



What Is Going On?

So much has been in the news over the past few years that have many of Gods children asking, “What is going on?” We have seen numerous terrorist attacks in the name of Islam and in the name of anarchy. We have seen and currently are seeing numerous sexual assault allegations that have destroyed or are beginning to destroy the careers of those guilty of these crimes. We have seen a mass shooting in Las Vegas that is still raising more questions than answers. We have

seen a church shooting take place in Texas and through all the chaos we have everyone pointing their fingers at each other trying to lay blame. “If we had stricter gun laws this would not happen”. “Stricter gun laws mean less good guys with guns”. The issues that dominate our nightly news are far worse than just guns and the laws around them. The issue is far deeper than religious extremism or celebrities using their power to sexually assault others. I would like to mention, before I address the issue that we already have laws against murder and sexual assault. So maybe lawmaking is not the answer to our problems? The issue we face is the issue that we have always faced. If we are outraged by the news, and we should be, it is because we are made in the image of God and sometimes the things that offend God, offend us as well. The issue we face in our age is the issue of sin or how I’d rather say it, the issue of fallen man living in a fallen world. Right after the fall of man in Genesis 3 we see the first murder take place in Genesis 4. You will flip through the pages of scripture from Genesis 4 and you will find the attitude and actions of fallen man living in a fallen world. And as you flip through the pages of scripture take note of the most common sins; murder, sexual sin and idolatry. HEY... That’s our nightly news! We should be angered by the things that anger God and we should be offended by the things that offend God; but the last thing we should be is surprised. So what do we do? Well, there are two sections of scriptures that I think well help us with that question. The first text; “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”” (Mark 12:30–31, ESV) The Second text; “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”” (Matthew 28:19–20, ESV)

See the solution is simple; the problem is that we make it difficult. Go and spread the gospel. Gospel advancement is not just a mere tell them they need Jesus and walk away. A sinner must know that he is a sinner in need of forgiveness and in need of grace. But our responsibility goes further than just that; Matthew 28:19 uses the phrase *make disciples*. Making disciples is not just telling people they are sinners in need of grace but investing into a person’s life. Don’t

stop with the good news; keep investing in their lives. Until they have a healthy walk in the Lord and then they can go and make disciples. Think about this; no matter what church you are in, if every member committed to discipling one person- JUST ONE! If every member committed to that what happens? Your church doubles! A 20 member church turns into a 40 member church. A 40 member church turns into an 80 member church. And the result is you have more people who have Jesus and less people who have evil intentions. Those who once had evil intentions will have righteous intentions. So what will it be? Will the Church rise and act like the church once again?



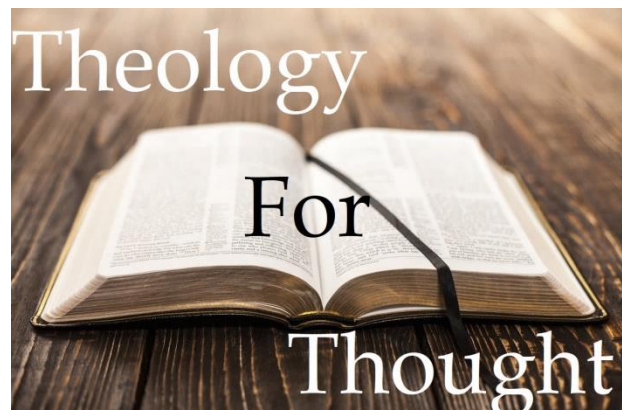
It's That Time of Year!!!

We have come upon the time of year that so many of us love. It is a time where we feel festive and reflect on the goodness in our culture, a goodness that can only come from God. It is a time to reflect on the year and to look forward into the New Year. Ramsey had a difficult year. The beginning of 2017 Pastor Al had a terminal illness and decided to move closer to

his son. This left Ramsey in a position to really reflect on what to do next. Through much dialogue the purpose of Ramsey became clear; we must rebuild and we must give the gospel to our community. The Pastoral search along with building/parsonage updates made the search exhausting and at times, stressful. Through the stress, prayers were lifted and through the exhausting times, God provided comfort and strength. We are sad to report that Pastor Al did pass away and we ask that the Ramsey family continue to pray for peace and comfort for Pastor Al's family. Looking forward we will be discussing plans for the church and outreach to the community. On the 24th we will be having a special Christmas service during our same worship time. On behalf of Ramsey Baptist Church we want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and pray that 2018 be your year of great blessing do to great fellowship with God and His people.

The Two Great Words

We have been going through the Letter Paul wrote to Rome which has been a great journey for us. Romans 1:18 into chapter 3 has been a long discussion on sin and the sinfulness of man. At the same time it has been a discussion on Justice and the wrath of God. Since September we have been on this topic. Suppose for just a second, if you will that Paul ended



Romans at chapter 3 verse 20? In Chapter one we see a list of sins that comes from a heart of idolatry. Paul begins the ground work for sin by letting the reader know that sin is a heart problem and the list he closes with is broad enough to convict every person. But he doesn't end there; chapter two he directs his sights on the Jewish believers and what the law means to them. Paul concluded that the Jewish people should not rest in the law or circumcision. Paul clarified that real circumcision is a heart issue... do you see how the heart of man is the issue? The

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(Romans 3:21, ESV)

physical, outward act of circumcision should be an outward expression of faith, in outward expression of an inward heart change or an inward removal of the flesh. But authentic faith has not been the focus for the Jewish people for a long time, they trusted more in religious acts than the coming messiah or in the time frame of when Paul was writing, the messiah who came. Moving on to chapter three Paul assured the Jewish reader that God has not abandoned them, that our failures do not nullify the faithfulness of God. But he then circles back to the sinfulness of man and we reach the climax of the sin portion of Romans. “as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”” (Romans 3:10–12, ESV).

All are under sin, both Jew and Greek (gentile). Then we come to verse 20, the verse that we should be thankful that Paul did not end there; “For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:20, ESV). It is what comes next that Martyn Lloyd Jones called the two greatest words a Christian can read; “**But now** the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—” (Romans 3:21, ESV). It is those two words that introduce a new theme, grace and mercy. Of course it introduces far more than just grace and mercy but this verse is the beginning of imputed righteousness that can only come from the substitutionary atonement. Paul then moves on to justification by faith and we get to read the great and marvelous grace that is the New Covenant. Those two words have such great power in the life of the Christian. The two words not only introduce the good news that every fallen person who trust in Jesus for salvation, who trust in Jesus for the sacrificial atonement are rescued, but we can use those two words for our everyday battles.

Perhaps an unbeliever is attacking your character in an attempt to destroy your credibility. Maybe they are trying to point out hypocrisy as unbelievers try so hard to do to believers. You can stand with great confidence and tell that person, “yeah, I have made mistakes and I am not perfect, **But Now**- now I have been redeemed. Maybe the issue is the enemy attacking you. Maybe you have these terrible thoughts that you are not really saved or you have

heavy guilt in your past crushing your joy in Christ. You can reflect back on this verse and say, “You’re right, I am guilty and I have fallen short of the glory of God. **But Now-** I have been forgiven of my past. And I not only trust that Jesus took my sins upon Himself, I also trust that Jesus defeated you and you have no power over me.” Remember these two words during your day to day life and use them when life just seems to get too heavy.

A Nice Meet & Greet



Wendy Coleman planned and put together a wonderful meet and greet. It was not only for the purpose to meet Pastor Brandon and his family but also to meet their new addition; Brandon James Gonzales II. Nancy York was a hand in the labor with aiding in preparations. We had baked snacks and hot chocolate. It was a great opportunity for Ramsey to reach out to others and for Pastor Brandon to meet some of the locals.

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