



The Rincon Mountain MESSENGER

Summer 2015

Volume 3, Issue 3

Inside this issue:

VBS	1
Kruis Korner	2
Art Gallery	3
Hey Y'all!	3
A Word or Two	4
Carnival	4
Holler Family	5
Shoot-Out	5
Radio	5
Calendar	7

A Blast to the Past!

Sixty children from preschool through 5th grade got to Blast to the Past in this year's VBS. The overall theme focused on God's love with specific days showing how that love was incredible, faithful, invincible, unconditional and real. Using a time machine, Doc and Caleb took kids back through history where they got to see Moses, Rahab, David a shepherd boy, the woman who washed Christ's feet and the apostle Peter. There were fun crafts, games and creative snacks. Also, over 230 dollars was raised for Back to Back Ministries, which reaches out to orphans. Victoria Wates and her helpers made the week a great success in teaching about and showing God's Love.





Pastor Phil Kruis

Kruis Korner

Marriage as Ordained by God

Last Friday, June 26, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that same-sex marriages are now legal in all 50 states. Their ruling was in error as the court directly contradicted the perfect, holy and infallible law of God found in the inerrant word of God which defines marriage as only between one man and one woman.

Marriage is not defined by human law nor is it redefined by human action. Regardless of what men declare or proclaim or perform, God's word is the final authority. Marriage has been, is and always will be a sacred union between one man and one woman. Nothing will ever change that. Any man-made attempt at union outside of God's design for marriage is not marriage. Rather, it is sin.

Marriage, the union between one man and one woman, was instituted by God in the time of man's innocence in the garden. Genesis 1:18 says, "God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone. I will make him a helper fit for him.'" In Genesis 1:21–25 we find that God made two different sexes. One male. One female.

Marriage, the union between one man and one woman, was instituted by God to reflect the relationship between Christ and his church. Marriage is based on the concept of complementarianism—that you need two different persons to come together to make one flesh. This is the gospel basis for marriage.

Christ came to redeem a people that were like him but at the same time very different. The church needs a redeemer that is like them but at the same time very different. Husbands lay down their lives for their wives who are like them but at the same time very different. Wives submit to their husbands who are like them but at the same time very different.

This ruling of the Supreme Court, along with many other recent rulings, causes us to grieve because it is contrary to God's law and runs counter to the gospel. Psalm 2, which was written almost 3000 years ago in a distinctly Hebrew setting, provides for us a timeless context within which we

must view these types of grievous events. The first thing we see in this picture is that...

The nations will rebel (Ps. 2:1–3)

"The nations" are those who are opposed to God and still in rebellion against Him and the nations will rebel. They will set themselves against God and against his anointed, the Lord Jesus Christ. They will do everything they can to 'burst the bonds and cords of God's law away from them'. This is the definition of rebellion. A lost and dying world will act like a lost and dying world. That should not surprise us.

However, before we get on our high horse and look down upon or hate certain Supreme Court Justices or other politicians or those who rejoice in their rulings, let us never forget that we were once there with them. (Eph. 2:1–3)

We who have been saved by the grace of God should grieve over the rebellion of those around us and we must guard ourselves from responding with pride. Our rescue from the prince of the power of the air had nothing to do with us. (Eph. 2:8, 9)

The nations, those who have not yet known the grace of God, will rebel. While that grieves us, and their acts of rebellion grieve us, that should not surprise us. Condemn the actions but guard your response from condemning the persons. God will take care of that response. We see his response in verses 4–6.

Yahweh will respond (Ps. 2:4–6)

We see two responses from Yahweh here. First, he laughs at them. He scoffs at rulers who think they can shrug his rule off their shoulders. "You scoff at me? Your attempts to thwart my rule are laughable. I put you in your place of rule and I can take you out!"

Then, verse 5 says, his response turns to wrath. We need to understand and remember that the Bible makes it clear that wrath is under the sole ownership of Yahweh. Yahweh may express wrath. You and I may not. God will use his wrath according to his perfect will. You and I will err terribly in showing wrath.

He declares in his wrath "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." He says this to anyone who sets himself

Continued on page 6

The Hymn Project

The newest addition to the Hallway Art Gallery is the Hymn Project. Cindy Visser has invited the church family to share their favorite hymn or praise song. Those contributing also indicate why the music is significant to them and what it tells them about God. This is an open ended project, so please contact Cindy if you would like to participate.



Pastor Luke Smith

Hey Y'all! *Singing the Psalms*

In his Preface to the Psalter, John Calvin made the following remarks on why we sing the Psalms: "It is to have songs not only honest, but also holy, which will be like spurs to incite us to pray to and praise God, and to meditate upon his works in order to love, fear, honor and glorify him...And moreover, when we sing them, we are certain that God puts in our mouths these, as if he himself were singing in us to exalt his glory."

It's good to sing the Psalms because, historically, they are the hymnbook of God's people. When we sing these words we are, in one respect, externalizing what we affirm internally and not just cognitively dwelling on a propositional truth. In another respect, we are internalizing what we communicate externally—like a popular song that becomes strikingly thematic of our lives, the words become second nature to us in a way where we start to really believe in our hearts the Word of Truth. It's also good to sing Psalms together because it forces us to see that we share in a corporate relationship with God, and we are accountable to each other in living out his decrees.

Take Psalm 23 as an example. The words instill confidence of being loved, refreshed, restored, guided, protected, received, and honored by the LORD as an individual (since this is a psalm of David that reflects upon God's bountiful provision for him). Yet, this is designed as a corporate song. We are united as one body of believers, and so we can

corporately call upon the LORD as "my shepherd" in that sense. We might attempt to sing this psalm as individuals in worship, but we surely can't help but finish our song with one voice, singing "He's not just mine, but ours!" We are united as the flock of our great shepherd and the guest of our great host of heaven and earth. Thus, the term "my shepherd" points us to this corporate element. However, singing that he is "my shepherd" also helps us to have the right posture before the LORD. If he is really "my shepherd" then that means we are sheep and must follow his leading upon recognizing that he truly knows where we can find our ultimate rest and refreshment. Singing makes us come to grips with the reality that our lives are in his hands, and that is rightly where they belong. As part of the flock, I want "my shepherd" to lead me and guide me and keep me safe because I would feel helpless otherwise. Singing of God's wonderful covenantal deeds for his people incites us to thanksgiving and praise as we corporately own the blessing of being his. But as we face the realities of the cruel world around us, we can also corporately rejoice in the life that he gives to us. The imagery is compelling. He makes us lie down together in places of rest and leads us to the waters of refreshment. He guides us through the dark valleys, defending us against attackers. And he welcomes us to his table in fellowship with him. This is not just corporate imagery, but it is imagery of intimacy. And so as we sing this together, we can be strengthened and gain confidence in bleak times because of his loving care.

A Word...or Two

Whom Do You Worship?

In the Presbyterian tradition, we believe in the “regulative principle of worship.” This principle guides and directs what we do on Sunday mornings when we gather together to worship God. Basically, it says that we must worship God according to the directives He has given us in His Word. To put it another way, we don't have permission to worship God any way we want. We can only do those things in public worship that God has specifically told us to do.

At first glance, this principle might seem narrow-minded. After all, if we're sincerely trying to worship the one true God, why does it matter what we do? Why would God consider our best efforts “unacceptable”?

The answer lies in the Second Commandment: “You shall not make for yourself a carved image... you shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God” (Ex 20:4-5). In this commandment, God isn't simply forbidding the Israelites from worshiping wooden or metal images of false gods. He's also forbidding them from worshiping the one true God by making images of Him too! Incidentally, this is exactly what Israel did when they made the golden calf at Mt. Sinai (Ex 32:4-5). God is abundantly clear; that kind of worship isn't acceptable to

Him. Why? Because when you try to worship the one true God in a way He has not commanded, you end up worshiping a false god, a god of your own making.



Pastor Ben Castaneda

That's a dangerous thing to do.

As the Second Commandment says, God is “a jealous God” who will not allow his glory to be given to anyone or anything else. We get an example of God's “jealousy” in Lev 10:1-2, when Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu try to worship God in a way He had not commanded. The result was that God struck them dead.

Worship is serious business. We need to recognize that it's not about us and our preferences — it's about God. When we worship God any way we want, we're trying to create a god we can control, a god who looks a lot like us. But God is not like us. He is absolutely holy, and the very fact that the God of the universe invites us to worship Him at all speaks to His incomparable grace toward us in Jesus. So because of who God is and what He has done for us, let us worship Him as He has commanded us..

SUMMER

Kickoff Carnival



Joelle's face painting station was a favorite with the kids.



Kelly Holmes, Connor Holley, and Phil and Caleb Kruis enjoy a competitive game of corn hole.

The last Sunday in May was the occasion for Rincon's Summer Kickoff Carnival. Both children and adults enjoyed a variety of fun activities. There were games such as bingo, bean bag toss and Farkel Party. Kids took advantage of the crafts and face painting tables and the jumping castle. Tasty snacks rounded out a great night of fellowship.

Holler Family Settles In

The Holler family has been in Indonesia for almost a year. Seth teaches writing, humanities and literature at the International Teachers College which has a biblical emphasis, and Seth has just signed on for another year. Seth and Noelle were members at Rincon for several years and moved to Indonesia after Seth completed his Ph.D. at the U of A. The International Teachers College has students from Cambodia, Nepal, the Philippines, Myanmar, Japan, South Korea, America, and of course Indonesia. Seth says that, "We're working on China." The Hollers are joining a PCA church plant that meets on campus, Karawaci Presbyterian Church. In the photo the Holler family is modeling Indonesian fabric styles. You can contact Seth at scholler@gmail.com.

From left to right, the kids are June (age 2), Eli (4), Daisy (6), and Andy (7), with mom and dad, Noelle and Seth Holler.



2015 Desert Shoot-out

On April 18th, 25 men and men-in-training journeyed into the wilds of southern Arizona for a day of fellowship, food, fun, and guns. The morning shooting session featured everything from .22 rifles and 9mm pistols to .30-06 rifles and .358 revolvers. The afternoon shooting session featured trap shooting with 20-gauge and 12-gauge shotguns, with an Annie Oakley-style competition rounding out the day. During lunch, we ate bacon burgers and brats and listened to a devotion from Philippians 2:3-8 on what true servanthood looks like. All in all, it was a great men's retreat! We look forward to having more men joining us next year!

Equip to Listen

Rincon's radio program "Equip to Engage" continues to grow and find new listeners. Pastors Phil, Luke and Ben recently finished a series that went in depth on the meaning of the Apostles' Creed. The next series, running through August, will be Myth Busters which corrects false perceptions of various aspects of Christianity. Traffic to the church's website has more than quadrupled since the radio ministry began. Find the only faith-based program on the FM dial in Tucson (outside just Christian music) on Sundays at 7 am, 104.1 KQTH. Pray that Rincon will continue to have the finances to support this important ministry.



Continued from page 2

up as king against him and does not repent or turn from their rebellion: "Give your allegiance to the King who rules in Zion or prepare to feel my wrath."

Who is that King? Who rules on God's holy hill? It is Jesus. Look at verses 7–9.

Jesus will reign (Ps. 2:7–9)

The decree of the Lord that David sites applies to him as king over Israel but even David say and knew that this decree pointed forward to the greater Son who would reign over God's people.

The promise of God to his son in verse 8 is that the nations—those who were formerly opposed to him—He will make his Son's heritage. All the ends of the earth were not Satan's to give (See Matthew 4). God alone has that prerogative. All the nations of the earth are placed under the rule of Jesus Christ.

Those who are opposed to him, "[He] shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Therefore...

The nations are warned (Ps. 2:10–12)

In his grace, God declares to the rulers of the nations: Repent! Be wise. Stop serving the wishes of a wicked and perverse generation. Turn! Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son—show Him and Him alone acts of allegiance. If you do not turn to him and give him your life and your rule you will perish. If you do turn, there is hope.

We must call people to repentance. Same-sex marriage implies same sex acts and same sex acts are listed as sins in the Bible among other sins. But that is not where the Bible stops. The Bible doesn't just give law and say "Knock it off". The Bible offers the gospel. It says that same sex acts, just like the other sins you and I commit, must be confessed and when confessed they are covered by the blood of Christ.

That is why the write of the Psalm offers a ray of hope: "Blessed are all who take refuge in him." There is a place of refuge for rulers who wantonly rebel against the king. There is a place of refuge for those who rejoice in their rulings. There is a place of refuge for all—including you and for me—when we rebel against the King. Blessed are all who repent of their sin and take refuge in him. There they shall find shelter from the storm of their sin and be made at peace with God.

Conclusion:

We've seen the picture of how things have been, are and will be when the nations revolt. No matter what the nations do, the Lord Jesus rules over all!

And what does his rule mean to us? How do we respond to what is happening around us? I want you to turn to one last passage, Hebrews 10:19–25.

Hebrews was written to offer encouragement to Christians who were living in a very difficult time. They were suffering persecution and attack primarily at the hands of those in political

The writer of Hebrews first describes our position, our place, in Christ in Hebrews 10:19–21. Those who trust in Jesus and live in him and under his rule have confidence to enter the holy places—the presence of God—not because of anything we have done but because we are saved by the spilt blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. He has opened the way—a living way—to God. And since he serves us as our priest, our mediator, we have peace with God.

Then he gives us three exhortations, three things we must do in light of the current events. First, in Hebrews 10:22 he says, let us make sure that we are strong in our faith, living lives that are above reproach. In other words, let's make sure that our house is in order first before helping others get their house in order.

Second, in Hebrews 10:23 he says, Don't despair. We have hope. We live in hope. Don't waver. Hold on to your confession. He is faithful. He is faithful. He is faithful.

And third, in Hebrews 10:24, 25 he reminds us that the love and good works to which God will call us will be way out of our comfort zone.

The calling that rulings like these place on the Christian is that you take your faith seriously. The gay community is not our enemy. They are our mission field. Many Christians treat the LGBT community with hatred and malice. We must treat them with love and grace.

Let's face this reality: We believe that all sexual immorality is sin and when it is committed it leaves death and destruction in its wake. With greater freedom and acceptance of sexual immorality in our culture we should expect a rise in death and destructive behavior. Is the church ready to respond?

There is a battle going on for the souls of men. The church of Jesus Christ is filled with vile, wretched, disgusting men

Continued on page 7

Calendar WEEKLY

Tuesdays:

·Women’s Study & Children’s Program, 9:30 am.
Lisa Collins

Wednesdays:

·Staff Prayer, 3 pm. *Phil Kruis*
·Youth & Family Group, 6 pm. *Ben Castaneda*

Fridays:

·Mountain Men Study, 6:30 am. *Phil Kruis*

2nd & 4th Sundays:

·College & Career, 12:30 pm. *Ben Castaneda*
·Evening Service, 5:30 pm



JULY

Tues. 14th: Taco Dinner for Women & Children’s Center. *Linda Anibal*

Sat. 18th – Sat 25th: Honduras Mission Trip

Fri. 24th: Fourth Friday, 6:30 pm. *Betsy Dunlap*

AUGUST

Sat. 1st: Manly Breakfast for Youth, 8 am. *Ben Castaneda*

Wed. 5th: Preschool Play Group, 9 am. *Victoria Wates*

Tues. 11th: Taco Dinner for Women & Children’s Center. *Linda Anibal*

Fri. 28th: Fourth Friday, 6:30 pm. *Dana McReynolds*

Sun. 30th: Food Truck Rally. *Luke Smith*

SEPTEMBER

Wed. 2nd: Preschool Play Group, 9 am. *Victoria Wates*

Sat. 5th: Manly Breakfast for Youth, 8 am. *Ben Castaneda*

Sun. 6th: Guest and Fellowship Lunch. *Dave & Val Crain*

Tues. 8th: Taco Dinner for Women & Children’s Center. *Linda Anibal*

Fri. 25th: Fourth Friday, 6:30 pm. *Dana McReynolds*

Continued from page 6

and women saved by the grace of God. The battle we are called to fight is not a fight against the homosexual who lives next door or down the street or is in your family. The battle we are called to fight is not for the Supreme Court seats or for other political changes.

The battle we are called to fight is for the gospel. The message is not, “Let’s change Washington so we can change the laws.” The message is, “Let’s change our lives and others’ lives so we can please God and bring him glory.”

We must respond with love and good deeds.

And we can’t neglect to meet together. As the culture gets worse and persecution grows, true believers, God’s people, will need to bind together more and more.

No matter what the nations do, the Lord Jesus rules over all!

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