

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)



Week of August 18th

We will continue sending out this combination of the newsletter and bulletin to keep you up to date on announcements, prayers, needs and scheduled activities.

Included will be the usual newsletter information along with prayers, scripture and a sermon.

We hope that you can utilize this format to keep up to date while being away from actual services, meetings, activities and watching the online sermon.



*Bedford Presbyterian is a Biblically and
Prayerfully Guided Christian Family of
Disciples, Loving God and Serving Others*

The Approach to God

One: The Peace of Christ Be With You

All: And Also With You

Prelude

“Amazing Grace”

Marriane Kim

Words of Welcome

Minute for Our Mission

Bill Yodis

Call to Worship

One: It is by God’s grace alone that we gather for worship.

All: And it is by God’s grace alone that our lives are changed.

One: We are counting on the active and amazing grace of God today.

All: By the power and presence of Your Holy Spirit, enliven our worship.

One: Help us by our actions to be faithful followers of Jesus.

All: For this, we give You thanks and praise.

Hymn

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

Hymn 82

***Prayer of Confession:**

Father in heaven, we thank You for the freedom You have given us through the life, death and resurrection of Your Son. But we confess today that we often live like slaves. Instead of living like You delight in us, we avoid You in shame and guilt. Instead of receiving Your favor as a gift, we try to earn it by our puny efforts. Instead of accepting Your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing Your purposes, we cling to our short-sighted agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon (responsive)**

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Through Jesus Christ we have been born again to new life.

***Gloria**

“Glory to the Father”

Rutledge

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

Romans 5: 1-11

Hymn

“Nothing But the Blood”

Lowry

Sermon

Christ Alone

Have you ever seen one of these on the back bumper of the car in front of you? It's known as a coexist bumper sticker. Basically, it means that all religions are of equal value and importance. It's just a matter of finding the one that's right for you. According to this line of reasoning, all of them can put you in touch with some form of higher divine entity. The symbols on this bumper sticker represent a wide variety of religions from Islam, to Judaism, Buddhism, Daoism, Witchcraft and last but not least Christianity. The sticker is promoting that old idea that there are many different paths to the top of the mountain and all of them will eventually lead you to the summit. Unfortunately, what the sticker promotes does not reflect reality and that's most certainly true with regards to Christianity.

Christianity is different from all other world religions in one important aspect. In the other religions, believers are expected to do something to please their god and gain access to his presence. For example, a follower of Islam is expected to do five things—repeat a memorized call to worship, pray five times a day, give alms to the poor, honor Friday as a holy day and make a pilgrimage to Mecca. All of the other religions also have lists of expected duties and responsibilities on the part of the adherent. It's about doing something that pleases the deity so that the person who worships this divine being will be benefited in some way here on earth or in heaven. Christianity is just the opposite. It's not so much what we can do for God, but what He can do for us. He is the one who welcomes us into His presence and He is the one who insures and makes certain of that possibility. Therefore, with regards to being ushered into His presence and receiving the gift of eternal life, Christianity is not about we can do. It's about what God has already done. This morning let's take a look at how God has accomplished this marvelous feat on our behalf.

Last Sunday we discovered that God loves us, but that sin has separated us from God. In other words we are both loved and lost. We also discovered that because God loves us and because we are lost, separated from Him, He came looking for us like a shepherd searching for one of His lost sheep. That's good news. In fact, that's great news. Several months ago, we lost one of our kitties. Instead of staying in the front yard, Doodle wandered off and didn't come home that evening. We could have said, "Oh well, too bad. It's a real shame that he's gone." But we didn't. We walked all around the house and up and down the driveway calling his name. We went to bed worried and upset because we love "Doodle." The next morning I started walking down the road that leads to our daughter's home, calling his name over and over again. Then I saw Doodle emerging from the brush on the side of the road. He was wet and weary and unsure on his feet, almost staggering. It had obviously been a difficult and even a frightening and dangerous night for him in the woods. I rushed over and picked him up and carried him home. I could almost sense him saying, "Thanks Dad, I don't think I could have made it home on my own." Doodle had, so to speak, been saved, but he didn't accomplish that on his own. Someone cared enough to go looking for him and to do whatever was necessary to bring him home. That is precisely what God did for us when He sent Jesus into our world. But how did He accomplish that? Let's see if we can find out how God has rescued us from our sins and brought us back into a loving, lasting relationship with Himself.

Basically, the answer can be summed up in one verse of Scripture. Romans 5:8 declares, "God has demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Wow! That's a whole lot more than just looking for a lost cat. It says that finding us and bringing us back home to God, cost a man's life and not just any man's life. It cost the life of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Why? In order to understand why this was necessary, we need to take a look within the pages of the Old Testament and discover how God provided for the removal of sin among the ancient Israelites.

In order to maintain a right relationship with God, an elaborate system of sacrificial offerings were prescribed in the Old Testament books of Leviticus and Numbers. A variety of offerings were prescribed to be presented unto the Lord—sheep, goats, birds and on high and holy occasions even a young bull. These

offerings served a number of purposes. Some were thanksgiving offerings, expressions of gratitude. Some were fellowship offerings, a portion of the sacrifice reserved for the Lord while the remainder was enjoyed by His people. The most important ones, however, were the sin offerings. These offerings had two purposes. They were a substitutional payment for wrong doing, as well as being the means by which a sinner's relationship with the Lord could be restored.

Let me explain by using a courtroom illustration. Imagine standing before a judge and being found guilty of a serious traffic violation. You are ordered to pay a hefty fine so that you won't have to spend any time behind bars. After paying the fine you are free to go. So far so good, except for the fact that a written description of your offense has been retained by the court. You have been forgiven, but the record of your violation is still on the books. Since the judge who convicted you lives just down the street, you cannot help but wonder, "Will he always remember what I did and hold it against me?" Then a most unusual thing takes place. The judge asks you to approach the bench. He says, "I'm going to expunge the record of your crime. It will be erased from our court's records. The payment for your crime has been given so freely and so earnestly that I have decided to set aside your violation as if it never took place. Your relationship with this court and with your fellow citizens has been completely restored."

Sin offerings in the Old Testament achieved the same thing. The sinner would not only be forgiven, but the sin itself would be covered over, removed, washed away as if it had never happened. Take a look, for example, at this passage of Scripture. In Psalm 51, verses one and two, David cries out to the Lord, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin." Then in another psalm, also composed by David he declares, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He (God) removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). Theologically, the word which describes this act of divine forgiveness is "atonement." Broken down into three syllables, it means "at-one-ment," being completely reconciled with God so that He can wrap His loving arms around you and give you a great big hug.

That's a great, wonderful, life changing event. But here's something even better. The reason why we can be in a state of oneness with God has nothing to do with us. We don't make the sacrifice. We don't pay the fine. We don't bring an offering to God to make things better. It's not something that we do for Him. It's what He has done for us. That's what Paul was talking about in the Scripture which was read this morning. Listen again to what Paul said. The words speak for themselves without any needed explanation. "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8).

Returning for just a moment to that courtroom illustration I used earlier in this sermon, there's another that I would share with you this morning. It involves a young man that had been convicted of a very serious crime. Asked to rise before sentencing, the convicted man's defense attorney addressed the judge. He said, "Your honor, if it pleases the court, I would like to speak. The young man standing before you did a very foolish thing and he is guilty of the crime. I believe, however, that he deserves a second chance. I am, therefore, willing to take his punishment upon myself. I will pay the price and sacrifice even my own life on his behalf."

What no one in the courtroom knew was that the defense attorney was the son of the judge.

Nearly two thousand years ago these words were written by one of Jesus's disciples named John. He said, "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:1-2). Christ and Christ alone, the One and the only One who can save us.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn

“Grace Medley”

Affirmation of Faith

God demonstrates His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. At one time we were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.

By grace we have been saved through faith; and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that none of us may boast.

All of us have sinned and have fallen short of God’s glorious standard, yet God, in His grace, freely makes us right in His sight. We believe that we are saved, not by our own efforts, but by God’s grace and unmerited favor which He has shown us in Jesus Christ.

Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord, we are thankful for Your wonderful works in our lives. Help us exalt Your name and share our testimonies of new life in Christ to everyone who knows us. Bless these offerings and help us use them to spread Your love to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Hymn**

“The Solid Rock”

Hymn 405

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

“The Solid Rock”

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our parents,
Jerome & Rosabelle Salley and Joe & Ann Solon,
by John & Betty Salley

August 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 <i>10 am Worship Communion Session</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	12	13	14 <i>Deacon's Meeting 1pm</i>	15	16	17
18 <i>10 am Worship</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 <i>10 am Worship Aloha Sunday Potluck</i>	26	27	28	29	30	31

Joys- August 18th

Joy- Wonderful seeing Jay back and thankful for all the prayers

Concerns- August 18th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer
Jerry Dilion-(nephew) health issues
Jody Lineberry – leukemia

Benton: Judy (friend) son in critical condition
Connie Thomas (friend) broke hip and arm in fall
Jill (friend) fell, broke her arm

Boone: Roslyn Reynolds, (friend) upcoming surgery
Mark Luft (neighbor) fell, rehab, family issues

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) in remission
Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Compter: Jennie & Seth (both friends) have health issues
Scott and Robin Umphlet, Scott is ill after a trip abroad.

Cram: Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems
Garrett Winslow – struggling, autism
Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care
Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith
Lory Graham- (friend) health issues, wife caretaker
Brenda Wilkerson- UVA seizures

DeHart: Lucile Kesterson (Dawn's mother) aging memory issues
Julian Kesterson (Dawn's stepdad) nursing home, multiple falls

DeWitt: assistants husband broke leg using roto tiller

Easter: Ruby Key (friend) cancer
Jim (bother) cancer

Fleming: Dominick (Ann Marie's brother) heart surgery successful recovery is continuing

Foster: Ron (brother-in-law) in home
Howard & Lynn (brother) difficulty with legs, wife dementia
Tom
Prayers for everyone on dialysis

Goode: Rodney & Connie Groggins (husband's cousins) Connie Alzheimer's, Rodney caregiver, health issues
Shawn Webb- find caretaker for aunt

Lloyd (husband) back problems
Jackie Meador- shoulder replacement

Goodman: John Ramsey (nephew) open heart surgery

Grigg: Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments
Chris Mays- diabetic complications

Hann: Alice's brother, congestive heart failure, cancer

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder
Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems
Steven-(son's boss) going blind
Barbara (Al's sister) intense headaches
Gayle- home, no visits at the time please

McManis; Charlotte doing better

Monk: Libby's mother, Mary Duncan, Bedford Nursing Home

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders
Forensic scientists who deal with crime
Rev. Pam Ledbetter
James Morgan (cousins husband) spot on lung

Narwid: Ed- not doing well

Riley: Christine stroke, Elks home

Rutledge: friend in Hawaii with health issues

Scheurer: Jim Hedrick- (friend) cancer
Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer
Sonny (son) doing well

Smith: Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) that she comes to the Lord

Stetson: Nick, Tiffany, Savannah- Savannah, back in hospital

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Deputy Chief Matt Scott, surgery went well tests negative
Earl Carter- health issues
All those impacted by wild fires in the West

Stoddard: Prayers for family on passing of Mike Stoddard

Van Dyke: prayers for Jeff, son, looking for new job
Prayers to solve evil in country
Marilyn (92 yr old neighbor) fell, broke leg

Webb: looking for caretaker for aunt

Weeks: Edith, home, waiting for test results

Prayers for our nation and our President

Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation

Russian invasion ends and not resort to nuclear weapons.

Prayers for new residents to come to worship with us

Prayers for Ukraine

Pray for World Peace

Prayers for Israel

We extend our Sympathy to the friends and family of
Mike Stoddard, Scout Leader of troop183 on his sudden passing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Activities for week of August 18th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Sunday: August 25th

10 am Worship

Aloha Sunday

Potluck

August Birthdays

Ann Fowler-27

William Hopkins-29

Donna Henderson- 31

The Men's Breakfast will resume on September 7th at 9am.

So gentlemen mark your calendar and come enjoy great fellowship and food!

Aloha Sunday!! August 25th!!!!

Join us as we celebrate the Rutledge's 10th anniversary at BPC.

We will be having a potluck luncheon following the service. Please bring your favorite Hawaiian dish and if you don't have one, bring a dish to share and join us.

hau'oli lā ho'omana'o!!!

We are so blessed with their Music Ministry!!

Upcoming Sermon Series and Seminar

Get ready for something special in the life of our church. Beginning on September 15th, we'll be going on a six week prayer journey. The theme for this journey is "Walking Hand in Hand with God through Prayer." Along with the Sunday morning messages, a special video series will be presented during our "Something More" sessions on Wednesday afternoons. A light dinner will be served after each session. The time has come for us to draw near to God through prayer. Plan now to be a part of this upcoming emphasis in the life of our church and invite your friends.

God's Plan for Salvation

Last week we discussed that God loves us, but that sin has separated us from Him. How can our relationship with God be restored? The answer is found in Romans 5:8. "God demonstrates His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." This morning we will examine what this means and how this scriptural truth separates Christianity from all of the other world's religions.