

the HARP NOTES



INFORMING THE REFORMING

OUR PURPOSE

It is the purpose of Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to deeply CELEBRATE the person and work of our Savior, to diligently COMPREHEND God's word, to develop rich COMMUNITY among our church family and to demonstrate practical COMPASSION to a hurting world.

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- **Officer Elections**
- **Joint Officer Meeting**

THIS SUNDAY'S VOLUNTEER TEAM

- **Fellowship Snack** Pastor's Class
- **Sunday School Nursery** Carrie Howland
- **Worship Nursery** Tina & Raven Aldridge, Jamie Davis
- **Children's Church** Louise Young
- **Lead Deacon:** Mike Ingram



On Prayer

"Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers."

- Sidlow Baxter

SUNDAY PREP

During your personal studies this week, meditate on the words of the hymns and scripture verses that will be sung & preached.

SUNDAY'S HYMNS

- I. More Love To Thee, O Christ
- II. Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- III. Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

SERMON

1 CORINTHIANS
13:1-13

Without Love I Am
Nothing

Redeeming Your Time in the Life of Your Church

WEEKLY EVENTS:

SUNDAY

- 9:45AM: Sunday School (All Ages)
- 10:30AM: Fellowship & Snacks
- 11:00AM: Worship
- 4:00PM: Handbell Quartet (Recess)
- 5:00PM: Handbell Choir (Recess)
- 6:00PM: Choir Practice

TUESDAY

- 1:00PM: Pastoral Prayer Team
- 10:00AM: Women's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

- 12:00PM: Men's Lunch (at Cook Out, North of x23 on Hwy 21)

FRIDAY

- 7:00AM: Men's Fellowship Breakfast @ The Cookhouse (Exit 28)

MONTHLY EVENTS:

- Lord's Supper:** 1st Sunday even months
- Men's Breakfast:** 2nd Saturday
- Friendship Circle:** 7pm, first Monday
- Circle of Grace:** 7pm, third Monday
- Covenant-McDowell Circle:** 3rd Thurs.
- Session Meeting:** First Monday
- Deacon Meeting:** Second Tuesday

COVENANT-McDOWELL CIRCLE

The Covenant McDowell circle will meet at 1:00 PM on Thursday, Oct 20th at Sarah McAulay's home.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 13, after worship, to elect our 2012 officers and congregational servants.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 20
Covenant McDowell Circle

OCTOBER 25
Joint Officer Meeting

NOVEMBER 4-6
Women's Beach Retreat

NOVEMBER 13
Congregational Meeting -
Elections

NOVEMBER 11-13
Middleschool Retreat

DECEMBER 10
Women's Brunch



THE SONG AND THE STORY

More Love to Thee, O Christ

Elizabeth Prentiss' hymn *More Love to Thee, O Christ* is a hymn born of despair that reminds Christians of Christ's love and calls them to love him in return.

From death and despair to an overwhelming affirmation of her love for Christ, the story of Elizabeth Payson Prentiss' hymn, *More Love to Thee, O Christ*, is a reminder to Christians to draw near to their Savior in love.

Elizabeth Payson Prentiss came from a family steeped in faith. Her father, Edward Payson, was a famous and beloved Congregational minister. Her husband was a Presbyterian minister and seminary professor.

Elizabeth struggled with insomnia and severe headaches for her entire life. After the loss of two children in short succession, Elizabeth's frail health was nearly broken and she cried out in her distress "Our home is broken up, our lives wrecked, our hopes shattered, our dreams dissolved, I don't think I can stand living for another moment."

It was during this time of tremendous emotional suffering that Elizabeth wrote the lyrics that eventually became the hymn, *More Love to Thee, O Christ*. The words that Elizabeth wrote joyously proclaim the Christian's desire to love their Savior more everyday. However, Elizabeth did not finish her poem.

Thirteen years later, she found the unfinished poem. She would have left it unfinished but for her husband's encouragement. Her husband printed several copies, one of which found its way to William Howard Doane, a musician in Cincinnati. He set the words to music and published the hymn in his *Songs of Devotion*.

The Constant Cry of the Soul

Elizabeth once said that "To love Christ more, is the deepest need, the constant cry of my soul...Out in the woods and on my bed and out driving, when I am happy and busy, and when I am sad and idle, the whisper keeps going up for more love, more love, more love!"

1. *More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!
Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee.*

*This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to thee;
more love to thee, more love to thee!*

2. *Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;
now thee alone I seek, give what is best.*

*This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee;
more love to thee, more love to thee!*

3. *Let sorrow do its work, come grief and pain;
sweet are thy messengers, sweet their refrain,*

*when they can sing with me: More love, O Christ, to thee;
more love to thee, more love to thee!*

4. *Then shall my latest breath whisper thy praise;
this be the parting cry my heart shall raise;*

*this still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee;
more love to thee, more love to thee!*

HYMN HISTORY

Elizabeth's statement raises the question. How does a believer show love to a Savior that isn't physically present?

A Powerful Impulse Found in the Hymn

In Mark 12:30-31 (KJV) Jesus gives his followers his two greatest commandments "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells believers how they can show love to him when he talks of about the judgment day. He tells that those who are invited to heaven will hear the King say to those on His right "Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why:

*I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.'*

"Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.' Matthew 25:34-40 (*The Message*)

Clearly, showing love to Jesus means that the Christian must spread that love to all mankind. For those who sing the hymn, *More Love to Thee, O Christ*, with the desire to truly show their love to Christ, the impulse for charity will arise. To love Christ is to love your neighbor.

-Melissa Howard

JUDGING WITH CHARITY

by *R.C. Sproul, Jr.*

I was scheduled tomorrow to meet with my professor, the man overseeing my Ph.D. studies. He called this evening wanting to know if I wanted to postpone. “That depends,” said I, “on whether you want to yell at me or not for not getting more of my reading done.” He, gracious man that he is acknowledged, “You have had a lot on your plate lately.”

This same man, from the time I was a boy, has belabored to me the importance of seeking to judge others charitably. Because there is always a speaker and a hearer, and doer and a receiver, because we are all tempted to put ourselves in the best possible light, it is critical, he explained to me as I grew up, that we put ourselves in the other guy’s shoes, and judge what he has said, or done, with the same compassion and understanding with which we judge ourselves.

Which is precisely what he was doing in noting the fullness of my plate. I teach at Reformation Bible College, which while relatively new, is normal for me. I work for Ligonier Ministries and Highlands Ministries, which is normal for me. I am seeking to raise eight children, from 17 to almost 2, which is normal for me. And my wife is in intensive care, fighting for her life against the brutal enemy leukemia. That, of course, is not normal for me.

As we as a family confront this great challenge one of the immediate challenges we face is seeking to keep our lives as normal as possible. My children still have their studies to tend to. I still have students and co-workers that are counting on me. We have soccer matches, piano lessons, hockey games for the children. I still have papers to grade, errands to run, checkbooks to balance, appointments to keep. And we need to visit my dear wife in the hospital not only because it blesses us and her, but because we may not be able to be with her for long.

My professor, who is, of course, also my father and my boss, is well aware of my circumstances. His compassion, which runs deep in ordinary conditions, is more than sufficient for my circumstance. Others, however, do not know. Others grow impatient because I don’t answer their

emails quickly enough, because I am not as attentive to their needs as I might normally be, because I am slower to stop and pass the time of day. These, however, if they knew, I am sure would understand.

Which in turn makes me wonder about what I don’t know. How often have I grown irritated with another who is going through a hardship that would immediately douse my frustration, if I only knew about it? We don’t, rightly so, go through our days wearing signs to warn others- “I have been out of work for nine months;” “My husband prefers images of woman on the computer to me;” “My wife is battling an aggressive leukemia.” Without the signs all we are left with is compassion as the default position. Should we not assume the best, especially of our brothers and sisters in the church? Should we not seek to mirror the compassion of Jesus who would not break a bruised reed?

All of us, quite naturally, call for greater compassion when we are the one going through the hardship. How many of us remember, however, to be slow to become angry, when things are going our way? There is a time to stand, to be bold, to call others to account. And then there is most of the time. My hardship is utterly banal. There is nothing new under the sun. Millions of men have found themselves where I now find myself. One Man, however, showed us how to respond. Pray for my wife. Pray for my children. And pray for me, that I would learn grace.



*Dr. R.C. Sproul Jr. is a Teaching Fellow at Ligonier Ministries and professor and lecturer at Ligonier Academy in both the Bible college and D.Min. programs. He is also founder of Highlands Ministries and author of *Believing God: 12 Biblical Promises Christians Struggle to Accept*.*

From Ligonier Ministries and R.C. Sproul. © Tabletalk magazine. Website: www.ligonier.org/tabletalk. Email: tabletalk@ligonier.org Toll free: 1-800-435-4343

The Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 131. What are the duties of equals?

A: The duties of equals are, to regard the dignity and worth of each other, in giving honor to go one before another; and to rejoice in each others' gifts and advancement, as their own.

Q. 132. What are the sins of equals?

The sins of equals are, besides the neglect of the duties required, the undervaluing of the worth, envying the gifts, grieving at the advancement or prosperity one of another; and usurping preeminence one over another.

Q. 133. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment, the more to enforce it?

The reason annexed to the fifth commandment, in these words, That thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, is an express promise of long life and prosperity, as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good, to all such as keep this commandment.



MIDDLESCHOOL RETREAT

Save the Date! The Middleschool Retreat at Bonclarken will be from November 11-13.

Contact Connie Ferrell if you plan to attend.

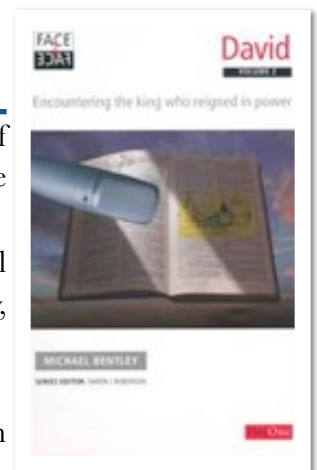
TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study has begun with their study of the life of King David. They had their first meeting this last Wednesday where books were handed out to participants.

It's no too late to join! Call or email Jill Gazzaway and let her know you will be joining them for subsequent Tuesday mornings for this great time of study, prayer, and fellowship.

The group will meet in the Sanctuary from 10-11:30.

Childcare will be provided. Due to construction, please use the South Entrance parking lot and doors (near the organ).



H U N T E R S V I L L E A R P C H U R C H

HARP NOTES



HUNTERSVILLE ARP CHURCH

201 North Old Statesville Road
PO Box 316
Huntersville, NC 28070



First Name Last Name
Home Street
Home City, Home State Home ZIP

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