



In Christ alone our hope is found.

By Alexander S. Brown, Minister

IN A WEEK and a half, our little girl will start her first day of school as she enters Kindergarten.

As any parent knows (or anyone who knows a parent!), this is a time filled with mixed emotions – joy that she is at this point, healthy, energetic and ready to go; thankful to God for His provision over the past five years that has brought her to this point; excited about the possibilities that lie before her, and anticipation at seeing her grow and develop as her understanding of the world around her explodes.

But with those positive feelings there is also a sense of trepidation; after all, this is the first time in five years that she will regularly be outside of our direct care for most of the day, most of the week, for most of the year.

Up until now, Sara and I have almost always been there to defend her, care for her, and provide for her.



But now, at least for a portion of the day, we have to trust others to do that for her. And that is nerve-wracking. What if someone is mean to her? (Or, better, what will happen when she encounters the inevitable meanness of children?) Will she be included? Will she make friends? Will she do well in class?

I know that for many of you, what we are going through for the first time is something that you all have experienced – many of you with both children and grand-children – and these conflicting emotions are not just set apart for first days of school. They really accompany many, if not all, of life's big events – the ever present question of what will the future hold.

However, as I have processed through this, I was enormously helped by Paul Tripp in Sunday School class when he talked about God bringing to us *uncomfortable graces*, which teach us that we are designed to be dependent upon our Creator.

We don't like the idea of dependence. Our culture values and promotes the idea of independence – we celebrate Independence Day every July 4th, which is really a day that not only highlights a historical independence from a foreign government, but encapsulates the American ideal of being free and independent; the captains of our own destinies.

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August Calendar

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
"Lost in the Middle,"
based on the book by
Paul David Tripp

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship
Preaching series:
I Corinthians

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
Preaching series:
Gospel of John

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:
1st Sunday, AM Worship
Children's Church, Nursery available

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- Sun 8/3 Sacrament of the Lord's
Supper (10:30 a.m.)
- Tue 8/12 Stated Session Meeting
(6:00 p.m.)
- Wed 8/20 "Summer Nights" Church
Fellowship Dinner
(6:30 p.m. — watch for
details in church bulletin)

Looking Ahead:

- Mon 9/1 Labor Day Holiday
- Wed 9/3 GIPC's Annual
"Fall Kick Off"
Dinner



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In Christ alone. . .

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And it is really no wonder that this has taken such root in our psyches, because it matches the desires of our hearts to be independent, autonomous creatures, reliant on no one but ourselves.

However, as Paul Tripp reminded us, there are times in life when God is good to us in bringing uncomfortable graces, which remind us that we are not nearly as independent as we like to think we are.

There are times when He brings small events (like Ada going to school), or larger tragedies, to open our eyes and remind us that we are the creature, not the Creator, and ultimately we are not in charge. We are not in control. God is. And one of the most gracious things He can do to us is remove from us the artificial supports that surround us and leave us to stand on Christ alone.

ONE OF MY favourite hymns is *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*, and most mornings I find myself waking with the refrain going round and round in my head –

*On Christ the Solid Rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit plants that in my mind in the mornings to remind me, as I wake up, of my place in the scheme of things – utterly dependent, secured only by my foundation in Jesus Christ.

That is where we are to live as Christians – forsaking the sinking sand of any notions that we are in control, forsaking the sinking sand of any idea that we can achieve any good apart from Christ.

If we are not standing on Christ, then we are drowning in our foolishness.

I DON'T KNOW how Ada will do in school. I don't know what the other kids in her class will be like. I don't know how she will fare.

But in some small way, as God takes her from my direct control, He is, in His grace, reminding me that I am not in charge, and that He is.

It's a hard lesson to learn, but my prayer for myself, my family, and you my church, is that we would see the difficulties of life, big or small, through this lens – that that which is hard is given to us by God, to teach us to cling to Christ alone.

May Christ be the solid rock on which we stand. ■

Fighter Verses



Each month GIPC prints a list of “Fighter Verses” on the last page of the newsletter to encourage Scripture memory and meditation—one verse per week. “The Fighter Verses have been carefully selected to arm us for the fight for faith and love, and against unbelief and sin....the passages fall into three categories: 1) those that fix our attention on God, His power, and His compassion toward us who believe; 2) those that arm us for the battle against specific sins; and 3) those that turn our attention to the person and gospel work of Jesus where the strength for faith, and defeating sin, most powerfully flows.”*

*Scripture memory tips are available here: fighterverses.com

Book Stall

If you haven't already done so please stop by the new book table located in the church foyer.



One of the main reasons this ministry was started is the firm conviction that it is important for Christians to read.

The goal of the book table will be to help you get easy access to good Christian books at reasonable prices. We hope you will take advantage of it.

If there is something you would like to see offered by way of a topic or a specific book that is not currently there, please let Pastor Brown know.

Significant Sessional Actions

- Approved Rev. Bill Hay, founding pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church (Homewood, AL) and co-founder of Birmingham Theological Seminary, as Keynote Speaker for GIPC's 19th Annual World Missions Conference scheduled for November 7-9, 2014;
- Approved implementation of a Phone Tree for emergency contact, church schedule changes or event reminders;
- Approved addition of retirement and disability insurance to the pastor's package.

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AUGUST

"Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears." (I Samuel 3:10)

Family Worship

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Judges</i>	15	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	<i>Ruth</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		3,4	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	<i>I Samuel</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		5,6	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		7,8	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		21,22	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		24	<input type="checkbox"/>

AUGUST

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Family Worship

New Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Acts</i>	19	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		26	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		27	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		28	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	<i>Romans</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	<i>I Corinthians</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		5	<input type="checkbox"/>

AUGUST

"Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears." (I Samuel 3:10)

Private

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Jeremiah</i>	28	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		29	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		30,31	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		32	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		33	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		34	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		35	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		36,45	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		37	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		38	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		39	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		40	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		41	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		42	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		43	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		44	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		46	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		47	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		48	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		49	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		50	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		51	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		52	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	<i>Lamentations</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	<i>Ezekiel</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		3	<input type="checkbox"/>

AUGUST

"Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears." (I Samuel 3:10)

Private

New Testament & Psalms

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Mark</i>	14	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	<i>Psalms</i>	1,2	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		3,4	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		5,6	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		7,8	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		11,12	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		13,14	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		15,16	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		20,21	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		23,24	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		26,27	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		28,29	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		30	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		31	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		32	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		33	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		34	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		35	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		36	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		37	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		38	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		39	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week beginning AUGUST 3

Psalms 139:1-3

O LORD, You have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You discern my thoughts from afar.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Week beginning AUGUST 10

Psalms 139:4-5

Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay Your hand upon me.

Week beginning AUGUST 17

Psalms 139:6-8

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.
Where shall I go from Your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, You are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there!

Week beginning AUGUST 24

Psalms 139:9-10

If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there Your hand shall lead me,
and Your right hand shall hold me.

Week beginning AUGUST 31

Psalms 139:11-12

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
even the darkness is not dark to You;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with You.