



# Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS, SD

## Pastor's Pulpit:

I want to share with you an article that I recently referenced in one of my sermons. It is a little piece by R. C. Sproul and deals with the issue of perspective: perspective about we as human beings, we as a child of God, and we in living out our Christian faith in spite of our oft-misplaced actions at times. Like the Scriptures remind us in the Epistle of James 3:2: **“For we all stumble in many ways”**; and Paul’s struggle with himself in Romans 7:23-24: **“But I see another law at work in my body, warring against the law of my mind and holding me captive to the law of sin that dwells within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I serve the law of God, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin”**; and the familiar words recorded in Romans 3: **“And this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”** Let's read and then see how we can gain a biblical perspective of us and others.

Perhaps the formula that Luther used that is most famous and most telling at this point is his formula *simul justus et peccator*. And if any formula summarizes and captures the essence of the Reformation view, it is this little formula. *Simul* is the word from which we get the English word *simultaneously*. Or, it means 'at the same time.' *Justus* is the Latin word for just or righteous. And you all know what *et* is. *Et* the past tense of the verb 'to eat.' Have you *et* your dinner? No, you know that's not what that means. You remember in the death scene of Caesar after he's been stabbed by Brutus he says, "Et tu, Brute?" Then fall Caesar. And you too Brutus? It simply means *and*. *Peccator* means sinner.

And so with this formula, Luther was saying, in our justification we are one and the same time righteous or just, and sinners. Now if he would say that we are at the same time and in the same relationship just and sinners that would be a contradiction in terms. But that's not what he was saying. He was saying from one perspective, in one sense, we are just. In another sense, from a different perspective, we are sinners; and how he defines that is simple. In and of ourselves, under the analysis of God's scrutiny, we still have sin; we're still sinners. But, by imputation and by faith in Jesus Christ, whose righteousness is now transferred to our account, then we are considered just or righteous. This is the very heart of the gospel.

Will I be judged in order to get into heaven by my righteousness or by the righteousness of Christ? If I had to trust in my righteousness to get into heaven, I would completely and utterly despair of any possibility of ever being redeemed. But when we see that the righteousness that is ours by faith is the perfect righteousness of Christ, then we see how glorious is the good news of the gospel. The good news is simply this, I can be reconciled to God, I can be justified by God not on the basis of what I did, but on the basis of what's been accomplished for me by Christ.

But at the heart of the gospel is a double-imputation. My sin is imputed to Jesus. His righteousness is imputed to me. And in this two-fold transaction we see that God, Who does not negotiate sin, Who doesn't compromise His own integrity with our salvation, but rather punishes sin fully and really after it has been imputed to Jesus, retains His own righteousness, and so He is both just and the justifier, as the apostle tells us here. So, my sin goes to Jesus, His righteousness comes to me in the sight of God."

The reason why I find this teaching helpful and good, is that I finally began to understand that it is God who is the Author and Perfector of my salvation. It is God who chooses to see me through the lens of His Son's life, not my stumbling actions. It is God Himself who says that we are justified in His sight and we will be with Him someday in heaven. But for now, we are to fight the good fight of faith even as we struggle with sin. This not to earn His favor, but more, that we are striving to fulfill the greatest of all commandments as recorded in Deuteronomy 3 and from the lips of Jesus in Matthew 22:37: **"You shall love the LORD JEHOVAH your God from all your heart and from all your soul and from all your power and from all your mind."**

When our love for God is founded in and on His actions, then we can better accept (not excuse but accept) the fact that we with sin in our lives. Because of that reality, it is not unusual that we do. Like I said, it really doesn't give us permission to sin, but it gives us the right perspective about why we are struggling with sin. It isn't that we don't love God ...we do. We just feel and experience the oft-times overwhelming guilt of our actions. And that is where the trouble begins. Why? Because in our humanness we feel like we are unworthy of God's grace—we keep disappointing Him and ourselves. We feel that maybe we should just hide our light under the bushel because after all, we feel like a hypocrite saying one thing and doing another. We feel that we ought not to go to church because we're sure everyone knows what we've been doing ... and certainly no one else is struggling like we are. You know all those excuses that we make when the Enemy of our soul comes along and assures us that we really are the low lives that we feel like. Lies, lies lies! Then of course there is the issue of projecting onto others the same feeling of doubt and anger that we are experiencing. It can be a quandary of emotions, and lots of Christians simply close their mouths and minds and choose to live on the fringes of a church family ... and they are frustrated. And they are filled with doubt. And they begin to feel the need to start nitpicking about mostly everything. But let me assure you, this is not God's idea or perspective on how His chosen, cherished, and converted children should ever settle to live.

So, what's the remedy then? First own up to the fact that you are BOTH a sinner and yes, a saint. You do stumble, but it's part of growing and maturing in our faith. God isn't going to stop loving you even though if we were Him we would. Accept the fact that He has always believed in you and has the best plans for you. Determine to live as **FAT** as you can.

### First ... determine to Be **F**.aithful

Faithful in every way possible to God, to others, to your church family, and yes, to yourself. Accept that God does what He say. If He says that He has forgiven you of your sins, then He has and He does. Forgive yourself. When you do struggle (and you will) be determined to be as faithful in drawing TO God as you can and not AWAY from Him which is what we normally do. That's the hard part I know! But as we continue to faithfully draw near to God, He showers us with His grace and cleansing. As a result, we begin to have victory over those areas of weakness, temptation and sin that have kept us in bondage for so long.

### Second ... Be **A**.vailable

God does intend to use your life as an example to others. Know it—believe it. You are His, no matter what! He died for you that you might live for Him. Even when we're struggling with our sins? Yes, even then! Be available! Why? Because in God's providence, you are the spiritual light that God is using to reveal Himself to someone. As a child of His, you are needed! Stop dilly-dallying around and get back to being both faithful and available! In other words, get back into the life of your church family. Do so realizing that every single one of us in the church family is going through the same experiences and struggles with sin and guilt, and so on. We all need the assurance of being around like-minded, like-hearted, struggling brothers and sisters. And on the flip side, others need that assurance from us. It's always been reciprocal! Tell God that you are available if, and only if, He will open the door of opportunity in such a way that we can see His Hand of Providence leading us. Be faithful to God even while you're struggling with yourself. Be available for God even though you feel unclean and embarrassed.

### Finally ... Be **T**.eachable

Go to church to learn the truth about yourself and God. Are the Scriptures being explained and applied? Is the Bible lifted up as the Word of God? That is what sermons are supposed to do. That's what being part of Sunday school class or weekday Bible study is there to provide. Too many of us live in a constant state of denial about who and whose we are. Why? Because we have stopped seeking the knowledge of the Lord that only comes through His Word. Realize as His precious child, you have been bought with a price ... the precious blood of Jesus. In other words, you are now not your own. You, chosen one, are here to honor and serve Him, to be like Him, all may I add, for Him. As we serve Him, we do become more like Him. As we become more like Him, we realize that our struggle with sin is not a game stopper in His eyes. He just says, deal with your sin—seek forgiveness and so on. But also, don't let sin be your all-controlling master.

That position belongs to God alone. Stand up, and determine to be faithful, available, and teachable. Also, consider the fact that God has been ever patient and kind and tolerant with you. Thus, you can start being that way to your fellow brothers and sisters. As God's true kids, we are always going to be a work in progress called in this life to be around and helpful to other works in progress. Other sinners who just happen to share our same quality of being simul justus et peccator.

*Blessings, Pastor David*



## **Disciple to Disciple Informational & Organizational Meeting**

**Sunday, September 8th / 11:15 am—12:00 Noon  
in the Fireside Room**

### **A Note from Pastor David**

"Disciple to Disciple" is a 33-week course (3 x 11 weekly classes) spread throughout a year, that has always been on my heart as more than a few Christians feel they:

- Have not had the opportunity to really develop the primary and solid Christian habits that can be life changing and fruitful for the Kingdom of God;
- Don't really know how to share with someone about how Jesus Christ became real to them;
- Don't know what to say when talking to someone about Christ and the offer of salvation;
- Are feeling guilty because of all the above! and
- Have always wanted to grow deeper in their own faith but haven't found the means, material or mentor that could guide them through the process.

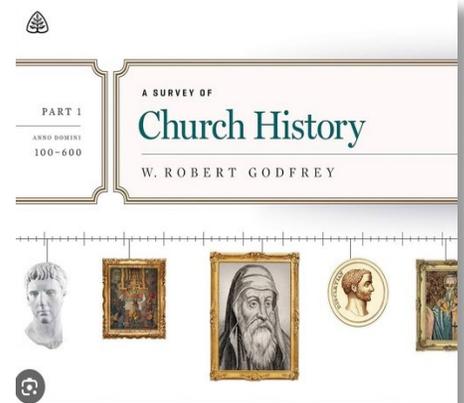
**Booklets with D2D course description are located in the  
Bethany Room and the Fireside Room.**

# New Bible Study Opportunities!!

**A SURVEY OF CHURCH HISTORY**  
**Beginning Sunday, September 1st**  
**8:30 am in the Fireside Room**  
**Facilitated by Sharon Kalvels**

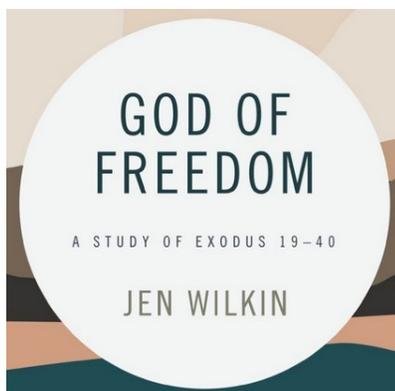
**BY: W. Robert Godfrey**  
**12-Week Series**

**This study will cover the time period A.D. 100-600**



## **ABOUT THIS SERIES**

Many Christians know little about the history of the church. As a result, they're missing a testament of God's steadfastness over the centuries. In this monumental study series, Dr. W. Robert Godfrey sheds crucial light on church history, demonstrating God's promise to build and preserve His church so that "the gates of hell will not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). Across these messages, learn why having a working knowledge of church history remains relevant for our personal lives today, and for the church as a whole.



**New Women's Bible Study!!**  
**Begins Monday**  
**September 9th**  
**9:00 am**  
**in the Fireside Room**

All women are invited to participate in the 10-week study, God of Freedom, with renowned teacher, Jen Wilkin! This study focuses on Exodus 19-40 with a study book and a DVD session. Again looking forward to a time of growth and fellowship as we meet together! Please notify Delores Hickman, 605-890-9146, if you would like me to order you a book!



**THE POWER  
of a  
SIMPLE  
GIFT**

# SEPTEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS

**Our Mission Emphasis for September is  
Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.**

- **Our Loose Change Offering for missions will be gathered on MISSION EMPHASIS SUNDAY, September 8th** and will be used for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.
- If using one of our giving envelopes, please write **SHOEBOXES** on the line designated for missions.
- **All funds collected for Shoeboxes will be sent directly to Samaritans Purse.**



A trio of girls in Mongolia rejoice over their shoebox gifts.



Flashlights packed in shoebox gifts (with extra batteries) help introduce children to Jesus, the Light of the World.



**Hard for you to shop?!?! The United Churches of Hot Springs SD has a link where you can build a shoebox online! Go to our church's online page by clicking the link below, then just click the button that says "Build a Shoebox Now" on the page.**



<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/fe6fe32a-5cda-4d88-b7af-2a227d66c74a>

# ATTENTION WOMEN!!!!

## AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

"Be Strong Be Courageous"

Friday, Sept. 27th — Sunday, Sept. 29th  
being held at ...



**New Hope  
Christian Camp**  
36705 279th Street  
Platte, SD 57369

New Hope Christian Camp and Retreat Center exists to glorify God by proclaiming the Name of Jesus. It is a living testimony to the redemptive power of God! New Hope is a place of refuge, where people can meet Jesus, experience His redeeming love, grow closer to Him, and build relationships through worship, renewal, and fellowship.



**More information and the registration form  
are located on the next page.**

“Be Strong  
Be Courageous”

SEPT. 27-29, 2024

ABW WOMENS FALL RETREAT

New Hope Christian Camp  
36705 279<sup>th</sup> St,  
Platte, SD 57369

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- Great Food by Chef Becky\*
  - Wonderful Fellowship with other Women
  - Great Singing
  - Wonderful Bible Study
  - Awesome Weekend Get Away!
  - Rip Roaring Fire and Singing (Smores!!) Maybe!

**Bible Study Leader:**

*Esther Bucket, Pierre*

**Praise and Worship Leader:**

*Our own Prez Becky Phillips*

**Featured speakers will be ladies from Our local churches sharing their testimony using theme: Be Strong**

Be Courageous  
**YOU ALL COME**

**Registration:**

Cost: \$110 (Can't BEAT the Price)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Who would you like to room with:

Send registrations and payment to: Becky Phillips

POB 328 Platte, SD 57369

Please make checks out to: ABW Of SD

**Registration Deadline: Sept. 15**

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**Please bring an item or a basket full of wonderful goodies for the Silent Auction. Proceeds from the Auction will go towards our mission program.**

Have questions?

Please call Becky at 605-261-7280

**Registration starts at 4pm**

Supper will be at 5:30pm with our evening program starting at 6:45pm

Receive the weekend program and your cabin assignment.

Have enough time to unload your vehicle and get your room organized before Supper.

**What to bring:**

Bedding, Bath towel

Washcloth, Toiletries

Bible!! Notebook

Money for Silent Auction, Flashlight

# *Spaghetti Supper* 2024



**Planning Meeting  
Monday  
September 16th  
1:00 pm  
in the Fellowship Hall  
at The United Churches**

**If you worked with us last year  
or would like to help us this year  
with our Spaghetti Supper Ministry  
Please join us  
for this important planning meeting!!**

**Our Spaghetti Supper and Boutiques  
start date will be mid-October.**



## September Anniversaries

1 Garry & Pat Strauser  
16 John & Carla Johnson



**If your name is not included on the Birthdays and Anniversaries list and you would like it to be added, please contact the church office:  
by email: [ucassist@gwtc.net](mailto:ucassist@gwtc.net) or call 745-5640.**

3 Sandy Swenson    24 Jerry Collogan  
4 Ezekiel Cantu    26 Casen Humbracht  
10 Mary Puffer    29 Garry Strauser  
13 Judy Hofer    29 Jean Brooks

## THIS AND THAT

### UNITED WOMEN:

Will meet next on Tuesday, September 17th at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. They are continuing their study in David Jeremiah's *The Great Disappearance*.

### OYATE HOPE ACADEMY:

We have received the Oyate Hope Academy newsletter for August. It has been posted on the Mission bulletin board in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Fireside Room.

### IT'S CHOIR TIME!

Choir Rehearsal begins on Wednesday September 11th at 5:30 pm in-Fellowship Hall. If you would like to become a member of the Choir, please contact Lynn Mason at 605-745-5069.

### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Garry Strauser sang the song: *An Evening Prayer* last Sunday for our special music. It blessed our hearts, so I am sharing it below.

## *An Evening Prayer*

If I have wounded some poor soul today  
If I have caused one foot to go astray  
If I have walked in my own willful way  
Dear Lord, forgive

If I have uttered idle words in vain  
If I have turned aside from want or pain  
Lest I offend some other through the strain  
Dear Lord, forgive

Forgive the sins I have confessed to Thee  
Forgive the secret sins I do not see  
Oh, guide me, love me, and my keeper be  
Dear Lord, forgive.

By: Jim Reeves

