



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH  
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 33 YEARS"

MARCH

# THE CORNERSTONE

March 2015

The Lord *is* gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord *is* good to all, And His tender mercies *are* over all His works. All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, And Your saints shall bless You. Psalm 145:8-10



## Psst! Have you heard the great news from our Library?!

There have been many new additions this month, including 29 Videos from



that cover many interesting topics regarding *Answers in Genesis*. (Check out some of the titles under Teaching on the website) For example:

*Biblical Geology - Properly Understanding the Rocks* - Dr. Tas Walker (DVD)

*Dating Fossils and Rocks - Scientific Evidence and the Age of the Earth* - Mike Riddle (DVD)

*Genesis Debate, The - Skeptic vs Creationist* - Willis vs Wieland (DVD)

*Hubble, Bubble, Bing Bang in Trouble* - Dr. John Hartnett (DVD)

*Mount St. Helens - Explosive Evidence For Catastrophe (Discovered the most extraordinary geologic event of the Twentieth Century)* - Steven Austin (DVD)

Also, 23 new books have been added for pre-teens from *Lamplighter Publishing*. They are classics and may be a *bonus* for Homeschoolers. These are some of the book titles:

*Fire In The Sky and a Lesson From The Sea* - 1840

*Teddy's Button* - 1890

*Little Threads* - 1863

We also continue to receive other donated books such as *Middle East Burning* by Mark Hitchcock and *Somewhere Safe With Somebody Good* by Jan Karon.

Please come and browse the many resources available in our Library.

You're always welcome and will surely find something that will interest you.





## Missionaries of the Month

### MISSIONS REPORT ON MIKE RUECK



Mike Rueck, one of the missionaries SLBC supports, visited our congregation this past fall. We enjoyed hearing his report from Nigeria. Here are some excerpts from the letters we have received from him since then. On Dec. 18 Mike was still in the USA. He wrote, "My heart is full of gratitude for the Lord's blessings this year! I'm thinking especially of the last three months, during which I've gotten to visit many of you. You are always such a blessing to me! I come away encouraged and spiritually refreshed, and usually, a few pounds heavier. You've reminded me of good things from the past, shared the growth and blessings the Lord has brought into you lives since we last met, celebrated with me the things I've seen the Lord do in Nigeria, challenged me to grow in certain areas, and reassured me of your continuing love and commitment as a spiritual Family. Thank you."

"Lord willing, I'll be leaving the U.S. on Jan. 12 and arriving back at my home in Jos, Nigeria on Jan. 14. Of course I look forward to meeting all of my friends and spiritual family there, too! I'm so proud of my unofficially adopted son, Moses, who won 2nd place in a national academic competition in Abuja last month."

"May the Lord Jesus refresh your soul, spirit, and body as you reflect on the past year and count His blessings in your life in 2014 too." In another letter dated Jan. 21, 2015 Mike wrote, "Thanks you for your prayers for journey mercies. I have had pleasant reunions with the neighborhood children and many friends, and I'm pretty well settled back into my apartment and the rhythm of life here. " "However, this morning I received a call from my best friend in Niger, Daniel, informing me that following their president's participation in a march of solidarity against terrorism in Paris, (and the publication of the Carlie Hebdo magazine in

Paris last week,) nearly of the churches in Niamey were destroyed by Muslims last weekend. He said that thankfully, the death toll was only 5 in Zinder and 5 in Niamey, two of the largest towns in Niger, but all of the churches built on their own property in Niamey were 'sacked, pillaged, and burned'. All of their

possessions are gone. He also said that at least 15 pastors in Niamey, along with their families, are now homeless because their homes, which had been located on their churches' compounds, were also destroyed." "Our Christian brothers and sisters in Niger are living in fear at the moment because rumors are now circulating that Christians' homes are being targeted for murderous attacks next. Please join me in interceding for the lives of our Christian brothers and sisters in Niger! Here are Daniel's prayer requests:

-that God encourages the Christians afflicted by these sad events; -that God restores peace in the hearts of our Muslim brothers; -that God makes the evil they've perpetrated the occasion for them to come to Christ; -for the Christian families who are now homeless and for the rebuilding of the church buildings that have been destroyed."

Yours in Christ, Mike

EAST FORT BEND



**HUMAN NEEDS  
MINISTRY, INC.**

Our annual fund raiser, Empty Bowls is coming up April 17<sup>th</sup>. Fort Bend Empty Bowls brings the community together to help our Fort Bend County neighbors who are struggling to provide basic necessities for their families. Guests will be served a simple meal of soup and bread provided by several area restaurants in recognition and support of those who don't have enough food to eat. The event is held at Safari Range Texas Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 9:30.

The committee has been busy for several months preparing for the event. It is time to start arranging for volunteers. Please let me know if you can help us. If you've volunteered in the past and know what you'd like to do, let me know. Otherwise, I can just put you where we need you most. Thanks for all you do for EFBHNM!!



Andy Woods—Pastor

## The Rapture (Part 26)

My previous articles commenced a series on the rapture of the church. We began with the question, "What is the Rapture?" This question can best be answered by noting ten truths about the rapture from [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#) and [1 Corinthians 15:50-58](#). We then moved to a second main question, namely, when will the rapture take place relative to the coming seven-year Tribulation period? We offered the contention that believers can develop certainty that they will be raptured before the Tribulation period occurs for at least seven reasons. After dealing with these two questions, we began to explore some of the weaknesses associated with the other competing views that seek to answer the question, "When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Coming Tribulation Period?" At least five differing perspectives exist. We noted at the onset that it is important to understand that all of the non-pretribulation positions have a difficult time handling the seven arguments favoring **pre-tribulationism** previously discussed in this series. We have already noted the problems associated with **mid-tribulationism**. In the last few articles we began to scrutinize the arguments favoring **post-tribulationism**. In this article, we will continue to scrutinize **post-tribulationism**.

### POST-TRIBULATIONAL RAPTURE

*Post-tribulation* rapture theory contends that the rapture will take place at the end of the coming Tribulation period. This view typically sees no distinction between the rapture and the Second Advent and thus seeks to harmonize all references to Christ's return as taking place at the end of the future Tribulation period. Those adhering to the **post-tribulation** rapture typically rely on at least one of *four* arguments to support their position. In past articles, we noted that **post-tribulationism** errs in superficially connecting Paul's depiction of the rapture (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-58) with either the events of Matthew 24:30-31 or Revelation 20:4-6. Moreover, we noted that contrary to the assertion of **post-tribulationism**, although believers will be exempted from some of the judgments during the Tribulation period, they will still be subjected to many other judgments during this time period. Thus, **post-tribulationism** errs in failing to understand that the divine promise of Revelation 3:10 conveys a complete escape not only from coming Tribulation judgments but also the very time of those judgments. We now move on to an analysis of a *fourth* argument posited by post-tribulationists.

4. *The post-tribulation rapture position has been the dominant view held by theologians throughout the history of the church.* Adherents of the post-tribulation view are quick to point out that the pretribulation rapture view appeared relatively late in church history and that the dominant view early on was the posttribulation view. According to posttribulationist George Ladd, "every church father who deals with the subject expects the church to suffer at the hands of the Anti-christ" and "the prevailing view is post-tribulation premillennialism." Gundry similarly concludes, "Until Augustine in the fourth century, the early Church generally held to the premillennarian understanding of Biblical eschatology...And it was post-tribulation." Indeed, post-tribulationism's appeal to history rather than the Scripture at this juncture may be a subtle concession of the inadequacy of its biblical support. At any rate, this objection can be handled in *three* ways.

**First**, the issue is not when the view became popular but if it is taught in the Bible. If the view can be successfully defended from the Scripture, this fact alone should be sufficient to settle the argument, regardless of when the view became popular. For example, when Martin Luther attempted



to reform the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century and bring the church back to the truths taught in Scripture, he faced the same criticism. Luther was told that his way of doing things was a departure from centuries of church tradition. Luther's response was "sola scriptura," which means that the final authority for all matters of faith and practice is the Bible and not church history, tradition, or popularity. Note Pentecost's response to the post-tribulational appeal to antiquity: "If the same line of reasoning were followed one would not accept the doctrine of justification by faith, for it was not clearly taught until the Reformation. The failure to discern the teaching of Scripture does not nullify that teaching."

In fact, Paul himself seemed to stress the necessity of relying upon apostolic truth as opposed to relying upon the subsequent generations of the Church Fathers when he gave the following exhortation to the Ephesian Church elders: "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:29-32). According to Paul, truth should be determined by reliance upon "the word of His grace" handed down from the apostles rather than the savage wolves that would infiltrate the Church from within after the apostles had left the scene.

**Second**, the notion that the earliest Church Fathers were universally post-tribulational is a highly debatable proposition. One of the pervasive characteristics of their writings was their belief in the imminent, or any moment, appearance of Christ. As explained earlier in this series, imminency is only compatible with pre-tribulationism. Pentecost observes, "The early church lived in the light of the belief in the imminent return of Christ. Their expectation was that Christ might return at any time. Pre-tribulationism is the only position consistent with this doctrine of imminency." Note the following citations from various Church fathers demonstrating their belief in imminency. *The Second Epistle of Clement to the Corinthians* (A.D. 95–140) proclaims, "Wherefore let us every hour expect the kingdom of God in love and righteousness; because we know not the day of God's appearing." *The Didache* (A.D. 120) similarly states, "Watch for your life's sake. Let not your lamps be quenched, nor your loins unloosed; but be ready, for you know not the hour in which our Lord will come." According to *The Epistle of Barnabas* (A.D. 70–135), "For the day is at hand on which all things shall perish with the **evil** [one]. The Lord is near, and His reward." Such statements revealing a belief in Christ's imminent return are incompatible with post-tribulationism, which denies that Christ can return at any moment. Thus, statements like these are sufficient to dispel the post-tribulational appeal to antiquity of the early Church Fathers.

**In sum**, in this series, having previously answered the question, "What is the Rapture?", we noted at least several reasons that affirm the pre-tribulational rapture view. We then began interacting with the other positions on the timing of the rapture. In this article, we observed that **post-tribulationism's** argument from antiquity errs in appealing to historical sources outside the Bible and failing to acknowledge that imminency was embraced by many Church Fathers.

(To Be Continued...)

The Cornerstone Newsletter deadline for News articles is the 19th of each month. You can e-mail Patricia Chandler at:

[earlbudc@att.net](mailto:earlbudc@att.net) or send information to Carol Henry at [Carol@SLBC.org](mailto:Carol@SLBC.org)

## Bulletin Board



### Home Fellowship Groups

**First Colony East**—Adults Only: Host: Eric and Veronica Wasek—Meets 2nd & 4th Fridays at 7 pm—2801 Hidden Knoll Court—281-980-3742— A study in 1 & 2 Timothy -.Leader: Earl Chandler

**First Colony West**—Children Welcome: Hosts: Keith and Judy Kurrus- 2803 Pineleaf Drive—281-242-3031 Co-Hosts: Brooks and Elizabeth Sellers—281-313-0527 : Meets 2nd & 4th Fridays at 6:30

**New— Young Couples Fellowship**—Held at SLBC—7 pm. Coordinator: Andrea Merkin, 1-210-367-6452; Meets 2nd & 4th Friday They meet in the fellowship room.

**Men's Weekly Bible Study**— Tuesday, 8:00 pm David Sandlin—Teacher

**Ladies Bible Study**—Thursday—9:30 to 11:30

**Ladies Bible Class**—Hostess and Teacher: Betty Cooke

21926 Rustic Canyon Lane, Richmond, 281-232- 1795 Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm



### Men's Exposition at Frontier Camp

April 24-26, 2015

### Family Mission Trip to Florida

June 13-19, 2015

Sign—up Sheets are in the foyer (*See John Nemece for Details*)

### Vacation Bible School

July 6-10, 2015

Volunteers needed (*See Gabe Morris for Details*)



## Scripture for the Month: Deuteronomy 5:28-29



“Then the Lord heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the Lord said to me: ‘I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They are right *in* all that they have spoken. Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!



# Applying Your Victory In Christ

## Come Join Us at The Sugar Land Bible Church Ladies Retreat!

"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (Romans 8:37)

Friday, March 27 - Sunday, March 29, 2015

Camp Allen Retreat Center in Navasota, Texas

\$170 per person includes 2 nights, meals, & many activities

Description: Every Christian today is involved in a very real spiritual battle. Rather than doing what Satan wants us to do by living in reaction to other people or our circumstances, wouldn't you like to experience the victory in Christ that the Bible promises us? Then come to the ladies retreat and learn all about "Applying Your Victory in Christ"! This victory is available to you, no matter who you are or what you are going through by appropriating the blessings and authority that comes with our unique position as believers in Christ. Jesus promised that the truth of His Word would set us free. Yvonne intends to encourage, equip and refresh us at this retreat so that we will be ready to go out and give a clear gospel, set our minds on the truth of our position in Christ, depend on the Holy Spirit (rather than being legalistic), and put on the whole armor of God; all while faith-resting in God & His Word!



About Our Speaker: Yvonne Myers is a graduate of Grace Institute of Biblical Studies, a program in Duluth Minnesota, which trains believers in Christ for the ministry. She is a registered nurse, and is married to Sonny Myers, who is also a graduate of the Grace Institute of Biblical Studies. Sonny is a Bible teacher to youth at the Duluth Bible Church. Yvonne is mother to two grown women, a grandmother, and currently teaches children and young ladies, as well as being a speaker at Ladies Retreats. She has also done missionary work with Sonny, teaching bible seminars to women in both El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Registration Forms for the Ladies Retreat Are Available on the Ladies Ministry Table. Your Guests are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

