

A GREAT SERMON!

What is the greatest sermon you ever heard? One lady years ago (I think her mind was slipping a bit) would tell me each Sunday, "I think that's the best sermon I've ever heard you deliver!" Maybe she just felt that her pastor needed a bit of encouragement.

Over the years, I've heard some great sermons! Adrian Rodgers from Bellview Baptist in Memphis, Tn. was sometimes called the "preacher's preacher" due to the quality and inspiration that he constantly delivered from God's Word.

However, probably the greatest sermon that I've ever read is found in the greatest Book ever written, the Bible. Acts 7 records what is arguable considered the greatest sermon in Scripture. It is our privilege this month to look at this great sermon, delivered by the one considered to be the 1st Christian martyr, Stephen. Its central message is that God is not confined to one place, one building, or one nation, but desires a relationship with all of us through Jesus Christ. Isn't that good news?!!

Summertime provides many opportunities to begin and develop that relationship with Jesus. June is full of children & youth activities and groups planning for a big July! Youth camp and VBS come our way in July. But church activities do not a great sermon make.

Our community is blossoming with new residents and there is always a new face in our worship services. However, we can't wait for them to come to us -- we must go to them. Are you being intentional in building relationships with new residents in your area, at your work, at your local store?

YOU just may be the greatest sermon that God uses to help them begin and develop a relationship with Jesus. As Paul puts it in 2Cor.3:3 -- It is clear that you are Christ's letter, produced by us, not written with ink but with the Spirit of the living God -- not on stone tablets but on tablets that are hearts of flesh (human hearts). (HCSB) Let's spend the summer being HIS GREAT SERMON!

Pastor Wade



FROM CLASSIC TABLETOP GAMES TO STRATEGY GAMES TO VIDEO GAMES AND MORE, KIDS WILL PLAY THEIR WAY THROUGH VBS IN FUN LOCATIONS SUCH AS THE BIBLE STUDY GAME ROOM, WILD CARD CRAFTS, MULTI-PLAYER MISSIONS, AND SKIP AHEAD SNACKS! BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, THEY'LL SEE JESUS THROUGH THE EYES OF ONE OF HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS AND DISCOVER THAT TRUSTING JESUS AS SAVIOR AND FOLLOWING HIM CHANGES THE GAME ENTIRELY!

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

• June 3	Men's Golf Scramble
• June 4	Business Meeting (after service)
• June 7	Youth Camp Parent Meeting
• June 11 Deacon's Meeting 8:00am Outreach Team meeting after service	
• June 18	Father's Day
• June 18	Faith Night at the Depot
• June 21	Daycare Board Meeting
• July 10-14	Youth Camp
• July 17-21	VBS! Twists & Turns

FINANCIAL UPDATE: (6/1/2023)

Current Checkbook Bal	\$142,660.04
-Designated Funds Bal.	\$14,836.98
<u>-Designated Repair Funds Bal.</u>	\$53,629.45
=Total Available Funds	\$74,193.61
2023 Total Giving Received	\$136,442.90
2023 Total Giving Needed	\$146,421.22





In Proverbs 4:23

This passage speaks of the heart and cautions us to "Watch over..."I ask myself, "What does that mean?" Though it can mean a lot, the simplest meaning is that we need to protect ourselves from falling into sin and not living for God. The heart is the center of our emotions, our wisdom, and our temptations. When we don't make sure we are living according to God's will, it is easy for us to fall into sin. So, I ask, How can I "watch over [my] heart?' We must keep having devotional time with Christ, studying the word, and making sure we have it in our minds, like we would have our daily routine. The most important way, though, is to have trusted friends, mentors, or leaders to keep us accountable. Community groups are a vital way we keep each other in check. Letting other people in forces us to look someone in the eye and say whether or not we read the Bible and/or if we truly had quiet time. We often have times where our minds are trying to convince the heart that something is right when it is not (we justify it to ourselves). This is what the author of this Proverb is saying. We must make sure that our hearts are right, because what is in our hearts will be the thing that shows. I challenge you to find someone who you know will keep you accountable and push you to be more spiritually grounded, walking closer to Jesus, and building that relationship that will overflow into your daily life. So that the word of God and salvation will be spread to all the earth.

-TJ Arango, Associate Pastor of Students

Please **PRAY** for our search committees as they continue interviewing for the **following 2 positions:**

Associate Pastor of Worship & Administration Committee Members are: Kay Lynn Biggs, Gary Gerber, Jimmy Murdock, Jill Stout & Marissa Wheat

<u>Director of Children's Ministry & Adult Education</u> Committee Members are: Clint Barnett, Kelly Baxter, Grace Murphree, Carrie Perkins & Dianna Roseberry



STUDENTS JOIN US FOR A FUN DAY AT THE PARK.

We will travel by van to Katherine Rose Memorial Park in Mansfield, leaving the church at 9:30 am and be back by 4pm. Lunch will be provided. See TJ for more info.