

The Reason For Being Alive

It is so simple. The reason for being alive is to live. Otherwise why did God make us? We read, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7). And the fact that God made man in His own image and likeness (Gen. 1:26) indicates that we are miniature, living representations of Him. That image being a spiritual one, as responsible and intelligent beings, our lives are to glorify God as they reflect His likeness and attributes in godly living. But man forfeited life, and at the same time failed in accomplishing the glory of God, by sinning. And this is true of all, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).

Now that the Savior has come, died for us, and restored that living relationship with God, we need to again assert the reason we are alive is to live. In a world of sin and death, the sinless Christ has come so that we might have life and have it more abundantly (Jn. 10:10). In becoming a Christian we are forgiven of that which causes death, sin (Rom. 6:23, Is. 59:2). We come up out of the waters of baptism to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:1-4). With the apostle Paul, being constrained by the love of God, we say, "...we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again" (2 Cor. 5:14,15). The good life is live doing that which is good.

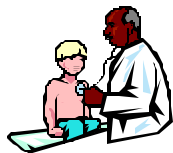
Yes, the purpose of being alive is to live, but so many people think they are living today who really aren't. Being part of a society set on materialistic gratification, they live only for today when they are creatures of eternity (made after the image of the eternal God). Like the self-indulgent rich man, who said, "Soul, thou has much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry" (Lk. 12:15-21), they sell themselves eternally short. God again says, "Thou fool!" And many think they are living when they live it up. The moral life to them is boring; it is not the "good life." But the pleasures of sin are but for a season (Heb. 11:25), for the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). The arch deceiver has done his work again. Like Eve, they have forfeited life. There is no life in sin. Like a ravaging epidemic sweeping across the land and leaving a trail of sickness, disease and death in its path, sin has the stench of death all about it. Yes, the Bible speaks of being dead in trespasses and sin (Eph. 2:1). How foolish to think of this as living.

Simplify things in your life and keep them that way. The reason you are alive is to live and to live for God. Let your life be filled and lived with purpose. With the apostle Paul say, "This one thing I do" (Phil. 3:13) as he followed the teaching of Christ who said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Mt. 6:33). Then you will know that godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come: (1 Tim. 4:8) Amen

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Sick

Continue to remember in prayer:



Marguerite Charles,
Margaret Kratz, Betty Jenkins, Lynn &
Mary Anderson, Crawford &
Martha Keith, Mariam Majors, Cindy An-
gelotti, Sandra Wood, Allen Crawford,

David Kilmer.

Annette Shrader recent test came back negative—no cancer!!

Betty Garby hopes to finally have her surgery this week.

Lyn Shrader's sister and brother-in-law are suffering from cancer.

Happy Birthday this week to:

Tom Duff—8/24
Peggy Grubb—8/26
Jeff Durham—8/27
Kim Brown—8/29
Bobby Paxton—8/29
Bobby Martin—8/31



Happy Anniversary this week to:
Jim & Marsha Cooke—8/31



AUGUST ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Flavorings (almond, butter, lemon) and slivered almonds. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!

MILITARY

Kyle Nester— in Iraq
Erich Felps—in Iraq
Chris Coleman—in Iraq



Elsie Smith came forward last week.

BEFORE YOU BUY THAT BODY ART

Neal Pollard

While there are many matters that are much higher priorities than tattoos, I thought you might like to hear from Dr. Bernadine Healy, the first woman to direct the National Institute of Health, former president of the American Heart Association, and the person who led the American Red Cross response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. She contributed an article in a recent U.S. News and World Report magazine (August 4/August 11, 2008, p. 69) entitled, "The Dangerous Art of the Tattoo." Let me say that I am eager to study, convert, and then value and consider as a brother or sister anyone who has tattoos—no matter how many or how big the "body art" is. They are entitled to the same love and respect as any other member of God's family.

My target audience is those who may be considering getting one or another one. Dr. Healy brings up some important issues in the article. First is the matter of tattoo "remorse." Healy reports that "upwards to 50 percent of those who get tattoos later wish they hadn't." Interviews conducted by researchers at Texas Tech with those suffering such remorse cited "moving on from the past, problems wearing clothes, embarrassment, and concerns that tattoos could adversely affect job or career."

Healy's second concern should cause one to really take notice. There are myriad health concerns associated with both getting tattoos and having them removed. There is toxic release of low-level carcinogens associated with removal, which in itself is said to a long and very painful process. There are allergic reactions and skin infections that can follow tattooing. Healy writes, "The FDA warns about the risk of tattoo parlors transmitting viruses like HIV and the cancer-causing hepatitis C." MRI scans can cause tattoos to swell or burn. She says much more, and I would recommend your getting the article if you are interested in reading it.

Here is the relevant point. Anything, whether drugs, tobacco, alcohol, fornication, "overuse" of food, or ink that hurts our bodies needs to be avoided. May we never forget what Paul told Corinth. "Or know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? and ye are not your own" (1 Cor. 6:19). We are stewards of all God's resources, which includes our bodies. Let us make wise and God-honoring decisions concerning them, too!

Engaged!!

Congratulations to

Jrae Bailey and Kassie Kittrells.

They got engaged on August 20 and are planning a spring wedding.



F Y I For Your Information

POLISHING THE PULPIT

Eddy and several of our members are in Tennessee this week for the annual Polishing the Pulpit lectureships.

IN-HOUSE SUMMER SERIES

Be here this Wednesday night to hear Tim Shoulders as our guest speaker! This is our last week for our summer series—if you missed any, get them on CD!! They were great!

LESSONS FROM CAMP

Special guest speaker next Sunday morning for the fellowship hall class—Larry Phillips! Make plans to come!

TURN, TURN, TURN

T3 flyers and registrations are located in the foyer. return to the office by Sept. 20. Also there will be a T3 Planners meeting on Sept. 14 at 4:30.

FALL PRIMARY TEACHERS

All lesson plans, activities and etc. from last fall need to be e-mailed to Tom Richardson or Danny Guard by next Sunday. Give all visuals to Tom.

PRIMARY TEACHERS MEETING

There will be a primary teachers meeting on Sept. 7 at 4:30 in the fellowship hall. Second & Third Grade teachers are in charge of snacks!

COLLEGE ADDRESSES

Please let the office know your or your child's college address so they can be placed in the bulletin soon.

ENCOURAGEMENT CARDS

Cards, phone calls and/or letters of *encouragement* are needed for the following:

Chelsea High, (Removed per privacy policy)

Marguerite Charles, (Removed per privacy policy)

(See hard copy for information)

Teens



The young men will conduct the services on August 31. Make plans now to attend and support our fine young men—they do a great job!

WOW

Please sign up on the WOW board for the video Auto-biographies being done by Richard Simms.

Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 10:30.

Sign Up Sheets - located on the board:

Ladies Night Out - sign up to host a gathering of the ladies of West Side. Desperately need someone to sign up for September for a great kick off!

Sunday Morning 'Thru the Bible' Class Outlines - We will be starting the New Testament in the fall quarter. If you are interested in an outline, check the web site at www.westsidecofc-salem.com or sign up by August 31.

Fall Quarter Wednesday Evening Ladies Class - "*Everything I Needed To Know, I Learned From The Bible.*" Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan on attending. See Jeanny if you have questions.

The 15th West Side Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, September 27 at 11 A.M. at the Blue Hills Golf Club

Attention Team Leaders, Youth Leaders, etc. I will need all upcoming events for the months of September and October by Wednesday, August 27!!



August 2008

Evidence, Evolution and the Existence of God

Announcements Mike Durham
Song Leader (AM) Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (AM)
8/3 Barry White
8/10 Jim Bush
8/17 Herb Baker
8/24 John Black
8/31 Josh Whitlow
Preside at Communion Don Pettit
Serve Table Bob Martin AC Janney
Glen Hartman Bradford Durham
Closing Prayer
8/3 Grat Tucker
8/10 David Brown
8/17 Jim Cooke
8/24 Wayne Dixon
8/31 Ethan Rogers
Song Leader (PM) David Brown
Opening Prayer (PM)
8/3 Jim Harrington
8/10 Danny Guard
8/17 Roger Mays
8/24 Greg Edwards
8/31 Jerry Anderson
Scripture Reader Sam Valentine
Closing Prayer (PM)
8/3 Shawn Simms
8/10 Eric Earnhart
8/17 Bob Garby
8/24 Charlie Maness
8/31 Jason Oldham
Serve Table (PM)
Mark Brooks Glenn Gabbard
Song Leader (Wed) Josh Whitlow
Prayer (Wed)
8/6 Tom Richardson
8/13 Greg Edwards
8/20 Fred Altizer
8/27 Squeaky Valentine
Open/Close Bldg Jim Harrington
Greeters White Gearhart
Nursery Attend S. Neighbors M. Pettit
Ushers Richard Simms Curtis Oakes
Handouts Roger Mays Mitch Jearls
Sam Valentine Cameron Brown
Alternates Lyn Shrader
Prepare communion
Jeanny Gilpin Pat Gwaltney
Cards & Pencils
Jimmy Harrington & Dylan Tyler

Last weeks attendance 8/17&20/08

Bible Class—132 Worship Service—178
Sunday Eve.—114 Wednesday Eve.—158
Contribution—\$3728

Number 2934
August 24, 2008

Does God exist? Can we know He exists? Is evolution a fact that science has proven? Is evolution a viable alternative to how our world came into being? Is there evidence that proves the world was created? Can we really believe that the Bible (a document 2000 years old) tells us more about our origin than modern science with all its technology? Is the Bible in conflict with true science?

These and a host of other similar questions are often proposed in the ongoing debate between “science” and religion (actually, there is no debate between true science and true religion). We need to examine these matters regularly and build up our faith often by studying the truthfulness of God’s word and its ability to stand up against the attacks of the world. We will be faced with such questions and objections and need to be prepared to answer them (I Pet. 3:15).

In the coming weeks we will be examining some of these matters during our morning worship service. We will look at the subject of evil, pain and suffering and how it relates to this discussion. We will study the various areas that demonstrate evidence for the existence of God and the truthfulness of the Bible. We will look at numerous examples from the amazing world around us to prove the world was created (cf. Ps. 19:1). We will see numerous examples of Bible references to scientific matters, and how perfectly they fit into the orderly arrangement of the universe. We will see how design proves a designer. We will look at quotations from evolutionists themselves to show the fallacies of their contentions. We will take a look at the great flood of Noah, see what tremendous upheaval it caused and see the truthfulness of Peter’s statement: “Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished” (II Pet. 3:6).

With the beginning of school we are reminded of many things, not the least of which is that our children will once again be exposed to the atheistic teachings of a secular society. Make your plans to be present for each of these lessons so that you can be better equipped to teach your children/grandchildren about these matters. And, you might want to bring the kids along as well. We hope to see you here. -Eddy