



"To Know Him and Make Him Known"

First Baptist Church

August 2020

Pastor's Paragraph— Treasures of Darkness




Isaiah 45 is one of my favorite chapters in the Bible because it is an inscrutable paradox. It is God's message concerning King Cyrus, who is a pagan Persian king. Yet, Cyrus is an instrument in God's hand. God uses the godless leader to accomplish His will and return His people from captivity. The point of the entire chapter is that God is sovereign over nations and kings. God sits on the throne, and there is no other. There is no one like Almighty God. That part is easy to understand. However, if God is sovereign over nations and kings, then why are the nations so messed up? And why are the kings so evil, inflicting hardship upon their people? In Isaiah 45, God does not dodge the question or dance around it. He answers it directly. But, it is not what you would expect. When I seek to answer that difficult question, I attempt to defend God and distance Him from evil. I remind people that God is perfect and holy and the world is wicked and sinful because it is in rebellion against God. God can't be held responsible for the evil in the world. But, in Isaiah 45, God doesn't distance Himself from the chaos of evil in the world. He embraces it. "I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things." (Isaiah 45:7) So God creates darkness, and He creates calamity (rendered "evil" in the KJV!) If God is truly sovereign, then He indeed does bear some responsibility for the darkness and evil in the world. He better have a plan! And, of course, he does! He has a wonderful plan to redeem his people and fix this broken world. He will bring beauty out of the ashes of sin and judgment.

God uses the brokenness of this world to give us depths of treasures that we could not otherwise know or appreciate. He calls them treasures of darkness. "I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the Lord, Who call you by your name, am the God of Israel." (Isaiah 45:3) It is in the depths of darkness and calamity that we see the brightness of God's glory like never before.

Isaiah 45 is the chapter that we need in the midst of a pandemic. There is uncertainty, sickness and death all around us. There is confusion from our leaders and violence in our streets. Many people are still unable to attend church, and the worshipers that do attend church are somewhat limited in their worship. Inevitably, this opens the door for spiritual darkness. No doubt Satan has been very active during this pandemic, attacking God's people and attempting to sow seeds of discouragement and division.

In these dark times, we look for God's treasures. And, we find them! Sure, Satan has been at work. But God is still on the throne. Satan has been busy, but God has been busier! This is just anecdotal evidence, but it seems as though we have had more salvations the past few months than we have had in a long time! We have a baptismal service coming up in August that reflects that observation. We had at least one first-time salvation decision at VBS, and we had a revival break out at camp with an entire cabin coming to know Christ! God is blessing in unexpected ways. So, as you contemplate the recent darkness, trust God to give you the treasures of darkness and the hidden riches of secret places. You will not be disappointed! -Pastor

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SS 9:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Bible/Prayer 6 PM Youth Group 6 PM						1 No Trustee mtg. Pastor returns from vacation
2 AM Communion (Please bring your own supplies) -Set-Up for Sports Challenge/Pizza	3	4	5	6	7	8 (Tear Down)
Sports Challenge: VBS Super Camp! July 30-August 3rd/Ages 5-12						
9	10 Prayer 7 PM____ Pastor's Day-off	11 Deacons' Mtg 7 PM	12	13 	14	15
16	17 Prayer 7 PM____ Pastor's Day-off	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Prayer 7 PM	25	26  AWANA Workers' Meeting 6:30 PM	27	28	29
30 Promotion Sunday	31 Prayer 7 PM					



Open House

Our AWANA Registration Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9th, at 6:30 PM! First official club night is Wednesday, September 16th.

AWANA Workers' Meeting

If you are interested in helping with AWANA, please come to the meeting on Wednesday, August 26th, at 6:30 p.m.!



Reminder! Please remember to bring your own supplies for Communion.



Welcome!! We will be giving our newest members the "Right-Hand-of-Fellowship" on the first Sunday of this month, August 2nd, welcoming them into membership!



Sports Challenge Set-Up!

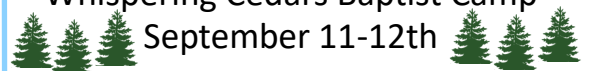
We will be setting up for the week of Sports challenge after church on Sunday, August 2nd. Please sign up at the back table if you are able to help! We need muscle power! Pizza and pop with a brief meeting at noon.



Men's Retreat

Whispering Cedars Baptist Camp

September 11-12th



June Finances

Balance Forward 6/1/2020

Deacon's Fund	\$3,746.46
Designated Fund	\$4,569.78
General Fund	\$46,683.26
Checking Account	\$54,999.50

June Income	\$16,815.94
June Expenses	\$14,561.40
Net Decrease	\$2,254.54

Balance 6/30/2020

Deacon's Fund	\$3,696.46
Designated Fund	\$4,707.17
General Fund	\$48,850.41
Checking Account	\$57,254.04