

INTOUCH

June 5, 2011

*Following our communion remembrance this morning,
we offer this article to ponder . . .*

A Life of Blessing & Rest

By Rev. Nicholas T. Batzig

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us
– for it is written, ‘cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree’ –
so that in Christ Jesus
the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles.
Galatians 3:13-14*

I distinctly remember hearing an unbelieving co-worker – at a restaurant in which I worked many years ago – say to customers as they left: “Have a blessed day.” Every time I heard it I wanted to say, “But how is that blessing possible?” The language of blessing is used today with little to no understanding of its nature or cost. Galatians 3:13-14 expresses the inner workings of a theology of blessing. How can we receive the spiritual and eternal blessings of God when we are under the curse of His law by nature? In order for us to be justified before God, Christ had to “become a curse for us.” Blessings and curses are found throughout the bible and ultimately meet together in an unparalleled moment at the cross.

The Lord blessed His image bearers at creation (Genesis 1:28). Immediately after this, He blessed the Sabbath day (2:3) – a day prefiguring eternal rest and blessing of God. When Scripture says that God declared each creative act to be “good,” it conveys the idea that blessing rested upon a world untouched by sin. The blessings of Genesis 1-2 are, however, starkly contrasted with the curses of Genesis 3. No sooner was the blessing pronounced than our first parents called down curses for themselves, their descendants, and the world in which we live.

When Adam sinned, the Lord cursed the ground from which He made man. Thorns cover the face of the earth. Man must now work the cursed ground, by the sweat of his brow, in order to eat bread. The presence of thorns is a constant reminder of the devastating effects of sin. There is a complete undoing of the blessing of God. Man would return to the ground from which he was made. The Lord, at the beginning, breathed into man’s nostrils the “breath of life.” The curse means the removal of that breath.

The curse was reiterated in temporal and typical forms throughout the history of redemption. Just as Adam and Even were “cut off” from paradise, God promised to “cut off” the covenant people for disobedience (Num. 15:31). There was a close relationship between the plagues of Egypt and the covenant curses (Deut. 28:21-29, 58-61). The second-to-last plague God sent on Egypt was darkness. This was also a covenant curse promised to Israel (Deut. 28:29). It served as a picture of the “outer darkness” spoken of by our Lord (Matt. 25:30). Whether it was in the plagues that fell on Egypt or the covenant curses promised to Israel (Deut. 27-30), the curse resurfaced as a reminder of the justice of God and the consequences of sin.

In 2 Corinthians 1:20, Paul explains that all the promises of God are “Yes” and “Amen” in Christ Jesus. This means that the promised blessings are assured to us in Christ, but it also means that Jesus had to say “Yes” to the promised curses to secure those blessings for His people. In Gethsemane, Jesus sweated great drops of blood as He worked for our redemption. Matthew Henry noted:

*Sweat came in with sin, and was a branch of the curse,
Gen. 3:19, and therefore, when Christ was made sin and a
curse for us, he underwent a grievous sweat, that in the
sweat of his face we might eat bread, and that he might
sanctify and sweeten all our trials to us.*

Continued

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY – JUNE 5

12:15 PM VBS – Final Staff Meeting (lunch & meeting) Fellowship Hall
All staff! – All important! - Childcare in Room 101-102
12:30 PM Nursing Home Ministry meets at Subway, 44th & Indian School
2:00 PM Nursing Home Ministry serves at Osborn Health & Rehab
6:00 PM EXCEL High School Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER Family Room

MONDAY – JUNE 6

7:9:00 AM Teleios: *Women's Prayer & Bible Study* Paradise Bakery
Biltmore Fashion Park
8:00 AM VBS Registration WEST side of the campus
8:30-12 PM VBS – *Summer Seaquest* Campus-wide
9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – “*Water Aerobics*” Lisa Savale's home
4802 North 42nd Place, Phoenix

TUESDAY – JUNE 7

8:30-12 PM VBS – *Summer Seaquest* Campus-wide
6:30 PM Teleios: *Managing Our Finances God's Way* Family Room

WEDNESDAY – JUNE 8

7:00 AM Elder Prayer Paradise Bakery, Tatum & Shea
8:30-12 PM VBS – *Summer Seaquest* Campus-wide
9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – “*Water Aerobics*” Lisa Savale's home
6:30 PM EXCEL (Jr. High & High School) Meet at CBC
We'll drive to South Mountain for a worship service overlooking the city.

THURSDAY – JUNE 9

8:30-12 PM VBS – *Summer Seaquest* Campus-wide
9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – “*Water Aerobics*” Lisa Savale's home
7:00 PM Young Adults Ministry The Tessmer's home

FRIDAY – JUNE 10

8:30-11:30 VBS – *Summer Seaquest* Campus-wide
11:30 AM VBS Closing Program and Family Festival
Sanctuary and Classroom Courtyard

9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – “*Water Aerobics*” Lisa Savale's home

SATURDAY – JUNE 11

8-12 PM GriefShare Leadership Training Family Room
10:30 AM Messianic Bible Studies 209

SUNDAY – JUNE 12

9:00 and 10:40 AM MORNING WORSHIP Sanctuary
Dr. Tim Savage
GOSPEL FOR LIFE
“*Real Life Christians*”
Philippians 2:19-30

9:00 AM Nursery (birth – 18 months) 301-304
9:00 AM Children's Discipleship (19 months – gr. 3) 101-103, 201, 203
9:00 AM Adult Fellowship Classes 208, 209
9:00 AM Teleios: *Peacemakers-Biblical Principles* Library (205)
9:00 AM Teleios: *Six Steps to Encouragement* Fellowship Hall
9:00 AM Intergenerational Class: *Lord Teach Us to Pray* 207
9:15 AM Teleios (women): *Loving God w/ All Your Mind* Family Rm.
10:40 AM Nursery (birth – 18 months) 301-304
10:40 AM Children's Church (19 months – gr. 3) 101-103, 201, 203
10:40 AM Teleios: *Crown Study – God Provides* Family Room
10:40 AM Teleios: *The Reason For God* 208
12:15 PM FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON Fellowship Hall

Summer Celebration!

See the back of the IN TOUCH for foods to bring.

12:30 PM Missions Team Meeting Family Room
6:00 PM EXCEL High School Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER Library (205)

In His sufferings, Jesus wore a crown of thorns – a symbol of the curse. For three hours darkness covered the crucified Lord as He bore the curse and wrath of God for His people. Isaiah prophesied that He would be “cut off out of the land of the living” (Isa. 53:8). As the second Adam, Jesus took the curse upon Himself. He is, in the deepest and most profound meaning of the phrase, “the curse-bearer.”

On the cross, Jesus was cursed so that we might be blessed through faith in Him. In His cry, “It is finished” (John 19:30), we are reminded of how, in Genesis 1, the Lord looked over the finished work of creation and said, “It is good” (v. 12). Jesus Christ accomplished the work of the new creation in His death and resurrection. The curse was removed. The eternal blessings were secured for those who trust in Him alone for them.

Have you come to realize the just penalty of sin in your life? Are you laboring under the weight of your sin and the reality of the curse? Do you long for a life of blessing and rest? Look in faith to the sinless One who was made a curse for us. As you do, you will be able to say, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” (Eph. 1:3).

Rev. Nicholas T. Batzig is the organizing pastor of New Covenant Presbyterian, a church plant of the Savannah River Presbytery (PCA) in Richmond Hill, Georgia.

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JR. HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS! This Wednesday, be here at the church by 6:30 PM! Together we will drive to the top of South Mountain to an outdoor location for a time of worship together, in song, testimony and prayer. With the city beneath us and stars above us, we'll praise our God who holds both in His hands and lift our petitions for the city below to His royal throne above. (No official small groups will meet in lieu of this event.)

MUSIC JAMBOREE 2011 is coming in July! Sponsored by Desert Bells and CBC, this training camp provides general music instruction with specific application in the playing of bells and percussion. Open to 1st through 12th graders, it will be held July 11-15, 18-22 here at CBC. For beginning to advanced musicians the classes and activities include: Handbells (Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Bells), Percussion (American and African Drums, South American Drums), Orff Schulwerk (Aural Development, Xylophone Techniques, Metal and Wood), and Music & Movement (Stage Presence and Music Appreciation). Registration forms are available in the narthex and the church office.

FRAN LANDRO'S SON, DOUG LANDRO, AND HIS FAMILY, CBC missionaries in the Ukraine, will be here and need to borrow a car from July 3rd through July 17th this summer. They will be attending CBC family camp in California and then will do some visiting of their supporters in the California area on their way home the second week. When he is in Arizona they will be sharing her car but if he takes it to California she will be home-bound for those two weeks. If you have one that they could borrow, please contact Fran at 480-945-2509. Thank you!

Summer Celebration!

with CBC family and friends
at our

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Next Sunday, June 12, 2011

12:15 PM

Fellowship Hall

BBQ Beef Sandwiches and drinks provided

We bring: salads, desserts, chips etc. (each to serve 8-10)

You're Invited!

Our very own Sarah Hoxworth (wife of Pastor James) will soon be welcoming a **baby boy** to the Hoxworth home! Please come and celebrate with a **shower** held in her honor on **Monday, June 13th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM in Fellowship Hall**. The shower – hosted by the pastors' wives of CBC – will be open house style with a devotional at 8:00 PM. Delicious desserts will be served and the opportunity to bless this family with a photo session by Sadie Such will also be available to you should you desire to contribute funds towards it. In addition, Sarah is registered at Target. We hope many of you will be able to come on the 13th and love Sarah in this special way as sisters in Christ.

VBS PRAYER PARTNERS – We welcome prayer support for this year's VBS outreach, taking place all of this coming week, and beyond. If you haven't already, please sign up for the CBC Prayer chain through which we will keep you updated on specific prayer requests. Prayerchain3900@gmail.com.

THERE IS STILL ROOM IN VBS THIS COMING WEEK! Registration will re-open tomorrow, Monday, June 6th at 8:00 AM. Come to the west side of the church property, park there (west of the Sanctuary) and come to the Welcome Center Kiosk. The hours Monday through Thursday are 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon. Friday begins at 8:30 AM but ends at 11:30 AM for the Closing Program in the Sanctuary, followed by the Family Festival in the Classroom Courtyard. Ages attending are four years through fifth grade (children must be age four by September 1, 2011 and the grade levels are for the past school year (2010-2011). Cost is \$20 per child and \$7 per T-shirt.

Peacemakers:

Biblical Principles for Handling Conflict

Taught by Mike & Cindy Bailey

Sundays, 9:00–10:30 AM, June 12 – August 7, the Library (205)

God's Word says much about how to view and handle conflict in a way that brings honor to God and serves others. This class is designed to explore and then apply God's truths to the very present conflicts in our lives. Mike and Cindy Bailey bring a lot of experience to this class. Mike is a 20+ year lawyer and Cindy a criminal judge. Their experience with conflict resolution and the applicability of this class at work, church and home are invaluable. Registration is open through Noon on Friday, June 10. It only takes a phone call to the church office during business hours. We do need more participants to make this class work, so please seriously consider this great opportunity and call TODAY!

THE SOJOURNERS SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FELLOWSHIP/STUDY invites all to their class on June 19th, at 9:00 AM in Room 208, to meet Craig and Ruth Goodman from Mission Aviation Fellowship and hear about their ministry.

SWIMSUIT DRIVE: VBS is collecting swimsuits for Neighborhood Ministries Kids Club and we'd love for the whole church family to get involved. Please bring new or gently used swimsuits, size S-XL, and place them in the marked containers around campus. Thank you!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING who are either ill or recovering from surgery: Sandi Jones, Angie Klint and Darlene Danninger. May God bring healing and provide the peace and comfort only He can provide.

CBC GIVING TO DATE, 2011

Budgeted Need for May 2011	\$126,847.00
Last Week's Giving	\$ 18,096.00
May Giving to Date	\$ 117,607.00
Remaining Need at the end of May 2011	\$ 9,240.00