



Volume 8

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Misunderstanding the Good News



Bobby B. Boaldin

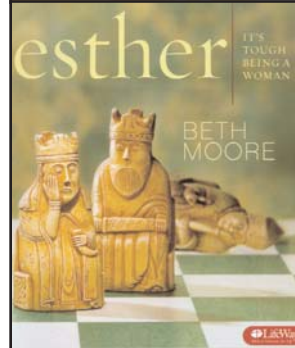
The previous two months have been dedicated to further explaining some of the material discovered in our summer series of lessons at WindSong. Continuing that theme, one of the key things I have learned in Dr. Rainer’s systematic study of the “faith stages” of the unchurched in his book, *The Unchurched Next Door*, is the legalistic understanding that the vast majority of the unchurched have concerning the gospel and salvation. Every faith stage examined, from those highly resistant and antagonistic toward the gospel to those who are highly receptive and willing to receive the gospel, have a “works oriented” view of salvation. That is, the vast majority of the unchurched think that a person is saved by one’s good deeds and actions. Salvation is something that the unchurched think is attained because one is a “good enough person” to be made right with God. The fundamental Christian concept that salvation is a free gift that comes from God and that we are saved **for** good works that God has prepared for us in advance, and not saved **by** our good works, is foreign to the unchurched.

I am convinced that this “works oriented” view of salvation is one of the main reasons that the unchurched stay unchurched. They feel like they can never measure up, be good enough or do enough so they, naturally, give up or have given up on Christianity. As long as our unchurched friends, neighbors and co-workers think that their salvation is based upon their ability to perform so that someday God may, if they are lucky, think they are “barely good enough” to get into heaven, they have no incentive to see the Good News as good news. They have no reason to rejoice in the fact that God makes us right with Him because of what He has done and not what we have done. Will you, like the Apostle Paul, be a beacon of the “gospel of God’s grace?” Will you share the truly Good News that because we can never be good enough or do enough to be saved God has already done it for us? If so, you may rescue a soul by sharing the truth that we are saved **for** good works and not **by** them. To God be the glory!

What’s Happening

What’s so
Amazing
 about
grace?

New Sermon Series
 Sunday @ 10:00 am



Women’s Bible Study

Wednesday
 6:30 pm

Kid’s Summer Series

Sunday
 5:30 pm
 PreK-5th grades



Downtime:
 Learning to Pray
 Teen Wednesday
 Night Summer Series

PEDDLERS OF GOD'S WORD

From the way the apostle Paul used the word “peddler,” it seems apparent that in the Mediterranean world of the first century the peddler had a reputation for cheating and misrepresentation in order to secure some benefit for himself.

Sincerity was not high on the huckster's list. He was prepared to say anything to make a sale. For example, there is the story of the oft-fooled bald-headed man who asked the peddler, “Can you *prove* this is a good hair restorer?” To which the peddler replied, “One lady customer took the cork out of the bottle with her teeth and twenty-four hours later she had a mustache!” So much for sincerity!

Some folks are willing to say almost anything if it works to their advantage. It reminds me of the two years I spent in collegiate debating. One day I would be arguing *for* the proposition and the next day *against* it. You were out to win the debate no matter whether you believed what you were saying or not.

The apostle Paul was not that sort of person. In writing to the Corinthians he said, “*For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word; but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ*” (2 Cor. 2:17 RSV).

Many, unlike Paul, were “peddlers of God's word.” They were lovers of self and lovers of money, holding the form of religion but denying the power of it. Paul calls them “men of corrupt mind and counterfeit faith,” and men “teaching for base gain what they have no right to teach.” Their tribe is still alive and well in the 21st century. Avoid them! Read the warnings in 2 Timothy 3:1-9 and Titus 1:10-12.

Give us men of sincerity! Men who can say, “Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, ‘I believed, and so I spoke,’ we too believe, and so we speak” (2 Cor. 4:13).

JOHN GIPSON
WINDSONG CHURCH OF CHRIST

Together We Are Helping All We Can

Our *Back to School Program* has put 412 children back in school. We have received praises from the government, other humanitarian organizations (which are copying the program), and the communities where the children live. Families are thrilled to see their children reading and writing as never before. The kids have a new self-worth, as many of them have moved from being drop-outs to the head of the class.

Our coordinator, Nen, who regularly visits all the homes of the children, reported that culture and economics have pulled several of the children from the program. Recently, twelve children were taken out of the program by their parents and put to work in the fields and factories. Families are living far below the poverty line of \$1 per day and basic needs are taking precedence over education.

The saddest report is that nine children have been “sold by their parents” into slavery. Yes, slavery does exist! Slavery is a widespread problem in this part of the world and has gone on for generations. People talk openly about child slavery and it’s accepted here as “real life.” The government seems to lack any real desire to stop slavery and the culture has come to accept it. Princess Marie, whom we met some time ago, talked to us about the problem and her efforts to try and help. Additionally, this problem is drawing international attention—CNN did a fifty minute documentary in March.

The difficult thing for us to accept is that there are some things we can’t fix. We rejoice in the victories the Lord gives us and the hundreds of kids we can help. Eighty-eight percent of the kids in the *Back to School Program* are doing outstanding work. There are 1,600 malnourished children who are being fed and 2,800 sick people being assisted each month on the *Ship of Life*.

Without your partnership, none of this would be possible. God is using you in mighty ways to carry out His will to “feed the poor and heal the sick.”



**Bill
McDonough**

WindSong Youth Summer Activities

I am very grateful to the elders for giving me an opportunity to work, as an intern, with the WindSong youth this summer. I am also encouraged by the way you have welcomed me into this family. I feel completely at home here, and I know this is because of God working in the lives of each one of you.

I know that most kids don’t go right home and tell their parents everything they did or discussed in Bible class on Wednesday nights (well, at least that’s the way it was when I was a youth group member at Levy). This summer I (well Joe and I) have planned many activities other than the “Big 2”: The Family Mission Trip and Camp Caudle. One of the fun activities scheduled throughout the week is taking the kids to see a movie at Breckenridge Theater on Tuesdays at 9:30 am. So far, we’ve seen two incredibly funny movies—*Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs* and *The Spy Next Door*. Afterwards, we go out to eat, usually somewhere fast and cheap, like Burger King, which gives us a great opportunity to hang out with the youth members. Next of course, we have Bible class on Wednesdays. We encourage the youth group to stay around afterwards for fun: a board game, video games, or even ice cream at Baskin Robbins. I’ve even had a couple of the kids ask if we could go bowling. So if everyone’s in agreement, the kids can stick around after class is over and it will be no trouble for me to take them home after we are finished. On Thursdays at 4:30 p.m., we play Ultimate Frisbee with the Central and Sylvan Hills Youth Groups at Burns Park. In the toss around stage, we are planning a youth lock in and a camping trip.

Once again, I appreciate your allowing me to work with the WindSong Youth. I have already had loads of fun and plan to have so much more.



**Chris
Van Winkle**

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BULLETIN BOARD

LAST MONTH'S RECORD

Average Attendance	226
Average Contribution	\$10,683
Building Fund	\$206

Membership
Chris Van Winkle

With Sincere Sympathy To...

Beverly Lee Burress on the death of her friend, **Gene Lawrence**, on Monday, June 28.

Linda Overby on the death of her uncle, **Ralph Overby**, on Wednesday, June 23.

Nick and Tena Katcher on the death of her mother, **Opal Glass**, on Tuesday, June 15. The graveside service was Tuesday, June 22, at Griffin Leggett Rest Hills, North Little Rock.

Bruce Acruman and Odean Reynolds on the death of **Betty Acruman**, former member, who died on Tuesday, June 8. The funeral was held on June 10.

The Family of Aline Moffett who died on Wednesday, June 9. A memorial service is planned at WindSong on Friday, July 30, at 10:00 a.m. Aline requested that memorials should be made to Partners In Progress.

Maggie Neal on the death of her little sister, **Islay Margaret Neal**, on Sunday, May 30. The funeral was Thursday, June 3, with a burial at Calvary Cemetery.



CONNECTIONS

Chris Van Winkle, our new summer intern, placed membership on Sunday, June 6. Welcome back **John** and **Megan Calvillo**. We are glad to have all of our new and returning members.

Al Gentry, **Jay Gentry's** brother, is home safely from Iraq after his third tour.

Ellie Gentry's softball team, the Lil' Rebels, won first place in a tournament on Saturday, June 12. Ellie also received an MVP Award for one of the games.

Greg Gibbins, **Freda Fowler's** brother, safely returned from Afghanistan to his home in Fort Worth, Texas.

Congratulations to **Allen** and **Crystal Kinsey** on the birth of a baby boy, **Collin Edward Kinsey**, in April. Congratulations also to the proud grandparents, **Gene** and **Sandy Kinsey**.

Congratulations to **Linda Hickerson**, who recently retired from teaching at LRSD.

Congratulations to **Lance Walters** and **Crystal Rock** of Monroe, LA on their recent marriage. Lance is the son of **Vicky Cummins**. Lance and Crystal will reside in Mannheim, Germany. Please keep them in your prayers.