



# The Beacon

*"The unfolding of Your word gives light" Psalm 119:130a*

April  
Volume 4 #4

## Wading River Baptist Church

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### ***The Cruel Cross and the Empty Tomb***

*"... {For} all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:23-26).*

In our increasingly secularized and biblically illiterate culture, the celebration of Easter is less and less meaningful. At best, it is a time for Easter bunnies and eggs, pretty clothes, and is one of two annual holidays where church attendance is more or less expected. Relatively few people know the specific details of the Easter story, and virtually no one—not even many evangelicals—understands its theological significance. That's why it is so important periodically to review the doctrinal meaning of the crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is no better summary than that which the Apostle Paul provides in Roman 3:23-26. These verses are one of the most cogent explanations of the essential Gospel message anywhere in the Bible. They remind us that the heart of the Gospel is not social, psychological, or relational; it is redemptive. In order to understand the message of Good Friday and Resurrection Day, therefore, it is necessary to grasp the following seven realities.

1. *We are all sinners (verse 23).* There are no exceptions. It's a message that cuts across the grain of our humanistic world view. Every person has sinned, and as such has "missed the mark" of God's righteousness. Hearing this, many people will say, "So what? Nobody's perfect!" But

that's the point, since perfect righteousness is the only attribute which admits us into God's favor now and into His presence in the future. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16), and is so because in it the righteousness of God is revealed (verse 17). The only hope for human beings with no righteousness of their own is to be invested with the righteousness of another. Perfect righteousness, however, belongs only to God. The issue, therefore, is now God's righteousness can become that of a sinful human being.

2. *God justifies us through His grace (verse 24).* To justify is to declare righteous. That is what must happen for those who are thoroughly sinners and are condemned to the judgment of eternal separation from God to meet with God's approval. He must acquit them of their sins and declare them—who are obviously guilty by His holy standards—to be forever exonerated of their guilt and the just recompense due to them as condemned sinners. In other words, they must be forgiven. That God in fact *does* do this is an act of His grace. Grace, of course, is undeserved kindness, and therefore means that the merit attached to it does not belong to the person who receives it, but to solely to God who gives it.

3. *God's grace is provided through the redeeming work of the*

*Lord Jesus Christ (verse 24).* Many people have a deficient view of God at this point. They assume that God, if He were so to decide, can just overlook human sin. Scripture, however is clear that God's "eyes are too pure to approve evil," and that He "cannot look on wickedness with favor" (Hab 1:13). For God to ignore sin would be for Him to violate His perfect justice and by tolerating sin, to contradict His essential holiness. This is something He cannot do; God never contradicts His own standards of righteousness. That is why the Lord Jesus Christ came to this earth. As God incarnate—God in human flesh—He lived a sinless life for thirty-three years, qualifying Him to do something no other human being in history could ever have done. He died as a perfect, unblemished sacrifice in the place of hopeless, condemned sinners. As the infinite God, His blood sacrifice was sufficient to redeem (a commercial word meaning "buy back") every finite human sinner. His blood paid the ransom for us who could not access God's righteousness in any other way.

4. *The death of Jesus Christ was as a substitute for guilty sinners (verse 25).* Here is the explanation of what exactly it was that constituted this redeeming work. Why did the blood of Christ matter? The writer of Hebrews reminds us that "without shedding of blood there is no forgive-

ness” (Heb 9:22). That’s because the penalty for sin is death (Rom 6:23). God’s righteousness could only be obtained by a sinful human being if his sin was removed, and that could only happen if someone else took the sinner’s punishment. But here’s the problem: that substitute had to be sinless. The only qualified substitute, therefore, was God himself, which is why the Second Person of the Godhead, His unique Son, was born into the human race (Jn 3:17). God the Father made His Son the *propitiation* through His blood. Propitiation is that work in which Jesus Christ intervened to stand between the righteous wrath of God against sin and the condemned, guilty sinner. Jesus took the full brunt of the terrible judgment of God against the rebellion of His elect human creature, dying in our place, suffering the consequences which were ours by right. In the death of His Son, God’s justice was fully and forever satisfied. “This is the meaning of Calvary—of Good Friday.

5. *The righteousness of God is received by faith (verse 25).* This is important, because the natural human tendency is to assume that for anyone to benefit from Christ’s death, he must somehow merit its redemptive power. But as verse 24 reminds us, this grace is a *gift* from God. By definition, a gift is not earned nor must one pay for it. A gift is free. It must merely be received. And in Christian theology, the means for receiving this gift is *faith*. Faith is believing and functions as the “hand of the heart.” Faith reaches out to God and takes what He freely offers.

6. *The death of Christ was the supreme demonstration of God’s righteousness (verse 25).* For centuries, it appeared that God had overlooked human sin. What Paul says here, however, is that God passed over those sins temporarily, waiting for the day when His Son would pay the price for that sin. Israel was therefore saved “on credit.” The salvation of the Old Testament saints was on the basis of Christ’s redemptive work in the future. In the meantime, they were given the institutions of the Tabernacle and Temple, the sacrifices, feasts, and priesthood, all of which were divinely designed pictures of the Redeemer who was to come.

7. *In providing saving grace for guilty sinners, God’s righteousness was fully preserved (verse 26).* His righteousness was in no way compromised. In fact, His present righteousness proves that He remains perfectly righteous while at the same time being the One who declares repentant sinners righteous. Those who believe in Jesus are forgiven of the guilt and punishment of their sins, pronounced acquitted and righteous, all without any negative implications upon the impeccable righteousness of our perfectly holy God.

How do we know that Paul’s explanation in Romans 3 is true, and not just the product of the Apostle’s fertile imagination? God answers this question too. The seal of this redemptive transaction was the resurrection of the Lord Jesus from the

dead. In the next chapter, Paul explains that we believe in God “who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of {or, ‘for the sake of’} our justification” (Rom 4:24-25). The resurrection is a verification of God’s power to forgive sins—the very same kind of argument the Lord Jesus himself made when He healed the paralytic man in Capernaum (Mark 2:1-12). The tangible miracle lends credibility to the intangible grace. This then, is the meaning of the empty tomb that first Resurrection morning.

This is what Calvary means; a cruel cross and an empty tomb. They were much more than curious historical incidents. This year, as you once again celebrate the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ through your worship in music and in the Word, be keenly conscious of the profound theological significance of these utterly unprecedented events in human history with their utterly unprecedented meaning for human destiny. Then ask yourself: have *you* received the risen Son of God as your Savior and the undisputed Lord of *your* life? If not, call upon Him now. God’s promise is that “whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Rom 10:13).

--Pastor Ron Glass

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## Winning the Spiritual Battle

A spiritual war requires spiritual weapons. In *Ephesians 6:11-18*, Paul describes the spiritual armor of God. We choose to put on each piece by faith.

\* The **helmet** of salvation protects our minds, Satan’s primary target. As we put on the helmet of salvation and ask the Lord to make His thoughts our

thoughts, we respond with the mind of Christ to the enemy’s attacks.

\*The **breastplate** of righteousness protects our emotions and helps us counter the temptations of Satan with the truth of God. Our feelings constantly change. By Asking God to substitute His

truth for our feelings, we see things from His infinite viewpoint. We realize who we are in Christ and the power we have in His name over the shifting tides of emotion and circumstance.

\*The **girdle** of truth protects us from Satan’s deception. The only place

to find truth is in God's Word. Ask God to work His truth into your heart by meditating on and memorizing His Word. Truth equips the saint of God for the spiritual battle.

\*The **sandals** of peace enables us to become peacemakers for God. The Bible says; *"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God"* (Matthew 5:9). Ask God to help you recognize the value of receiving and extending peace by faith daily. As ambassadors for Christ, we share His message of reconciliation through faith in Jesus Christ. A peacemaker resolves conflicts, not creates them.

\*The **shield** of faith covers us from the fiery attacks of the enemy. The shield Paul described completely covered the warrior. No matter how ferocious the attack, the shield of faith provides safe cover for the child of God. The shield of faith defuses two of Satan's most deadly weapons—unbelief and doubt.

\*The **sword** of the Spirit is the Word of God. It is the only weapon that can be used offensively and defensively. Find a particular passage of Scripture that pertains to your need, claim its promises, and stand firm in the faith.

Spiritual warfare is a daily battle. Put on the spiritual armor of God each morning. At first it may seem awkward, but its preparation for eventual victory and great rejoicing.

*Philippians 4:5-7 NIV Full Life Study Bible*  
*"Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

CHARLES SPURGEON, MARTIN LUTHER, JOHN WESLEY. Prominent names in Christendom, yet not without great personal struggles.

SPURGEON, known for his compelling sermons at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, battled recurring seasons of depression throughout his splendid ministry.

LUTHER, whose emphasis on justification by faith alone shattered centuries of false ideology, struggled with numerous physical afflictions.

WESLEY, whose preaching filled the towns and village of colonial America, endured a difficult marriage that created an unstable marriage that created an unstable family life at best.

Their legacies, however, are noble and their achievements memorable. Despite their problems, the peace of God was rooted deep in their spirits, serving as both rudder and stabilizer for their ministry and lives.

It is perfectly normal to have your cage rattled by strained relationships, financial tremors, or emotional surges. Jesus told us to expect such predicaments.

But because you have Christ, you have unshakable peace in your innermost being. You can wade through dilemmas without yielding to irrational fears or anxiety. Keep Him at the center of your life and you will reflect the peace of Christ.

### **PRAY WITHOUT CEASING**

(1 THESSALONIANS 5:17)

Prayer is the voice of need which appeals for aid to the One who can give it. Frequently we read of one appealing

for help, who cries, *"Give ear to my prayer"* (Psalm 17:1). The whole of God's Being is represented as being alert for our blessing. He has a heart to love us (Psalm 33:11), a hand to help us (Isa. 41:10).

We cannot over-estimate the helpfulness of prayer. If our prayer life is slack everything is slack. Prayer to the Lord is the buckler to brace our spiritual energies. Prayer is the electric wire to keep us in touch with the power-house of the Holy Spirit. Prayer is the empty hand of need taking the supplies from the larder of God's bounty. Prayer is the hedge of protection which hedges us in the realm of the Lord's keeping. Prayer is the fructifying soil which gives us the rootage in God's truth, and the fruitage of the Spirit's life. Prayer is the life's blood which circulates in the realm of our spiritual being, giving life and vigor to all. Prayer is the expression of faith which believes in, and brings God's ability to enable us to fulfill our responsibilities. Prayer is the disinfectant which will kill the dry rot of unbelief, to counteract the blight of worldliness, and everything contrary to the will of God.

If we truly pray we become like Him to Whom we pray. Hartley Coleridge has tersely summed up this thought:

*"So have I dreamed. O, may the dream be true. That praying souls are purged from mortal hue, And grow as pure as He to Whom they pray."*

Contact with God by means of prayer causes us to be conformed to Him, even as the graft of the rose bud makes the brier a rose tree.

\*\*\*IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PRAYER, OR DESIRE A VISIT PLEASE CALL ME\*\*\*

--Pastor Vince Ingoglia  
369-4390



## April Bible Quiz Questions

- 1) In which type of sacrificial offering is either a male or female animal acceptable to God?
- 2) What miracle did Jesus perform in Bethsaida in addition to the feeding of the 5,000?
- 3) What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
- 4) Which Mary anointed Jesus' head and feet with very costly oil of spikenard?
- 5) In addition to Judas Iscariot, which other man mentioned in the Bible committed suicide by hanging (hint, O.T.)

Bonus: Who was the progenitor of the Semetic race?

-- **Felix Acerra**

## March Quiz Answers

Congratulations to Tom and Laura Kelleher, Peter Albrecht and Tina Wiwczar for answering last months quiz questions correctly!

### Answers

- 1) Elkanah (1 Samuuel 1:8).
- 2) Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2).
- 3) Christ's Love for the Church (Ephesians 5:25).
- 4) Nabal (1 Samuel 25:3).
- 5) At a well in Midian (Exodus 2:16).

Bonus: They must marry within their tribe (Numbers 36:6).

Submit the Bible reference and correct answers to: [wrbc4Christ@hotmail.com](mailto:wrbc4Christ@hotmail.com). the correct answers will be announced in the next newsletter!

# April 2009

1 – **Wednesday**

6:30 PM **AWANA**  
7:00 PM Prayer

2 – **Thursday**

8:30 AM Ladies Prayer  
7:00 PM Bible Study

5 – **PALM SUNDAY**

9:45 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Morning Worship

7 – **Tuesday**

07:00 PM Bible Study

8 – **Wednesday**

**AWANA SPRING BREAK**  
7:00 PM Prayer

9 – **Thursday**

8:30 AM Ladies Prayer  
7:00 PM Bible Study

12 – **EASTER SUNDAY**

9:45 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Morning Worship

14 – **Tuesday**

7:00 PM Bible Study  
7:00 PM Board of Deacon Meeting

15 – **Wednesday**

6:30 PM **AWANA**  
7:00 PM Prayer

16 – **Thursday**

8:30 AM Ladies Prayer  
7:00 PM Bible Study

19 – **SUNDAY**

9:45 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Morning Worship

21 – **Tuesday**

7:00 PM Bible Study  
7:30 PM Mission Committee meeting

22 – **Wednesday**

6:30 PM **AWANA**  
7:00 PM Prayer

23 – **Thursday**

8:30 AM Ladies Prayer  
7:00 PM Bible Study

26 – **SUNDAY**

9:45 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Morning Worship

28 – **Tuesday**

7:00 PM Bible Study

29 – **Wednesday**

6:30 PM **AWANA**  
7:00 PM Prayer

30 – **Thursday**

8:30 AM Ladies Prayer  
7:00 PM Bible Study

# Missionary of the Month

## Tim and Marcia Monahan

Tim and Marcia Monahan, World Venture missionaries in Ital, believe their mission is to develop mature and united disciples to reach Naples and the world for Christ. Our mission here at the WRBC is to faithfully pray for them and support them

Tim and Marcia have lived in Naples for 23 years as they minister to the nationals and ex-patriots in the Naples area. Their church there, Il Faro, International Baptist Church, is a truly multi-cultural, international church offering biblical messages separately in English and Italian.

In addition, Tim, with this newly acquired doctorate degree in ministry from Biblical Seminary, will be serving churches throughout Italy this year. Leadership courses and seminars are being offered in Rome, Palmi, Asti, Poz-



zuoli and Naples keeping his travel agenda busy. Pray for the financial support that will enable his ministry to translate and print the courses needed that would equip faithful and capable leaders throughout Italy. Each course costs about \$6,000 to translate/write and print.

As for their children: Erin is now happily married and Nate is working in Philadelphia and running marathons and triathlons.

Marcia is bringing women to church through her "market" ministry where Marcia connects the Italians to the Americans in fellowship. Women's Bible studies are offered in the homes and at the church.

More than ever, Italy is in need of Christian leaders since Europe has become a post-Christian continent. Naples is in what they call the 10/40 window which needs special prayers with the influx of Islam. So for the month of April, let us faithfully pray for Tim & Marcia Monahan.

Looking ahead, the Monahans will be visiting the WRBC on August 23, 2009

Lago Patria. They will again seek to foster Italian leadership in that church, but this time with "more wisdom."



## Let's Get Ac-

How easy it is to take people for granted especially when their accomplishments are well hidden and not explored. In contrast to their appearance, these people are sometimes at the heart of a well run machine. One comes to mind here at the WRBC – Bonnie Heuzey. Bonnie is a great coordinator not only in the tasks assigned to her in church, but in her home coordinating the “Brady Bunch” and one of my favorites, her ability to coordinate her wardrobe.

To begin at the beginning, Bonnie was born June 29, 1949 here on Long Island, and grew up in Lake Grove NY. She was the oldest of four children born to Stephen & Shirley Barnett. Her father owned a small plumbing business; later working as a plumber for Middle Country School District. Her mother, a talented pianist, chose to remain at home caring for her four children: Bonnie, Nancy, Stephen, and Sally.

Bonnie is most definitely a Long Island girl with a family history going back to several generations all living in and around Lake Grove. Even the church that the family attended has a history going back 194 years making it a historical site now. When she attended the church it was known as the “Jesus Saves” church because of a neon sign stationed above the door with those words lighting the way into the church.

Bonnie's perception of herself growing up was very ordinary and nothing outstanding. But as we look into her past we find her to be otherwise, active in the youth group and in Pioneer Girls. as a teenager, she loved roller skating and ice skating. As a child, her love for horses was recognized by her parents and they gave Bonnie and her sister ponies that they had for many years. They loved riding their ponies in local parades and giving rides to local children.

Some of the fondest memories of Bonnie's childhood are the many summers spent at her grandparents' beach cottage at West Meadow each. Her grandmother being a godly woman greatly influenced her life and



**Bonnie Heuzey**

later on, the lives of Bonnie's children.

Not unlike a lot of young teenagers, Bonnie drifted away from the Word and after many choices and consequences, the Lord by His mercy and grace, drew her back to Him. She graduated from Newfield High School in Selden in 1967.

Although she never attended college, her husband has said that Bonnie has a “Doctorate in Life Experiences” strengthening her faith in God. She recognizes how the Lord has been gracious in caring for her through times of change in her life. One change being very sad and tragic was the end of a of a marriage of 18 years leaving her with the joys and challenges of being a single parent for 10 years as she raised her 3 children, Rick, Jennifer and Sandra.

Bonnie had various jobs, through the years with the last employment being at Stony Brook University Hospital, working part time in the Physical Therapy Dept. as a typist, typing patient's reports,. It was at this time she met Doug Heuzey at church and through a Bible study that was led by Doug, they became better acquainted. Being that the study met in Bonnie's home, they began to see each other on a regular basis and eventually coming together in matrimony. When she married widowed Doug Heuzey 11 years ago on May 2, she quit her job and became a full time homemaker coordinating Doug's 3 children; Michael, Laura and Stephen into her family of three truly making it the “Brady Bunch.”

Now, as a member of the WRBC, Bonnie has taken an active role on the Deaconess Committee, teaching Sunday school on occasion and helping with VBS. As a Deaconess she has coordinated many social gatherings in the church. Whenever there is a need of one of God's servants with a clipboard in hand, Bonnie is the one.

Aside from all that keeps her busy serving the church, she remains dedicated to her children and grandchildren. When her daughter was a child, Bonnie supported her in her dreams of competitive figure ice skating. For 10 years, Bonnie, as a “skating Mom”, accompanied her daughter to the competitions; their favorite being Lake Placid. Now she baby sits her 2 grandchildren, 4 year old David and 16 month old Abigail at least twice a week.

When she gets a chance to relax, she loves to read biographies and real life stories, not to forget her favorite reading material, the Bible. She loves walking on beaches, campfires and camping. She loves visiting with friends and relatives and going out to eat. Whenever anything of this sort is being planned, you can betcha that Bonnie is behind the scenes doing her share of coordinating.

-- Joan Tyska







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### Our Purpose

1. To glorify God through sharing the good news of salvation by God's sovereign grace through faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. To nurture believers through a strong program of Christian education, youth ministries, and expository Biblical preaching.
3. To provide an opportunity for Biblical worship, service, and fellowship.
4. To extend our ministry throughout America and around the world through participation in home and foreign missions.

WRBC is affiliated with the Conservative Baptist Association of America and the Conservative Baptist Mission to the Northeast.