



The Harvest Times

A Quarterly Publication of The Susquehanna Valley Baptist Church

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Summer Happenings

- **Tract Month in July** - We handed out 1,626 Tracts and had 30 Refused
- **Community Canvassing** - We gave literature to 2,935 homes in our area.
- **Vacation Bible School** - We had 57 students, ages 4-12, come and learn how God created the world!
- **National Night Out** - We had booths in 5 local municipalities and had a wonderful night connecting with our community.
- **Summer Outreach** - We knocked on roughly 350 doors in our community.
- **Rally in the Valley** - Our annual youth rally was held on August 23 and we had 27 teenagers in attendance.
- **Ordination** - On September 7, we had the honor of ordaining Pastor Joshua Hamilton to the Gospel ministry. Pastor Hamilton pastors Mountain Top Baptist Church in Mountain Top, PA.
- **Church Picnic** - Our annual church family picnic was held on September 12 and featured food, fellowship, and fun for all ages.
- **Friend/First Responders Day** - On September 21, we held a special service for our friends and First Responders. We had 17 Visitors and 2 First Responders in our service.

What is the Gospel?

by W. Brandon Starnes, Pastor

What is the gospel? Well, it is good news, preacher. Well that is true. Over in Luke 2, the angel spake unto the shepherds saying, "I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be unto all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Yes, the gospel is the good news, but what does that mean? What is the good news? Some would say that the good news is that Jesus loves me. That is good news, but what does that mean? Why is it important that Jesus loves me? The fact that Jesus loves someone is not the same thing as the gospel.

You see, the gospel starts with this fact. You and God are not on good terms. You and I, from our mother's wombs, have transgressed God's commandments. We were born sinners. We were wicked. We were godless. The psalmist said in the 14th Psalm, God looked down upon the sons of men to see if there were any that did good. And you know what his assessment was? There is none righteous. No, not one. Yes, the faithful news of the gospel is that Jesus Christ commended that love. See, that is an important thing. We've used this idea of God loving us so much to somehow think that God is just okay with us. And that when we die, everybody goes to heaven because after all, God loves everybody. That is what we've done.

If my gospel presentation is just that God loves me, I submit to you, if that is the exclusivity of my gospel presentation, I am not preaching the gospel. The gospel is only the gospel once man recognizes his great need for the gospel. There is no salvation, there is no gospel presentation given, if there is not an impetus that would drive me to need that salvation. If I do not speak of the fact that you and I are on our way to a Christless eternity, that hell awaits the unbeliever, if that is not a focal point of the message of Jesus Christ, then I have not delivered how great His love is.

You see, He has sent His Son, the perfect, spotless Lamb of God, to take away the sins of the world. Jesus Christ came into the world to save whosoever will. The Lord's cry is, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He calls us to believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins, was buried and rose again on the third day. And if you will come to him in faith, he will save you. But if you just think that there is universal salvation or that your works are enough, you will be gravely and eternally disappointed. That is the gospel of Jesus Christ. That is the gospel that Jesus preached. That is the gospel that his apostles preached. And friend, 2,000 years on this side of his ascension into heaven, that is the gospel the New Testament church must preach.

Susquehanna Valley Baptist Church Media



SVBC Music



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The Gospel



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Generations

By Valerie K. Starnes

Upcoming Events

November 9-13 - Preaching Conference
November 25 - Thanksgiving Service
December 7 - Christmas Program
December 14 - Christmas Chimes Choir
December 23 - Christmas Service
December 30 - New Years Service

Monthly Memory Verse

(each month as a church we put aside a passage from Scripture to memorize; this passage is our memory passage for September)

Hebrews 6:9-10

“But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

The Solid Rock

(written by Edward Mote)

My Hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid Rock, I stand--
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

“Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” (Psa. 90:1-2)

The Bible speaks to generational histories and topics frequently. There are some wonderful lessons that are found in God's Word concerning this subject. As the days of summer fly by, hopefully with plenty of sun and fun, let's take a few moments to consider something far more steadfast and enduring - God's Word to the generations.

1) God records the generations by name.

“These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens” Gen. 2:4. If you have spent any time reading the first few books of the Bible, you are well aware of the comprehensive birth records that God preserved for us of the generations of His people. Isn't it mind-blowing to think that God has that same knowledge about every one of His human creations from the beginning of time until the end of time?! No wonder the psalmist says, “Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.”

2) God honors individuals in generations.

“These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God” Gen. 6:9; “And the sons of Tola; Uzzi, and Rephaiah, and Jeriel, and Jahmai, and Jibsam, and Shemuel....they were valiant men of might in their generations....” 1 Chron. 7:2. We can be inspired by the example of those who were just and perfect, or valiant, in their generation. There are many cases of individuals that God chose to point out to us in Scriptures as honorable “in their generation.” It motivates me to ask how I am serving my Savior in my generation.

3) God makes generational promises.

In the following verses, God's word is promised as steadfast “for perpetual generations,” “to all generations,” and “to a thousand generations.” These are just a few reminders of the reliability of the promises God makes in His Word. “And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations” Gen. 9:12; “The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations” Psa. 33:11; “He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations” Psa. 105:8.

4) Each generation comes to an end.

This truth brings the value of eternal priorities into focus. Our time on earth is very short. “And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation” Ex. 1:6; “And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord...” Judg. 2:10; “For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?” Prov. 27:24.

5) There are generational memorials worth keeping.

“And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations....” Ex. 12:14. The children of Israel built altars as testimonials to future generations, established feast days, and more. It is a healthy thing for us to raise up standards and victories worth remembering for the next generation in our homes and churches.

May we show forth His praise in this generation!

(The above article was a monthly issue of the Rejoicing in the Word Ladies Blog)

Susquehanna Valley Baptist Church

3840 N. Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110

Service Times:

Sunday School (10 AM), Sunday Morning (11 AM), Sunday Evening (6 PM), and Thursday Night Prayer Service (7 PM)