wayne and Joyce Raychard have served the Lord faithfully for many years. Please continue to encourage and uphold them through your prayers.

Pat and Joyce Murphy were our missionaries for the month of July. They serve with Missions Door at SEMBEQ, Quebec, Canada.

About SEMBEQ-

Early in the 1960's a Missions Door missionary, along with other evangelicals, began a work in the French-speaking province of Quebec. In response to the need for church leaders, as many came to faith in Christ, Le Seminaire Baptiste Evangelique du Quebec (The Evangelical Baptist Seminary of Quebec) was formed in 1974.

The Seminary seeks to assist Baptist churches to fulfill the task of preparing devoted servants of Jesus Christ through a program of church-based instruction. Students can earn a Bible college or graduate degree while actively involved in the ministry of their local church.

Pat Murphy serves in leadership training at SEMBEQ. The development of godly church leaders is critical in Quebec, where only a small percentage of the French population claim to be evangelical Christians.

Pat Murphy's role includes planning seminary programs and directing student in various aspects of preparation for ministry.

Pat and Joyce were married in 1976, and have 5 children, Nathan, Anne, John, Tim, and Patric.

In June, 2015, there was a graduation ceremony at SEMBEQ. Friends and family came together to celebrate what students have accomplished and what the Lord has done in their lives. For many of these students graduation comes after years of study and service in a local church, often while working and caring for a family. These graduates are ready to serve where the Lord places them, and serve the French churches in Quebec.



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ August 2015

Joyce has an important ministry as well. She is a great encouragement to the ministry wives, and works closely with them. Please pray for Joyce and these women and the challenges they face each day.

Please continue to pray for the important work that goes on at SEMBEQ. Pray for Pat and Joyce and they counsel and train students to serve the Lord. Pray for the new programs starting in August.

In June, we did pray for **Diana Muenzenberger**, missionary with World Venture at Faith Academy in the Philippines.

Here are a few updates from her recent newsletter in April and June-

Diane was home (New Jersey) for the past year, and in early July just returned to the Philippines. While she was home she was able to take part in various ministry opportunities that the Lord brought her way. She was able to do some long term substituting, lead a women's group, and narrate the Christmas story. This past June she assisted with her home church's VBS.

In Diana's June update, it was only 16 days before she was leaving for the Philippines.

The transition from being home to going back was giving her a feeling of reverse culture shock!

She said that, "transition is probably one of the toughest things I face as a missionary. Having my heart in two places I love brings up so many conflicting emotions."

Diana hope is founded on Jesus. She said, "I think He had His heart in 2 places--with His Father in heaven and doing His Father's will here on earth. He understands perfectly." When she left for the first time to go to the Philippines, her pastor gave her this verse, Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord is with you wherever you go."

Praise-

- for all the special times with family and friends over the past year

- for the visits to supporting churches and ministry opportunities during the year

-for the precious truth of Joshua 1:9

Prayer requests-

- for her transition back to the culture in the Philippines after being home for a year

- that the Lord would provide full support so that she can return on time

-that she would know where she is teaching, either middle or high school, and that she would serve the Lord well

- that she can express her love for the missionary kids, and burden others to minister as teachers

Please remember Diana in your prayers, as she begins a new school year in a few weeks, and for her students.

Quiz Answers:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1)Matthew 14:22-34 | 2)Luke 8:2 |
| 3)Luke 4:38 | 4.John 2:1-10 |
| 5)Matthew 21:19 | 6)Matthew 15:22 |
| 7)Mark 5:22-35 | 8)John 11:17-18 |
| 9)Matthew 14:20,21 | 10)Matthew 14:29 |

Here Comes Jesus

1) Here comes Jesus, see Him walking on the water,

He'll lift you up and He'll help you to stand;

Oh, here comes Jesus,

He's the Master of the waves that roll.

here comes Jesus, let him take your hand.

2) Here comes Jesus, see Him feed the hungry people,

He'll fill your life till you hunger no more;

Oh, here comes Jesus,

He's the answer to your every need.

Here comes Jesus, He will your life restore.

3) Here comes Jesus, see him cleanse the leper,

He'll heal your heart and will give you His aid;

Oh, here comes Jesus,

He's the great Physician;

Here come Jesus, don't be afraid.

4) Here comes Jesus, see Him walking up to Calvary,

He's going to die for you and me;

Oh, here comes Jesus,

He's the ransom for the guilty one;

Here comes Jesus, to set us free!

Verse 1 – Traditional

Verse 2,3,4 – by Cordelia Spitzer

Tune – Traditional Melody – adapted by William Foley

Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

John 6:16-20 (nkjv)



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ August 2015

Thoughts about Worship

Al Soares

I have been working my way through a mobile education course on the Book of Revelation and came across these comments by the instructor. It's an incisive commentary about worship that I feel is worthy to be shared and I believe you will appreciate. The remainder of this article is a transcript of what he said.

Theocentric Worship^[1]

One of the problems I come across in the church all too often is that Christian persons are not taught how to properly worship God. And, indeed, they're not even taught about the theological and ethical character of worship.

The first thing to be said about proper and true Christian worship, worship done in Spirit and in truth as Jesus asks for in John 4, is that *it should be theocentric*. The focus of worship should not be on human beings—not on the pastor, not on the congregation. It should be about the worship of God. And if you think of the major elements in worship—we have prayer, we have hymns sung in praise to God, we have offerings—almost all the elements of worship are theocentric in their direction: they are directed upwards toward God. And *all of the congregation is supposed to be caught up in love and wonder and praise of God*.

The function of music in worship is not to entertain the masses or to give them a good buzz—though if that's a byproduct, that's nice—but the function of the music is so that the whole person, both the cognitive part of the person and the affective part of the person in their emotions, are all directed toward and worshiping God, so that the whole person is caught up in love and wonder and praise of God.

What's in It for Me?

Unfortunately, what's happened in the modern church is that, increasingly, people have taken a consumer approach to worship. And what they've evaluated churches by is whether I get anything out of it or not.

In my home congregation, there was a little old lady who was deaf as a post and blind as a bat, but she was there every Sunday worshiping God with these gigantic hearing aids and very thick glasses. On her same pew—because as you know, many are called and pews are chosen—every week on the same pew, there was a young lady who saw this little old lady and couldn't understand why she was there because it didn't seem like she was getting much out of what was happening. So, after one worship service, she

asked the old lady, "Ma'am, if you don't mind me asking, why are you here since you can get so little out of this?" The old lady stood up tall, all five-feet-two of her, and said, "Young lady, I am not here primarily for what I can get out of this, but for giving worship to God. I have the bulletin sent to me during the week. I get out my magnifying glass and my large print Bible. I read the Scriptures that will be used during the worship service and the hymns that will be sung. I think and meditate on these things, and though it's true, now I get less out of the worship than I used to, that's not the primary function of worship for me. I come to give honor and praise and glory to God. That's what worship is about."

The young lady was stunned. She'd been caught up in the consumer approach, the narcissistic, self-centered approach to worship. It had never dawned on her that the first question to ask is "Where may I best serve God? Where could I best be involved in giving God His praise and worship? Where am I most needed to serve God, in what particular house of worship?"

Entertainment and Performance

The second thing that I would say about worship that we need to understand is that *it's not intended to be entertainment*. It's not about the performance of the few on the platform for the couch potatoes for Jesus in the pews. It is supposed to be congregational worship, focused on God. The one element in the worship service that is not theocentrically directed is when God speaks to us, when we hear His word and then the word is proclaimed. That's actually the one element that is anthropocentric—when God speaks to us and then we respond in whatever way that we do. But *the basic function of worship is the exaltation of God and the being caught up in congregational worship*. It's not the same thing as fellowship. Worship is one thing, fellowship is another.

I like what Tom Skinner says: "Fellowship is a bunch of fellows in the same ship. It's a horizontal experience between believers." That's what fellowship is. Worship is not intended to be fellowship. It's intended to be Godwardly directed and focusing on God, as the author of Revelation 4 [John on the island called Patmos] makes very clear indeed.

[1] Ben Witherington III, *NT221 The Wisdom of John: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on Johannine Literature*, Logos Mobile Education (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014). [Italics added]



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ August 2015

The Remedy for Paralyzed Sinners & Fallen Saints

John Piper

God did his most deadly work to destroy hopelessness and futility and provincial cowardice. He gave up his Son to torture and death. A perfect life, a perfect death, and the decisive work was done.

But there are millions who are numb to hope because of the God-belittling things they have done and how ugly they have become. They don't lift lofty arguments against God's Truth; they shrug and feel irretrievably outside. They don't defy God consciously; they default to cake and television. Except for the periodic rush of sex and sport and cinema, life yawns. There is no passion for significance. For many, no passion at all.

There is a Christian version of this paralysis. The decision has been made to trust Christ. The shoot of hope and joy has sprung up. The long battle against sin has begun. But the defeats are many, and the plant begins to wither. One sees only clouds and gathering darkness. The problem is not perplexing doctrine or evolutionary assaults or threats of persecution. The problem is falling down too many times. Gradually the fatal feeling creeps in: the fight is futile; it isn't worth it.

Along with this hopelessness and futility, especially since 9/11, provincial cowardice captures many Christian minds. They fear that it may sound conceited to call every people group in the world to trust Christ or perish. It seems too global. Too sweeping. Too universal. To say it takes their breath away. And, worse, it brings down the wrath of the tolerant. What could be more arrogant than to think that the infinite variety of need in all the cultural groups of the world could be met by a single Savior!

It is astonishing that the biblical gospel of justification by faith alone answers these three human failures: the hopelessness of unbelievers, the feeling of futility from falling down, and the fear of making global claims for Christ.

To the numb and listless sinner, feeling beyond all hope of godliness, the Bible says, "To the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness" (Romans 4:5). God justifies the "ungodly." This truth is meant to break the back of hopelessness.

The connection between the sinner and the Savior is trust, not improvement of behavior. That comes later. It's this order that gives hope. "For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law" (Romans 3:28). The basis of this wild and wonderful hope (the ungodly justified) is "Christ for righteousness to everyone who believes" (Romans 10:4, literal translation). Through faith alone God counts the ungodly as righteous because of Christ. "For our sake [God] made [Christ] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Let all

who are paralyzed by the weight of sin and the powerlessness to change turn in here.

To the fallen saint, who knows the darkness is self-inflicted and feels the futility of looking for hope from a frowning Judge, the Bible gives a shocking example of gutsy guilt. It pictures God's failed prophet beneath a righteous frown, bearing his chastisement with broken-hearted boldness. "Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. I will bear the indignation of the Lord because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He will bring me out to the light" (Micah 7:8-9). This is courageous contrition. Gutsy guilt. The saint has fallen. The darkness of God's indignation is on him. He does not blow it off, but waits. And he throws in the face of his accuser the confidence that his indignant Judge will plead his cause and execute justice for (not against) him. This is the application of justification to the fallen saint. Broken-hearted, gutsy guilt.

For the squeamish fellow afraid of making global claims for Christ, the biblical teaching on justification explodes his little world. It says: the deepest problem to be solved is the same for every human being, because every human is a descendant of Adam. And the problem to be solved is that "by one man's disobedience many were made sinners." "One trespass led to condemnation for all men." The only solution to this universal condemnation is a "second Adam" who provides "the free gift of righteousness" to all who hear the gospel and believe (Romans 5:17-19). Therefore Christ, the second Adam, the giver of righteousness, is the only global Savior.

Embrace as your treasure the gift of justification. There is no part of your life where it is not immeasurably precious.

By John Piper. © Desiring God.

Focus First and Most on God

by Max Lucado

Giants. We must face them. Yet we need not face them alone. Focus first, and most, on God. Read 1 Samuel 17 and list the observations David made about Goliath. I find only two. One to Saul and one to Goliath's face, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God" (1 Samuel 17:26). David asks nothing about Goliath's skill, age, or the weight of the spear, the size of his shield. But he gives much thought to God. The armies of the living God; The Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel. In all, the God-thoughts outnumber Goliath-thoughts nine to two.

How does this ratio compare with yours? Is your list of blessings four times as long as your list of complaints? Are you four times as likely to describe the strength of God as you are the demands of your day? That's how you face a giant.



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ August 2015

Quiz: Jesus' Miracles

- **1.) Jesus walked on what body of water?**
 - Caspian Sea
 - Dead Sea
 - Sea of Galilee
 - Mediterranean Sea
- **2.) Out of what woman had Jesus cast 7 demons?**
 - Rhoda
 - Margaret
 - Martha
 - Mary Magdalene
- **3.) Jesus healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law of what?**
 - Blindness
 - A broken hip
 - Fever
 - Leprosy
- **4.) What was the occasion for Jesus turning water into wine?**
 - A wedding
 - A funeral
 - Passover
 - A bar mitzvah
- **5.) What tree did Jesus cause to wither up?**
 - Olive tree
 - Date tree
 - Fig tree
 - Pomegranate tree
- **6.) A gentile woman from Canaan begged Jesus to heal her daughter, who**
 - Had leprosy
 - Was lame
 - Was demon-possessed
 - Had died
- **7.) Whose daughter died while Jesus was on the way to his house to heal her?**
 - Jairus
 - Jamtha
 - Jonas
 - Jacob
- **8.) In what city did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead?**
 - Bethesda
 - Capernaum
 - Nazareth
 - Bethany
- **9.) How many baskets full of pieces were left when Jesus fed the 5000?**
 - 4
 - 12
 - 20
 - 24
- **10.) Who climbed out of the boat to meet Jesus walking on the water?**
 - John
 - Peter
 - James
 - Matthew

I'm Confused about God

By Steve Brown

I grew up religious and always felt that, if I could ever believe the religious stuff, I would somehow find meaning, reality and joy. Then, years later, after much agonizing doubt, I came to believe the truth that God had revealed. I finally knew the truth and believed all of it. Then I waited for the promised meaning, reality and joy—and, for a very long while, I thought I had it.

Sometimes, during those days, I had the feeling that God was saying that it was nice that I now knew the truth and even tried to live it. But I came to suspect that belief in, defense of and the promulgation of the truth to as many people as possible weren't even the point.

Are you sometimes confused about God?

Let me tell you a secret. I'm confused about God too.

The difference between you and me is that I'm not supposed to be confused. In fact, if I ever start sounding confused, people will stop listening to me and reading my books. If that happens, I could lose my job. Nevertheless, I'm confused about God and I'm confused a lot (but if you say I said that, I'll say you lied).

I know. I don't sound confused. I have this deep voice and, even when I'm scared, I *sound* like I'm not. Not only that, I know a lot more than most people about the Bible, about theology, about the church and about God. So, if you put my deep voice with my lifetime of knowledge, even if I don't know what I'm talking about, I sound like I do. That is, I suppose, a blessing of sorts.

Don't worry. I'm not going to become a Buddhist or anything. I'm not confused about the verities of the faith. I still believe that the Bible is true...all of it. I know Christ and I trust him alone for my salvation. I believe in the virgin birth, the physical resurrection of Christ and that he is coming back...really. I support the mission enterprise of the church and I'm still big on evangelism. I believe there are a heaven and a hell. I can repeat *The Westminster Confession of Faith* backwards, believing and accepting it as my standard of faith.

I'm still confused.

But it doesn't matter that I'm confused. In fact, my confusion is the natural state of a real Christian. Paul put the point in the form of a rhetorical question: "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?" (Romans 11:34). The obvious answer is "Nobody...absolutely, nobody!" Isaiah said that God said, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways, My ways...For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Correct doctrine and correct theology (as important as they are) have only one purpose. The purpose is to point to him and, insofar as we can proclaim truth to



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ August 2015

others, to enable them come to him too. He is not a doctrine. The relationship between doctrine and God is the same relationship of *Gray's Anatomy* to the human body. It is a description of a reality. It is not the reality itself.

The Psalmist understood that when he wrote: "O Lord, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too profound for me. I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother" (Psalm 131:1-2).

Are you confused about God?

Good. If you aren't confused, then you are probably worshipping an idol. Be careful—be very careful—of those who seem to have God in their back pockets, have answers to every question and who are sure that they are right about everything. Frankly, God isn't in anybody's back pocket, we don't even know the right questions much less have the answers, and nobody is right all the time.

But doesn't the Bible say somewhere that God isn't a God of confusion? Yes, it does in 1 Corinthians 14:33. "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace."

But Paul was talking about worship and the confusion that was taking place in the Corinthian church. And that's not what I'm talking...uh...well, maybe I am. Now that I think about it, that's exactly what I'm talking about—worshipping a God who isn't confused, even if you are. Standing before a God who really is God and knowing that you aren't.

God ought to be very angry...but he's not. God should have destroyed the fallen and rebellious world...but he hasn't. God should not have come to us...but he did. God's love should not be unconditional...but it is. God should have washed his hands of us a long time ago... but he hasn't. Knowing your secrets and my secrets, God should have turned away...but he didn't. The last thing God should do is to give us forgiveness, eternal life, and joy...but that's exactly what he does.

That confuses me, but it's a good confusion. It's the kind of confusion that tells me that I don't have to be right, or acceptable, or perfect, or wise, or knowledgeable, or religious, or smart, or beautiful, or great, or famous, or spiritual, or good. It's the kind of confusion that allows me to go to him.

I don't have to explain it or even understand it. It's enough.

Time to Draw Away

Read Romans 11:33-36 & Isaiah 55

Are you confused about God?

In what ways does he confuse you?

You really can trust God in the midst of your questions, confusion, uncertainty and doubt. In fact, confusion can be a good thing. It points out that God is God and we're not. And frankly, that is a relief.

We can now rest in his arms.

Brennan Manning on God's Love

"The compassion of Jesus is the compassion of Almighty God, and Jesus says to your heart and mind, 'Don't ever be so foolish as to measure my compassion for you in terms of your compassion for one another. Don't ever be so silly as to compare your thin, pallid, wavering, moody, depending on smooth circumstances human compassion with mine, for I am God, as well as man.'

When you read in the Gospels that Jesus was moved with compassion, it is saying that His gut was wrenched, His heart torn open, and the most vulnerable part of his being laid bare. The ground of all being shook, the source of all life trembled, the heart of all love burst open, and the unfathomable depths of the relentless tenderness was laid bare.

Your Christian life and mine don't make any sense unless in the depth of our beings we believe that Jesus not only knows what hurts us, but knowing, seeks us out whatever our poverty, whatever our pain. His plea to His people is, 'Come now, wounded, frightened, angry, lonely, empty, and I'll meet you where you live. And I'll love you as you are, not as you should be, because you're never going to be as you should be.'

Do you really believe this? With all the wrong turns you made in your past... the mistakes, the moments of selfishness, dishonesty and degraded love?

Do you really believe that Jesus Christ loves you? Not the Person next to you, not the church, not the world. But that He loves you—beyond worthiness and unworthiness, beyond fidelity and infidelity. That he loves you in the morning sun and in the evening rain. Without caution, regret, boundary, limit.

No matter what's gone down, He can't stop loving you. This is the Jesus of the Gospels."

Brennan Manning (April 27, 1934 – April 12, 2013) was a writer and speaker who was known for his vulnerable proclamation of the good news of the unconditional love of God. He wrote many popular & influential books, including [The Ragamuffin Gospel](#), [Abba's Child](#), [The Signature of Jesus](#), [Ruthless Trust](#), [The Wisdom of Tenderness](#), and others. His final book, was his memoir, [All is Grace](#).

And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.

Mark 6:24 (nkjv)



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ August 2015

Thoughts on Preaching

Early in his ministry, when he was pastor of the Congregational Church at Rugeley, Campbell Morgan studied hard and preached often. He was discovering and developing the gift of Bible exposition that later made him the prince of expositors. His preaching made him popular. One evening, as he sat in his study, he felt God saying to him, "What are you going to be, a preacher or My messenger?" As Morgan pondered the question, he realized that his desire to become a "great preacher" was hindering his work. For several hours Morgan sat there struggling with God's call and human ambition.

Finally he said, "Thy messenger, my Master--Thine!" He took the precious outlines of his sermons, messages that he was proud of, and laid them in the fireplace where they burned to ashes. That was when the victory was won. As the outlines were burning, Morgan prayed: "If Thou wilt give me Thy words to speak, I will utter them from this day forward, adding nothing to them, taking naught away. Thine whole counsel I will declare, so help me God!"

W. Wiersby, [Wycliffe Handbook of Preaching & Preachers](#), Moody, 1984, p. 212.

Paul saw himself as Christ's herald. When he describes himself as an appointed preacher of the gospel (2 Tim. 1:11), the noun he uses means a herald, a person who makes public announcements on another's behalf. When he declares "we preach Christ crucified," the verb he uses denotes the herald's appointed activity of blazoning abroad what he has been told to make known. When Paul speaks of "my preaching" and "our preaching" and lays it down that after the world's wisdom had rendered the world ignorant of God "it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe," the noun he uses doesn't mean the activity of announcing, but the thing announced, the proclamation itself, the message declared.

Paul, in his own estimation, was not a philosopher, not a moralist, not one of the world's wise men, but simply Christ's herald. His royal master had given him a message to proclaim; his whole business was to deliver that message with exact and studious faithfulness, adding nothing, altering nothing, and omitting nothing. And he was to deliver it not as another of people's bright ideas, needing to be beautified with the cosmetics and high heels of fashionable learning in order to make people look at it, but as a word from God spoken in Christ's name, carrying Christ's authority and authenticated in the hearers by the convincing power of Christ's Spirit (1 Cor. 2:1-5).

James Packer, *Your Father Loves You*, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986.

And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright—words of truth. The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd. And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.

Ecclesiastes 12:9-12 (nkjv)

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

I Timothy 4:1-2 (nkjv)

Theodore Epp, founder of Back to the Bible radio ministry, realized something was wrong when he stopped receiving critical mail. Convicted that he was not challenging the flock enough, he changed his preaching. "I'm afraid that when I'm pleasing everybody, I'm not pleasing the Lord," he later said, "and pleasing the Lord is what counts."

This is not to suggest that a pastor is only successful when he is upsetting people! But he must be certain that he is first and foremost faithful to the One he serves. He is fulfilling a divine commission when he preaches. Just as an ambassador is entrusted not with his own message but with his superior's message, so the minister is entrusted with the Word of God. Before it is delivered, therefore, every message should be laid at the foot of His throne with one question: "Is it faithful to You, my Lord?" Or as one German pastor would always pray in the pulpit, "Cause my mind to fear whether my heart means what I say."

Charles W. Colson, [The Body](#), 1992, Word Publishing, p. 121.

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human[b] wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

I Corinthians 2:1-5 (nkjv)

PREACH THE WORD!

PREACH THE WORD!

September 2015

Rehoboth Baptist Church Mustard Seed

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																										
		1 7:00 PM Deaconess 7:00 PM Missions Jim Poole	2 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting	3 Wendy Soares	4	5 AnnMarie MacDonald																																																																																																										
6 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Evening Service	7 Labor Day Mark Phelps	8 7:00 PM Elders & Deacons	9 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Susannah Schneider Christian	10	11	12 10:00 AM Neighborhood Visitation																																																																																																										
13 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Evening Service	14	15 7:00 PM Deacons Pray & Visit	16 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting 8:00 PM Choir	17	18	19 Gail Roy																																																																																																										
20 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Evening Service	21 Paul Schneider	22 <i>John & Kathy Frye</i>	23 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting 8:00 PM Choir Mary Wick	24	25 <i>David & Elaine Costanzo 11th Anniversary (Fashion Jewelry)</i>	26																																																																																																										
27 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Evening Service	28	29	30 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting 8:00 PM Choir Elaine Costanzo Jennie Turnquist	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Aug 2015</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">M</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">F</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td style="text-align: center;">20</td><td style="text-align: center;">21</td><td style="text-align: center;">22</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">23</td><td style="text-align: center;">24</td><td style="text-align: center;">25</td><td style="text-align: center;">26</td><td style="text-align: center;">27</td><td style="text-align: center;">28</td><td style="text-align: center;">29</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">30</td><td style="text-align: center;">31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		Aug 2015							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Oct 2015</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">M</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">F</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td style="text-align: center;">20</td><td style="text-align: center;">21</td><td style="text-align: center;">22</td><td style="text-align: center;">23</td><td style="text-align: center;">24</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">25</td><td style="text-align: center;">26</td><td style="text-align: center;">27</td><td style="text-align: center;">28</td><td style="text-align: center;">29</td><td style="text-align: center;">30</td><td style="text-align: center;">31</td></tr> </table>	Oct 2015							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Aug 2015																																																																																																																
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																										
						1																																																																																																										
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																										
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																										
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																										
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																										
30	31																																																																																																															
Oct 2015																																																																																																																
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																										
					1	2	3																																																																																																									
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																										
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																										
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																										
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																										