



ROUGE FREE WILL BAPTIST

MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

MASTER'S MEN REPORT: AUGUST 2026

John Zubor & Kevin Gripp: Directors

It is hard to believe that this summer has flown by but it truly has. The Master's Men are in our last month of Summer hiatus. However., there is plenty of work to be done this month.

Our Church will be holding Vacation Bible School August 10th through the 14th. This year's theme is "The Great Jungle Journey." Classes will be in session for all age groups, including adults with Bro. Charlie Baughman teaching. As part of missionary outreach there will be a school supply drive for each classroom. So, wear your best safari outfit, bring something for a school child in need and join us for fun while learning more from the Word of God.

Women Active for Christ will also be going on their annual retreat this month. We ask that you pray that they have a safe and wonderful time of fellowship.

When all of the activities in August are over it will almost be time for the Master's Men to get back to work. Our first meeting of the Fall will be Tuesday, September 8th at 6:30 p.m. The meeting location is Leon's Family Restaurant, on Telegraph Road in Taylor.

For those of you have yet to attend we discuss pertinent business, enjoy great food, a wonderful devotion and then tackle our "Question of the month." Topics are taken from scripture and the sharing of thoughts and spiritual truths is both enlightening and uplifting. We encourage all men to join us!

Ladies are always welcome for their own time of fellowship in the main dining room. It is a blessing to see them partaking in their own special time. We are looking forward to September's meeting!

John & Kevin



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MASTER'S MEN MISSION STATEMENT

The Master's Men of the Rouge Free Will Baptist Church are called to lead men to a mature spiritual relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In doing so, it is our intent to nurture Christian fellowship with each other, enrich the relationships with our families and support the ministry of the church.

Rev. Danny Slater: Pastor
Rouge Free Will Baptist Church

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ROUGE FREE WILL BAPTIST Master's Men Newsletter

I will
WALK BY FAITH
even when
I can not see



Master's Men Newsletter



For More Information or to Volunteer see Cheryl or Will Jackson.
Donations towards the VBS fund are welcomed and appreciated.

As part of our missionary work there will be a
school supply drive during VBS.

Amazon gift cards are welcome for school supplies.

Classes for all ages including adults with Bro. Charlie Baughman!!



MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Why Suffering by Charlie Baughman

THE INTELLECTUAL AND THE PASTORAL

One more distinction should be emphasized from the outset. At least as important as the question of why there is suffering is the question of how we will face pain.

In his book “God, Freedom, and Evil,” author Alvin Plantinga gives an enlightening statement concerning how a man may perceive his own suffering.

“In the presence of his own suffering or that of someone near to him a man may find it difficult to maintain what he takes to be the proper attitude towards God. Faced with great personal suffering or misfortune, he may be tempted to rebel against God, to shake his fist in God’s face, or even give up belief in God altogether. But this is a problem of a different dimension. Such a problem calls, not for philosophical enlightenment, but for pastoral care.”

I have met this need everywhere I have traveled. I have known this need numerous times in my life. Where do we find someone who cares as we walk through the valley of evil and suffering?

Many times, as we have our own personal experience in the presence of pain we find our intellectual answers are of no help when we are suffering ourselves. Because the emotional and psychological pain is often unrelenting, and the physical results from stress and mental pain are devastating.

Here a simple thought rings so powerfully: “When belief in God becomes difficult, the tendency is to turn away from Him—but in heaven’s name to what?” When Jesus asked the twelve disciples closest to Him whether they too would desert Him with the rest of the disciples, Peter replied for all of us down through the ages when he said, “Lord, to whom shall we go? (John 6:68) Where can one go for an answer?”

When we personally experience the destructiveness of sin in the human experience, it is critical for us to have the right counsel as we walk that lonely road. As Christians we often are guilty of giving glib answers to those in the midst of suffering. We must avoid that trap altogether.

This is where the Christian message stands tall above any other teaching on pain and suffering and goes beyond any other answers to our problem. The intellectual answers are important. But intellect alone cannot navigate the minefield of pain and suffering. Other worldviews also offer intellectual answers. But Christianity alone offers a person.

Ideas cannot bring lasting meaning, comfort, or hope. Only a person can. At the core of every response to the problem of pain and suffering is a relationship with God. The freedom to enter into that relationship and the empowerment to live in the fullness of life only comes through that relationship we have with our God.

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MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Why Suffering continued

I once had a conversation with an older Christian leader who was a friend of mine, and in the conversation he asked me what I was researching and studying at the time. I replied that I was reading two books by C. S. Lewis, "The Problem of Pain," and "A Grief Observed." I was also going back in time to two books that had impacted me at a very young age. "Death Be Not Proud" by John Gunther and "The View From the Hearse" by Joseph Bayly. My friend immediately looked directly at me and said, "Suffering is necessary. It is impossible to live a complete life without suffering." I just smiled. He continued, "If life is to be fully understood and lived, suffering is necessary." Which led me to ask him this question. "How does one get to that place of belief without losing faith and certainty?"

I knew this man's story. He had encountered much suffering in his lifetime. He suffered the loss of his Father at a very young age, raised by a single mother who had been widowed early and raised eight children. He had also accomplished much as a Pastor, Husband, Father, and Grandfather, and as a brilliant musician. As we sat there in his cluttered study I marveled at his life's story. His life was an answer to suffering. He had found the combination of a Savior and the Creator of the world of beauty and hope.

THE AUTHOR OF LIFE

I want to take you now through a simple progression of thought that reveals the primacy of human freedom in the Christian understanding of suffering.

The first and most important point is that God is the author of life. I do not wish to get bogged down in this point because there are lots of books that deal with the role of a Creator more thoroughly. But knowing that for many this is where it begins or ends, I should at least touch briefly upon it. One of my favorite authors and Christian Apologist is Prof. John Lennox at Oxford University. Prof. Lennox wrote a powerful book titled "Seven Days That Divide the World," in which he presents what I feel is the most plausible explanation of the Christian claim on creation and where the limitations lie for its defenders and challengers. The bottom line is whether the world contains within itself scientifically tenable arguments to explain who we are and why we are here. That is a big question and the variant understandings of how it happened are numerous.

Often, what is presented as the ultimate cause is nothing more than an intermediary one. For the brilliant Prof. Stephen Hawking (Who was an atheist and evolutionary scientist. Considered in his time to be the world's leading scientist.) to boast that gravity explains everything is simply ludicrous. It is not a credit to his scientific mind to post such weak statements as sufficient explanation. That is no more an explanation than saying that the printing of the dictionary is explained by the existence of the alphabet.

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MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Why Suffering continued

The Christian starting point is that God is the author of life. So, despite all the various rumblings of atheistic scientists concerning “panspermia.” The idea that we were seeded here by aliens or we grew from a one-celled slime, or whatever they may come up with, the difference really lies in one of two beginnings:

In the beginning God...with a purpose, with intent, with design, with a revealed blueprint, brought the created order into being, or

In the beginning nothing...no purpose, no design, yet from primordial slime or cloudburst with no prevision, nothing became something and the something gradually moved up the scale of complexity until thought emerged and, finally, this self-caused entity we call home-sapiens.

In the beginning was matter, or in the beginning was the mind of God? From these two starting points we have to understand why evil and suffering exist, why we hurt, bleed, suffer, and die.

WHY GOD?

The argument that God is the author of life is presented with three assumptions:

- 1. Nothing physical in this universe explains its own existence.*
- 2. Wherever one sees intelligibility, one assumes intelligence.*
- 3. God intervened in history and in moral reasoning.*

Who, then, is the Creator? In the Christian worldview, He is the nonphysical, intelligent, moral, and personal first cause of the universe who, in the incarnation of Jesus Christ, revealed Himself to mankind. If science struggles to explain life and if attempted explanations require billions of years to transpire, the least we can do is give the Christian the same privilege of eternity and of the nonphysical to build a coherent worldview.

I heard a story once about a young boy who inadvertently sat on a stack of his father's old LP's. In one careless moment, by sitting on them he broke his father's treasured collection. He knew he was going to be in real trouble.

Later that evening, when his dad came home and walked into his office he immediately saw the broken mess that once was his treasure, sitting there on the sofa. He stopped, stared, and bellowed out, “Who did this?” With a straight face his young son said, “It got sat upon.” Now, as crazy as that sounds, that was a brilliant, evasive response for the young fella! There was clearly an “it” that didn't explain its own origin. There was an instrument—a person involved—but he is conveniently removed by just talking of the action.

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MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Why Suffering concluded

Such is the explanation of some in the world of sciences. "It got acted upon." Even the grammar is in question when one talks of "evolutionary wisdom," attributing rational thought to a predicate without a subject. From whence came the "it"?

The possibility of any other participant is ignored because to admit that there was one would be to admit that the "it" did not cause itself. With God as the prime mover, an explanation for everything can be found. G. K. Chesterton said that the sun is the one created thing we cannot look at, but it is the means by which we look at the rest of creation. Like the sun, it is the spiritual that gives light to and explains everything else.

NEXT MONTH: WHAT IS THE STORY?



MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Be a Parachute Packer

Who Packs Your Parachute?

By Kare Anderson, Former Contributor. Forbes Magazine Published: Nov 18, 2015

Charles Plumb was a U.S. Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now speaks on the lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. "You were shot down!" "How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb.

"I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Praise what you want to flourish.

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you?' or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor."

Serve even when you are not seen in the act.

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Who's packing yours?

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?" Who has done something that has helped make your day safer – or easier or more pleasant – or who have you witnessed “packing” for someone else? Recognize them right away.

Each of us are touched by individuals who provide what we need to make it through the day. Some help inadvertently. Praise that person anyway. You are supporting the kind of behavior you respect – making it more likely to happen again.

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MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Be a Parachute Packer

We all need several kinds of parachutes.

Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory - he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say “hello,” “please,” “thank you” or “congratulations” – looking that person full in the face, without rushing the words.

As you go through this day, take the time to recognize those who packed your parachute.



Philippians 2:4: “Look not every man on his own things,
but every man also on the things of others.”



MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL SINGING



*Salvation's
Song*

Sunday, September 27th,
During morning
worship.²⁷



MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL SINGING

Souls Harbor



**Sunday, October 25th,
During morning worship.**



ROUGE FREE WILL BAPTIST

Master's Men Newsletter

August



2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5 <i>Bro. Mike Ringel Face Book Live & In Person Bible Study. 6:00 PM</i>	6	7	8
9	10 5:30-8:30PM VBS	11 5:30-8:30PM VBS	12 5:30-8:30PM VBS	13 5:30-8:30PM VBS	14 5:30-8:30PM VBS	15
16	17	18	19 <i>Bro. Mike Ringel Face Book Live & In Person Bible Study. 6:00 PM</i>	20 WAC Retreat	21 WAC Retreat	22 WAC Retreat
23	24	25	26 <i>Bro. Mike Ringel Face Book Live & In Person Bible Study. 6:00 PM</i>	27	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST IS LIKE THE SUNDAY OF SUMMER...