



Women of the Word

Welcome

A new year. What a gift!! Praise God that He has given us more time to serve Him and glorify Him with our lives! One of my favorite things about winter is the shorter days and the colder temps—I know, I know that sounds crazy—BUT this is the PERFECT time to put on your favorite sweater, fix your favorite hot beverage, and settle in for some in depth Bible reading and study!! Think of winter as a forced slow down by God—a time to realign our priorities to what TRULY matter—coming to know Him better. No endless nights at the ballfield. No weekends at the lake. Instead—the added time to talk with God and walk with Him through His Word!!

In Christ,

Melanie Woltje

Women's Ministry Team Leader

Mission Statement

FBC Women's Ministry exists to empower our ladies to use their God-given gifts in accordance with God's will.

God's Sovereignty in a Cracked Bone - Carol Totten

"I believe that every particle of dust that dances in the sunbeam does not move an atom more or less than God wishes" - Charles Spurgeon

"No revolving world, no shining of star, no storm, no creature moves, no actions of men, no errands of angels, no deeds of Devil - nothing in all the vast universe can come to pass otherwise than God has eternally purposed." Arthur W. Pink

A month ago I fell and cracked a bone in my right arm. The fall totally caught me off guard. It was sudden, with no warning. My husband was with me and helped me up off the ground. The first words out of my mouth was "this is the Lord's doing." Really? Was this really the Lord's doing?

What about my lazy foot just not lifting high enough? What about the stone that was just right in the road so that my foot hit that stone on an angle? What about my not being able to pay attention to where I was stepping because I was talking too much? Well, yes, all of these things were a part of why I fell and cracked my bone. But the bottom line is that it was God's decree. Do you believe that? --that God can actually decree a cracked bone?

We must take a look at scriptures and think about what they mean and say. Throughout all of scripture He lets us know that "in Him we live and move and have our being"... Acts 17: 28. Acts 17:25 "He gives to all life, breath, and ALL THINGS." One cannot escape the powerful meaning of Psalm 139: 16; "Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed, and in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them." God had written in my story my cracked bone.

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(continued from page 1)

God wrote into Job's story the death of his children and the loss of his health. In Job 1: 21 he declared; "the LORD giveth and the LORD taketh away. Blessed be the name of the LORD." Job knew that the final word was with God. Nothing can happen without God's permission and the whole world marches to His decrees.

We cannot understand all of this. We may not agree with how it feels to us. But it is a biblical fact that our God reigns in heaven and that He wills and decrees all things

So take a look at your life. Praise God that He knows and directs for His glory everything going on in your life. Praise Him for His sovereignty. Praise Him for His goodness. Praise Him that He uses all things to glorify His name. Praise Him that your suffering, your trials, have a purpose. Praise Him that even your failures, mistakes, and sins cannot thwart the plan of God.

He wrote into the story of Abraham's childless years. He also wrote into Abraham's story the long years of waiting for a promised son, as well as Sarah's human plan to speed up the process. He wrote into the story of Moses that he could not go to the Promised land before he died. He wrote into the story of Christ that one of His disciples would betray Him.

What has he written into your story?

Our Almighty God declares, "that they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things."



Bible Studies

Winter Bible Study Begins:

Monday February 2nd 6:30pm

Emotions and the Heart

See Melanie if you haven't signed up and would like a book

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM - Joan Little's House
(26675 P Road) - Topic Varies



Upcoming Events

2nd Tuesday of each month - Jhett's lunch at 11:30

Saturday February 21 - "Love Is..."

Teaching/Fellowship event. 9:00 - 11:30am

Fellowship Hall

Lesson, Craft, Music and More!

Friday March 27 - 6pm

Girl's Night Out - Bingo!

Watch for more information.

****These dates are subject to change****

First Baptist Church Women's Ministry Team

Team Leader: Melanie Woltje

Christi Boyden, Danica Haverkamp, Lisa Haverkamp,

Donna Jewell, Erin Lassey, Vanessa Wisdom

The Heart of Christ: Eternally Loving

"I love you." Three simple words spoken at weddings, on anniversaries, in children's bedrooms as they begin to drift into a deep sleep. Three words that hold more meaning and weight than our finite minds could ever truly comprehend. Yet, in our limited state, we say them. For some of us, our hearts feel full to bursting when we experience love. A first kiss, reciting marriage vows, or when that long-awaited baby is laid on your chest for the first time. Other kinds of love are learned throughout our lives but are an integral part of who we are. Parental care, friends who feel like family, or a teacher or mentor whose impact was not understood until later in life. No matter the kind of love, it has a beginning.

God has given us, as His creation, the capability and capacity to love. Love is a communicable attribute—an attribute that we are able to emulate—that God possesses. But we are not God. His attributes are far beyond anything we can do perfectly. We can love, but we will never love *perfectly* as God does. We can love, but we will never love *eternally* as God does. His love has no beginning and no end.

We see in Scripture that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Word (John 1:1-5). He stepped into humanity and, in doing so, was the most powerful depiction of God's love for His children. Imagine for a moment the sacrifice of Jesus. Prior to coming to earth, He was Spirit, like God the Father and the Holy Spirit. He dwelt everywhere in every single moment in time. He existed in perfect communion with God the Father. Yet He gave us His very existence that we might walk in a restored relationship with our Creator. He sacrificed Himself that we might simply know God's eternal love. Jesus was the *perfect* personification of the heart of God. During His life, He perfectly displayed God's heart for mercy, justice, grace, and redemption. He is the center of all history. Isaiah 9:6 tells us: "For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."

We serve the only King who stepped down from His throne to lay down His life for His rebellious, undeserving subjects. We serve the Savior who cannot do anything that is not completely drenched in His affection for us. We serve the only One whose love for us existed before man's footsteps were in the garden. And we serve the only One whose love for us will continue into eternity.

Additional reading... John 1:1-5, John 1:18, John 17:5
(*The Heart of Christ* from The Daily Grace Co.)

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The Holiness of God

Two virtues assigned to God, greatness and goodness, may be captured by one biblical word, holy. When we speak of God's holiness, we are accustomed to associating it almost exclusively with the purity and righteousness of God. Surely the idea of holiness contains these virtues, but they are not the primary meaning of holiness.

The biblical word holy has two distinct meanings. The primary meaning is "apartness" or "otherness." When we say that God is holy, we call attention to the profound difference between Him and all creatures. It refers to God's transcendent majesty, His august superiority, by virtue of which He is worthy of our honor, reverence, adoration, and worship. He is "other" or different from us in His glory. When the Bible speaks of holy objects or holy people or holy time, it refers to things that have been set apart, consecrated, or made different by the touch of God upon them. The ground where Moses stood near the burning bush was holy ground because God was present there in a special way. It was the nearness of the divine that made the ordinary suddenly extraordinary and the common, uncommon.

The secondary meaning of holy refers to God's pure and righteous actions. God does what is right. He never does what is wrong. God always acts in a righteous manner because His nature is holy. Thus, we can distinguish between the internal righteousness of God (His holy nature) and the external righteousness of God (His actions).

Because God is holy, He is both great and good. There is no evil mixed in with His goodness. When we are called to be holy, it does not mean that we share in God's divine majesty, but that we are to be different from our normal fallen sinfulness. We are called to mirror and reflect the moral character and activity of God. We are to imitate His goodness.

(ESV Reformation Study Bible; Theological Notes)



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