



the
Visionary
 THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

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Christian Liberty

Pastor Carl Robbins

Through the years Sandy and I have been told the following were taboo for Christians. I have actually been soundly rebuked for several of these. I will leave it to your imagination to guess which ones. This list is not meant to be exhaustive...it's merely a recitation of SOME of the taboo's that Sandy & I have personally encountered in Christian circles. We could easily add dozens more !

- ◆ Attending movies
- ◆ Cooking with wine
- ◆ Participating in organized sports
- ◆ Playing billiards
- ◆ Playing cards
- ◆ Playing dominos
- ◆ Listening to opera music (esp. Wagner!)
- ◆ Smoking
- ◆ Growing tobacco
- ◆ Dipping snuff
- ◆ Chewing tobacco
- ◆ Wearing bobbed Hair (women)
- ◆ Cutting hair at all! (women)
- ◆ Coloring hair (women)
- ◆ Driving a car with chrome
- ◆ Wearing a tie (men)
- ◆ Not wearing a tie (men)
- ◆ Listening to syncopated music
- ◆ Wearing a beard (men)
- ◆ NOT wearing a beard (men)
- ◆ Drinking wine

- ◆ Cooking or eating food in the church building
- ◆ Listening to jazz music
- ◆ Buying life insurance
- ◆ Wearing pants (women)
- ◆ Wearing hair over the collar (men)
- ◆ Wearing hair above the shoulders (women)
- ◆ Watching TV
- ◆ Wearing shorts (women)
- ◆ Wearing makeup (women)
- ◆ Owning a foreign car
- ◆ Having a mortgage
- ◆ Wearing sandals to worship (men)
- ◆ Dancing
- ◆ Having a Christmas tree

Our “public theology,” the Westminster Confession of Faith, was penned in the 1640's and was the first church council (after the 1st century) to make a creedal pronouncement on Christian freedom. The Protestant Reformation had been ongoing for over 125 years and several major confessions had been drafted (Augsburg, Genevan, Scots, Heidelberg, Synod of Dordt & others). But up until that point no systematic or extensive statement of Christian Liberty had been adopted as the doctrine of the church. So, when Chapter 20 of the Westminster Confession was adopted and made public in the 1640's, it was like a bombshell exploding. Many historians have advanced the notion that it was this doctrine (Christian Liberty), in the hands of Founding Fathers like John Witherspoon, that drove the passion for freedom in the USA.

Our Confession makes several profound assertions about Christian Liberty:

- ◆ Freedom is the characteristic of someone who has a saving relationship with Jesus (John 8:31-47)
- ◆ Christian Freedom does not conflict with the necessity of obeying Christ's commands (John 14:15)
- ◆ Christian Liberty is comparative: under the New Covenant we have greater freedom than did the Old Covenant believer
- ◆ Christian Liberty is substantial: it involves deliverance from the wrath of God! (Ephesians 2:1-3, Luke 4:18-19)
- ◆ Christian Liberty is freedom from the bondage to sin (Titus 3:3, Romans 6:17-18)

But the most immediately impacting statement was this: *God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are, in anything, contrary to his Word; or beside it, if matters of faith, or worship. So that, to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commands, out of conscience, is to betray true liberty of conscience: and the requiring of an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also.*

Because of Christ's finished work, we are "free from the traditions of men" (many of which I listed at the top of this article!), so that we are bound ONLY by the Word of God.

We, as God's adopted children, are bound in conscience to the Word our Father has spoken. But in all "other matters" we have freedom to exercise the wisdom and discernment we have by the Holy Spirit. These "other matters" are

sometimes described by the word *adiaphora* (i.e. things indifferent). They constitute a vital area of Christian freedom, but one in which the people of God have often failed to maintain the liberty which God has given them.

The Pharisees were an example of the failure to maintain freedom. They felt that in order to safeguard obedience to God's law FURTHER LAWS (i.e. human traditions) needed to be added. This characterized Paul according to Galatians 1:13-14.

- ◆ This had devastating effects
- ◆ They distorted the TRUE character of the Law
- ◆ They placed an illegitimate burden on the people of God
- ◆ They distorted the character of God's grace (and therefore God Himself)

Their failure to allow "things indifferent" to be judged by individual consciences ultimately drove the Pharisees into satanic opposition to the Kingdom of God. By their traditions they nullified the Word of God (per Mark 7:13). So, in this case—"things indifferent" couldn't be treated as a matter of indifference! Jesus HAD to rebuke the Pharisees (Matt. 23:27-28) and demonstrate the freedom God had given His people.

Pastor Carl Robbins
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The Bible as Central

Pastor Dan Dodds

Roman Catholic doctrine teaches that there are two authorities when it comes to spiritual matters – the church and Scripture. But it doesn't take too much thought to realize that there cannot be two ultimate authorities – one must give way to the other. And since the Roman Catholic doctrine teaches that the church is the official interpreter of Scripture, the interpretation and 'official' meaning of the texts are channeled through the church making the church the final authority – even over the Scriptures. This teaching of the Roman Catholic church is not new; it was taught even before the Reformation. Thus, when the Reformation began, one of the key correctives of the Reformers was to reclaim the authority of the Scriptures over and above that of any man, church, or council. The latter may all err, the Scriptures do not. This gave rise to the teaching in the Reformation of Sola Scriptura – Scripture alone. That is, Scripture alone is the final authority over any and all matters that it addresses. Hence, we read in the Westminster Confession, Chapter 1, Paragraph 4, "The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, depends not upon the testimony of any man, or church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore, it is to be received, because it is the Word of God."

What does that mean to us today? For the reformed Christian, this means that we must always defer to the Scripture as our final authority. What other authorities are there? In the end, you only have two options – man or God. Authority is always related to a person; so, either God (the tri-personal, absolute Creator) is the sole Authority speaking through His Word; or man (collectively or individually) is his own authority (i.e. 'homo mensura' – man is the measure of all things). Today there are two

versions of this that are repeatedly appealed to by modern man.

False Authorities

Science: Though we often hear people appeal to 'science' as authoritative on many matters – even matters that are far out of their fields of study – science is not a person, scientists are. So, when you hear someone say "science says..." you should immediately correct them by saying, "You mean, some scientists agree that..."

Feelings: As the people in our culture turn from Scripture and God as authoritative, they are more and more consulting their feelings for 'truth.' Even when it comes to their own sexuality, they believe – contrary to empirical observation – that their sexuality is determined by how they feel about it. Thus, their sexuality is 'fluid' – it can change as often as their feelings about it change. In this case, no one can ever be wrong about anything, because they are expressing their strongest feelings of that moment.

Over and against these false authorities, the Christian affirms the centrality of Scripture. This is not to be understood as a capitulation nor perceived as restrictive. In fact, Scripture gives liberty to those who trust in its words because it teaches them about the world in which they live, the one that God created.

Reality is not flexible. It does not bend to our will or care about how we feel. And the Scriptures are God's revelation to us about the hard corners of reality and the pitfalls of rebellion in the world He created. In them, He teaches about how we can avoid the ravages of sinful choices and how to maximize our relationships and fulfill our purpose. Most importantly, the Scriptures teach us how we can be reconciled with God and how to know Him. Because of this, the Bible is central – foundational, authoritative, primary, ultimate – in the life of every believer.

Pastor Dan Dodds
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Beginning September 14 . . .

A LADIES' THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

HEART



WORK

If, as Carl Robbins often says, "Prayer is the engine of the church," then prayer is also the engine of the Daily Christian Life. How is your engine? Are you in need of a tune-up? In need of power? In need of grace? If so, join us on Thursday mornings as we learn together from our Master Himself.

When: September 14-November 16, 10:00-11:30 am

Where: WRPC Choir Room

Who: Ladies ages 12 and up

Childcare/Excellent Kids' Programs (ages 0-11)

Sign-ups begin early August

The Re-Discovery of Grace

Pastor Scotty Anderson

The Apostle Paul wrote to Rome, “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?” (Rom 6:1) The warning is against the taking for granted and abuse of the free grace of God in Christ. It is a genuine danger to the soul and sanctification of every believer who has discovered and grappled with the full implications of justification by faith alone. But, this is not the greatest danger by far.

The greatest danger is to miss justification by faith alone and to be confused on the reason for your acceptance with God. Such was the case in the pre-Reformation Church. Disinterest, distortion, confusion, conflation, manipulation, and exploitation were not just common, they were the rule of the day. And at the center of all of the Church’s errors was its teaching and knowledge of the way of salvation.

This was the prevailing error which the light of the Protestant Reformation exposed and refuted: that the work of salvation was the work of God, all of grace, free and full, by faith alone. It lowered the view of man’s capabilities but raised man’s view of God. It exalted Christ to the highest place.

How did this come to pass?

Through a great deal of pain and study. Not that free grace is difficult to obtain. But, when people walk in darkness, in Scriptural ignorance, in man-made religion, it can be made hard.

The Reformation had its forerunners. The 14th Century offered both John Wycliffe and John Hus, inspirers of a new confidence in Scripture in spite of being condemned as heretics. And it was Martin Luther who most profoundly reshaped the world’s thinking on the doctrines of grace.

The Augustinian monk’s unappeasable conscience drove him to daily confession, self-flagellation, and physical privation in efforts to

appease the God who hounded him constantly until he discovered Romans 1:17.

“At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night, I gave heed to the context of the words, namely, ‘In it the righteousness of God is revealed, as it is written, “He who through faith is righteous shall live.”’ There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith. And this is the meaning: the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel, namely, the passive righteousness with which merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written, ‘He who through faith is righteous shall live.’” (An excerpt from his autobiography in Luther’s Works)

Luther compared his new evaluation of the phrase with the rest of what he knew of the Scriptures (of which he said, “I knew them nearly all by memory.”) He called his new understanding of the work of God on his behalf “my sweetest word.” Everything changed. God and His Christ were no longer a pure terror against him, but truly his Savior. He was rescued from original sin. “Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates.”

Such was, and is, the experience of so many who come to understand just how much has been done for us in salvation. That salvation depends wholly on the merits of Christ and that this is what the Scriptures clearly teach rocked the world. God supplied His church with the glorious printing press and incredibly competent men who expounded the grace of God from the word of God.

And not to be missed, the Reformation was very much a lay movement. People flocked to the revolution which was not a mere renewal of morals, but a true reformation of doctrine. The

God men thought they knew was actually bigger, holier, more loving and gracious than they had ever imagined. As their knowledge of the grace of God changed, so did their worship and works. True piety became a possession of the people. Faithful preaching came in demand. Education flourished. Missions advanced. Prosperity followed. The world was changed. All from one doctrine, in one book.

Of course, there is far more that could be said. Other doctrines matter, and matter greatly, but it is rightly said that the doctrine of justification by faith alone is the article upon which the church stands or falls. Grace, *God's grace*, is everything.

Pastor Scotty Anderson
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Youth Activities

- ◆ **Hymn Sings** - Various Dates
- ◆ **Fall Conference** (David Sanders)
November 15-17 - \$80
- ◆ **Winter Formal?** - TBD

Men's Activities

- ◆ **Men @ the Gates:** The next book, which we will begin in September, is entitled *Amazing Grace*, by Eric Metaxas. It is the biography of William Wilberforce. Pastor Carl told me recently that he had read it and that it was a 'paradigm shifter' for him. That's high praise - and not one he gives out often. Come join us on Tuesday mornings at 6:15 a.m. at the church or Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at IHOP (I-385 and Woodruff Road).
- ◆ **Fathers & Daughters Campout:** On October 13th and 14th the fathers of WRPC will host their daughters for a one night campout at Lake Hartwell. See Mark Laps for further details.
- ◆ **Build a Cabin:** The men of WRPC will build a small cabin at Ridge Haven during November 1-4. The project runs from Wednesday morning to Saturday lunch. As an extra incentive, Ridge Haven has also invited your entire family - room and board - for FREE. Bring your wife and kids to enjoy a few free days at RH - meals included! (By the way, these aren't the typical camp meals - they're quite good!)
- ◆ **Fathers & Sons Conference:** February 9-10, 2018, the fathers of WRPC and their sons are going to Ridge Haven for a two night conference. Paul Sanders will be our speaker and the weekend will include plenty of free time for hiking and play.

VBS for the Indian Community in Herndon, VA

Molly Spurgeon



Answered Prayer

When the WRPC team headed up to Fairfax County there was one Indian child registered for VBS. Ever trusting in the Lord, Jegar and Jemima never entertained the idea of cancelling. The evening before they were to begin, there were thirteen children registered; even more were there Tuesday morning when the doors opened. We asked for prayer from WRPC and challenged the children to return to VBS with a friend. By Thursday, we were sharing the Gospel with as many as 34 children. Your faithful prayers were answered and the Word went out to these precious children each day. Please continue to pray that the Lord will soften their hearts and the truth of scripture will stay fresh in their minds.



Scripture

Indian families desire for their children to learn moral values and this is their goal in sending

children to Bible School. Our goal was to hide God's Word in the children's hearts. Throughout the week, VBS participants were saturated in scripture memory. We said it aloud, sang it, taught corresponding sign language, repeated it often during Bible lessons, and recited it during recreation. Our greatest desire for the week was for them to walk out saturated in scripture the Lord can faithfully bring to their minds for salvation. Please pray the Holy Spirit will work through these verses to quicken the hearts of these dear little ones. The verses they learned were: I Cor. 15:57, Psalm 46:1, Zech 9:9, Rev. 4:8, and Prov. 30:5. Consider praying through these verses with the Indian children in mind.



Parents and Grandparents

As volunteers were conducting VBS stations, Jegar, Jemima, Sheena, and Josh were building relationships with the parents and grandparents at the door. Many family members lingered throughout the morning allowing time for conversations with leadership and observation of lessons and songs. Josh, nicknamed "The Gatherer", rounded up children in his community to bring to VBS. He, along with the Jegars and other volunteers, went door to door in the evenings making connections in the Herndon

community. We greeted neighbors, gave invitations to VBS, and shared information about First Asian Indian Presbyterian Church worship services and Bible studies. Please pray these families will see beyond their need for morality. Pray they will see their sin, their hopelessness, and their need for a Savior.



Shoulder to Shoulder

What an amazing thing it is to be a part of a team gathered from different churches laboring together to share Jesus with unchurched children. Jemima has such a gift of discerning people's gifts and putting them to use for God's glory. We had members from First Asian Indian, Spriggs Road, and Woodruff Road churches all working together efficiently and effectively. The VBS was in a community center, so we had to build up and tear down the "Mighty Fortress" every morning and every afternoon. There were no individual classrooms for the various stations, yet we all found a corner where we stayed focused, busy, and engaged. There was such purpose, joy, and cooperation among this fantastic group of people. It was valuable to build

bonds and relationships with brothers and sisters of all ages and walks of life with the common goal of spreading the Gospel. Please pray God will stir the hearts of these volunteers and others for continued outreach. Pray for an upcoming Christmas event and also for the 2018 VBS. Prayerfully consider blocking off time at the end of next July and joining the group to serve alongside the Jegars.



Fellowship with the Jegars

Heading to Fairfax County for VBS includes precious time with Jegar, Jemima, and Sheena. Part of our time together was spent running VBS related errands, but there was also meaningful fellowship and lots of eating! The night before VBS began, we had a time of prayer and singing hymns. We also had devotions with Jegar and prayer in the car with Jemima every morning. What a blessing! "Jemima's Kitchen" was open morning, noon, and night filled with wonderful smells and tastes. Members of our group enjoyed the delights of historic Clifton, the history of

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the delights of historic Clifton, the history of Manassas National Battlefield, the fascination of the Native American and the Chantilly Air and Space museums, the experience of international grocery stores, and the delights of tasting foods in Thai and Korean restaurants. (There were also some beauty cream facemasks for a handful of us while others were out of the house. Those pictures you do not get to see.) Please pray for continued fellowship and encouragement from fellow laborers and that the Lord will grant perseverance to the Jegars as they continue in this ministry.



Call Answered

From the beginning, Jegar and Jemima have desired to have a VBS specifically for Indian children. After years of prayer and preparation, First Asian Indian Presbyterian Church opened the doors of McNair Farms Community Center for a Bible School filled with Tamil children. While some of these children are deeply embedded in the Hindu religion, (one little girl even delighted to show me the god in her

necklace) they have now heard the name of Jesus and have learned of His love for them and of His finished work on the cross for their sins. They have scripture in their memories and a New Testament in their hands. Please pray the Lord will lead these families into the worship services and Bible studies offered by FAIPC-PCA. Pray the children will be drawn to the scriptures of the Bibles they now possess and that the Lord will be pleased to graft these families into the body in His perfect timing.

Prayerfully consider supporting this ministry financially. You can indicate your support on WRPC offering envelopes and drop them into the offering plate any Sunday. Jegar and Jemima also connect with Asian Indian college students. Feel free to drop a donation in the mail to treat these students to a coffee or bowling fellowship, as many are far away from home and family. Also remember Sheena in your prayers and with cards or notes as well. She labors faithfully alongside her parents all the while keeping up with the demands of senior year and college applications.

Feel free to contact me or talk to me at church if you have any questions or are wondering how to become involved in the ministry of First Asian Indian Presbyterian Church. ~ Molly

Preparing for the Worship of God

You cannot expect to rush into church after an exhausting Saturday night and "be worshipful."

Try to get a good night's rest so that you can be alert and attentive to the majesty and presence of the Lord.

WIC Update

Linda Lee Wade, WIC President

Words of Encouragement

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not unto men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance: for you serve the Lord Christ.”

Colossians 3:23-24

I know that, as women, we are in different stages of life with varying resources; but, in whatever sphere God has placed you today, (single, a working mom, a parent or grandparent dealing with the business of training children and grandchildren, a woman wanting a child or family to call her own, or a woman trying to do her best to take care of her aging parents) be encouraged. He sees you wiping jam off the breakfast table for the umpteenth time. He sees you holding the wrinkled hand graced with age of a parent who needs you.

Be active in loving and working with those that God has placed in your immediate life. Reflect Christ's love by your deeds. Time is going by quickly, but as you store up your treasures in heaven the time is not wasted. Time spent with Christ will bolster your relationship with Him, and those to whom you minister will benefit from seeing godly examples of Christ's love.

Upcoming Opportunities & Activities

Pet Food Drive

This October, we will be collecting small bags of pet food to distribute to people who receive Meals on Wheels and have pets. By providing pet food, the folks won't be tempted to give up their own food to keep their pet from going hungry. This will be a great blessing to those friends who depend on their pets as their constant companions. Thank you in advance for your gift to others.

Fall Ladies' Bible Studies

- ◆ Morning Study - **Heart Work**
Led by Val Domagalski
September 14 – November 16
WRPC Choir Room
Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM

Childcare and kid's programs available for infants to age 11

- ◆ Evening Study - **The Son of David: Seeing Jesus in the Historical Books**
September 14 – November 16
Home of Suzanne Patterson
Thursdays at 7:00 PM

*211 Crepe Myrtle Court
(Forrester Woods)*

New Members & Baptism



Clint & Kelly Ooten

Membership Vows

July 16, 2017

Sacrament of Baptism

Of their children

Madeline Brianne, Taylor Kendall & Claire Grace

tyed, Covenant Children

Sacrament of Baptism

Elena Sofia Stoller

Covenant Child of
Kevin & Andreina Stoller
and sister
Anna Valentina

August 6, 2017



What They're Reading

Recommended Reading from the Pastoral Staff

This year is the 75th anniversary of Desert Island Disc (Pastor Carl's favorite program on BBC 4 Radio) where a person is asked which eight records they would take with them to a desert island. So, we thought we'd do a WRPC spin and call it Desert Island Books and interview each of the pastors. The Ground Rules:

- ◆ You already have your Bible with you (of course).
- ◆ You really have to stick with eight individual volumes. (No fair counting John Owen's 16 volumes as ONE book)
- ◆ You have to explain WHY you are bringing THAT book.

Pastor Robbins

I started to be a smart-aleck (one of my many besetting sins) and choose the *Army Survival Manual*, but these are books that have impacted me greatly. If you ask me tomorrow there might be some different volumes here.

- 1) Thomas Boston's *Human Nature in its Fourfold State* – I have been a devotee of Boston for over 30 years and have read his entire corpus. But this book (penned in the early 1700's) analyzes man in his pre-fallen state, his fallen state, his regenerate state, and his glorified state. This thick volume has helped me understand MYSELF, my struggles with sin, and the future the Lord has in store for me.
- 2) William Symington's *Messiah the Prince* – This marvelous book carefully teaches the rule of Christ over the nations and His Kingship is taught in a way that causes me to worship every time.

- 3) John Calvin's *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* – I'm a Calvinist. You didn't think I could go on a 3-hour cruise without at least one of Calvin's books, did you? Just the section on prayer is worth the price of the book. But this 450-year-old theology book oozes devotion and wisdom.
- 4) Iain Murray's *The Puritan Hope* – My copy is falling apart. Murray (one of the founders of the Banner of Truth Trust) accomplishes something astounding. He teaches an optimistic eschatology while showing the necessity of private and corporate prayer while promoting world missions!
- 5) O. Palmer Robertson's *The Christ of the Covenants* – This book was responsible for delivering me from dispensationalism and bringing me into the happy sunlight of covenant theology.
- 6) Flannery O'Connor's *A Good Man is Hard to Find* – This mid-20th century Georgia writer is my absolute favorite. Ten of her short stories are combined in this volume which is a fabulous representation of her work. The title story is a model for how to write (good prose has fallen on hard times) and she weaves sin and redemption through it all.
- 7) John Murray's *Principles of Conduct* – This is still the finest treatment in print on Christian ethics! (Ethics will be important on a desert island, just ask Gilligan and the Skipper.) Along the way, Murray addresses law and grace, creation ordinances, honesty (including

demonstrating that it is NEVER lawful for a Christian to lie), and much more. His tome will hone your conscience razor sharp.

- 8) *The Trinity Hymnal* - A good hymnal contains the best music from every era of the church's history and the *Trinity* (our hymnal) is superb at collecting the best of the Ancient Church, the Reformation era, and even the modern era. How could I praise God in song without my hymnal?

Pastor Dodds

- 1) *Pilgrim's Progress* - Bunyan. I understand that Spurgeon read this book once a year. I have read it several times and never find it dull; rather, it is an encouragement to persevere.
- 2) *Trinity Hymnal* - You must sing wherever you are and there are no better songs to sing than the historic hymns of the faith.
- 3) Biographies - On our recent family trip we listened to the biographies of Adoniram Judson, Hudson Taylor, and William Carey from the *Christian Heroes* series. Any one of them (and there are many more) would be a great encouragement given the obstacles they had to overcome. They make my life seem very average. I understand that George Whitefield's biography is one of the best.
- 4) *Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord?* - Michael Morales - I found this book to be one of the best overviews of the Bible. It asks the most fundamental question we can ask: "How can I be reconciled with God?" The book is so full of information that I believe it would take years to

process all of it, and I would savor every minute of it!

- 5) *The End for Which God Created the World* - Edwards - or the Piper version, *God's Passion for His Glory*, which helps us to understand Edward's profound book. Another great volume that brings perspective to life - even on a deserted island!
- 6) *Institutes of the Christian Religion* - Calvin - I took a course on this book with Dr. Greg Bahnsen. It was over 50 hours of lectures and I still feel like I have only scratched the surface.
- 7) *Presuppositional Apologetics Stated and Defended* - Bahnsen - You don't think I wouldn't have a book on this topic, do you? Bahnsen wrote this book before he died, but it was lost for years and then published posthumously. I have not read it carefully but would love the chance on a deserted island to sit down and enjoy it!
- 8) For my eighth book, I would like a book on either horticulture or boatbuilding.

Pastor Anderson

- 1) *The ESV Study Bible (Notes)* - If I have my Bible, I also want my Study Bible. After sampling many over the years, none is as useful or comprehensive as the *ESV Study Bible*, giving attention to history, key elements of language, theology, and piety. It's uneven in a few places, but not many.
- 2) *The Westminster Standards* - Any book which takes 159 men five years to write is

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worth owning and reading. No, it's not a book per se, but if you include compendium of the Confession, Catechisms, and the Directories for Worship (*Family* and *Public* [sic]) then we're talking a book, and a book worth having. B.B. Warfield said of them, "The Westminster Standards . . . are the richest and most precise and best guarded statement ever penned of all that enters into evangelical religion, and of all that must be safeguarded if evangelical religion is to persist in the world."

- 3) *The Valley of Vision* – If you've ever been exposed to the V of V, you'll know why I'd want it. It's a collection of Puritan prayers that are beautifully poetic and stirring. It's my crutch when my devotional and prayer life become weak. I never fail to find my heart and affections moved toward God by a reading from this treasure.
- 4) *Knowing God* – Packer is not perfect but this book awakens you to God's worthiness to be worshiped. I was blown away the first time I read it and it shaped me as much as Sproul's *Chosen by God* and *The Holiness of God*. It never gets old and is one of my favorite gifts for those who would read it.
- 5) *Mere Christianity* – I'd bring it partly because Pastor Robbins won't bring any C.S. Lewis. Also, this book always surprises and I feel like I get fresh insights each time I read it. It's a cliché for modern evangelicals to like this book, but for a reason.

I'll steal three from Pastor Robbins. (He can't have all the good books on his island.) Same reasons:

- 1) Calvin's *Institutes* – for its comprehensiveness as well as warmth
- 2) Ryle's *Holiness* – because few books are as convicting and helpful
- 3) Palmer Robertson's *The Christ of the Covenants* – because it's the best out there at bringing together the metanarrative of Scripture

If you feel cheated because of my repeats, here are three more I'd like on my island:

- 1) *Studies in Theology* - B.B. Warfield – This is not the same works of Warfield Pastor Robbins says take up too much room on the island, but it is some of his best essays. Warfield has always made theology warmer and more accessible.
- 2) *Pilgrim's Progress* – How many adventure/theology/devotional/apologetic story books are there in the world? None like this amazing allegory that is as fun to read as it is didactic about the life of the believer. Bunyan was amazing and this book is so much better if you know your Bible.
- 3) *War and Peace* – I've never read this, but I'm thinking I'd probably have time for it on a deserted island. I won't read it otherwise.

Sermon Audio

Michael Bolick

I was brought up as a Southern Baptist and my wife, Sheelah, was raised as an Episcopal. After attending church with Sheelah, I was drawn to the concept of kneeling during prayer and enjoyed the “smells and bells” associated with Anglican worship practices. When we married in 1988, I switched denominations and we spent the next fifteen years as active members of the Episcopal Church.

I did not know it at the time, but I was woefully ignorant of most biblical doctrines. I considered myself to be pretty knowledgeable but I was instead what Paul refers to as an “*infant in Christ*” (1 Corinthians 3). Despite my lack of knowledge on many other topics, I was taught and strongly believed that the Bible was inerrant. In 2003, while serving as a member of the vestry in an Episcopal church here in the area, the national Episcopal church drifted into practices that clearly conflicted with the most basic of biblical principles. When I expressed my concerns to local church leaders, I realized that I was not in the majority and I could not reconcile my faith with this new direction. After some soul searching, I decided we needed to find a Bible-based church. I resigned from the vestry, left the Episcopal church, and started a search for a new church home.

I approached the search according to problem solving methods hammered into me during my education as an engineer. I laid out a matrix of all the major Christian denominations with a plan to eliminate those suffering from the same drift as the Episcopal church and to highlight those that would be a slave to the Word through expository verse-by-verse preaching. I will not belabor the point here but the search was much more difficult than I initially expected, primarily because I was so ignorant of even the

terminology needed to differentiate denominations.

Providentially, I came across the sermon download page on www.woodruffroad.com. It only took a couple of Woodruff Road Presbyterian Church sermons to confirm that WRPC was a Bible-based church. We visited and joined the church soon thereafter. After attending for a few weeks, I started to realize that I didn't know what I didn't know. I couldn't wait until the next worship service to learn more, so I started downloading and listening to WRPC sermons on specific topics that I wanted to better understand. Back then the sermons were a little difficult to access but they really helped me begin to educate myself and my family.

Thanks to the determined work of Nathan Sicko, Steven Reeves, and many others, today our website is so user friendly that it is very easy to access WRPC sermons on a wide array of topics. Just open a web browser on your computer or device and go to www.woodruffroad.com. Click on the Resources tab and then click on Sermon Audio. As of this writing, there are 1,754 sermons available! There is a search box that you can use to select those sermons in which you are most interested. If you type in “Westminster Confession”, you will find 231 related sermons; “Joshua” - 54 sermons; “Predestination” - 3 sermons.

Consider how edifying this resource can be not only for those of us who regularly attend WRPC but also for family and friends who don't live in the area. What a blessing to be able to just click the Play button and enjoy!

Let the Redeemed of the Lord, Say So! (Psalm 107:2)

Will Zettler

I was reared in a Christian home in Springfield, GA where we were members of Springfield United Methodist Church. We attended morning and evening services and I was active in Methodist Youth fellowship (MYF). As a child and youth, I remember daily evening Bible readings and prayer (on our knees) and thanksgiving before each meal. I never knew not being a Christian or not being under the Lord's care.

After high school, I attended Spartanburg Jr. College and then received a BS in Chemistry from Wofford College in 1966. I attended church sporadically, seldom opened the Bible, and prayed when I wanted some good outcome (like a good grade on a test).

After college, I entered the United States Air Force (USAF) and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in October 1966. I was then assigned to Robins AFB, GA as a communications-electronics officer. My next assignment was at Kessler AFB, MS as a student in Advanced Communications School. I met my wife, Mary, and we "sort of" settled into the military life. We made eleven moves and each time we attended the base chapel for services--but did little else to grow spiritually.

In June 1993, I retired in Biloxi, MS and we joined First United Methodist Church. We were active, attending church morning and evening, teaching Sunday School, attending Annual Conference as delegates, and serving on several church boards. Although we had our own personal Bible studies, we still were "hungering and thirsting for the Word."

We moved to Greenville, SC in December 2005 after hurricane Katrina ravished the Gulf coast. We looked at a couple of Methodist churches but were not satisfied. In the summer of 2006 we joined WRPC.

Looking back, and after some spiritual growth, I now know, that God had a plan for me, and regardless of how hard I tried to dictate my own plans, He was in control. Let me explain and fill in the gaps.

While in college I was diagnosed with Rheumatic fever and told by my doctors that I would never have to go into the military. That suited me and fit very well into my plans to be a chemist. But, in my last semester at Wofford, I was only carrying nine semester hours (you needed 12 to be deferred from the draft). Thus, I received a draft notice. Despite my doctor's documentation of my illness, the Army medical examiners declared me fit for the Army and assured me I would be in an Army uniform in a couple of weeks (approximately a month before graduation). I immediately joined the United States Air Force (USAF) under the delayed enlistment program which allowed me to graduate from college prior to entering the military.

In October 1966, I graduated from Officer Training School, was commissioned, and sent to Robins AFB, GA as a Communications-Electronics Officer. While there, I was selected for Advanced Communications School at Keesler AFB, MS. I resisted going because it gave me a 2-year additional commitment and it did not fit into my plans to be a chemist in the civilian world. (Anyway, I was not supposed to be in the military at all, in my opinion.) Bottom line is that the AF had its way and I went off to Kessler AFB in a less than happy mood. But, while there, I met



my future (now present) wife, Mary, and we were married in June 1970.

Mary and I then found ourselves in the Republic of the Philippines (PI) at Clark AFB. While there we took two Master level college courses (more later on this). We left the PI in October 1971 and headed to Wurtsmith AFB, MI.

Wurtsmith offered everything I hated--colder weather than I have ever seen, a job I did not like, and an absolutely horrible boss (in my opinion). So, I decided it was time to get out of the military and pursued that goal. But, remember that Master's level course I had taken in the PI? Since the AF had paid three-fourths of the cost (\$75) I was told it had given me a 3-year additional commitment--I still had 18 more months on my enlistment. Therefore, to escape Wurtsmith, I volunteered for all the 12-month remote unaccompanied tours I could find.

The AF honored my request in June 1973 and sent me to Shemya AFB, Alaska (at the end of the Aleutian chain about 300 miles from Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia). To my great surprise, I really liked my job and felt I had found my calling of a vocation. In short, I decided (with Mary's encouragement and blessing) to pursue an AF career.

In June 1993, we retired after 27 years of a rich, enjoyable, and rewarding career for us and our children in Biloxi, MS and moved to Greenville in Dec 2005. We began immediately to look for a church. We visited a couple of Methodist churches but something was missing. Our oldest daughter urged us to visit WRPC.

We did in January 2006--listened and came home wondering where we had been the last 60+ years. We heard the ungarbled preaching of the Word with no social issues or silliness. In the spring of 2006, Pastor Carl announced from the pulpit that a member who had sinned and was

unrepentant had been excommunicated--that was new to us. (I had heard of church discipline but never seen it enacted.) Even more impressive, a couple weeks later, Pastor Carl announced from the pulpit that we welcomed an excommunicated member back who had recognized, confessed and repented of their sin. That is when we decided to join--preaching of the Word of God, fellowship, Christian discipline--we were home and experiencing those things we needed for spiritual growth.

Looking back, I cannot see anything but the providential care of a loving but just God who, in spite of all my efforts (and there were others), enacted His plan. He kept me in the military (although I was kicking and screaming the whole time); gave me a loving, Christian help-mate and two great children; and brought us to a church I can call "home at last in this world" as we grow more godly in the sure promise of a heavenly home.

Preparing for the Worship of God

You must have a fertile heart Sunday morning. Sunday morning is the time when you should especially be with the Lord in a quiet time before coming to church.

Spend time alone with the Lord Sunday morning before coming to church (Psalm 5:3).

Minutes and Actions of the Session

C.F. Marcinak, Clerk of Session

“But when [Jesus] saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’” (Matt. 9:36-38)

Note that Jesus’s call for laborers to be raised up for the harvest springs from His compassion for people who have need of shepherding care. As we approach the period this December when we will nominate elders and deacons for WRPC, spend time considering which men are gifted to shepherd our people. And, most importantly, obey Jesus’s command to *“pray for the Lord of the harvest to call forth laborers”* here at WRPC. Our Session, especially, needs the Lord to provide more ruling elders to replace the four we have lost over the past year. We seek your prayers and your wisdom in nominating men for office.

Administration

Received regular reports from the Treasurer on church finances. Approved a request for RE Hopson’s term on the Session to run through 2018.

Presbytery and General Assembly

Received reports on the 45th General Assembly, which TE’s Robbins, Dodds, Anderson, and Kona and RE’s Johnson, Marcinak, and Scott attended. Received reports on the summer meeting of Calvary Presbytery, which TE’s Robbins, Dodds, and Anderson and RE’s Bradenbaugh, Marcinak, and Dickerson attended. Approved an overture to Calvary Presbytery for further presentation to the 46th General Assembly proposing an amendment to the Rules of Assembly Operations

regarding service of ruling elders on ad interim committees of the Assembly.

Missions

Received a report on the provision of a truck to TE Delfils in Haiti and the provision of food and other relief items to TE Ramirez in Peru

Membership

Received Mr. and Mrs. Clint Ooten and daughters Maddie and Taylor as communing members and daughter Claire as a non-communing member based on their reaffirmation of faith. Approved the dismissal of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Lemley to Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church, Asheville, North Carolina. Approved removing the following from the membership roll as an act of discipline without process: Rob Alexander, John Seay, Melissa Seay, Justin Seay, Corbett Walker, and Stephen Ward. Received Dr. and Mrs. Martin Erdmann as communing members based on reaffirmation of faith.

Women’s Ministry

Received a request for Lori Sealy to perform a concert in conjunction with the 2018 WIC conference; referred request to Music and Fellowship Committees.

Wedding Request

Approved a request for Perry Bolick to marry Madeline McMillian at WRPC with TE Anderson officiating.

Music Committee

Approved a request from the Music Committee for the WRPC choir to perform at the Christmas concert every other year and the use of an outside group when the WRPC choir does not perform.

Shepherding Matters

Approved proceeding with charges, specifications, and formal discipline against a member for long term absence from corporate worship and non-fulfilment of covenant vows to the church.

“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

MATTHEW 11:29-30

Pulpit Planner for September-October 2017

AM Sermons

- September 3** Pastor Robbins continues the exposition of the Apostle Paul's last letter by preaching 2 Timothy 2:1-2, "Strong in Grace to Persevere"
- September 10** "Endurance" is the focus, as Pastor Robbins expounds 2 Timothy 2:3-14
- September 17** Pastor Anderson unpacks Ecclesiastes 4, "The Limits of Independence: Solitude's Folly"
- September 24** 2 Timothy 2:15 is the subject of Pastor Robbins' sermon, "Rightly Dividing the Word"
- October 1** Pastor Robbins proclaims 2 Timothy 2:16-18, "Spreading Like Cancer"
- October 8** Pastor Dodds will be expounding Mark 14, "Jesus' Last Passover"; We will be celebrating the Sacrament of Communion
- October 15** "The Lord Knows Who Are His" is the subject of Pastor Robbins' exposition of 2 Timothy 2:19
- October 22** Pastor Robbins focuses on Christian service as he preaches 2 Timothy 2:20-21, "Useful Vessels"
- October 29** 2 Timothy 2:22 will be in view as Pastor Robbins unpacks "Fleeing and Pursuing"

PM Sermons

- September 3** Pastor Robbins continues the series on "God's Wisdom (7)" by opening Proverbs 7 and studying "Wisdom to Overcome Sexual Temptation"
- September 10** Proverbs 6 will be the focus for Pastor Robbins' word on "Wisdom for Sluggards"; We will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion
- September 17** Pastor Dodds preaches Mark 14, "Plots to Kill"
- September 24** Pastor Anderson focuses on Ecclesiastes 5, "The Limits of Self Determination: The Tongue's Folly"
- October 1** To celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, we will focus on "The 5 Solas of the Reformation." Tonight, Pastor Robbins looks at the foundational sola, "Sola Scriptura", through the lens of 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- October 8** Pastor Anderson continues examination of "The 5 Solas" with "Solus Christus"
- October 15** "Sola Gratia" is the focus of Pastor Robbins' exposition
- October 22** Pastor Robbins preaches "Sola Fide"
- October 29** Pastor Robbins concludes the series, "The 5 Solas of the Reformation" (on Reformation Sunday!), by proclaiming "Soli Deo Gloria"

Treasurer's Report

WRPC uses a fiscal year for budgeting purposes that runs April through March. Our budgeted revenues and expenses for 2017/2018 are \$1,200,947. Our current total cash on hand is \$326,000 and our renovation loan balance is \$678,000.

If you have any questions about our finances please contact Eddie Roberts or Will Zettler.

Below is the financial report for July 2017.

WOODRUFF ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH					
July 2017					
Accounts	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Remaining	Fav / Unfav	Total Year Budget
Total Revenues	\$ 432,248	\$ 400,000	\$ (32,248)	Fav	\$ 1,200,000
Total PERSONNEL	\$ 201,859	\$ 200,012	\$ (1,847)	Unfav	\$ 600,037
Total IN HOUSE MINISTRIES	\$ 22,319	\$ 23,612	\$ 1,292	Fav	\$ 70,835
Total FACILITY AND OPERATIONS	\$ 87,984	\$ 92,467	\$ 4,482	Fav	\$ 277,400
Total MISSIONS	\$ 78,982	\$ 84,642	\$ 5,660	Fav	\$ 252,675
Total Expenses	\$ 391,144	\$ 400,732	\$ 9,588	Fav	\$ 1,200,947
Net Total	\$ 41,104	\$ (732)	\$ (41,836)	Fav	\$ (947)

The deacons have several ongoing and upcoming building projects and are always open to designated giving. Some of these projects and needed items are listed below:

- ◆ Steeple Repair
- ◆ New choir chairs

If you are looking to serve and want to find a place to plug-in and help out with our facilities, please ask a deacon and we can get you involved.

Eddie Roberts
Treasurer

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17



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and our website address is www.woodruffroad.com.

The radio program *The Presbyterian Pulpit* airs at 9:00 AM every Sunday on 106.3 FM and 1330 or 950 AM.