



**April
2016**

**Forest Hills EFC Messenger
5183 Pebble Creek Trail
Loves Park, IL 61111**

WWW.FHEFC.ORG

Email: office@fhefc.org

Phone: 815-877-1919



If we have missed your birthday or someone else's, please contact the office to inform us.

- April 2 Reanee Rowell
- Berthema Thomasson
- April 7 Nena Robeniol
- April 18 Archie Reynolds
- April 24 Debi Beard
- April 26 Arleen Hood

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Morning

- 9 a.m. Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 10:25 a.m. Worship Service

Mondays

- 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study

Wednesdays

- 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Saturday

- 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Group

Ballistic Over Ice Cream by Betty Burnell

Warning: The contents of this article may change your opinion of the author. And furthermore the actions displayed should not be repeated at home unless you want direct discipline from God HIMSELF!

Went to Culvers today to get a quart of my favorite flavor of the day ... It was running late and we hadn't eaten supper yet so we were tired, hungry and stressed trying to throw dinner on ASAP! Because oh my, the body can get cranky without all fired important food ... And oh my, did I find out just how cranky I could get & how important food was to me today. LOL ...because when I proceeded to check my custard, which was suppose to have all the goodies of the flavor of the day in it ... I found a heap of vanilla custard with a sparse twist of chocolate syrup here and there ... mostly there (left at the store we bought it from) cuz there was barely a trace of any candy, pudding & chocolate that should have smothered the contents of custard.

Well, this was **NOT** one of my better moments... you would have thought the world came tumbling down ... I started ranting and raving and calling my sister in law who works at Culvers and inquiring if they'd changed the recipe ... and oh the hoop da la that came after ... I called the restaurant and complained ... and they made it right ... but do you think it stopped the unhaltable upset chatter that continued to spew from my mouth for at least half hour after the incident ...NOT !!! This was my favorite ice cream and I rarely get it and they screwed it up. I felt like a two year old that didn't get what I wanted ... Waaaa....

Until ... don't ya just love it when that Holy Spirit interrupts a perfectly good fit going on HE (the Holy Spirit) nudged into my mind and asked "Aren't you suppose to be handling yourself with love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness and self control? Hmmm ?".... to which I responded ... "but God it was my favorite ice cream." :(to which HE (the holy spirit) responded yet again.... "Aren't you suppose to be handling yourself with love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness and self control?" Man, this Holy Spirit guy is relentless! So I finally calmed down and yes I see the silliness of it all now after the fact but once your on a roll its hard to stop. Plus it was my favorite ice cream! It's NOT a valid fit unless you get the last word LOL ... Human nature ... just as relentless as the holy spirit at times. Is it any wonder why we need Jesus so! much!!

Contacting Pastor Mitch

Call or Text
(815) 391-3133
mitc h@ihgg.net

What is the Gospel? Part 2

Some may ask what is the big deal about the Gospel? Does it really matter what exactly we share or how we share it? Is it not enough to get a person to pray a prayer and ask Jesus into their hearts?

Let me frame my concern for you. This past month I had the opportunity to hear two different pastors “share the Gospel” with groups of people. Both pastors talked about how we need Jesus and how Jesus offers love and salvation for all who believe in Him. Both presented the key to salvation as the recitation of the “sinner’s prayer.” While both mentioned sin in a generic broad fashion, neither talked about how each of us has personally sinned against a holy God who will punish all who die in their sins for eternity in Hell. Both talked about Jesus as a highly recommended means to fulfillment, better self-esteem and eternal life, but neither articulated that Jesus had to shed His blood in place of those who trust in Him. Neither defined sin, nor called for people to confess or repent of their sins. These pastors talked about parts of the Gospel, but they did not share the Gospel in complete enough fashion for a non-believer to come to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Paul took the message of the Gospel very seriously, and he helps us understand this in his writings.

^{ESV} Galatians 1:3-9 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. ⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel- ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

Elements of the Gospel Mentioned in Galatians 1

1. Jesus gave Himself for our sins (verse 4)
2. Jesus delivers us from this evil age (verse 4)
3. Jesus acted according to the will of His Father (verse 4)
4. God gets the glory for Jesus’ work on the cross (verse 5)

Paul’s Concern for the Galatians & the Gospel

1. The Galatians were deserting the true Gospel (verse 6)
2. People who were distorting the Gospel (verse 7)
3. He pronounces a curse on anyone who preaches a Gospel different than the one he preached (verse 8)
4. He reiterating his curse (verse 9)

What Do We Learn From This?

We find Paul’s concern being raised because the Galatians were wandering away from the fundamental truths of the Gospel. There were people who were changing the message of the Gospel and troubling people over the content of the Gospel. The book of Galatians is written to correct these errors and bring the Galatians back into sound doctrine as well as a sound relationship with Jesus Christ.

Paul is so adamant about protecting the integrity and truth of the Gospel that he pronounces a curse on any person who would change the Gospel message in any way. He goes so far to say that even if someone hears another gospel from an angel that the angel should be accursed.

These words and curses are still in effect today. If we do not share with accuracy the truth of the Gospel, we should be accursed. Anyone who adds to or takes away from the Gospel is worthy of being condemned.

This raises some important questions about what we share in the name of Jesus.

1. Do we proclaim God’s Law as the standard of measure for righteousness and sin? (Exodus 20, Matthew 5:17-20)
2. Do we lovingly but firmly confront people with their rebellion and sin against God? (Romans 1 -3; 5 ; 8; Galatians 5)
3. Do we proclaim the justice of God and the consequences of sin? (Ephesians 1 & 2; Romans 5:8-11; 6:23)
4. Do we teach that Jesus was sent by God the Father to suffer and die for our sins? (John 3:16-17; Romans 5:8-11; Hebrews 9)
5. Do we make clear that salvation is 100% the work of God and a gift to us, not because we deserve it, but because God has loved us? (John 1:12-13; 3; Romans 6:23; 10; Ephesians 2)
6. Do we teach the Gospel is about a relationship with God not rituals and a means of manipulating God? (John 15, 17; Romans 5, 10; Galatians 5)
7. Do we believe and teach that a relationship with Jesus Christ will have real results in our thoughts, words and actions? (James 2; John 15; Romans 8; 12; Galatians 5)

May we be found proclaiming the Gospel in a manner that not only brings salvation to the perishing but also brings glory and honor to God.

In His Grip & Grace
Pastor Mitch