



**July  
2016**

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

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

- July 1           Lori Evans
- July 2           Don Swanson
- July 3           Julie Nyberg
- July 5           Alan Tatarsky
- July 7           Emmit Moore
- Charity Leathers
- July 13          Ethan Leathers
- July 15          Larry Feehan
- July 18          Dennis Neubauer
- July 20          Dave Alfredson
- July 28          Cris Lopez
- July 30          Tim Clow

## **Annual Church Picnic Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

at

**Olson Farm Park  
Swedish Heritage Shelter**



**Meet & Beverages provided  
Bring a salad, fruit or dessert to share**

**Picnic starts at 10 a.m  
Lunch served at noon**

## **Weekly Schedule**

### **Sunday Morning**

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

### **Wednesdays**

6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

### **Saturday**

8 a.m. Men's Prayer Group

## **CEF Boone County Fair Gospel Face Painting Booth**

### **WANTED**

Christians in the local church from Rockford & Boone County to help share the Gospel w/kids

### **INFORMATION:**

This is an outreach available to you! Last year over 600 children heard the gospel. each child was given a gospel presentation by volunteers. You too can receive free training and present the gospel to children at the fair this is an opportunity for small groups, youth groups, or individuals like you!

Training provided: July 26 or 28 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Call CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) 815-398-0302  
Ask for Rebecca

## **Professions of Faith**

**In Concert  
at Forest Hills EFC  
Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup>  
2 p.m.**



**Refreshments & Love  
Offering**

## What is the Gospel? (Part 5): Saved by Faith Through Grace for Good Works

*"8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10)*

We have considered the nature and message of the Gospel over the past few months. This month we are going to look at not only the Gospel but the natural results of the Gospel bearing fruit.

Let us start by making no mistake that our salvation is entirely the work of God in our hearts and minds. He sends His Word and Spirit to empower both the evangelist and the hearer of the Gospel message. The Word goes forth and the Holy Spirit empowers it to create faith in the hearer (see Romans 10:17).

Our participation in the Gospel before salvation is as the object of the Holy Spirit's work. We do not save ourselves in any way. This is the point of Ephesians 2:8-9. God's grace is given to us through the faith that the Word and Holy Spirit create. The Apostle Paul emphasizes this by saying, "...and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." No Christian can claim any credit or merit for believing in Christ; it is entirely the work of God in us.

The result of this is that no amount of good works, religious ritual, education, reading, power, will power, discipline, wealth etc. can save anyone. Salvation is entirely the work of God.

But make no mistake. There is absolutely a place for good works in the life of the Christian. These good works do not produce or achieve salvation, but they are the evidence that salvation has occurred. Paul tells us that good works are prepared by God for those who have been transformed by the Gospel. In fact one of the purposes of our transformation is to do good works: "10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...(Ephesians 2:10)"

It is critical for believers to understand that good works are an important result of our salvation, but they are absolutely not the cause of our salvation. This causes a radical shift to those who will accuse us teaching that we can do whatever we want as long as we say our prayers and ask for forgiveness.

*"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into*

*death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin." (Romans 6:1-7)*

Our behavior does matter as Christians, because it is a demonstration of what God has done and is doing in our lives. Yes, our sins and infirmities are covered by the Blood of Christ, but they are not a license to sin.

Jesus said,

*"14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)*

The work of Jesus on the Cross and the Gospel message bring honor and glory to God, but may we not forget that the results of God's work in our life are a demonstration of His power and glory in us to the world. Their purpose is that the world will see His work in and through us, so they would glorify God!

My hope is these truths will inspire freedom from the pressure to measure up to some man made standard that allows you to live in the security of knowing God has called you with an undiminishing love and grace. This freedom should not breed laziness but an assured, steady, faithful service to the Lord motivated by love, not obligation, demand or fear. What God has given, He gives freely and generously. May what we do as His children be exactly the same, freely and generously given out of love.

In His Grip & Grace  
Pastor Mitch

### Contacting Pastor Mitch

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