

Press Toward

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:14

A Newsletter of Lewisville Primitive Baptist Church 1590 Glencairn Ln. Lewisville, Texas 75067

July 2010

The Community of the Church

from LPBC Covenant

Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, we confess that God has called us out from the world to unite in Christ as a community of believers. We submit to walk together in a local assembly to the glory of God and the edification of each other in love, to bear one another's burdens, strengthen one another's faith, encourage each other's gifts, and comfort one another's souls. We will spend ourselves in seeking to uphold the spiritual, emotional, and physical welfare of one another, rejoicing with those that do rejoice and weeping with those that do weep. In so doing, we will endeavor to have consistent, godly fellowship with all the members of this church in times of worship and in our daily lives.

We further agree to consistently exhort one another to deny ungodliness, charitably reprove those that need direction, and with all long suffering, rebuke those who have stepped out of the way; while always seeking reconciliation, being mindful of our Savior's admonition that we forgive those who repent. We further assert that if any of us move from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other body of believers where we can carry out the tenets and spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

Questions

From Evans Hasenmyer: John 11:43 "And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth."

Did Lazarus know what heaven looks like?

Yes, Lazarus knew what heaven looked like

since when a child of God dies, he goes directly into the presence of the Lord. Lazarus was in heaven from the time he died until Christ called him back into his body. I wonder how hard it was for him to live again in this world after having experienced being in heaven – probably pretty hard. Also, Lazarus wasn't the only one this happened to, see 2 Co. 12. In that chapter Paul said he heard unspeakable words which is was not lawful for him to utter.

From Andrea Hasenmyer: 1 Sam. 3:1 "And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision."

What does "no open vision" mean? And what does it have to do with the word of the Lord being precious?

No open vision means there were no public prophecies occurring due to the backslidden state of Israel. God, in essence, stopped talking to Israel for a while. He did the same thing between the prophets of Malachi and John the Baptist – about 400 years! It's kind of scary to think of the Lord not speaking to us because of our stubbornness; which emphasizes the importance of constant prayer and confession. He is faithful and just to forgive us when we confess our sins. See 1 Sam. 28:6 for an instance when the Lord stopped talking to an individual.

From a member: Eph. 1:13 "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,"

What does it mean when it says “in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise”?

The Bible clearly teaches that you must be born of the Spirit before you can even *see* the kingdom of God, much less believe and enter it. Also the Bible teaches that faith is an evidence of the Spirit’s presence not the cause of the Spirit coming. Yet this verse says the Spirit does something *after* we believe – how can that be?

In fact, both are true. If a person believes in Jesus Christ it is because the Spirit is already there and the person is already in possession of eternal life. Additionally, when a person believes the Spirit “seals” you; sort of like putting a stamp of ownership on you. This isn’t the initial coming of the Spirit. Rather it is one of His functions while being already present. This order may help:

1. Initial coming of the Spirit (born again)
2. Hearing the gospel
3. Belief in the gospel
4. Sealing of the Spirit

Keep in mind that all four of these things will not happen to *every* elect person. Some of the elect will not hear the gospel and have 2 – 4 happen to them. Every elect person will have #1 happen to them.

From Katie Barr: Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

What does it mean by "God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"?

God ordained, or decreed, that mankind should walk (or perform) in good works. The decree that clearly applies to all mankind is in Gen. 2:16-17 “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” In this simple command, God ordained or decreed that we should walk in good works. Also, notice that this decree is that mankind *should* walk in good works. Not that we *will* walk in good works.

Jump back to Eph. 2 which begins by saying you were made alive from death in trespasses and sins. Only now that you’ve been born again are you able to do that which “God hath before ordained” in Eden, that is, to walk in good works. This leaves out any boasting on our part since it is God’s work that we even have the ability to do this.

Prayer and Praise

Several people were not feeling 100% over the weekend; pray for the Lord's protection from sickness going around.

Bro. David Holman's aunt passed away last week.

A number of people either are currently traveling or will be in the next few weeks. We pray for the Lord's care over them this summer.

Andrea's friend, Suzie Agnew, had an aunt pass away last week and the family is having a difficult time coping with her death.

Sister Lynn requested prayer for her Aunt Patty who has terminal cancer.

Please remember Elder Bernard Gowens as he recovers from recent neck surgery.

Important Dates to Remember

Quarterly Conference – 2nd Sunday in Jan, April, July, and Oct
Annual Meeting – **Friday before 4th Sunday in March**
Communion – 2nd **Sunday in March** & 4th Sunday in Sept
Call for Pastor, Assistant Pastor & Clerk – 2nd Sunday in Jan
Read Articles of Faith / Church Covenant – 1st Sunday in Feb

Ministering Servants

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