

Weekly Newsletter

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The Religion of Islam

Christ or Muhammad? The Bible or The Koran?

Beginning last Wednesday night, we began a study of the religion of Islam. Please make your plans to attend the adult Wednesday night Bible class as we, for the next several weeks discuss the background, doctrines, and challenge of Islam. The proposed schedule of topics is as follows:

The Birth of Islam	February 14
Understanding Islam	February 21
The Five Pillars of Islam	February 28
Beliefs of Islam (Part 1)	March 7
Beliefs of Islam (Part 2)	March 14
The Koran	March 21

A Weekend Of Preaching With Andy Baker

We are pleased to announce that on the weekend of March 10-11, we will have Andy Baker with us. He will be speaking on Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. and then again at the three services on Sunday. Please mark your calendar, invite your friends, and make plans to be present.

Andy's lessons will be geared toward encouragement, faithfulness, and greater commitment. The titles for his lessons are listed below:

Sat. P.M.:	The Message and Work of Christians
Sun. Class:	Commitment to Jesus
Sun. A.M.:	Commitment to the Body of Christ
Sun. P.M.:	Commitment to the Work of the Body of Christ

CHRIST IN *Youth*

Is God Exhausted?

By Steve Higginbotham

A few years ago, Michael, was singing in the back seat of the car. (I know, I know, I probably shouldn't use my children as illustrations, but I'm sure he won't mind...well, I don't think he will...well, if he does, "I'm sorry.") We had just arrived home from Bible camp and he was singing the song, "I Will Call Upon The Lord." And here's what he sang...

"...The Lord liveth,
and blessed be the Rock,
and may the God of my salvation be *exhausted*..."

Like I said, it was a few years ago. Anyway, I got a good laugh from that one. But his confusion over lyrics did set me to thinking. From a human standpoint, we sometimes must feel that we do indeed exhaust God.

The foolishness of our sins...the frequency of our sins...and the general failure from time to time to imitate Jesus makes us wonder if God's patience and forgiveness isn't exhausted.

Fortunately for us, we serve a God who delights in mercy! (Micah 7:18).

Be assured though, God does not look lightly upon sin. After all, it cost him his precious Son. Be comforted in the fact that God is a God who will not be exhausted by our sins if we will humble ourselves and seek his forgiveness.

The Mission of The Church

By Steve Higginbotham

A relatively recent trend among us is for churches to write a mission statement. Apparently, some have felt that the church has lost its mission. By crafting a "mission statement" it was hoped that people would remember to keep first things first.

After much thought and observation, I think that a congregational mission statement isn't such a bad idea. Just take a look around you and see what you can see. Judging from the activity and productivity of some congregations, it is apparent that they have forgotten the mission of the church. The danger of forgetting the mission of the church is that we can stray from our purpose. When a church forgets its mission, "means" often become "ends" in and of themselves, overlooking the true mission of the church.

I believe the mission of the church is summed up in Ephesians 3:21—"to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." The mission of the church is to glorify God. Evangelism, edification, and benevolence are all means to that end. However, when those "means" begin to be viewed as the "end" itself, then we run the risk of doing things that may be evangelistic, or edifying, but do not bring glory to God, because they are unauthorized. Evangelism is important, but it must be done in a way that brings glory to God. Edification is important, but the ways in which we choose to edify each other must bring glory to God. I'm convinced that much of the unauthorized activity that we witness being practiced in so many churches today is due, at least in part, to the failure to recognize that glorifying God is the mission of the church, and not church growth, attendance, involvement, activity, programs, and money.

The real mission of the church is not to make people happy, but to make them holy...Not to offer recreation, but reconciliation...Not to encourage people to seek therapy, but to seek authority. People should not be more acquainted with the 12 steps to recovery than they are with the steps to salvation.

Question: Could you easily discover the mission of the church by looking around you at the "church" in your community? What's it all about? Some might get the idea that the mission of the church is to cater to the desires of the people. Facilities are built to conveniently offer everything under one roof like the local mall or YMCA. The message from the pulpit has been repackaged in an effort to remove any offense and to be as accommodating as possible.

J.I. Packer calls this new trend "hot tub religion." If that's an appropriate designation, I for one, am all for pulling the plug in the hot tub. Friends, the real mission of the church is not to make people happy, but to make them holy. Not to offer recreation, but reconciliation. Not to encourage people to seek therapy, but to seek authority. People should not be more acquainted with the 12 steps to recovery than they are with the steps to salvation.

It's time we quit trying to make the church "relevant" to a worldly, secular society. Let the church be the church. The true measure of a church is not in slick marketing techniques, but in biblical faithfulness.

Family Matters

Sick List

- Wendell Britt is now at home.
- Dewey "Shorty" Walker, brother-in-law of Charles Short, is in the St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville.
- Autumn Harlow, great granddaughter of Norma Dial, is now at home.
- Prayers are requested for four year old, Gavin Coffey, who is currently undergoing tests. Gavin is the great great nephew of Ruth Stephens and Jessie Thompson.
- Continue to remember: Tim Adams, Mary Anderson, Howard Bull, John Bull, Terry Burd, Doug Burgess, Shawn Bryant, Linda Cable, Ruby Cloyd, Dorothy Coffey, Betty Crawford, Ruth Elliott, Eddie Gerald, Eugene Harlow, Sally Henry, Shirley Harlow, Fred Hensley, Amanda Hinton, Caden Hodges, Carl Hutchinson, John Rogers Jones, Preston Jolly, Stacey King, Jeanette Krume, Art Lattanzi, Betsy Lewallen, Janie Martin, Rose Mesker, Denver Nie-meier, June Parker, Linda Pedigo, Kay Pickett, Stephen Pitcock, J.C. Polson, Cindy Proffitt, Nina Richardson, Marian Smith, Shelley South, Jerry Spense, Mary Stephens, Dixie Strode, Sherry Tabor, Randy Turner, Edna Vibbert, Ronnie Walker, Carrie Whitlow and James Wooten.

Visitation Team

Visitation Team #1 will meet Sunday, March 4, following the morning worship service for a meal and a meeting. Team members are reminded to bring their visitation records to turn in. Team Leaders are Darrell Pitcock and Ronnie Turner.

Prayer Breakfast

The March Prayer Breakfast has been scheduled for Saturday, March 10, 2007. Everyone is invited, men and women.

Thank You

I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, delicious food, phone calls, cards, visits and flowers since my surgery. Brenda and I thank you all very much.

Edna Vibbert

New Prayer List Policy

In an effort to keep our prayer list relevant and functional, we are going to implement the following changes. Names will be run on the prayer list for two weeks. After two weeks, the names will be removed unless someone notifies the office with an update of the person's condition. This change will accomplish two things. 1) It will help keep names from being perpetually maintained on the list after their special need is past, and 2) It will help up have current information about the one on the prayer list. We also want to begin identifying non-members with a connection (e.g. John Doe's neighbor) so that we will know the people on the list. We hope these changes will help to keep our prayer list up date and more informative. We certainly believe in, and want to utilize the avenue of prayer. With your cooperation, we can do that.

Pictorial Directory

Photographs for the new Pictorial Directory will be taken on March 22-24 and March 29-31. You will be contacted by phone to schedule a time for your family to be photographed.

Seminar At Lehman Ave.

The Fundamental Truths Seminar at the Lehman Avenue Church of Christ will be held Saturday, March 24, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. This year the theme is "Uniting On Who We Are." Speakers for the 2007 seminar are: Charles Baugh, Gary Hampton, Mike Greene and Marlin Connelly, Jr. A catered lunch will be served. If you plan to attend, please RSVP at 270-843-8435.

