



*A Great Place To Grow in
Christ
For the Entire Family*

April 30, 2017
This Weeks Events
Today: 10:00AM: (Grange)— <i>Bible 101: Matthew 9</i> —Pastor 11:00AM: (Grange)— <i>Thou Shalt Catch Men</i> —Pastor 6:00PM: (Grange)— <i>Advanced Bible: Temptation</i> —Pastor
Upcoming Events
May 3, 2017: NO Discovery Group THIS WEEK
May 7, 2017: 2:00PM: (Fir Lane)— <i>Shut In Saints</i> —Matthew Coale
July 9, 2017: <i>MISSIONARY TO GREENLAND</i> —J.R. Wright Family

The Foolish Fisherman—(A Modern Parable)

Bob was a fisherman. He was a great fisherman. He lived, ate, and breathed fishing. He told everybody about his love for fishing and tried to get everyone involved in fishing. Some tried it and some only listened, but nothing deterred Bob from his love.

Bob had plenty of trophies and pictures of all the fish he ever caught. He knew all the techniques and had all the lures. He even wrote a book that was popular with all the fishermen and was featured in fishing magazines and newspapers. He even in-

spired one fisherman to write song about fishing. Yes, Bob was quite an expert and had reason to be proud.

Bob was the king. His favorite place always produced the yield he wanted. He never returned home empty handed. Bob was happy and fulfilled.

One day Bob went fishing and felt there was something different about the place. He had been busy with conferences and newspaper articles and had not been able to get there for awhile, but that should not have mat-

(Continued on page 4)

Soul Winning



Ron Coale

Soulwinning is not an option. It is not a spiritual gift. It is not a church growth program. It is a clear, unequivocal, unavoidable command of God.

Psalm 9:17 still says, "The wicked shall be turned into Hell and all the nations that forget God." Revelation 21:8 still says those without Christ will have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

Many years ago an assistant pastor, went to visit Penny, a seventh grader, in her home. Her mother allowed him to visit with her and did not interfere as he presented the Gospel to her. When it came time, however, for Penny to make a decision for Christ, her mother interrupted and said, "She's not old enough." He explained that he wasn't asking Penny to be baptized or join the church. He told Mrs. Shire that he had been saved as a young boy at the age of four. Nonetheless, Mrs.

Shire adamantly insisted, "She's not old enough." He asked the mother if it would be permissible for Penny to get saved when she came to church sometime. Strangely, she agreed. Penny came many times after that. He always gave an invitation and always looked her way. She never raised her hand.

Later, another pastor called and said, "Penny Shire has been in a terrible accident." A young man driving a Chevrolet Vega had deliberately pulled in front of the truck that Penny and her father were riding in (he left a suicide note). The gas tank on the truck exploded. Mr. Shire was killed instantly and Penny was in a coma, horribly burned. He drove up to see her when I heard the news. She was unrecognizable had he not been told who was in the bed.

Knowing that sometimes, people can hear when they are in a coma, he gave her the Gospel one more time. He explained that she did not

(Continued on page 6)



Children's Church and nursery services are available for every service.

If you want to Keep up with what is going on in Grace Baptist Church, send the word: **GBCLIST** in a text to **84576** on your cell.

(Continued from page 2)

tered. After all, he had been fishing here for fifty years and it did not matter whether he was there every weekend, every day of his vacation or only once a month, it was always the same. Yet, something was different.

What Bob did not realize that the water temperature of the pond had changed due to pollution and all the fish he once caught were gone. The owner of the pond restocked the pond with other kinds of fish that were hardy enough to resist changes to the pond and would refill the pond quickly.

This was great because the pond would still be profitable to fisherman, but they would have to change their style of fishing and their lures. These new fish would not be attracted by the old lures because it did not appeal to their appetites and the way it was delivered did not incite their feeding frenzy.

Many of the fishermen knew this and adapted and continued to have great success. Some folks wanted the pond to be plowed over and they just learned how to catch the fish and then let them die on the ground. Others fearing the end of the fish caught them and gave them an injection that would make them resist the lures and not get caught again. Truly, things had changed. The whole place was engulfed in turmoil and would never be the peaceful place it once had been.

Yes, change happened, but Bob did not. He had seen and felt the changes. He had read about the cause for the change and some the chaos and destruction caused by the haters of the sport. Still, he said, "All that does not matter, I have had great success with my methods and my lures and I shall again." He changed nothing. He watched fish die on the ground. He had heard of an antidote for the fish that had been inoculated and he watched his former friends take home many fish. Yes, former friends, because when Bob's friends changed their ways, he accused them of betrayal to the fundamentals of fishing and he threw stones at them and mocked them as they carried away their catch.

Bob carried away very little. Sometimes his lure caught a dead fish floating by or a sick one that was biting at anything. Now and then, he would catch a healthy fish. His anger at his former friends and his refusal to accept the change deluded him into thinking he was right and that his ways were still catching fish and his methods would ultimately prevail. Bob fished that way for ten more years. The number of fish in the pond grew, but he caught less and less and finally he caught none at all.

Bob died believing that he was right. His trophies were old and dusty and the articles he wrote and was mentioned in yellowed and disintegrated. Had he not been so fool-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

ish, he could have went to his grave with fresh victories. They might even have put him a textbook or the Fishermen's Hall of Fame.

Jesus said that He would make us fishers of men and there are many Bobs within the Church. They sit under men that have been successful soul winners in the past and they accept the methods and lures as written in stone or as laws of the Medes and Persians that can never be changed. These Bobs throw rocks at any that would change the methods. They will refuse to see the changes in the pond or the fish.

These men are foolish fishermen. The only thing that remains constant is the Gospel and the need to fish. Paul said he became all things to all men that he might by any means win some. Gasp! Paul used different methods with different types of people. He even claimed his Roman citizen when it was profitable to his mission. What a coward! He should have stuck to his Hebrew heritage and let the Romans be hanged. He spoke of Moses to the Hebrews even when we were no longer under the law. He quoted Cretians and took advantage of the altar to the unknown God to gain an audience for the truth. He circumcised Timothy so as not to have the Hebrews tune him out because of a non-essential issue.

Because of various new sins and theologies and the materialism that

have cropped up as the pollution in the pond the type of fish that grabbed onto the lures of the past fifty years are all but gone. The Bobs in the Church would call Paul a Liberal, neo, and pink tea and lemonade compromising ecumenist. They would rather see the cults inoculate the lost or the New Agers and atheists leave them on the shore to die than to acknowledge the need to become something else to them that they might live! God forbid that we should be so blind!!!

There is chaos because we are in a spiritual war and we cannot just kick back in our recliner drinking mint tea

listening to waltzes waiting for the fish to bite on the lure. We must put on our waders and get in

the pond. We must carry an arsenal of lures and learn new places and ways to cast or many will be lost that could be saved. Bob needs to learn new ways or die in disgrace resting on past glories. There are times when the old ways will reach some and I am not calling for an end to those methods. I only beseech my Brethren to not be foolish and add to their lures and quit casting stones at us and cast themselves into the pond. The time is late and fishing season will soon be over. May we burst our nets and need to drag our stringers with a winch to the pickup truck!!!!

Mark 1:17 And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. ~



(Continued from page 3)

need to be in church to be saved and did not need to be able to speak aloud; that she could tell Christ from her heart that she was trusting Him as her Saviour. He asked if she could wiggle a finger or raise an eyebrow. She made no sign. To this day it is not known whether or not she is in Heaven or in Hell. It would be wonderful if she trusted Christ. If not, it would be terrible to be her mother at the judgment seat. But then all of us deal with people every day who will spend eternity in Heaven or in Hell. We know the answer. We must tell them.

Imagine a man having a cure for cancer and keeping the news to himself. Imagine seeing someone about to be run over by a car and not trying to warn him. How much worse it is for those of us who know the only escape from eternal damnation to keep it from those desperately in need of this truth.

1 Corinthians 15:34 says: *"Awake to righteousness and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame."* I once heard of a preacher who, along with his family, befriended an elderly lady. She became a kind of a grandmother to his children and was included in family gatherings. After a while, their friendship had advanced so far that he felt awkward about giving her the Gospel; wished he had done it sooner, but did not know exactly how to broach the subject. Years went by. One day the preacher was under such deep conviction that he went over to the lady's

house and clearly explained the Gospel. She was very quiet when he ended. She said, "Are you telling me that you believe that if I died right now, I'd go to Hell because I've never trusted Christ?"

"Yes ma'am," he replied. "That's what the Bible says."

"And you've believed this all the time you've known me?" He again replied in the affirmative. "Get out of my house," she said. "You're not my friend. I don't ever want to see you again."

The lady was right. It is not friendship or any other kind of decent behavior to withhold the Gospel from those who need it.

What a wonderful blessing it will be to be reunited with loved ones for eternity. What a privilege it will be for us to see those living forever in Heaven, to whom we have given the Gospel of Christ.

John 15:8 says: *"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."* There are those who say that our prime motivation is not to win people to Christ but to glorify God. I do not disagree with them, but I must remind them that the Bible clearly says God is glorified when we bring forth much fruit.

When someone wins people to Christ, brings them to church, or shares their testimonies with others, believers are encouraged and uplifted. Iron sharpens iron and my testimony encourages others to do the same.

(Continued on page 7)

PRAYER REQUESTS

607.	Pastor	Souls saved in Shelton.
680.	Matt	Savings Account (Building fund) to reach —(\$10,000).
685.	Dee P.	Dee's brother Duane (a proud atheist) salvation.
755.	Regina	Grace Baptist Church to grow in influence & membership.
763.	Sally	Brother Nathan called to preach. Strength & direction.
803.	Dee P.	Improved church attendance for her family.
849.	Sally	Jonny seeks God's will in making decisions for future.
865.	Dee P.	Son Joseph's health problems & depression.
867.	Dee P.	Family members to read KJB daily.
973.	Dee	Protection for Stephanie working as a nurse.
975.	Dee P.	Brother-in-law George stage 4 terminal lung cancer
976.	Dee P.	Our Christian men to grow as spiritual leaders in our homes, churches and communities.
1013.	Duane K.	Ben's Salvation.
1017.	Kail	Friends healing from stroke.
1018.	Kail	Friend Zach is in lockup.
1023.	Pastor	Regina's health and recovery.
1024.	Pastor	Larry's successful surgery and recovery.
1027.	Pastor	Sister Regina needs encouragement.
1030.	Machen	6 year old Azreal's brain tumor surgery.
1031.	Pastor	Lori Sylvia's cancer testing.
1033.	Pastor	Bud Ludlow-Traveling mercies and cancer treatment.

(Continued from page 6)

The Lord Jesus tells us that believers are like wheat and unbelievers are like tares. Wheat must be planted every season. It never regenerates itself. Weeds grow automatically. It takes nothing for wrong to prevail and evil to predominate. It takes great effort for righteousness to be perpetuated.

One December evening, a young man went with friends to Spartanburg, South Carolina to win souls. It was a cold night. No one seemed to want to listen to him present the Gospel to them. His partner, ran out of tracts and said, "I'm going into this drugstore to warm up." When he joined him in the drugstore, he discovered that he had engaged the proprietor of the drugstore, in conversation. The proprietor was twisting his partner into a theological pretzel. Upon interrupting the conversation, sure enough, in no time at all, there were two theological pretzels twisting on the drugstore floor. The proprietor knew verses from the book of Mormon, the Koran

(Continued on page 8)

NOTES:

(Continued from page 7)

and other sources with which the soulwinners were totally unfamiliar. Upon leaving discouraged, they thought, "I'm not going to do this again until I know more about it. I'm going to study every religion; have an answer to every question; and then I'll go back out."

The next Friday evening, his soul winning partner burst into his room and said, "The Proprietor got saved! I went by the drugstore and he said as a result of our visit, he trusted Christ. He has stopped selling dirty magazines in his drugstore, and he says he wants to take part of the building that's not being used and turn it into a rescue mission!" Why did this man get saved? Because of their theological expertise? Because of their unanswerable arguments? Because of their persuasive speech? No. He got saved because the Spirit of God worked in his heart.

Even a casual reading of the Word of God will convince you that it has always been right for people who know God to tell people who don't know God about God. Remember, it is an Old Testament verse that says, "*He that winneth souls is wise.*"

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences." 2 Corinthians 5:10-11

"When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him no warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand." Ezekiel 3:18 ~

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