



ROUGE FREE WILL BAPTIST

MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Inside this Issue

MASTER'S MEN REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2026

John Zubor & Kevin Gripp: Directors

Fall is here! Well it is almost here and that means it is time for the Master's Men to get back to work. Starting with our first meeting on Tuesday, September 8th at 6:30 p.m. For those of you who haven't joined us yet, we meet a Leon's Family Restaurant on Telegraph Road in Taylor.

We enjoy a fine meal and great fellowship along with our monthly business agenda. After which we take on our "Question of the Month." These discussions are Bible based and very thought provoking. I think everyone would agree that each of us come away with some new insight.

There is much to discuss this month by way of business so please plan to attend. All men are welcome. You do not have to be a member to join us. And we truly hope to see you there.

We have included basic information on the Master's Men on the next page.

Even though we were technically on hiatus, it has been a very busy and exciting summer. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make VBS 2026 such a huge success! Your efforts helped teach the word of God to a record number of kids this year. We believe that the seeds that were planted will take root in these young lives and make a difference in their future. There are too many to mention by name, but a special word of appreciation goes out to all the teachers, helpers and especially Will and Cheryl Jackson for their tireless efforts. God bless you all and thank you, once again.

May you enjoy the beautiful colors of God's changing season!

John & Kevin



Continued on the next page...

<i>Master's Men Report</i>	1-2
Trunk or Treat	3
What is the Story by Charlie Baughman	4-7
Back to School Prayers	8
WAC Retreat 2026	9
VBS 2026	10-11
Special Singing	12-13
In Loving Memory	14
<i>September Calendar</i>	15



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

INFORMATION ON HOW THE MASTER'S MEN OPERATES

The Master's Men *do not* require dues, but do accept all donations. We ask our men to consider donating either \$5.00—\$10.00 monthly on a voluntary basis. These donations allow us to keep the number of fundraisers down while allowing us to have a sustainable income flow. The donations are used to promote fellowship within the church. Such as our Special Ladies in Christ Luncheon, to support the Masters Men Newsletter, to keep the cost of our Retreat as low as possible, and to assist with any special needs that may arise during the year, such as our “No Shave November.” A program that allows us to help those in our church that are battling cancer. It also allows us to support other ministries in our church, such as the Wyandotte City Wide Garage Sale sponsored by our Local Women Active for Christ. We also welcome donations from our Church family. We are always grateful for your kind support.

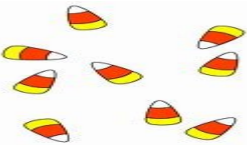
Master's Men Changing Lives One Man at a Time...





MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Trunk or Treat



Saturday, October 24, 2026

More details coming soon...

Start making plans to join us!

See Will or Cheryl Jackson

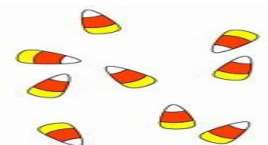
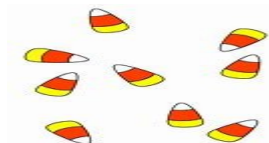


*So, dust off that old costume,
decorate your trunk and join us
to hand out treats!!*



**Donations of candy or money
are needed and appreciated!**

*(No candy with peanut butter
products, please.)*



MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Why Suffering by Charlie Baughman

WHAT IS THE STORY?

Since it is most logical that God is the author, the inference is that there is a story. There is a script. In the last chapter I asked whether there is a story that is true and comprehensive in dealing with the facts of evil and suffering. There is, and this story has a beginning and a culmination point: *worth* and *worship*.

These terms are tied into love and forgiveness, which in turn are undergirded by the gift of freedom. But let us stay with worth and worship for now. Those two simple words summarize the story. This really should not be surprising. We all seek essential worth right from the time we can relate and express. Watching a child grow up and watching a child go wrong is often all about self-image and self-esteem. Belonging and value are not just characteristics of things, they are characteristics of people. Life has essential value. Every life has worth because every life is created in the image of God.

But in that essential worth, we have the responsibility to understand the Creator's design and purpose. That purpose is to enjoy the true nature of love and relationship, which are to be found only in Him. All other loves and relationships are meant to reflect that perfect love and relationship.

Love has its boundaries and was never meant to be cheap. Love comes at the greatest cost and, when the cost is paid, brings the greatest reward. Watching a young bride and groom make their pledge to each other is not love. It is the promise of love and hope. Watching an elderly couple walk through a botanical garden hand in hand is love—the promise has been kept and the honor expressed. It is the same with God. Love is not when we first trust Him. Love is when through the unpredictable changes, the ups and downs in life or fortune, especially the unpleasant or difficult ones that are out of our control, and we still trust Him. Because we know God has kept His Word to sustain us, come what may.

If worth and worship are in the design, brokenness and selfishness are part of the weakness and spiritual corruption of the body and mind.

I remember a young woman once saying to me through her tears, "Let no one ever tell you that divorce is easy. It is the ultimate form of inner shattering." She went on to explain how many are hurt in the process. Does it happen? Yes. Is it painful? Yes. Why? Because it means the shattering of hope and of love. A broken love means a broken life. Love enters the deepest recesses of who we are. When love is plundered, the loneliness one is left with is agonizing. Are there some who will someday turn the corner? Thankfully, yes. But no one will deny the sorrow of the past.

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MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Why Suffering continued



Why did we walk away from the love of God? We made a free choice. We divorced Him. It is the question that demands explanation. The tempter played his game masterfully.

“Did God really say that?” Doubt. That was the starting point of the break between God and humanity. Has God really made such a prohibition? Hearing Eve’s response (either embellished or stated more fully) that if the prohibition were violated death would result, the tempter presented his challenge: “You will not certainly die.” And finally came the bait: “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (See Genesis 3:1-5)

Once it was acknowledged that God did say something, then came the counter perspective. This was in fact a challenge to take on God. “Surely you will not die if you disobey what He said. In fact, you will have the same power as God.”

The same three temptations were used in the wilderness with Jesus, except that fully understanding with whom he was dealing, the tempter camouflaged the temptations. (See Matthew 4:1-11) But the progression from doubting God’s promise to self-reliance, self-rule, and to decide what is right or wrong using your own reason and finally, to the offer of one’s own kingdom apart from God’s purposes is the same pattern of seduction. The tempter’s formula never changes, just the entry point.

If the Genesis account of the first temptation is studied, there are three panels to it. The first is to doubt God has spoken. The second is to challenge God with impunity, the freedom from punishment, harm, or bad results after doing something wrong or illegal. The third is to indict God’s reasoning: Has God threatened dire consequences of your disobedience to keep you from having the same power that He has? Is it to keep God from having an equal that He has given you these laws or condition’s that limit what you can do? It is amazing that these temptations to question God’s character came before the first humans at a time when they were in perfect fellowship with Him and knew the beauty of His presence and of His gifts in creation and love. But the gift God had given them of the freedom to choose became the abuse of trust.

These temptations are relived every day of our lives. Did God really say such and such? The tempter cleverly appealed to the first humans that the reason they should eat the fruit and violate God’s law was that they could then play God and set the rules. They could become the God of God, is the implication. How autonomy and power have seduced us across time! But lost in the process was God’s presence with them and their perfect relationship with Him. That is at the heart of the story.

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MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Why Suffering continued

It is important to understand that God's purpose for us was always a perfect relationship with Him. Just as water is to the body the presence of God is to the soul. In freely choosing to violate His law, we forfeited the consummate fulfillment of our spiritual longing.

Presence, relationship, holiness, trust, beauty, goodness, peace—all were present in the relationship between God and humanity at creation. By playing God and redefining good and evil according to our own discretion, we introduced into the human spirit disobedience, absence, severance, distrust, evil, and restlessness.

It is the most telling reality that by eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, we uprooted that tree and today, in the day of environmental protection, all trees are protected except that one. We want to hold God accountable to our notion of good, but we want to do away with the notion of evil and be accountable to nobody. We use our freedom to try to free ourselves from the very One who gives us our freedom. We want the gift without the giver. The symptom of evil remains—suffering—but we expunge the cause of evil—our own responsibility.

By changing the central meaning and framework of God's story, we have sought to change the narrative in our own lives and the result is, in one word, brokenness. We may call it independence or autonomy or coming of age or postmodern or progressive or political correctness. But in reality it is that we are broken. Renaming something does not change its essence. Our bluff will be called. Let me say it again. What has happened is that we have been broken. Life is broken. We are broken and splintered individuals. We have enslaved ourselves in violation of the purpose for which we were created, and the result has been a shattering of everything we were intended to be. The Bible calls it sin. And pain is that constant reminder of our brokenness.

Soren Kierkegaard, the Danish philosopher, said,

“If I had in my service a submissive Jinni who, when I asked for a glass of water, would bring me the world's most expensive wines, deliciously blended in a goblet, I would dismiss him until he learned that the enjoyment consists not in what I enjoy but in getting my own way.”

“Getting my own way.” We simply do not like the word “sin” and would rather call it anything else.



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MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Why Suffering concluded

Let us look at sin with a different lens. What is sin? Ultimately, it is redefining God's intended purpose for your life and charting your own course. When God says the body is sacred according to the definition that He has given, sin is redefining His purpose and desacralizing the body. When He gives us laws by which to live, sin is rebelling against God's rules and making our own rules. When He defines love, sin is profaning it for use to our own ends, as we define them. When He tells us there are consequences to disobedience, sin is demanding leniency when we flagrantly and unrepentantly break His laws. When God offers grace, forgiveness, and love when we have fallen short, sin is spurning Him for ourselves while demanding a higher standard of laws for others.

Sin is changing the purpose of God for our lives and becoming self-serving. This pertains to all matters with which we are entrusted. Whether time, money, words, commitments, relationships, or stewardship, we are given freedom and responsibility to honor those particulars in a manner that is consistent with our God-given purpose. God's Word given to humanity has been redefined by humanity. His Word was specific, but we have scrambled it up, thinking we know better.

An illustration of what I am saying comes from our language. The word "therapist" signifies one who is trained to help a person feel well, whether a psychotherapist or a physiotherapist. Therapy is the process employed to make the person well. If you break the word "therapist" in two a certain way, you no longer have a therapist, you have "the rapist." One makes you well, the other plunders you. A simple rearrangement has huge ramifications.

Another example can be found in a paraphrasing of Paul's injunction in Ephesians 4:28: "Let him that stole, steal no more. Let him labor with his hands." If the punctuation is changed just slightly, you have "Let him that stole, steal. No more let him labor with his hands."

I recently saw a T-shirt that read:

Come and eat, Grandma

Come and eat Grandma

Commas Make a Difference

Truth is primarily a property of propositions, and when you rearrange them or toy with the words or change the meaning you redefine reality. This was the deep-seated problem that caused physical and mental suffering, free choices at the dawn of human existence. "Did God really say...?"

NEXT MONTH: WHERE IS THE WOUND?

MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

Back to School Prayers

Back-to-School Prayer

Dear Lord, as teachers, students, and families
begin this new season, please grant them
patience, wisdom, and protection.

Patience among the chaos,
Wisdom to see all as whole people,
And Protection against anyone seeking to harm.

Amen.

Melody McAllister @mjmcalliwrites

Back-To-School Prayer

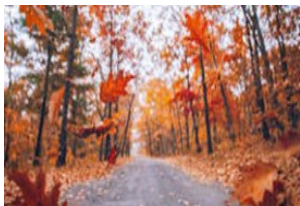
Loving God,
Watch over our children as
they begin their new school
year. Bless them with joy at
seeing friends, excitement at
new experiences, and a love
of learning.

Guide and protect all who
learn, replacing fear with joy,
anxiety with peace, and
tiredness with energy.
Give wisdom, patience, and joy
to teachers as they serve
their students.

In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

WAC Retreat



*2027 Retreat is Already Being Planned
See Brenda Johnson or Irma Stoots to
join this special time of fellowship and
fun!*

God Bless our WAC!

MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

VBS 2026-Jungle Journey



For more pictures and upcoming events check out RFWB Youth & Kids Ministries on Facebook!!





MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

VBS 2026-Jungle Journey





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.**



MASTER'S MEN NEWSLETTER

IN LOVING MEMORY



The Rose Beyond the Wall

*A rose once grew where all could see
sheltered beside a garden wall.
And as the days passed swiftly by
it spread its branches straight and tall.*

*One day, a beam of light shone through
a crevice that had opened wide.
The rose bent gently toward its warmth
then passed beyond the other side.*

*Now you who deeply grieve its loss
be comforted – the rose blooms there.
Its beauty even greater now
nurtured by God's own loving care.*



Verona Mayo
There simply are no words to encompass everything she was, is and will always be. A woman who loved, and was loved, fiercely and completely. A brave fighter and an incredible example. Precious Child Of God!



ROUGE FREE WILL BAPTIST

Master's Men Newsletter

September



2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday School for all ages 9:45 a.m. Every Sunday		1	2 Bro. Mike Ringel Bible Study. 6:00	3	4	5
6	7	8 6:30 p.m. Master's Men Meeting	9 Bro. Mike Ringel Bible Study. 6:00 PM	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Bro. Mike Ringel Bible Study. 6:00 PM	17	18	19 WAC Meeting 10AM
20	21	22 happy FIRST DAY of Fall	23 Bro. Mike Ringel Bible Study. 6:00 PM	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Bro. Mike Ringel Bible Study. 6:00 PM			

"I loved autumn, the one season of the year that God seemed to have put there just for the beauty of it." - Lee Maynard, American novelist