

EVANGEL VOICE

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*Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
Psalm 34:8-10*



"THE GOODNESS OF GOD"

We're right in the middle of those dog days of summer with high temperatures and humidity levels to match. We tend to dream of getting away from all the stress and just relaxing at a quiet place somewhere. Some have already taken a vacation while others will be leaving soon. At these times we focus on our need for physical rest and restoration but don't always think about our need for spiritual rest and restoration. Just like we need cool ocean breezes to calm us we need the wind of the Holy Spirit to blow over us. Instead of focusing on the difficulties we face we need to focus on the goodness of God. That's what David did.



FROM THE DESK
OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT

David was living a victorious life in God. Samuel had come to Bethlehem in search of a new king. After inspecting Jesse's oldest sons and finding them to be lacking, David was brought in. Acting on the leading of God, Samuel took his horn of oil and anointed David to be the new king. From that time on the Holy Spirit was on David. Then he was used by God to kill Goliath and bring deliverance to Israel. Soon, things change and David finds himself in a difficult place. Saul, angry with David, makes every effort to kill him. He chases David all over the country. During one of the lowest points, David has to find refuge in the Philistine camp. He pretends to be insane so that his enemies will leave him alone. What a horrible time this must have been for David. He was supposed to be the new king. He was the conquering hero. Now he was seeking safety in the midst of his enemies.

Despite living with difficulty and disappointment David purposely wrote about the goodness of God. Rather than complaining or reciting the facts about his situation, in Psalm 34 he describes what God has done for him. In doing so, he once again places his life and destiny in the hands of the only One who could protect them. He sets the tone for this jubilant Psalm in verse one. *I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.* He continues that theme in verse three. *Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.* You can almost picture David challenging his men with these words and then launching off into a time of worship.

David continues this victorious Psalm by describing God's keeping power. In verse six he writes, *This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.* He repeats this theme in verse 17. *The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.* David is confessing that God is his deliverer even though his circumstances were telling him that it was hopeless.

Right in the middle of this Psalm, David challenges all of us to recognize and experience the goodness of God.

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"THE GOODNESS OF GOD"

(Continued from page 1)

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. (vs. 8-10).

We all know these things are true but sometimes we have a hard time believing that they apply to us individually. We've all experienced the goodness of God in our lives but when we're faced with hard situations we tend to forget them. David understood that and as he writes he's looking back and remembering all that God had done for him. Maybe he's thinking about how God empowered him to kill the lion and the bear while he was tending sheep. Maybe it's the time he stared down Goliath, armed with nothing but a sling and 5 stones but understanding that it was the power of the name of the Lord that would kill Goliath and not his skill with the slingshot. Regardless, David is challenging us to remember and to proclaim that God is always good. He is always working on our behalf. He always provides exactly what we need at the precise time we need it. David is reminding us to look beyond our circumstances, no matter how difficult they may be, and see the goodness of God.

This Psalm has taken on new significance for our family. For the past few months we have been laboring under some hard things. This summer brought no relief. We knew that we needed to get away but financially it was going to be difficult to pull that off. Our children kept asking where we were going for vacation and we told them that they needed to pray and ask God to give us one. At the end of June we shared this with another couple and immediately they prayed for us and asked God to do something incredible. Being the man of faith I am, I completely forgot about that prayer and continued to look at the circumstances.

About 2 weeks ago, with the summer slipping away, I sat down at the computer to surf the Internet to try and find us a place at the beach. After hours of searching I was unable to find a suitable place and I felt like my eyes were going to pop out of the sockets. Right then an idea came into my head about a vacation destination. At the time I didn't realize it, but that was God speaking. I checked out the website and discovered that the cost was less than I expected but still considerable. I didn't book the trip. Another day passed and there didn't appear to be any help in sight. So, I did it the American way. I booked the trip and paid for it with money we didn't have.

Despite what I had done, there was a sense of peace about it. I didn't understand it but I knew that somehow things were going to work out. A few days later something miraculous happened. We unexpectedly received some love gifts that covered almost the entire cost of our trip. As if that wasn't enough, two days later I received an envelope that contained additional gifts that covered the rest of the cost of the trip. God supernaturally provided us with a dream vacation that we will remember for the rest of our lives. More importantly, our children experienced first hand that God hears their prayers and answers.

In the days that followed there have been many tears. There have been tears of joy at what God has done and tears of sorrow for doubting that God would move on our behalf. We are overwhelmed and humbled by the goodness of God. His praise has been on our lips. We've had opportunities to share this story and people are amazed and don't quite understand. Still we continue to tell them that God has done this.

God didn't do this because we're something special. He did this because that's His heart for His children. So, if you're walking through difficult times, take time for a spiritual vacation. Meditate on Psalm 34 and allow its words to sink deep into your heart and spirit. Take time to taste and see that God is good. Remember the great things He has done in your life. Seek Him with your whole heart. Be like David and believe that, despite how bad it looks right now, God is going to move on your behalf. He is going to do something that exceeds your ability to comprehend it. All you have to do is ask and believe.

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KEEP WATCHING FOR NEWS OF OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION...MORE INFORMATION TO COME!

2006 FALL SEMESTER SCHEDULE**AUGUST****N-301 NEW TESTAMENT GREEK I**

This course is designed to provide a basic knowledge of New Testament Greek for the purpose of enabling the student to effectively study and exegete the New Testament. (3 hrs.)

- ❑ Location: **SHENANDOAH VALLEY**
- ❑ Professor: Dr. Robert H. Reichard and Victoria Rocco
- ❑ Dates: **Monday Evenings: 8/28; 9/11; 9/25; 10/9; 10/23; 11/6; 11/20; 12/4**
- ❑ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:45 p.m.

C-101 CHURCH HISTORY I

A study of the history of the Church from Pentecost to 1500 A.D. (3 hrs.)

- ❑ Location: **SHENANDOAH VALLEY**
- ❑ Professor: Dr. Robert H. Reichard
- ❑ Dates: **Thursday Evenings: August 24 through October 5**
- ❑ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:45 p.m.

N-325 LIFE AND THEOLOGY OF PAUL

A detailed study of the life and ministry of the Apostle and an examination of Pauline theology and thought as seen in his Epistles. (3 hrs.)

- ❑ Location: **NORTHERN VIRGINIA**
- ❑ Professor: Soo Wilson
- ❑ Dates: **Monday Evenings: August 28 through October 16 (Omitting September 4)**
- ❑ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:45 p.m.

SEPTEMBER**T-463 THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

An in-depth study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit as seen in the Old and New Testaments with an emphasis on the relation of the Holy Spirit to the contemporary Church. (3 hrs.)

- ❑ Location: **NORTHERN VIRGINIA**
- ❑ Professor: Dr. Robert H. Reichard
- ❑ Dates: **September 8, 9 and October 13, 14**
- ❑ Time: Weekend classes are comprised of three sessions
- ❑ Friday evening: 7:00 p.m. through 9:45 p.m.
- ❑ Saturday morning: 9:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon
- ❑ Saturday afternoon: 1:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m.

C-501 THE CHURCH AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

This course will examine some of the contemporary issues facing America and provide the student an opportunity to develop a Biblical response to them. (3 hrs.)

- ❑ Location: **SHENANDOAH VALLEY**
- ❑ Professor: Bob Reichard, III
- ❑ Dates: **September 15, 16 and October 6, 7**
- ❑ Time: Weekend classes are comprised of three sessions
- ❑ Friday evening: 7:00 p.m. through 9:45 p.m.
- ❑ Saturday morning: 9:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon
- ❑ Saturday afternoon: 1:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m.

2006 FALL SEMESTER SCHEDULE

OCTOBER

C-102 CHURCH HISTORY II

A study of the history of the Church from 1500 A.D. to the present. (3 hrs.)

- ❑ Location: **SHENANDOAH VALLEY**
- ❑ Professor: Dr. Robert H. Reichard
- ❑ Dates: **Thursday Evenings: October 19 through December 7 (Omitting November 23)**
- ❑ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:45 p.m.

N-101 NEW TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION

A systematic study of the background against which the New Testament was written and a brief glimpse of the individual books as to authorship, date, purpose, characteristics, etc. (3 hrs.)

- ❑ Location: **NORTHERN VIRGINIA**
- ❑ Professor: Soo Wilson
- ❑ Dates: **Monday Evenings: October 30 through December 11**
- ❑ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:45 p.m.

NOVEMBER

T-540 STRATEGIES AND MODELS OF PRAYER

This course is a study in the various aspects of Christian Prayer and of the Biblical and theological basis of prayer. The course includes a basic introduction to the various ministries and principles of using prayer in a local church. (3 hrs.)

- ❑ Location: **SHENANDOAH VALLEY**
- ❑ Professor: Dr. Elmer Towns
- ❑ Dates: **November 17, 18 and December 1, 2**
- ❑ Time: Weekend classes are comprised of three sessions
- ❑ Friday evening: 7:00 p.m. through 9:45 p.m.
- ❑ Saturday morning: 9:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon
- ❑ Saturday afternoon: 1:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m.

***DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY...MAKE PLANS
TO REGISTER FOR FALL CLASSES NOW!***



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