

The Good News Reconsidered

By Daniel Mark

Lately I have been seriously thinking about what the essence of the Gospel as commanded by our Lord in His Great Commission really involves. The Good News, as understood by most Protestants and even Catholics, falls far short of the New Testament perspective of what makes the Gospel and, therefore, the Great Commission good.

What is it about this spectacular message of redemption and reconciliation unto God that ought to get us all committed and excited in its execution? Ask a typical Christian what the purpose of God's salvation is, and the responses will all have the refrain of going to heaven after death because we have known the Son of God as Savior and Lord and, therefore, are qualified to enter heaven. Granted, Jesus Christ is the exclusive means of entrance into heaven, but to limit the Good News to this experience, does significant injustice to God's intention for the whole of creation. A going-to-heaven-only salvation curtails the ambit of the divine redemptive plan.

The Good News, as detailed in the Gospels and the Epistles, encompasses all of creation that has been blighted by iniquity and rebellion. Humans are the crown jewels of God's creative genius and purpose, blessedly, but we are by no means the end point of the universe. The Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Romans lays out the plan to redeem the cosmos alongside the salvation of souls with drama and emphasis. The chapter uses lively expressions like, *"creation waits in eager expectation;"* *"creation was subjected to frustration;"* and, *"the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God."* (Romans 8:19-21)

Please go back and read the last phrase of the Apostle Paul where he interweaves our redemption with that of the universe. It is the completeness and perfect reversal of sin's effects on humanity and all of nature that make the Good News endlessly enchanting and furnishing us with all the motive for obedience!

Joyful Reunion!



Pastor Andy spent a wonderful week with his brothers (from left to right in photo above: Chris, twin-brother Steve, Pastor Andy and Mark) in the north woods of Maine last month. They enjoyed fishing, relaxing and especially catching up and reminiscing about old times. It was the first time in decades that all four brothers were together!

As presently emphasized, the saints will be raptured or resurrected out of the earth, and we will be cocooned in heaven regardless of the fate of the earth. Praise the Lord His purposes are vastly superior to our blinkered appreciation of His plans for the entirety of His creation. Satan's purpose was to frustrate God's design and will, and hence, the rebellion he instigated in Adam and Eve. Left unanswered, it would make the devil think of having won a victory over the Most High. Instead, God's response to the devil's conceit will be to completely defeat Satan by redeeming His handiwork and undoing Satan's attempt to challenge the Almighty.

In the prayer popularly known as the Lord's Prayer, Jesus immediately establishes the preeminence of God's Kingdom and exhorts believers to pray for its arrival or coming. It's easily noticeable that this model prayer for believers is wonderfully structured according to God's priorities. The petition for God's Kingdom tops all other requests.

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“The Good News Reconsidered,” continued...

Without the coming kingdom where God’s will is perfectly executed like never before, the Good News ceases to be much of a gospel message. The real Good News is that as a result of salvation through Christ, the redeemed and the ransomed will be completely controlled and run by God’s own government with not an iota of input from this present system of things.

Revelation, the Bible’s final book, concludes with chapters that tell of the glories of the new creation or the restoration of all things. The new heaven is named the New Jerusalem and is described in terms of breathtaking beauty and incredible magnitude. As for the earth, it is fabulously restored to its Edenic splendor of pristine features and conditions of perfect purity. The eternal abode of the redeemed is this hybrid place of the new heaven the new earth. But for all the indescribable attractions of our ultimate home, a crucial factor or presence makes all the difference for all eternity.

The last two chapters of Revelations have always left me awe-struck and captivated because of the visible presence of the God of the universe! Our Heavenly Father finally comes and dwells in our midst, and we will look upon Him face-to-face! Revelations 21: 3-5: “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will dwell with them, they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The verses quoted above dramatically result from the complete Gospel of the Kingdom. This then becomes the Good News that’s worth being excited about every day! It’s Good News inspirational enough to tell others about. It’s good News inspirational enough to tell others about. It’s Good News that God will have the ultimate victory over Satan. It’s Good News that God and man are forever together in perfect love and holiness never again to be broken by sin!

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.
(Psalm 103:13)



Windsor Chapel will be hosting a Kids 5-Day Club again July 19 – 23, from 7:00– 8:30 pm, for children ages 5 – 12, in partnership with CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship). Each evening of fun will include Bible and missionary stories, games, music, and outdoor play.

Please begin to pray for the kids who will come and the families who will be impacted by the message of the Gospel. Feel free to share this exciting news with your family, friends and neighbors. All are welcome!

Musicians Wanted

The worship team is looking for a few singers and a bass player to play on alternate Sundays when available. If you are interested or know someone that is, please contact Ken Bills or Don Ober about auditioning to be a part of the team.

The rewards are great, and the sacrifices are exceedingly small. What better way to take your worship to the next level?



Have a Happy Father’s Day!

To our wonderful fathers and all who have acted in the role of a father, Father’s Day seems perfect for celebrating your life and telling you how much you will always mean to us. We are truly grateful for your love and care, and for sharing your unwavering, strong faith with us. We thank God for you and the blessing you are in our lives.

Elders' Corner

By Pastor Andy Straubel

The Apostle Paul longed to see fellow believers at Thessalonica when he wrote, *"But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face... but Satan hindered us."* (1 Thessalonians 2:17-18) These words could have been written about us.

As this unprecedented time comes to a close and we enter a new season, I trust we all can see one another face to face. A few things to keep before us include a Covid-19 update, needs for our Kids 5-Day Club, and plans for a Reunion Picnic on July 11th at the Straubel's.

Covid-19 update: as per the elders, we want to affirm: 1) Windsor Chapel continues to follow CDC and state recommendations concerning Covid-19; 2) As per recent notification, masks and social distancing are no longer required for those who have been vaccinated; 3) Those not vaccinated are "encouraged" to wear a mask inside when gathering for worship; 4) No policing will be taking place either inside or outside the church concerning the recommendations; and 5) May we all continue to pray for our country and for our brothers and sisters as we continue to come out of this crisis.

The Kids 5-Day Club will be held July 19-23, 7:00-8:30 pm, at Windsor Chapel. Olga Hynes from Child Evangelism Fellowship will be directing. Songs, games, Bible stories, outdoor play and a missionary story will be featured. The theme is "Australia Bay," an ocean or beach for those gifted in decorating. Help is also needed for a nightly snack. Kids (and Pastor Andy) love snacks. Please let Pastor Andy know. Youth over twelve are encouraged to participate; there are a host of ways to get plugged in. Thanks! Contact Dorothy with questions at chapel@windsorchapel.org, (609) 799-2559 or Pastor Andy.

A July 11 Reunion Picnic will be held at the Straubel's house, 691 Hughes Drive, in Hamilton, from 4-7 pm. Folks are asked to bring either a salad, dessert, or beverage. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Help on July 10 setting

up the tent and tables would be appreciated. Please text or call Pastor Andy with any questions at (484) 354-8813. Again, thank you one and all who have sustained Windsor Chapel efforts throughout the Covid era.

"Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as you know your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:58

Mark Your Calendars!

Please save July 11 for a Reunion Picnic and pool party! It will be held 4:00 – 7:00 pm at the Straubel's home. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages will be provided.



Blessings to all who celebrate a birthday this month. May you feel the love, joy and presence of the Lord as we all celebrate your special day with prayers and warmest wishes.

Kate Taylor	June 4
Bob Seiboth	June 5
Charles MacQueen	June 6
Jess Klippert	June 14
Darrell Bernheisel	June 22
David Simicevic	June 23

Financial Update

(Through April 30, 2021)

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..."

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$82,794	\$73,332
Expense	\$78,574	\$73,337

Windsor Chapel has sent \$10,424 to our missionary partners this year. That is 14% of your giving!

Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

Normal Life and Beyond

There is a good bit of talk about going back to normal as the pandemic recedes. Many, I think more wisely, refer to a new normal. I think it is easy to approach the next few months with a sense of appropriate excitement and anticipation. But I believe that it is also wise to consider what moving into a post-pandemic life means for us, as individuals, families, and as a local body of Christ.

After the stresses, pain, and grief of the pandemic, going back to normal may sound pretty good. But I have a few observations about this. First, our pre-pandemic normal may not have been particularly healthy and constructive. While going backward may offer the security and comfort of familiarity, it offers little in the way of opportunities for growth. Second, normal encourages comparisons with others and denies that each of us is unique, wonderful, and complete in Christ. We need not concern ourselves with normal, past, present, or future. And finally, while the pandemic may have put elements of our lives in suspended animation, it most definitely did not inhibit the Lord from continuing to do His work in us. May heaven truly forbid our turning our back on what the Lord has been doing simply so that we can go back to normal.

So then, what about a new normal? Again, I would prefer to avoid the mindset of normal because the term tends to confine us and bind us to some kind of script. I think it is more helpful to look at post-pandemic life through the lens of faith. Some of us have experienced significant, if not horrific, losses during this past year. This is the time to grieve and to

pursue recovery in the presence of our merciful Lord.

Most of us would do well to take a bit of time and prayerfully identify as best we can how the Lord has worked in and through the circumstances of this past year, and then consider how we might best prosper His work in us. If the pandemic has exposed areas of sin and brokenness, there is no better time than now to take time to confess and consider what repentance looks like as life begins to significantly change for us again. If the pandemic has given us the opportunity to develop routines and patterns that allow for better self-care, empower us to love more deeply, and/or invest in the Lord's work in new ways, now is the time to consider how to sustain such growth and incorporate it into post-pandemic life.

Normal life. New normal life. Abnormal life. Non-normal life. May we pursue a life of faith by the power of the Holy Spirit, making the most of our time, because the days are evil.

*Therefore be careful how you walk, not as
unwise men but as
wise, making the most of your time, because
the days are evil.
(Ephesians 15-16)*

*Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557) or
cynthialbills@gmail.com to continue the dialogue...*

**If you have any items or information you would like
to share in the newsletter, please e-mail:**

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