

# BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

**Senior Adults Newsletter  
Christ Covenant Church  
September 2022**



## GRACE TO YOU

### OH, THE DEEP, DEEP LOVE OF JESUS

By Matthew Kirk, Intern

It is “Vast, Unmeasured, Boundless, Free,” as the old hymn continues. I’ve just started reading a devotional book penned by Sinclair Ferguson, *Love Came Down at Christmas*, which I admit, does sound like an odd book to be reading in August (although I am sure I have read somewhere that Jesus was more likely born in the summer than in December, so perhaps I am on safe ground). It’s a required book for a course I am taking on Personal Sanctification at RTS this upcoming semester.

The book takes 24 chapters to go phrase by phrase through the great love passage in 1 Corinthians 13; helping the reader to consider how these verses speak of the love Christ has for us and then think through how his love for us is what inspires and generates our love for others. At the beginning of the book, Sinclair Ferguson asks the reader to read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 several times before he begins the book. He specifically asks the reader to first read the central verses of the chapter as if it were attempting to describe us. It’s uncomfortable, because as we read ourselves into the text, we are immediately confronted by the text as it convicts us of how far we fall short of God’s glory and calling. Sinclair then asks us to read the text as if it is describing Christ. This time the words become words of comfort and hope, for we are made to realize that as far as we fall short, Christ’s love and mercy is ready and waiting for us. It’s from the love that Christ has for naturally loveless people like ourselves that his Spirit inspires us to love others, especially others who we don’t naturally consider to be worthy objects of our love. If Christ can love people as bad as we, then He can make it so we can love others too.

I thought it was a powerful exercise, and I hope, by God’s grace, it might be as much of a blessing to you as it has been for me, so I wanted to reproduce it for you here. I’d recommend going away and reading the whole passage for yourselves. I’ll simply reproduce verses 1-7 in the manner described above:

*“If I speak in the tongues of men and angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing... Am I patient and kind? Do I not envy and boast? Am I not arrogant and rude? Do I not insist on my own way? Am I not irritable and resentful? Do I not delight in doing wrong? Am I always rejoicing in the truth? Do I bear all things? Do I believe all things? Do I hope all things? Do I endure all things?... I have not love... I am a noisy gong and a clanging cymbal... I am nothing... I have gained nothing... but... Jesus is patient. Jesus is kind. Jesus does not envy and neither does He boast. Jesus is not arrogant or rude. Jesus does not insist on His own way; Jesus is not irritable, and neither is Jesus resentful. Jesus does not rejoice at wrongdoing but Jesus rejoices with the truth. Jesus bears all things. Jesus believes all things. Jesus hopes all things. Jesus endures all things.”* He is love. He loves. He loves even us. Praise the Lord.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,  
rolling as a mighty ocean,  
in its fullness over me.  
Underneath me, all around me,  
is the current of thy love;  
leading onward, leading homeward,  
to thy glorious rest above.

### HYMN HISTORY

Submitted by Peggy Dear

#### “REVIVE US AGAIN”

At first, the words of this hymn may not seem to go together. Is the hymn a prayer for personal revival or is it a hymn of praise? The first three stanzas are outbursts of praise to the triune God, so the natural response is "Hallelujah, Thine the glory." Only the chorus and the last stanza tie in with the title, "Revive Us Again."

But the author, William P. Mackay, a Scottish physician turned minister, knew what he was doing. The hymn was first published in 1875 under the inscription, "O Lord, Revive Thy Work." It is based on Habakkuk 3:2, which combines awe and wonder for the amazing things God has done with a prayer for revival. Psalm 85:6 asks, "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" (NIV). In commenting on this psalm, Charles Haddon Spurgeon wrote, "A genuine revival without joy in the Lord is as impossible as spring without flowers or daydawn without light." When surrounded by discouragement and fear, it is good for us to praise the One "who has bourned all our sins/ And has cleansed ev'ry stain.

We praise Thee, O God,  
For the Son of Thy love,  
For Jesus who died  
And is now gone above.

*Hallelujah, Thine the glory!*  
*Hallelujah, amen!*  
*Hallelujah, Thine the glory!*  
*Revive us again.*

We praise Thee, O God,  
For Thy Spirit of light,  
Who has shown us our Savior  
And scattered our night.

All glory and praise  
To the Lamb that was slain,  
Who has borne all our sins  
And has cleansed ev'ry stain.

Revive us again----  
Fill each heart with Thy love;  
May each soul be rekindled  
With fire from above.

William Paton Mackay (1839-1885)

2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 85:6; Habakkuk 3:2; Titus 3:4-8

### MEN'S MONTHLY LUNCH

Submitted by Dave Ruths

**The Senior Men's Breakfast/Lunch will not be held in September; because Labor Day weekend has pushed the normal first Friday Seniors Lunch to the third Friday of September. Since changing our date or time has proven to cause confusion, we will hold to the third Friday @ 11:30 and, thus, next meet on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30. (DO COME to the always great Seniors' Lunch on Friday, Sept. 16!**



Submitted by Dot Branson

**Trio's Restaurant  
Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am**

Ladies, please mark your calendars for our monthly luncheon. We will meet at Trio's Restaurant on Friday, September 9, at 11:30. The address is 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy. (off Hwy. 51). Remember that we celebrate birthdays, so we will be looking for you ladies with September birthdays. Please let Dot Branson (704-575-5955) know that you plan to join us. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Fall Kick-Off Luncheon

Friday, September 16, 2022

Social time: 11:45 am / Lunch 12:00 pm / CLC 5&6

Speaker: Bruce Creswell, Pastor of Senior Adults & Visitation

Menu: TBA

All are welcome and invited to attend the Fall Kick-Off Luncheon! We'll hear from Pastor Bruce on upcoming events and meet and reconnect with friends.

To reserve your spot, *please RSVP by Tuesday, September 6th* on this SignUp Genius, or by phone to Jenny Blackmon, ministry at 704-708-6104.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0444aaaf2ea2fc1-september1>



### HANDYMAN UPDATE

*September, 2022*

Yes, we are still available to help with various projects you may want or need us to help with. Sometimes folks have just wanted some advice before reaching out to a licensed professional while others have made requests to do a job. We are willing to take a look at any kind of handyman type of project; well, "almost" any kind. We are glad for folks to ask! Since we are not always easy to reach, we do ask that you contact Jenny Blackman (704) 708-6104 to let her know the kind of project you need done. She will then contact us with some details and give us your number so that we can get back in touch with you.

With blessings,  
*David and Mo*

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Articles for the October newsletter are due to Jane Yancey by September 20<sup>th</sup>. You may send them to her at [jane@yancey.com](mailto:jane@yancey.com)

### CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

*Submitted by Mary Jo Culver*

If you are a caregiver to a loved one, no matter if occasionally, full time, near or far, then you might find encouragement by meeting with others who are caregivers like you.

We will gather together to glean from the book "Ambushed by Grace" by Shelly Beach.

Group begins on Sept. 12

Time: 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Place CLC room 3

Only cost is for the book.

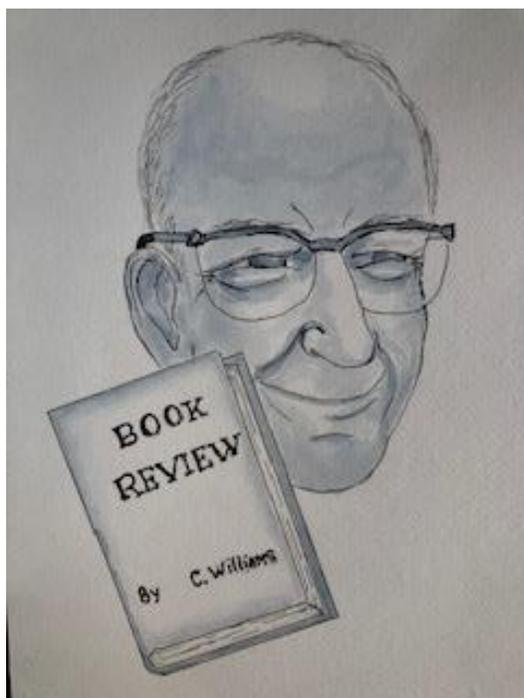
Have questions or wish to register? Contact Mary Jo Culver [maryjoculver@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjoculver@yahoo.com) or 704-307-3054.



### JOY SINGERS

Joy Singers have resumed meeting on Mondays from 1:30 – 2:30 pm in WC211. Joy Singers will NOT meet on Labor Day, September 5<sup>th</sup>. If you enjoy singing, plan to come to a rehearsal and find out more!

## THE MAN BEHIND THE BOOK REVIEWS!



*Drawing compliments of Steve Sperry*

**THE RIVER WAR**  
**An Historical Account of the**  
**Reconquest of the Soudan**  
**By Winston Churchill**  
*“The Definitive Edition in Two Volumes”*  
**Edited by James W. Miller**  
**St. August Press, 2020**

This is a reprint of the original book by Winston Churchill first published in 1899, largely forgotten until the editor, James Miller, undertook the job of republishing it in association with the Churchill family estate and the International Churchill Society.

It was a daunting job to produce this comprehensive scholarly work of this early Churchill book and it is a daunting set of books to read. Confession: I did not read it all. Churchill's actual book is 820 pages long but this set of books also includes 250 pages of introduction in volume 1 and 450 pages of appendices at the end of volume 2. I read the introduction and Winston's book, but not all the appendices.

The aim of the editor is to present the full original book (there was an abbreviated version in one volume published around 1905) and to document Churchill's dispatches to a newspaper during the war which are published in the appendices. There are many other documents of historical interest included as well.

The war occurred in the Soudan between 1885 and 1899. The Soudan is in the region below Egypt along the Nile River. It is mostly arid desert but includes some jungle forest north of Eritrea and Ethiopia. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was dominated by a charismatic Muslim leader titled, "The Mahdi" (the savior). He was able to unify feuding Arab tribes in the region and make war on the Egyptians to the north and the British who were in Egypt as colonial occupiers.

Britain and Egypt went to war against this Arab alliance and campaigned up the Nile (that is southward up the Nile) to eventually defeat the opposing armies and capture the final objective at Khartoum. The battle for Khartoum is named by the neighboring battle location: the Battle of Omdurman, fought on September 2, 1898.

Winston Churchill was a young man at this time and participated as an officer in the 21<sup>st</sup> Lancers (cavalry). He also wrote home to a newspaper about his experiences and the war's progress in regular dispatches. His position in the army did not allow him to be both soldier and reporter but he managed to get his running account through by sending them indirectly through a friend.

His vivid descriptions and his excellent journalism (explaining things so that an average person like me can understand) produces a very readable book with literary merit and many quotable passages. Churchill, near the end of the book, reflects on all aspects of the war from weapons and tactics to strategy and leadership. He also reflects on the culture of the opposing sides. In a long paragraph he analyzes the culture of Islam, not from a religious or theological perspective but from a sociological viewpoint. He notes the "...fearful fatalistic apathy..." and has many negative things to say about countries thus dominated. Oddly he also commends the bravery of their warriors and their "...militant and proselytizing faith..." Vol 2, p. 227. Churchill was evidently not a Christian though he strongly identified with the dominant British Christian culture. But Churchill himself seems to ridicule the notion of moral absolutes.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

This war occurred in the final decades of the British Empire. The cavalry charge at the final battle was perhaps the last of its kind before the “industrialization” of war in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Modern weapons including the Maxim machine gun were used against the vast Muslim army equipped with far simpler weapons and lacking the organization, discipline, and tactics of modern armies. It was not an even match; the Egyptians under British command easily won.

Also worth noting are all the original drawings, photographs, and maps from the original edition. The many fold-out maps are mostly multicolor printed on glossy paper. Nice!

From the Editor:

“The River War” tells a grand story, and its themes, its characters, its judgments and its prose amply justify its return to print. For the Twenty-first century reader, it offers a definitive account of the reconquest of the Sudan and the thoughtful explanation of the problems of war, empire, race and religion that Churchill first encountered in the late Victorian era ...” P. clxxx.

### **GOD GIVES A SONG**

*Submitted by Patty Marion and Fran Wise*

“Some through the waters, some through the flood, some through the fire, but all through the Blood; Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song...” God gives all His children a song.

The music of His mercy and grace is written across all the years of our earthly lives...the “fat years” and the “lean years,” even the years we may not wish to regard.

The song He has given you is intended to bless not only you, but all who hear it. In a sense, it is His Word revealed in us throughout our lives, and as Scripture declares in His Word, it will not return void.

If you have not already done so, won't you please consider telling us about your song by adding it in just a page or two to the Coram Deo class's collection of Senior Stories?

If you feel, for whatever reason, unable to compose or write your story, arrangements can be made for a class member to informally interview you in a comfortable setting, then compose your story for your approval.

This collection is intended to circulate only within the class. Currently, it contains many dozens of wonderful life stories – stories of class members with us weekly, some who have moved away, and some now in Heaven. Each of them delivers a unique blessing!

What is the song God has given you?

If you have questions about this on-going project or would like to obtain a copy of the collection, please speak with Fran Wise, [franandhugh@bellsouth.net](mailto:franandhugh@bellsouth.net) or Parry Marion, [pattymarion@runbox.us](mailto:pattymarion@runbox.us)

### **2022-23 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

The Senior Adult 2022-23 Calendar of Events Brochure will be available at the Welcome Desk in the main lobby of the Worship Center Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Brochures will also be available, starting September 11<sup>th</sup>, in the Senior Adult Sunday School classroom.

### **BOOK NOOK RECOMMENDATION**

*Submitted by Caleb Johnson*

The seniors might especially enjoy *RC Sproul: A Life* by Stephen Nichols. I have never read it, but I've heard it's excellent. Here are a couple really good reviews of this book:

**John MacArthur:** “This theologically rich, warm, and personal look at a rare servant of the Lord is masterful. There will be other biographies of R.C., but I cannot imagine any that would come close to this one.”

**Joni Eareckson Tada:** “This book is worth your time because it celebrates a man worth remembering. R. C. was a masterful theologian who could so easily squeeze sweetness from what others considered dry doctrine. His sermons and books beautifully adorned the gospel, but so did his life. It's what I love about Stephen Nichols's remarkable work. He takes us behind the scenes to reveal the true makings of this great saint of the twentieth century, why his words endure, and why we are inexorably drawn to his live-large character. I've always admired R. C. Sproul for his razor-sharp mind; now, with this biography, he's printed on my heart. Thank you, Stephen Nichols, for helping the reader fall in love with this lion of a man, my friend, the good Doctor Sproul.”

## Book Review

### THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

By Kevin DeYoung

*Submitted by Hugh Wise*

The 10 commandments are much more than they seem. They are basically a summary of 613 rules of Jewish law in the Pentateuch, yet only 14% of Americans can name all 10. As a reminder: the first 4 deal with our vertical relationship with God, and the last 6 deal with our horizontal relationship with our fellow man. While our culture says, “you decide,” Kevin points out there’s so MUCH MORE than the basics when a deep dive is taken. Jesus expands the meaning.

**#1 NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.** Syncretism (a blending of all faiths) was rampant in Israel and there were many gods (sound familiar?). Idolatry was easy for the Canaanites since they simply showed up and offered a sacrifice, just as today when worship may be the last option with our busy schedules.

**#2 NO CARVED IMAGES.** Compare the golden calf of earlier times with church buildings, pulpits or other man-made artifacts used for self-willed worship. We do not need icons. Christ is our icon, as he is our image of the invisible God. Kevin reminds us that God’s worship is always counter cultural.

**#3 THE NAME OF THE LORD.** God’s name is holy and expressions like “jeez, gosh and OMG” are not acceptable. Claiming divine authority for human decisions is not acceptable. There is to be no lighthearted approach to God’s holy name. “O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth”, (Psalm 8:1a).

**#4 REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY AND KEEP IT HOLY.** The Jewish word for Sabbath is ceasing or rest, rejoice, and repeat in our jargon. Sabbath is mentioned more than 100 times in the Old Testament, but in our culture, who is king—Jesus or soccer? God has provided one day in seven for worship, rest and to attend to your soul. Sabbath rest is about keeping Jesus Christ the center of who we are! Keep it holy!

**#5 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.** This is the foundation upon which love for our neighbors is built and shapes all other relationships. America is gravitating toward a totalitarian regime and undue control is being exerted over our families, children, and freedoms which leads to tearing away the fabric of family life. Therefore, the duty of honoring parents has never been so urgent.

**#6 DO NOT MURDER.** The sanctity of God given life was not respected in olden days just as it is still under attack in America. Kevin makes the point that personhood begins when biological life exists. We need to give thanks for the recent Dobbs decision.

**#7 YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.** The depravity of man will always be with us. For example, Kevin found written evidence of church discipline involving adultery in Geneva 1542-1609. Sex and marriage are two of God’s greatest gifts, but they have been perverted by the world and the Devil. The institution of marriage must be protected. The Greek word ‘porneia’ is, by definition, a broad term, and Jesus specifically said adultery includes every kind of deviation from the created order, including homosexuality. So, it is not true that Jesus never mentions homosexuality in the New Testament.

**#8 DO NOT STEAL.** These small “norms” in our culture are considered stealing: cheating, inaccurate measurements, excessive interest, no access to courts, false advertising, plagiarism, on-line piracy, etc. We rob God when we withhold the tithe. (Malachi 1:1-12). God is the owner of everything.

**#9 FALSE WITNESS.** We now live in a world of social media: spin, trial by Twitter, DNA evidence, audio, video, etc. Consider what happened to Adam and Eve, Naboth, Jacob, Laban, Judas, and even Ananias and Sapphira who were struck dead by the Holy Spirit when they lied to God. Proverbs 22:1 summarizes: “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold”.

**#10 YOU SHALL NOT COVET.** Is contentment just an Amazon click away? Consider the rich young man in the Gospels who obeyed the first 9 commandments but wilted because of coveting. Matthew 6:33: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you.”



### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 – Margret Davis  
1 – Mary Webb  
2 – Jack Burkhart  
3 – Starr Beam  
4 – Marty Haigh  
4 – Dana Lamb  
6 – Frances Lee  
6 – Ron Melton  
9 – Bob Mantell  
10 – Dee Petty  
13 – Billie Quesnel  
13 – Danks Seel  
14 – Jerry Pinkard  
15 – Larry Atkinson  
15 – John Faber  
16 – Sue Swansby  
16 – Betty Whalen  
17 – Toni Broome  
17 – Brendan Kelly  
17 – Doris Matthews  
18 – Ora Johnson  
20 – Tony Aldridge  
20 – Carolyn Creswell  
20 – Larry Elenbaum  
20 – Betty Hough  
20 – Jimmy Wentz  
22 – Carroll Montell  
23 – Linda Eppley  
23 – Tom Hopkins  
23 – Pat Moore  
23 – Susan Sperry  
24 – Ken Dabbs  
24 – Jim Stoudenmier  
25 – Buddy Parker  
26 – Bob Shamess  
29 – Anne Hopkins  
29 – Linda Morris  
29 – Carol Zachary

### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

5 – Dana & Dee Lamb  
5 – Ronnie & Gay-Ellen Fisher  
10 – Russ & Linda Eppley  
11 – Sam & Anne Murray  
12 – Biff & Nan Bracy  
28 – Joe & Linda Morris

**Coram Deo Sunday School Class:**  
Sundays, 9 am, WC201/Choir Room

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## EVENTS

- Sunday School, Sundays,  
9:00 am, WC201/Choir Room
- Ladies Luncheon, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>,  
11:30 am, Trio's Restaurant
- No Men's Monthly Lunch this  
month
- Prayer Meetings, Tuesdays,  
7:00 – 8:30 pm, WC105
- Joy Singers, Mondays,  
1:30 – 2:30 pm, WC211  
***Please note they will not meet on  
Labor Day, September 5<sup>th</sup>.***
- Newsletter Article Deadline  
September 20<sup>th</sup>
- **Senior Retreat, September 20 – 23**
- Future Dates:  
Dec. 2 – Senior Adult Christmas Dinner  
  
October 3-6, 2023 – 2023 Retreat,  
Bonclarken Conference Center,  
Flat Rock, NC