

The Devil's Favorite Sermons

(continued from last week)

On the other hand, there is nothing the devil fears more than strong preaching. It is God's power to save (1 Corinthians 1:18). Sermons filled with Scriptures, well explained and effectively communicated, are the ruination of the devil's purposes.

Strong preaching helps hearers learn the Bible. Paul wrote to the young preacher, "Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (1 Timothy 4:13). One of preaching's purposes is teaching. Pseudo-preachers are like Elymus who wanted to withhold the truth from Sergius Paulus (Acts 13:8). If preachers do not let hearers "search the Scriptures" for themselves (Acts 17:11), are they obeying God?

Strong preaching shows respect for biblical authority (Colossians 3:17). Hearers are reminded that the preacher is not speaking of himself (John 7:16; 8:28; 14:10), or asserting his own ideas (1 Peter 4:11; 2 Peter 1:20–21), but rather permitting God to speak for Himself (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

Strong preaching helps avoid misapplication (2 Peter 3:16). Error is often undetectable when disguised in a few familiar-sounding biblical words or phrases severed from their original context. When honest truth-seekers are given an opportunity to investigate, the truth sets men free (John 8:32). Faithful preachers have nothing to hide; they desire that listeners check on them. Since each is responsible for working out his "own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12), preachers help by pointing others to Jesus (John 1:36) and His Word (Hebrews 4:12).

Strong preaching follows the biblical precedent. Jesus often said, "It is written" (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10) and "found the place where it was written" (Luke 4:16–17) before beginning to preach. Peter's sermon on Pentecost (Acts 2) had quotations from Joel 2:28–30, Psalms 16:8–11, 110:1, and 2 Samuel 7:11–12.

Strong preaching fulfills the purpose of preaching (2 Timothy 4:2). As farmers, preachers are to sow the word (Luke 8:11; Acts 20:32). The power to save men is in the gospel (Romans 1:16; 2 Corinthians 12:9; John 8:32; Ephesians 6:17). It is not in money (Acts 3:6), men (Acts 4:13), or popularity (Acts 28:20).

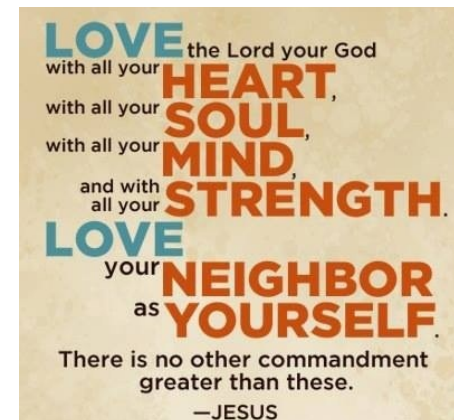
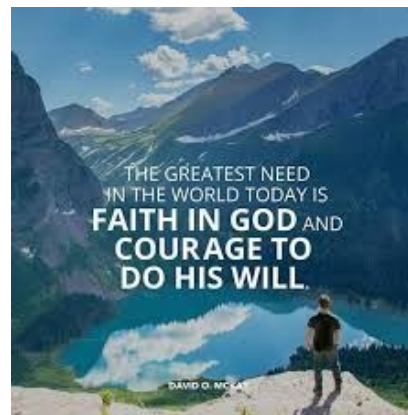
Paul faced the problem at Corinth where men preached themselves rather than the Word. He wrote, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18).

The Master said, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself" (John 12:32). Preaching "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 1:23; 2:2) is the focal point of the message. Paul wrote, "O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge" (1 Timothy 6:20) and "shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness" (2 Timothy 2:16).

Across the front of many communion tables read the words, "This Do in Remembrance of Me." In the early days of the Restoration Movement, it was not uncommon to see inscribed across pulpits the exhortation, "Preach the Word."

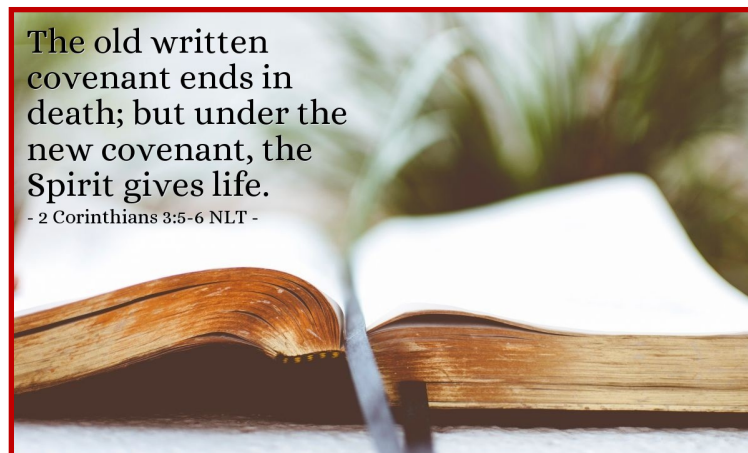
Prayers and Concerns

- ♦ Lisa Goodnight has to wait till August 6 for surgery to remove the brain tumor behind her ear. The swelling has to diminish for successful removal. She needs prayers for patience as she waits.
- ♦ Bill Cockrum had successful back surgery Wednesday.
- ♦ Dorlene's brother Ricky Strain has been diagnosed with mouth cancer.
- ♦ Remember those with health issues—Barbara Stevens, Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Lloyd Ellis, Ruth Strain, Coe Hamm, Vicki Boland.
- ♦ All those battling cancer—Dale Strong, Terry Pennington, Pat McKaig, Jamie Crisp, Ricky Langston, Lisa Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Wayman King, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth, Dan Harvey.
- ♦ GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Delphia Holmes, Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.
- ♦ Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piepergerdes.



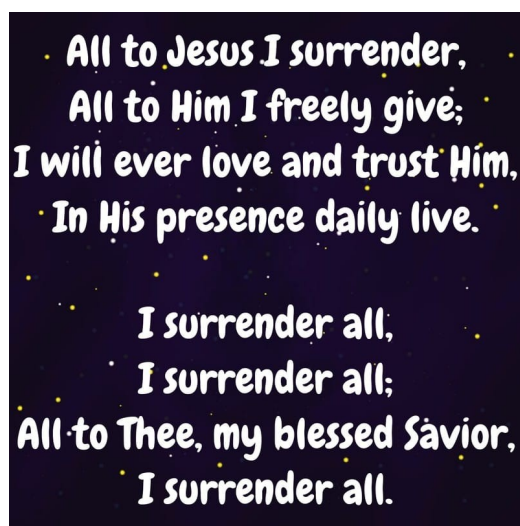
The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.

- 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 NLT -



Birthdays		Anniversaries	
7-3	Ronnie Hambelton (80)	7-1	Larry and Dorlene Butler
7-8	Emma McGinnis	7-4	David and Barbara Stevens (57)
7-9	Bryce Hambelton	7-10	Dale and Brenda Strong (61)
7-13	Oakley Goodman (5)	7-15	Titus and Jessica Smith
7-23	Diana Moyers-Siebels	Birthdays	
7-27	Mary Piepergerdes	7-30	Esther Strong
7-28	Myles Smith (5)		

Date	Event	Details
Sunday, Aug. 16 & Oct. 18, 1:30	Nursing Home Service singing and devotional	Meet in party room, 200 hall.



August Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

Today	Don Luna
8-2	David Stevens
8-9	John Abraham
8-16	Mark Lane
8-23	Don Luna
8-30	David Stevens

Communion & Closing Prayer

Paul Wade
Dana Crisp
Matt Kyle
Titus Smith
Halbert Smith
Waylon Strong

Song Leader: Titus Smith; John Abraham

Greeters: Kay Young and Mary Lou Snelson; Don and Barbara Luna

The Family News

July 26, 2026

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***In with the New!***

Wednesday

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up front

#121, *Come Let Us All Unite*; #95, *He Keeps Me Singing*

#354, *I Gave My Life for Thee*; Communion Service

#578, *We Will Glorify*

Sermon and Invitation

#915, *Trust and Obey*

#15, *Step by Step*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane	417-679-4835
Don Luna	417-712-1945
David Stevens	417-679-4700
John Abraham	870-421-5632

Deacons

Dana Crisp	417-331-5090
James Langston	870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us