



Jim Tiefenthaler, Sr. Pastor

**Let's
Make
Christ
Known
In Our
Community.**



Inside this issue:

Pastor Meredith	2
Did God Create Evil	2
continued	3
GEBC Youth Ministry	4
Focus Family & Mission Report	5
Teaching & Graham Jam	6

BITTERNESS

Chuck Swindol once said, "One of the great blessings in life is growing old without being bitter." Boy, is that true! You see, the longer one lives, the more opportunities you have of being wronged, hurt and betrayed and therefore becoming bitter.

Some people enjoy being bitter. They feed on it. They constantly think and speak about how someone wronged or hurt them. It affects every part of their life. It's like stinky fish. I caught a few fish a couple of weeks back and threw their "remains" in my garbage can. For several days that was the most horrible smell in my garage! So it is with bitterness. It has a miserable odor, and sometimes everyone can smell it except the one who is bitter.

The deceitfulness with our bitterness is that we think we have a right to be bitter or angry. After all, that person wronged me. They sinned against me. Bitterness is always based on someone else's sin. Therefore, we feel so justified in our anger and bitterness. The problem with that is this: God does not give us the right to be bitter. He does not want His children to harbor bitterness.

Ephesians 4:31--32 says;

³¹"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

God tells us to "put away" or get rid of bitterness.

I want to challenge you to examine your heart for any seed of bitterness.

And if there is some, ask for the grace of God to get rid of it. Ask God to help you get your eyes off the other person and how they wronged you and to choose to be forgiving and Christ-like. It can be a daily decision, but God will give you victory over bitterness.

**God Bless,
Pastor Jim**



**Pastor
Meredith
Ayling**

*great
forgiveness
and love*

From the desk of Pastor Meredith

First, I just want to say thank you to everyone who uses the gifts and talents that God has given you to minister at GEBC. For those of you still seeking out what that is, I want to encourage you to use what God has given everyone who knows Him to reach others for Jesus Christ. That is..... your story! Your testimony of what God has done in your life. This year at Graham Jam, Pastor Jay asked me to share my testimony of how God has impacted, shaped, molded, and utterly changed my life. As I was thinking about all of that and meditating on God's word, I was completely humbled as I remembered where I was and where it was that God was taking me. How he took a boy and made Himself known to me. How he was faithful to me through a sinful rebellious

time in my life when I was not honoring Him and forgave me completely when I repented, need I say forgives me when I repent. God has completely lived up to his part of the bargain and then some. My story may or may not sound like yours. The common theme for every Christian is that it is one of great forgiveness and love that our amazing God continues to bestow on us everyday. I encourage everyone at GEBC to just spend some time thinking about and remembering how God has changed your life.... and then share it with someone that doesn't know Him.

In Christ,

Pastor Meredith



*God is
the
Author
of
Every-
thing.*

Did God Create Evil?

In an attempt to place responsibility for suffering and evil in the world on God and not on sin and mankind, people will often arrive at conclusions that look like the following:

- 1. God is the Author of everything.**
- 2. Evil is something.**
- 3. Therefore, God is the Author of evil.**

This, of course, is an attack on the nature of God and an attempt to discredit Him as an unloving vengeful creator who either does not exist or is not worth worshiping. (If a person comes to the conclusion that God does not exist, you still end up with man being responsible for sin in the world).

The Christian responds that evil is not a *thing* or substance. Rather it is a *lack* or privation of a good thing that God made. Evil is a deprivation of some particular good. The essence of this position is summarized:

- 1. God created every substance.**
- 2. Evil is not a substance (but a privation in a substance).**
- 3. Therefore, God did not create evil.**

"Professor, does darkness exist?"

This can be illustrated in the following story.

A university professor challenged his students with this question: Did God create everything that exists? "

A student bravely replied "Yes, he did!"

"God created everything?" the professor asked.

"Yes sir," the student replied.

The professor answered, "If God created everything, then God created evil.

Since evil exists, and according to the principal that our works define who we are, then God is evil."

The professor was quite pleased with himself and boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said, "Can I ask you a question professor?"

"Of course," replied the professor.

The student stood up and asked, "Professor does cold exist?"

The professor replied "Of course it exists. Have you never been cold?"

The students snickered at the young man's question.

The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat.

Every body or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body, or matter, have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (- 460 degrees F) is the total absence of heat. Cold does not exist.

We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat.

The student continued. "Professor, does darkness exist?"

The professor responded, "Of course it does."

The student replied, "Once again you are wrong sir. Darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn't this correct?

Darkness is a term used by man to describe what

happens when there is no light present."

Finally the young man asked the professor. "Sir, does evil exist?"

Now uncertain, the professor responded, "Of course as I have already said. We see it every day. It is in the daily example of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil."

To this the student replied, "Evil does not exist sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light."

The professor sat down. –Author Unknown

Evil is not a substance but a corruption of the good substances God made. Evil is like rust to a car or rot to a tree. It is a *lack* in good things, but it is not a thing in itself. Evil is like a wound in an arm or moth-holes in a garment. It exists only in another but not in itself.

It is important to note that a privation is not the same as mere *absence*. Sight is absent in a stone as well as in a blind person. But the absence of sight in the stone is not a privation. Absence of something that *ought to be there*. Since the stone by nature ought not to see, it is not deprived of sight, as is the blind man. Evil, then is a deprivation of some good that ought to be there. It is not a mere negation. How then does one account for this privation in the world?

Continued on pg 4



**Jon Wimmer
Youth Pastor**

Sr. & Jr High
Youth Group

Meets on Sunday
from
10:30 to 11:30 am

Watch the bulletin
& website for
updates..!

Sept. 9th Wed Youth
Groups start up again.
Dream Big!!

Youth Ministry — *IT IS NOT ABOUT YOU*

“...and he stood over the top of you just hitting you over and over again. He said the more he would swing and the more he would strike you the more you just smiled back at him without any damage being inflicted on you. He said he was angry that he wasn’t hurting you and that he just wanted you to stop smiling.”

The previous is the story a friend related to me during my senior year of high school regarding a fellow senior and the dream they had had the night before about trying to physically hurt me. At first hearing it was a little chilling. After all, I didn’t understand how I had invoked such hatred. Further disappointing was that this was a boy who had been my friend in elementary school. I remembered how I had invited him to my birthday party in first grade. Now he *just* wanted to wipe the smile off my face.

As I look forward with eager anticipation to the coming school year at GEBC and how we will grow not only individually, but as a youth ministry, and as a greater body I reflect back on that relationship. It is one thing to love God and quite another to love my neighbor. Yet neither is a suggestion they are both commands (see Matthew 22).

Too often we are tempted to spend our time doing things that serve ME. Mostly because of indifference and sometimes because of fear of

rejection, we retire to seeking other pursuits such as making money, entertaining ourselves, ignoring the people around us, or choosing a small circle of acquaintances that make us feel good. After all, we are trained consumers, and we consume things (including relationships) that meet our wants and needs. Yet the message of Matthew 22 is that life is not about me. It is about loving God and loving others in His name.

And so it was that in my final year of high school I determined that as much as that boy hated me I was going to love him. So each day I quietly whispered, “I’m gonna love you and you can’t stop me” and my actions followed my words. I think perhaps that, in this case, my teenage decision in some ways put my adult maturity to shame.

My heart beats to see junior and senior high students take up this step and watch to see what God will do in them, through them, and around them as they not only love God, but love their neighbor as themselves. If you are an adult reading this please pray for the students that will be a part of GEBC this year that they will come to realize that it is not about ME in Christ, but rather it is about other people. It is about those who we WOULD normally befriend and about those we normally WOULD NOT.

So just to review... *IT IS NOT ABOUT YOU!*

Did God Create Evil —continued

The Christian worldview is summarized in the following:

1. **God is absolutely perfect.**
2. **God created only perfect creatures.**
3. **One of the perfections God gave some of his creatures was the power of free choice.**
4. **Some of these creatures freely chose to do evil.**
5. **Therefore, a perfect creature caused evil.**

Synopsis:

God is good, and he created good creatures with a good power called free will. Unfortunately, they used this good power to bring evil into the universe by rebelling against their Creator. So evil did arise from good, not directly but indirectly, by the abuse of a good power called freedom. Freedom in itself is not evil. It is good to be free. But with freedom comes the possibility of evil. So God is responsible for making evil possible, but free creatures are responsible for making it actual.

~ The Boatman’s

Focus Family



Meet The Brown's

Brian
A
Catholic
Priest !

I'm very happy to have the opportunity to introduce this month's focus family. Brian and Debbie Brown have been married for 28 years. They have 2 children, Sarah and Aaron. Both Brian and Debbie have one brother and two sisters. Brian was born and raised in St. Louis, MO. Debbie was born and raised in Puyallup. They met at a lumber company in the mid 70's.

Brian came to the Lord in grade school, drifted a bit in his teens, and re-dedicated his life in his twenties. In high school, Brian actually studied to become a Catholic Priest. Debbie accepted the Lord when she was twelve at a little country church in Puyallup. They love the book of Psalms, especially Psalms 37. They also love Philippians 4:4-8.

They have been going to GEBC for about 4 years. They had attended another church for 14 years but felt that God was leading them to find a church closer to home. After going on a cruise with several people who attended GEBC, they decided to attend a Sunday morning service. Both Brian and Debbie left feeling like they had come home (I remember

saying the same thing after my first visit!). They love the worship, the preaching, and most of all the people! Brian helps coordinate Care Groups and ushers. Debbie helps with the Care Groups and works in the nursery. You may also have seen them as host and hostess on Sunday mornings.

Happy memories for both of them include Christmas spent with family. Debbie fondly remembers spending time at her Cousin Carol Velke's house (Carol also attends GEBC). Now, they love to hike, bike, and garden. Debbie also loves mowing her lawn. They share a love for green mint ice cream. Pizza is Debbie's favorite food, while BLT's are Brian's favorite. They love the TV movie, "The Winds of War". Their favorite vacation spot is the Western Caribbean. (I wonder if they enjoyed it so much because of the people from GEBC who were on the cruise). Maybe we should all ask Brian why Debbie's family calls him "St. Brian".

By Trish Roberts

Mission Report

Hello Everyone,

A lot is going on here in Graham: the Brinkley's returned safely from Niger, Melissa Meyer came home from Kenya for a short visit, Rachel Staton is on a mission trip in China, and our Cebu mission team has been growing together in Christ.

As you read this we are possibly in Cebu. We leave August 1st and come home August 15th. Please pray that God will use us to impact the Filipino people to come to know Christ. Pray for safe travel, to proclaim Christ boldly, and share His love with everyone we come in contact with.

Psalm 67 - 1God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us--
Selah. 2That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations. 3Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. 4Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; For You will judge the peoples with uprightness and guide the nations on the earth. Selah. 5Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. 6The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. 7God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

In Christ is our strength,
GEBC Mission Committee

Teaching and Instruction for Children The Fear of the Lord

The Book of Proverbs is arguably the most practical book in the entire Bible. So as you search for a place to start in the teaching and instruction of your children, why not start in a place that will make immediate impact?

3. *Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

4. *Proverbs 14:27 - The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, that one may avoid the snares of death.*

Though the fear of the Lord is not very popular, it is very necessary. The two verses above are just a small, small sampling of the Scriptures that speak directly to the importance of fearing God.

Once we are aware of our dependency upon Him, we become aware of His power and sway over our lives. This cultivates a healthy fear. And that fear is the very starting point of knowledge, wisdom and understanding (see Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10).

It is much better for your children to fear the Lord than it is for them to fear you. He is infallible ... you are not. He is all-powerful ... you are not. He is sovereign ... you are not. And, most practically, He is omnipresent ... you are not.

Graham Jam 09



*Thanks to everyone that
helped to make
Graham Jam a great time!
It couldn't have happened
without you..:)*