



The Link

Connecting
Church To Home

Volume XIX Issue 3

The Newsletter of Bethel Free Will Baptist Church

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Rules: Limits or Protection? Exodus 19 & 20

When God called Moses up to Mt. Sinai, He instructed Moses to set boundaries for the people. No one was to cross the boundaries and ascend the mountain but Moses.

Was God denying the people their chance? Was He playing favorites? No! He was protecting them from certain destruction.

Paul makes the same principle clear in 2 Corinthians 5-7. God has rules (boundaries) for living. These are for our protection. We are sinful beings and cannot stand in the holiness of God. Our lives need both a provision for approaching God and a guide for living so we can be "accepted of Him." (2 Cor. 5:9)

When God called Moses up to Mt. Sinai, He wanted to give the Law as their guide. It would show them how to meet day to day problems in the light of His holiness.

God knew that the sinful nature of His people would reject a set of rules. People by nature do not like rules, trying to get around them.

So He provided a little test. He told Moses to set boundaries around the mountain. No one was to touch the mountain lest he be destroyed in the presence of God's holiness.

Some of the people did not understand and thought He was denying them a chance to personally see Jehovah. God had to send Moses back down the mountain to reinforce the boundaries.

We live in a society that does not believe in rules. Humanism with its situation ethics has worked its way into every crevice of our society, including the church.

Adversity to God's rules can be found everywhere.

What are some of these rules?

1. "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

Much to the dismay of today's pluralistic thinking, God says there is only one way to heaven. It is through Jesus, or not at all. When He came to this earth and became the God-man living a sinless life, when He died on Calvary at the hands of a wicked mob shedding the blood necessary for our atonement, when He rose the third day from the grave to conquer sin, hell, the grave, and Satan, He made a way for man to come to Him. That way is through faith in Him as Lord and repentance of sin. God has a rule: Come to Me through Jesus. That rule is our protection from everlasting punishment.

2. "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16

When one turns to Christ in faith and repentance, he becomes a "new creature" (2 Cor. 5:17). The Holy Spirit, then dwelling in that person, causes him to live in the "newness of life" (Rom. 6:4). Old desires begin to fade. New desires are implanted. The life of the Christian will begin to exemplify the righteousness of Christ.

This will bring about a conflict. That conflict is between the desires of the old sinful nature (the flesh) and the new spiritual nature (Gal. 5). God says we are to choose holiness. When the choice between good and evil comes, He will help us make the right choice, if we will allow Him. "Be ye holy."

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BETHEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
3713 Pennington Lane
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Upcoming Events

April	3	Easter Egg Hunt 12: 00 PM
April	4	Easter Service 10: 00AM
April	12	Angel Food Order Cut Off.
April	11	Ice Cream Social after the evening service
April	17	Angel Food Order Pick Up 10:00 AM -11:00 AM
April	24	Beth Moore Simulcast 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY	
Sunday School	9:30 AM
Worship	10:30 AM
Casa de Dios	1:45 PM
Choir Rehearsal	4:30 PM
Evening Service	6:00PM
Bible Time (Grades K4-6)	6:00PM
TUESDAY	
Prayer Meeting (Casa de Dios)	8:30 AM
Ladies Bible Study (Jodene Clark's Home)	6:30 PM
Prayer Meeting (Casa de Dios)	7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	
Youth Group (Auditorium)	7:30PM
Bible Class & Prayer (Fellowship Hall)	7:30PM
Kid's Time	7:30PM
THURSDAY	
Men's Bible Study & Fellowship (Auditorium)	7:30 PM
Casa de Dios Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	7:30 PM
FRIDAY	
Youth Group (Casa de Dios Fellowship Hall))	5:00 PM
LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH	
Ladies Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	10:00AM

God's rules given in the Bible for holy living are for our protection and benefit. Following evil may bring temporary pleasure, but will eventually bring heartache and pain.

3. "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." James 4:8

God does not force Himself on man. He is not impolite. Man has the free will to make choices. Jesus knocks at the door, but we must allow Him entrance. We let Him in for salvation. We must let Him into our daily lives. If we draw close to Him, we will flee from the devil. If we do so, Satan flees from us (James 4:7).

God's rule is for our protection from the attacks of Satan. In the security of His embrace we can claim the victory over Satan and all his forces.

Let God's laws be the protection for your life. Jesus said that such truth would make us truly free, not limit us. Praise His Name!

—Pastor Dave Nobles

Join us Saturday, April 24th, 9:30AM - 3:30PM for a special live satellite broadcast, "So Long Insecurity." with Beth Moore. Tickets are \$30.00 (this includes lunch). Contact Andy Farmer to purchase tickets.

April Scripture

"...Because I live, you will live also."

John 14:19



**& Birthdays
Anniversaries**

Birthdays

- April 4 Emillie Porter
- April 6 David Clarke Jr.
- April 8 Zoe Bowen
- April 8 Sharon Jenkins
- April 14 Joyce McFarlane
- April 16 Louis Dennis Jr.
- April 19 Pete Click
- April 20 Georg Schuller
- April 21 Wesley Brown
- April 23 Merwyn Lasrado
- April 24 Stephanie Baltzelle
- April 24 Samuel Porter
- April 24 Nate Richardson
- April 29 John West
- April 30 Karena Belsches

Anniversaries

- April 12 Bobby & Michelle Richardson
- April 22 Nate & Vonda Brown

If we have missed your special day, please let us know!

**Bethel Christian School
Easter Break
April 2- 11**

The real meaning of the cross

"At the cross we understand what God means when he talks of loving us, begin to take it in that there is nothing that he will not do, no sacrifice he will not make, no suffering that he will shirk, if only he can help us. 'He loved me,' said Paul, standing upon Calvary and gazing in a stunned way at the cross, 'I who was a persecutor, and a blasphemer, and injurious, and yet he loved me and he gave himself for me.' And with that [Paul's] heart broke, and the old life was gone."

—Scottish preacher Arthur John Gossip, in a 1926 sermon titled "What Happens at Calvary"

Answer: Christ died for our sins ... he was buried ... he was raised on the third day.

A colorful
CROSS

Create a beautiful decoration for your window this Easter. It will remind you that Jesus rose from the dead to save you from your sins.

What you need:

- 8½" x 11" sheet of paper
- Pencil
- Clear transparency sheet (or clear report cover)
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- Colored tissue paper
- Paintbrush
- Glue
- Scotch tape

What you do:

1. Draw a large cross that takes up most of the paper.
2. Put the transparency over the paper and trace the cross onto it with a permanent marker.
3. Cut the colored tissue paper into 1" x 1" squares.
4. Using a paintbrush, spread glue onto the transparency squares and then place them on the cross. (Add a few drops of water to the white glue to make it more spreadable.)
5. After the glue is dry, cut out the cross. Then tape it in a window and enjoy the beautiful colors.