



FIRST
EVANGELICAL
FREE
CHURCH

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September 2010

In The First Place...

DISTORTING SCRIPTURE

(While Pastor Josh takes a break from writing these front page articles, I want to continue to focus our attention on his ongoing subject; the Scriptures in the believer's life.)

As Peter closes his second epistle he states that certain *ignorant and unstable people distort...the...Scriptures...* While I would be quick to defend myself against being considered ignorant or unstable, I curiously probed the core concern addressed, the distortion of Scripture.

What does the term mean? What are some of the dangers of distorting Scripture? What are subtle ways in which I could be tempted to or even guilty of doing this?

An investigation of *distort* finds that the word has a root usage to describe an act of torture; putting someone on a torture rack with the result that limbs are twisted and even dislocated. One of the purposes of such an act of torture is to wrest from the victim a confession. The confession may not represent truth. It may simply be an answer given to escape further pain or to satisfy the perspective of the one administering the torture.

This image quickly stirred in my mind the temptation that we may face as believers to "stretch" the truth of Scripture to fit our given circumstance. It would be any situation where our ultimate motive is to *use* the Scriptures, rather than to probe their understanding and intent and then respond in obedience to the word.

The point of confrontation for me is that it is an ongoing choice (and battle!) to submit my will to God's will, as revealed in Scripture. I need to take God's Word, as it is written, as truth, and not seek to undermine its full intent in any way. My motives don't have to be mean or destructive to distort the Scriptures; they may be primarily self-centered or self-protective. But if I don't approach Scripture with the intent of submission, am I in danger of distorting what God has said?

Certainly this is a danger to ponder. And the danger of doing so? It's to my own harm; it perpetuates self being lord and master rather than God; and it establishes a subtle pattern of disobedience. More than that, our actions speak loudly, passing on distorted truth to others.

Pastor Dick High

Lay Bible Institute

Classes begin Sunday, September 12, at 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (Childcare available through special arrangement for the evening classes - pick up a registration form at the Welcome Center.)

Classes offered:

10:45 a.m.

You Never Stop Being a Parent - Thriving in Relationship with Your Adult Children (Dan Curnutt) by Jim Newheiser and Elyse Fitzpatrick; Cost \$15.00; 10 weeks; Room A4

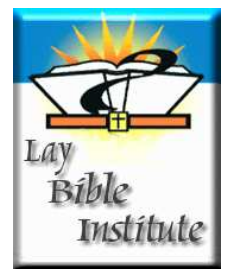
6:00 p.m.

1 Corinthians: Christ Is the Answer When the Church Is in Crisis (Mike Andrus) No cost; Room B3

Mission Biographies - Ancient and Modern (Dan Curnutt) No cost for materials; 10 weeks; Room B11

Life and Loss: A Journey (or *When a Loved One Dies*) (Phil Thengvall) Cost \$15; 10 weeks; Room A2

First Place 4 Health (John Werner) Cost \$100 for new or \$20 for returning students; 12 weeks; Room to be determined.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



THE BEST PART OF KIDS GREAT GETAWAY...THE CAMPERS!

I so appreciate parents entrusting their 4th, 5th, and 6th graders to us by letting them come to camp. For many campers, it is the first time for them to be away from home with anyone, not to mention with someone other than family. Here are some of the highlights for me:

ABC's of Kids Camp-

Campers **ARRIVE**. It is so exciting to see the campers arrive at Camp Quaker Haven. After the hour long drive and the ups and downs of the camp road (which is like a roller coaster), they arrive with their stuff and head to their cabins to meet their counselors and campers they will live with for the next five days. Their expressions are priceless.

Campers **BOND** with these new found friends in very short order! That's great to see; especially as they bond with their counselors, who become surrogate parents to them. The counselors quickly learn who might be a little homesick, who might need to be watched a little more closely, or who might need lots of one-on-one time during the day.

Campers get to make so many **CHOICES** during camp! They decide as a group what they will do for free time, when they will go to canteen, or what table they will sit at during meals. Campers also get to make many choices for themselves. (What will I wear, what will I eat, or how will I design my t-shirt?) It is a delight to see them expressing their preferences at camp.

But, the best part of all is observing how God is at work in the campers' lives and to see them respond to Him in various ways. They praise him out of hearts that are grateful for His care. They pray to Him about real things-their families, friends they are concerned for, or being homesick for the first time. They consider that God can use them NOW and that He can use them in the future.

On the last night of camp this year our speaker, Miss Amy, challenged the campers to be lights for Christ in the world. At the end of the service, the chapel was darkened as she asked them to turn on their flashlights, stand and tell how they would be lights for Christ when they got home. A split second after she finished the sentence a camper turned on his flashlight and, shouted out, "I am going to be a missionary so I can tell people about Jesus". Next we heard, "I'm going to tell my neighbors what it means to follow Jesus", then, "I'm going to be a better sister at home". Those were beautiful moments as campers spoke out about how they would live out their faith once they left camp. So many campers shared that Miss Amy finally had to ask everyone who wanted to shine their light to stand up and to share all at once how they would spread the love of Christ in their world.

Only about 10 months until Kids Great Getaway 2011... I can't wait!

MOMMY & ME PLAYGROUP

Moms and their babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers are invited to join us this fall for Mommy & Me: a children's play date and mommy talk time. Join us for the fellowship and fun on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

September 8: First Free Playground or Shine Wing Room 202, depending on the weather

September 22: Andover Central Park. Bring your own coffee and kid snacks.

October 13: Applejack Pumpkin Patch, 10007 SW Indianola Rd., Augusta; \$6 per person; pumpkins cost extra; 1 yr and under FREE.

October 27: Eastborough Park. Bring your own coffee and kid snacks.

Your friends and kids are always welcome! Contact Jill Yowell with any questions.



Sean and Danielle Nance
announce the birth of
Aiden Samuel
on June 1, 2010



Dear First Free Family,
Thank you for giving recognition and honor to us on our 70th wedding anniversary. Thank you also for the beautiful bouquet of roses. God bless you and the ministries of First Free Church to the praise of His glory.

In Christian love,
Al and Jeannette Regier

First Free Church Family,
Thank you for the many cards and expressions of sympathy to us, following LaVerne's brother's death. Thank you also for the beautiful Peace Lily. We thank God for the kindness, love, and compassion showered on us by His people. Blessings to you all

LaVerne and Pat Entz

Dear First Free,
What a wonderful time we had celebrating First Free's 60th anniversary. It was absolutely delightful to see and talk to so many. We love you and treasure our 11 1/2 years at First Free. May God continue to richly bless you!

Love,
Pastor Steve and Barbara LoVeltte

FIRST FREE FAIRWAY FELLOWSHIP

The 2010 First Free Fairway Golf Tournament is Saturday, September 25. Stop by the table in the Courtyard on Sunday mornings to sign up your teams or to get more information.



STUDENT MINISTRIES

Before I began working at First Free, the longest I had been at a particular job was 4 months. I have since shattered that record as I have reached the one year mark here. This past year has been filled with lots of learning: how to preach, read my Bible correctly (not just winging it), lead a youth group, trust God, and do my taxes. Thank you all for helping me grow and keep growing in my life. I look forward to many more amazing years to come.

This summer was full of camps, skate ramps, and a hectic schedule. It was awesome. I love the summer because students are at the Outpost all the time. It gave me a chance to have many conversations about God with them in addition to what they would do if there was a zombie apocalypse.

Small groups will start in the middle of September and we are going through a how to read your Bible curriculum. This will be great for students and help them to have a plan as they read and not wing it. 12:two is beginning a Bible survey curriculum. It will take them from Creation to Revelation over the course of the year.

Please continue to pray that I would be faithful to God and his will for my life, obedience to follow (no matter what), and to have the attitude of a learner always.

Lucas McGarity

Mark Your Calendar:

Wednesdays, Sept. 1 and 8, 6:45 p.m. - Small Group Training (Middle School and High School do not meet on those days)

Sunday, Sept. 12, 9:00 a.m. - Student Ministries Parents Fall Kick-off Meeting in the Chapel. We cordially invite all parents to join us for the morning so we can introduce you to the Student Ministry and our fall plans.

THANKS!

We say "Thank You" to Volunteer Staff who have recently stepped away from Student Ministry; your many years of love and hard work poured into others has blessed us all. To Dave and Fay Netherton: for loving and sharing your lives with so many. To Mandy Call: for investing deeply and giving of yourself so freely. To Dale Durbin: for leading 12:two—the students and staff miss you dearly. Our King knows and sees the eternal impact.

Jeremy Krause

MEN'S MINISTRY

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The monthly breakfast for First Free men is Saturday, September 11, at 7:30 a.m. in the gym. Join others for this time of food, fellowship, and prayer. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated.

MEN'S FRATERNITY BEGINS SOON

We are gearing up for The Quest for Authentic Manhood, the first and foundational course of Men's Fraternity. This 24 week class will kick off at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 16. If you took this class in 2009, please come again for a refresher, or bring someone with you who can benefit from this excellent course. You may pick up a brochure or register on Sundays in the Courtyard. The cost for materials and/or weekly refreshments is \$25 per person.



First Free Women

TUESDAY CONNECTION—

Women's Bible Studies

Connect with one another as you study God's Word. Check out your options for fall and note the class starting date.

Tuesday A.M.

Sept. 7, 9:15 - 11:30 – *Isaiah* Precepts Study. Contact Beth Mennenga to register.

Sept. 14, 9:15-11:30 – *Live Fearlessly*, A Study in the Book of Joshua from the "Fresh Life Bible Study Series" for women. Register at the Women's Ministry Table on Sundays. Cost \$12. Contact Jo Coltrain in the office for questions: jcoltrain@firstfreewichita.org

Tuesday P.M.

Sept. 7, 6:45 p.m. – *Understanding the Anger of God* (Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk), Precepts Study. Register with Cindy Black.

Sept. 14, 7:00 – *Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed* – a study of David; Cost \$13. This ABIDE study is designed to seek God and encourage and serve others. It meets at Jane Schaible's home. Contact Jane to register.

SCRAPBOOKING!

Friday, September 10

5:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Contact Nancy McCollum for more information.



FIRST FREE BOOK CLUB

The First Free Book Club will meet Thursday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the library. They will discuss *Her Mother's Hope* by Francine Rivers. Contact Helen Finley for more information.

