



## Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

There is a subtle, yet damnable, heresy that can obscure our view of God and distort our perspective on Christ and of Christianity. It is a cancerous tumor that can grow undetected with deadly consequences. This dangerous falsity is thinking that God ultimately created everything to glorify us. That is, to think that He created us to make much of us and we worship Him because He loves us so much. This self-centered view of God is narcissistic and idolatrous.

The reason this is so insidious, often imperceptible, is because it has a root of truth in it. God truly loves us with an infinite and eternal love, and He demonstrated His sovereign and sacred love to us in both creating and saving us (see Jn.17:23-26; Rom.5:6-10; 8:28-39; Eph.1:4-6; 1Jn.3:1). As Christians, God truly loves us with a perfect and an everlasting love. But we must not pervert that truth by worshiping and loving God solely, or supremely, on the basis of His love for us. We must not be seduced into thinking that God's ultimate will is our personal happiness and wellbeing, or that God is worthy of worship because He is so good to us. God's ultimate will is His own glory, and God is worthy of worship because He (alone) is God.

Over three hundred years ago, Jonathan Edwards (who is generally considered the greatest American preacher who has ever lived) captured the essence of this understanding by making the stark distinction between those who love God because He has made so much of them, and those who love God and seek to make much of Him. I believe Edwards stated it brilliantly when he said:

“This is...the difference between the joy of the hypocrite, and the joy of the true saint. The [hypocrite] rejoices in himself; self is the first foundation of his joy: the [true saint] rejoices in God... True saints have their minds, in the first place, inexpressibly pleased and delighted with the sweet ideas of the glorious and amiable nature of the things of God. And this is the spring of all their delights, and the cream of all their pleasures... But the dependence of the affections of hypocrites is in a contrary order: *they first rejoice . . . that they are made so much of by God; and then on that ground, he seems in a sort, lovely to them.*”\*

Any religion or theology that magnifies self apart from Christ is a destructive and even damnable belief. For apart from Christ we are: sinners (Rom.5:8), blind (2Cor.4:4), dead in our sins (Eph.2:1), hostile toward God (Rom.8:7), enemies of God (Rom.5:10), alienated from God (Col.1:21), slaves to sin (Rom.6:20), children of the devil (1Jn.3:10), powerless (Rom.5:6), foolish (Tit.3:3), disobedient (Tit.3:3), deceived (Tit.3:3), without hope and without God (Eph.2:12). The truth is, apart from Christ there is nothing – absolutely and eternally not a thing – redeemable or loveable about us. God has indeed made much of us as His children, and will continue to do so for all eternity. But His divine worth and glory do not change with – nor are they subject to – the perspectives, whims and experiences of His creation.

The point is this: God truly loves us, but He is not lovely simply because He loves us. God is lovely because He is God! To put it another way, God is not glorious solely because of what He does, He is also glorious because of who He is. Therefore, we are not to make much of God because He has made so much of us. Rather, we make much of God because He alone is God! John Piper put it this way: “The love of God is not God's making much of us, but God's saving us from self-centeredness so that we can enjoy making much of him forever.”

Together in and for Christ,  
Pastor David

**Scripture Readings for the Week** (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #14):

*Exodus 1-4; 1 Samuel 16-20; Psalm 39-41; Job 27-28; Jeremiah 7-11; Mark 7-8; 1 Corinthians 11-12*

**Recommended Reading:**

*“Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ” by John Piper*

Calendar of  
Events:

April 4  
The Sanctuary Play  
Group  
April 8  
VBS Planning Mtg.  
April 14  
Men's Breakfast

Looking Ahead....

Men's Retreat  
May 4-6  
Youth Garage Sale  
May 26  
Family Camp  
June 28-July 1st

For prayer requests,  
email Amy Woodruff  
at [prayer@sbcnb.org](mailto:prayer@sbcnb.org)  
or call 541-404-0547

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[sbcnb.org](http://sbcnb.org)

## Growth & Study.....

### Men's Group Studies

Mondays ~  
**6:30pm** "The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God" by D.A. Carson  
\*Begins April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
w/Jeff Etzel

Wednesdays ~  
**6:30-7:30am** "Jesus Among Secular Gods"  
\*Begins April 18<sup>th</sup>  
w/Pastor David

**8:15-9:30pm** "Zechariah"  
w/Pastor Josh

Thursdays ~  
**6:30-7:30am** "Galatians ~ No Other Gospel"  
w/Pastor Tim

Fridays ~  
**6:30-7:30am** "The Christian Walk"  
\*Begins April 6<sup>th</sup>  
w/Pastor David

### Adult Group Studies

Sundays ~  
**6:30-7:30pm** "The Lord's Prayer"  
At the Woodruff's Home (541-756-3311)

### Young Adults

Thursdays ~  
**7:00-9:00pm** At Skyline  
w/Pastor Tim 541-756-3311

### Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~  
**6:30pm** "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"  
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~  
**6:30-7:30am** "Not By Sight"  
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)  
**8:30am** "Isaiah, the Lord Saves"  
w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)  
**9:00am** "Live Out His Love"  
w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-267-3106)

**1:00-2:15pm** "Romans"  
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)  
**7:00-8:15pm** "Romans"  
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

Wednesdays ~  
**9:00-10:30am** "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"  
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)  
**10:00am** "A Woman of Wisdom, Proverbs"  
w/Jeanette Murphy (541-266-7575)  
**6:30-8:00pm** "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"  
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

## Connect & Encourage.....

### *VBS Planning Meeting ~ April 8<sup>th</sup>, Noon*

For those participating in VBS or anyone who wants to help us get ready for this exciting week! Light refreshments provided. Call or text Loy at 360-607-0022 if you have any questions. You may also email Loy @ [loy@sbcnb.org](mailto:loy@sbcnb.org).

### *Church League Volleyball ~ April 12<sup>th</sup>*

The one-hour games are played every Thursday at 6:00pm from April 12th to June 14th. Players must be 16 years and up and the cost is \$5 to play. Contact Rowland Hammer at 541-297-5887 or the church office for more information.

### *Men's Retreat ~ May 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>*

Register now for a great weekend of growth and fellowship at our Men's Retreat from May 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker is Doug Hazen from WorldVenture. Register online at [www.sbcnb.org](http://www.sbcnb.org), or grab a brochure off the News & Events bulletin board in the church foyer.

### *Youth Garage Sale ~ May 26<sup>th</sup>*

We will start accepting clean, reusable donation items on April 2<sup>nd</sup> for our May 26<sup>th</sup> fundraiser garage sale. Students are raising funds to attend Worldview Academy in July.

# Children's Ministries.....

## Save the date:

June 25 – 28 9am to Noon

Vacation Bible School

Open to children 3 years old (potty-trained) through 5th Grade

July 30 - August 3

Big G Summer Camp

Open to students entering 4th through 9th grade.

## ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:***

- Summer Sunday School Teachers and Helpers (this is our greatest area of need)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Service Nursery Helpers (once a month)
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Sunday School Teacher (twice a month during second service)
- Awana helpers (Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8 pm – Summers off)
- Vacation Bible School Pre-School Director and Co-Director and leaders and helpers for other areas of VBS.

*See Loy for more information. Training available.*

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# Youth Ministries.....

## ***Youth Group ~***

High School youth group ~ Sunday nights 6 to 8pm.

Junior High youth group ~ Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8pm.