

THE DEFINITION OF EVIL

How do we define evil? Is evil merely the absence of good? Many people today would define pain and suffering as evil. They would say that physical pain and death are the worst things that humans can experience, and that to be good is merely to be pain-free.

In reality, pain and suffering are not evil things in and of themselves. The Bible teaches us that true evil can be defined by broken, sinful relationships. Mankind suffers from a broken relationship with God, and from broken relationships with one another. All of the pain and suffering we experience is a result of losing that original harmony and unity that we once shared with God and his creation.

This doesn't trivialize the suffering we experience. On the contrary, it is very difficult to deal with the pain of life, especially the physical pain, sickness and death that we all experience. It is extremely painful, by definition, and occupies the majority of our lives here on earth.

What then can make pain and suffering easier to endure? What can we learn from the fact that pain and suffering are not evil? Is there any value to be found in suffering? There are two things that we can learn when we look at pain and suffering from the proper spiritual perspective.

First, I believe that pain is necessary within a fallen universe because it gives us the desire and motivation to restore our relationship with God. In our daily struggle with the painful, physical side of life, mankind is developing the spiritual muscle that will enable us to have a proper relationship with God in the future.

This is especially true when we learn to follow Christ and deal with pain, learning to act as he did: *"Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, am yourselves also with the same attitude" 1 Peter 4:1* He was willing to endure pain and suffering, because he looked at the big picture and saw the benefit of enduring. By following the specific examples he gave us, we learn to build good relationships and fight against the root cause of suffering.

The second idea we can draw from this, is that physical pain and suffering are temporary. We can look forward to a time when once again we share a perfect relationship with God. As followers of Christ, we will be born again with new resurrection bodies, that do not suffer from physical pain and weakness.

"The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power." 1 Corinthians 15:42

Ash Crill

NEWS AND NOTES

Welcome

We welcome you this morning and hope and pray that your time with us will be spiritually uplifting and fulfilling. We look forward to seeing you again.

Luncheon Today

As today is the 1st Sunday of the month, we'll be having our regular luncheon. If you can, please stay with us until after worship and enjoy some food and fellowship.

Revive 10: Jesus love: God's way of changing me and then the whole world

Change? Who wants change?
God does! And it's for the better.

Come and tap into the most powerful source there is and learn more about the God who loves you too much to leave you the way you are.

Camp Revive is held on Sept 24-26, 2010 at Candlebark Farm, 531 Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Rd. Come and dive on in. See Peter, Ruth, Charlotte or Nancy for more details.

Jumping Juniors Bowling Fun

All grade 6 to prep kids 1 game, drink and lolly bag free (so bring your friends)
\$9.50 a game for parents and anyone else who would like to join us.

Saturday 18th September at 3:30pm
(**please arrive at 3:15 to start at 3:30**, or you won't be able to bowl)

AMF Bowling, Forest Hills
Level 3 Forest Hill Chase
Shopping Centre
270 Canterbury Rd, Forest Hills

We need to know numbers to book, so let me know if you are coming by 15th September, on 0409035281 - Thanks, Rhonda

Worship in Discovery Groups

Discovery Groups resume this week, with the new topic 'Worshipping God'. This is the final topic for the year, concluding during the week beginning 29th November.



From Wednesday 8 December 2010 through until the end of January 2011, the church will meet together at the building on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm.

Ladies - Over the Table 12th September

Join us to meet at the Carpenter's home, to make beaded bookmarks, and have a meal together (design, create, and fellowship all in one). Please bring any tools you may have to cut and shape wire (jewellery making tools), and a Salad topping for the meal. Call Debbie if you have any questions on 0448727023

Sunday, September 12, 4:00pm
4A Bright Street, Brighton East

Projection Hymns

We have recently purchased the entire 9 volumes of the Paperless Hymnal on CD. The hymnal has over 1000 songs, with music for projection.

NEWS AND NOTES

If you lead songs or just want to try it out, the volumes are stored in the church's laptop and external drive.

So bring your USB sticks and get a copy. Otherwise, there are limited CD copies available in the AV room. If you need any assistance in using this software, please let Richard or John Cooper know.

For the Record

29th August 2010:

Contribution: \$ 5,582.00

Attendance: English Worship : 101

Chinese Worship : 15

People Movements

- The Tabalujan family left for America today to visit with family and church brethren. They will be back on 2nd October.
- The Tabe family are in Hobart spending time with David's family. They will be back on Monday 6th September.

Prayers Please

- For our newly baptised sister Louise Zhang.

WHO ARE YOU
PRAYING
FOR TODAY?



- For Ron Tabe (David's dad) as he undergoes cancer treatment.
- For Chorlian and Gareth as they seek employment.
- For our search for a full-time worker
- For Hannah's health
- For the Sudanese congregation at Chadstone
- For Brian and his wife Ann Humphris (Luke Humphris' parents) in your prayers. Brian is recovering from an operation to remove a cancer.
- For Sam White and family (Hunter Valley Christians) while they are involved in custody proceedings.
- For Kaleb, young son of Dave & Kristi (Vicki Baldwin's brother & sister-in-law). Kaleb has Cystic Fibrosis and is currently very unwell. Please keep Kaleb, his younger sister Hannah, Dave, Kristi and their family in your prayers.
- For Brad, a friend of one of Jackie Baldwin's work colleagues. He has been diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer and underwent major surgery Friday 27th Aug as precursor to chemo. Brad is father to two very young children. Please keep Brad and his family in your prayers.

PEARLY GATES



We are on the web
www.belmoreroadChurCh.org.au

Belmore Road Church of Christ is a God centered, Bible based family that provides a nurturing environment to share God's truth in love.



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 Deacons: Phil Drew
 Benny Tabalujan

In Jesus and through his spirit, we foster and encourage spiritual growth and understanding, offering friendship and help to those in need. We reach out to all, starting with those who are seeking the truth, people in our local community and those who we meet in our daily lives. As we have come to know God's love, we reach out and share His love with others.

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WORSHIP ROSTER SEPTEMBER 2010

Sept	Greeters + Assist LS	Announce (+Op+Cl Prayer)	Songs	Lord's Supper	Reading + Assist LS	Sp. Prayer + Assist LS	Preaching (The Gospel Is For All Mankind)	Sun. Adults' Class (Gospel into Community)
05	Charles H Nic L	David T	Matt T	Peter R	David W	Scott C	Roger D	Steve B
12	Charles H Nic L	David T	Matt T	Peter R	James Cp	Ian C	Brett C	Steve B
19	Charles H Nic L	David T	John C	Trevor B	Tim T	Jimmy F	Bevan J	Steve B
26	Charles H Nic L	David T	John C	Trevor B	Cedric L	Steve B	Stuart P	Stuart P
Mid-week	Discovery Groups - On Worship							

DUTY ROSTER SEPTEMBER 2010

	Lord's Supper	Luncheon Prep & Cleanup	Morning Tea	Mowing	Cleaning (weekend of)
S E P	Josh Campbell	Gareth Lewis Nancy WuWon + volunteer	Leone Smith Crills	Ash Crill Peter R	04 - Crill 11 - Ana C & Susan Lu 18 - Crill 25 - Baldwin