



Light of Christ Anglican Church

THE BEACON



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The Rev. Mike Moffitt, Rector

February 2023

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Let your light so shine be
fore men that they may see
your good deeds and praise
your Father in heaven.



Mike's Message

I recently read an article by Michael J. Kruger, President and Samuel C. Patterson Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC. I felt that it would be very helpful for our church and for those outside of Light of Christ who read "The Beacon". The issue of the authority of God's Word has always been an issue with unbelievers and those who claim to be Christians, but don't believe the Bible is God's word. Since this is a critical question, I thought you would enjoy this brief but encouraging article. If you are interested in past or future articles, copy and paste this URL into your browser: <https://www.michaeljkruger.com/how-a-pagan-philosopher-came-to-believe-the-scriptures-are-from-god/> Blessings!

"How a Pagan Philosopher Came to Believe the Scriptures are from God."

Michael Kruger January 24, 2023

It probably comes as no surprise that the most common question I receive from both Christians and non-Christians is "How do I know the Bible is the Word of God?" And the reason this question is at the top of the list is not hard to determine. The authority of the Bible is the foundation for everything that we believe as Christians. It is the source of our doctrine and our ethics. Thus, we need to be able to answer this question when asked.

Let me say from the outset that there is not just one answer to this question. I think there are many ways that Christians can come to know the Scriptures are from God. God can certainly use historical evidences to convince us of the truth of his Word (though it is important to understand the limitations of evidence). And God can use the testimony of the church to convince us of the truth of his Word (I cover the details of this in my book, "Canon Revisited").

But, it is noteworthy that throughout the history of the church many Christians have ascertained the divine origins of the Bible in yet another way: they read it. Rather than being persuaded through a deep dive into the historical evidences, many have come to believe the Bible is from God by observing its distinctive character and power.

Tatian is one such Christian. Tatian was a second-century pagan philosopher who was later converted and became a disciple of Justin Martyr. He also was the author of an apologetic work known as "Oration to the Greeks"(c.165). In this work, Tatian makes his case for the truth of Christianity. During one section, he lays out his personal conversion story and recounts how he carefully examined all the pagan religious writings and found them incoherent, problematic, and, sometimes, downright evil. But, then he

Continued

happened to come across the Scriptures and began to read them:

"I was led to put my faith in these by the unpretending cast of the language, the inartificial character of the writers, the foreknowledge displayed of future events, the excellent quality of the precepts, and the declaration of the government of the universe as centered on one Being. And my soul being taught of God, I discern that the former class of [pagan] writings lead to condemnation, but that these [Scriptures] put an end to the slavery that is in the world" (29).

This is a profound statement. Tatian, the impressive intellect that he was, was not persuaded by historical evidence nor from the testimony of the church (though, as noted above, both are legitimate when appropriately utilized), but by the internal qualities of the Scriptures themselves. There was something about the Scriptures that came alive to him. How did he discern this? As he indicates, "my soul being taught of God." Presumably this is a reference to the work of the Holy Spirit.

And Tatian was not the only one who thought like this. One century later, Origen says something very similar:

"If anyone ponders over the prophetic sayings...it is certain that in the very act of reading and diligently studying them his mind and feelings will be touched by a divine breath and he will recognize that the words he is reading are not the utterances of men but the language of God. (Princ. 4.1.6).

The Reformers also thought this way. They believed the truth of Scripture could be ascertained, by the help of the Holy Spirit, from the Scriptures themselves. This is what they meant when they said the Scriptures were "self-authenticating".

Such a reality should come as no surprise. After all Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me". (John 10:27)



The LOC Ringers have too many bells and not enough arms.

HELP!!!

We need more ringers

Beginning February 5th, we practice on Sunday's at 12:00-1:00. There is no requirement to read music. If you can count to 4 and know your right hand from your left hand....you can be a fabulous ringer. Let Leslye Morrison know if you want to try it out (703.725.2997) . We are a fun group, remember, everyone was a beginner.

Spiritual Bucket List

Creating the proverbial "bucket list" can be a lot of fun. Coming up with a list of things you would like to do one day in the not-too-distant future is also a good way to take the first step in accomplishing your goals.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are expected to be growing (1 Peter 2:2, 2 Peter 3:18). We are also expected to be a positive influence on those around us, pointing people toward God (Matthew 5:13-16).

In light of these things, it may be helpful to create some sort of "spiritual bucket list." A list of things you know you should be doing as you mature in faith.

Here are a few suggestions to help you get started:

Teach someone. Have a real Bible study where you sit down, open Bibles all around, and you present the life-saving message of the Gospel (Matthew 28:19; 2 Timothy 2:2).

Reconcile a broken relationship. For many of us, there is at least one person out there that needs to hear, "please forgive me" from you (Romans 12:18).

Really study on your own. Away from the church building, pick a book of the Bible or topic and really dive in and learn (1 Timothy 2:15).

Memorize. Maybe favorite passages or chapters, maybe several verses that pertain to a certain subject (ex.: verses dealing with forgiveness).

Determine to lead. If you never lead a public prayer, determine to do so. Same goes with leading singing or even presenting a lesson before the congregation.

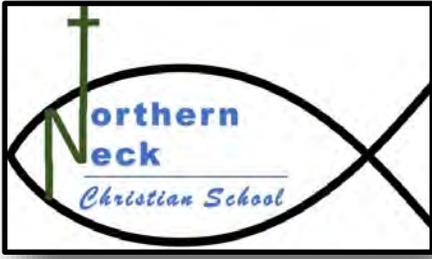
Go on a Mission Trip. We go to places near and far, be a part of that! Put into practice the things you have learned. Nearly everyone I know who has gone on such a trip such as this always says that it made a significant impact on their lives.

Go to more funerals. People are in desperate need when they are grieving. Few things help as much as knowing you are loved when your heart is broken (Romans 12:5).

Bake more casseroles and cakes. Go to more fellowship meals and spend time with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Encourage those who are sick or hurting in any way. Help with the setting up or cleaning.

You could add many more. But remember: You are not too old! Today is the day! Get started!

Bart Warren
South Green Street Church of Christ
Glasgow, KY



Northern Neck Christian School

Member of the Anglican School Association
February 2023



Thank You

On behalf of the families, students and teachers we thank Light of Christ for the generous donation to the school at Christmas. It's because of the generosity of people like you that we can do anything at all. For this, we thank you and greatly appreciate your support.

May God bless you and keep you.

Lindsay is our newest student. She is in the PreK 4 class.



Ayvah and Ellie are using shapes for addition.

Two Friday's a month Kindergarten-2nd graders go to the YMCA to play and have structured exercises like dribbling.



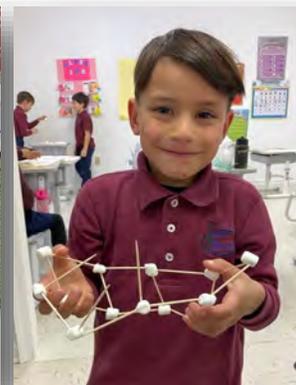
Rev. Johnson puts the class through rigorous calisthenics and exercises.



1st and 2nd grade students studied bridges and then built one using marshmallows, skewers and toothpicks. The girls teamed up to build their structure. We also ate a lot of marshmallows. :-)



Graf



Lorenzo



Madison and Saperia



Blaise

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Acolytes

Feb 5 Anna Brennan
Feb 12 Sandi Ward
Feb 19 Marie Carstensen
Feb 22 Ed Feddeman
Feb 26 David Gwaltney

Lessons/Prayers

Feb 5 Charlene Andrulot (L), Jim Conley (P)
Feb 12 Tony Blackstone (L), Joan Blackstone (P)
Feb 19 Jeanne Hickey (L), Constance McDearmon (P)
Feb 22 Marie Carstensen (L)
Feb 26 Susan Read (L), Julie Pritchard (L)

Chalice Bearers

Feb 5 Anna Brennan
Feb 12 Sandi Ward
Feb 19 Marie Carstensen
Feb 26 Constance McDearmon

Chiming of the Hour

Feb 5 Phyllis Parrish, Doug Ludeman
Feb 12 Jim Conley
Feb 19 Elizabeth Lambertson, Pam Smith
Feb 22 Bill Andrulot, John Parrish
Feb 26 Sandi Ward

February Birthdays

Feb 4 Wayne Hamlett
Feb 11 Barbara Seed
Feb 12 Judy Raspberry, David Gwaltney
Feb 16 Randy Smith
Feb 21 George Beckett

*O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send your blessing upon these your servants as they begin another year, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

Altar Guild

Feb 5 Anna Brennan
Feb 12 Constance McDearmon, Sandi Ward
Feb 15 Wendy Smith
Feb 22 Constance McDearmon
Feb 29 Julie Pritchard, Elizabeth Lambertson

Tellers

Feb 5 Betty Dillingham
Feb 12 Betty Dillingham, Jan Beckett
Feb 19 Betty Dillingham, Pam Smith
Feb 22 Betty Dillingham
Feb 29 Betty Dillingham

Vestry Person on Duty

Feb 5 Constance McDearmon
Feb 12 Ed Feddeman
Feb 19 Doug Ludeman
Feb 22 Hoyt Wheeland
Feb 26 Ed Feddeman

No February Anniversaries

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants named above, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Help Stop the Confusion!

Please let me know when you will be unavailable to cover your ministry duties so I can post the monthly schedules in the Beacon accurately.

During the month, if you cannot cover your duties, please find someone to cover for you and let me know, **no later than Wednesday prior** to your scheduled day. This gives me time to make the change before the bulletin is printed.



Help is Needed

We need more people to handle various ministries. Please pray on it, and let us know if you want to make a big impact by serving God in some small way.

Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.
Joyce

3-MONTH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY:

Sunday - 5, 12	Final New Members Class	after service
Wednesday - 1, 8, 15, 22	Intercessory Prayer	10 a.m. - noon
Wednesday - 8, 15	Bible Study - "From Dust to Glory"	1 p.m.
Thursday - 2, 9, 16, 23	Todd Lewis Bible Study	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 3, 10, 17, 24	FaithYoga (all are invited)	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 3, 10, 17, 24	Zoom Night Prayer	7 p.m.
Friday - 24	Vestry - all day meeting	
Sunday - 12	World Mission Sunday	10 a.m.
Sunday - 19	Last Sunday Epiphany - Transfiguration	10 a.m.
Wednesday - 22	Ash Wednesday	5 p.m.
Sunday - 26	First Sunday in Lent	10 a.m.
Tuesday - 28	Lenten Soup Supper	5 p.m.

MARCH:

Wednesday - 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Intercessory Prayer	10 a.m. - noon
Wednesday - 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Bible Study - "From Dust to Glory"	1 p.m.
Thursday - 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Todd Lewis Bible Study	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	FaithYoga (all are invited)	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Zoom Night Prayer	7 p.m.
Tuesday - 7, 14, 21, 28	Lenten Soup Supper	5 p.m.
Sunday - 19	Vestry Meeting	
Sunday - 26	Fifth Sunday in Lent - Passion	10 a.m.

APRIL:

Sunday - 2	Palm Sunday	10 a.m.
Thursday - 6	Maundy Thursday Service	6 p.m.
Friday - 7	Good Friday Service	6 p.m.
Sunday - 9	Easter Service	10 a.m.
Monday - 10	Office Closed	
Wednesday - 12, 19, 26	Intercessory Prayer	10 a.m. - noon
Wednesday - 12	Bible Study - "From Dust to Glory"	1 p.m.
Thursday - 13, 20, 27	Todd Lewis Bible Study	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 14, 21, 28	FaithYoga (all are invited)	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 28	Free Dinner & Movie - "I am Potential"	5 p.m.

Special Note: 15th - 22nd - Mike and Bart at Gafcon in Kigali, Rwanda

Those who leave
everything in
GOD'S HAND
will eventually see
God's hand in
everything.

The Beacon

LIGHT OF CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
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*The deadline for the Beacon is the
third Sunday of each month.*

hello
february

Bible Quiz: Revelation 16:1-7

1. Where did the voice from the temple tell the angels to pour the bowls of the wrath of God? _____
2. "...a foul and loathsome _____ came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his _____.
3. "Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the _____ and springs of _____, and they became _____.
4. "You are _____, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have _____ these things."
5. "Even so, Lord God Almighty, _____ and righteous are Your _____."

Revelation 17:7-11

1. "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the _____ of the woman and of the beast that _____ her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns."
2. The beast will ascend out of the _____ pit.
3. "And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the _____ of _____ from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."
4. The seven heads of the beast corresponded with seven _____.
5. How many kings does this passage speak of? _____