



Youth Camp is scheduled!

This will be for all youth group members and will be at Butte Lake. The dates are August 5th – August 7th. We will return to town for Sunday service.

Weekly Bible studies are happening NOW!!

Our Senior high kids (9th – 12th grade) will meet Sunday evenings at the church from 6:30pm – 8:30pm UNLESS it's the first Sunday of the month. Every first Sunday Sr. High youth group will be held at the Doebler's home.

Our Junior High is meeting on Wednesday nights from 6:30 -8pm at the church.

Dates to remember:

- 8/21 – Youth lead Sunday Worship Service
- 8/28 – Youth Group Recycle Fundraiser
- 9/10 – Youth Group Fiesta Fundraiser (dinner and entertainment by our talented youth!)



MARY'S BOOK REVIEW

Lady Jane Grey, Nine Day Queen of England by Faith Cook , published 2004

And

The Nine Days Queen, A Portrait of Lady Jane Grey by Mary Luke, published 1986

These two biographies tell the story of a young girl's life in 16th Century England. Hers is a story of manipulation by self-centered and unloving parents and other opportunists and clergy of the Tudor court. Despite her emotional and physical abuse and her political and religious maltreatment, she maintained a strong love for the reformed church and steadfastly held to her faith up to her dying hour, while her family and others in the so-called nobility yielded to or reverted to Catholicism for political and financial reasons depending on who was in power at any given time.

She was educated at home by a tutor who was the only person in her childhood that treated her well, and was her greatest friend and confidant. By the time she was in her teens she was fluent in Greek, Latin, and modern languages, and was accomplished in music as well. She studied William Tyndale's English translation of the Bible and even exchanged letters with the leaders and scholars of the Reformation in England and abroad, including John Calvin. Late, just prior to her execution, she eloquently debated a Catholic Chaplain who tried to convert her. A partial transcript of that debate is included in each of these books.

Because of her royal lineage which placed her fourth in line for the British throne, her family and others in the aristocracy groomed her for the possibility of her possible future as queen. Such preparation included a marriage contract in which she had no choice, it being arranged by her parents while she was just a child. She was little more than a pawn in a great chess game. Later, it became more acceptable for political reasons for her to be married to a different man, and that first contract was breached so that she could eventually marry the family's second choice. Every facet of her life was micromanaged, leaving her with no power over her own life.

When the young King Edward VI, the son of Henry VIII, died at age 15, there were two factions working to claim the throne, one for Edward's sister Mary and another for Lady Jane Grey. Since Mary was Catholic and also had been declared illegitimate when the Pope had refused Henry VIII a divorce from his former wife, it was held by many that she was therefore ineligible. For the Protestant faction, Jane Grey was the solution, and hasty preparations were made to make her queen. She was shocked, and had no desire for the position, but reluctantly and dutifully

accepted the "scepter and orb." This led to an uprising in support of Mary, and Jane willingly surrendered after a very brief time. But that turned out to further restrict her freedom, and she was confined to the Tower of London, was tried and sentenced to death. Executed at age 16, her short life had been fraught with tragedy and mistreatment and injustice, but her faithfulness never faltered and she was a truly remarkable Christian example. Faith Cook's final paragraph says it best: "...the triumph of faith in the life and death of Lady Jane Grey remains a shining example of the grace and power of God in the life of one young person and deserves an enduring place in the long story of the Church of Jesus Christ."

Mary Luke's book is available at the Redding Library, and Faith Cook's is available on Amazon.com and the church library. (See Mary Montague.)



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Redding

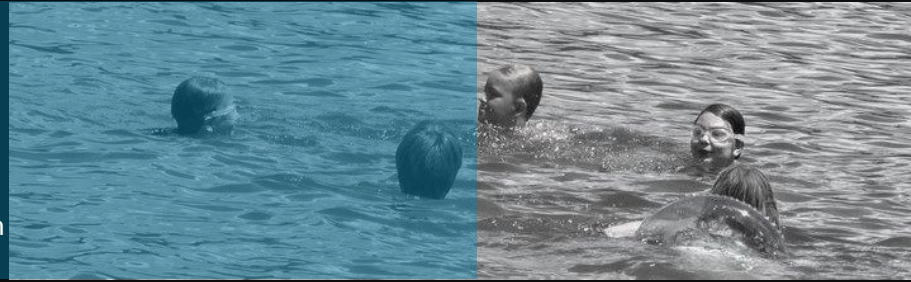
AUGUST MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



All the moms and for the continued health of those sweet babies. * Alex and Brianna Holt as they try to adopt Virginia. * Those looking for housing and/or work *Health concerns for Mary Montague, Francis Ott, Cora Dore, and Ansel Wilder (and wisdom for his parents) *Carl Miller & family moving to CA including a job and house. * Judy Holt and family while Jack is away fighting fires. * Tim and Elaine Minami while they are moving back to Redding. *Great Family camp for the church.

GPC Worship Schedule:

Sunday Worship 11am
Sunday School (all ages) 10am
Red Bluff Mission Worship 5pm
Bible Study (all ages) Wednesday 6:30 – 8pm



The Denial of Self

By Carl Miller

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me (Gal. 2:20)

From the cradle to the grave, we are exposed to the indoctrination of “self.” Pop psychology and many in society claim, and attempt to persuade us, that a key to personal stability, a key to personal health and healing is the presence of a good “self-image” or high “self-esteem.” The development of self has been written into psychological human development theory. Success in maintaining positive self-image and high self esteem are promoted as the proper path of normal development. We are told that if parents are a high



going to raise healthy children, they need to nurture and encourage a high self-image and esteem. Being trained as a mental health therapist, my professors instructed me to view these matters as essential for healing and restoration. At first glance, we may not have concern about what is being said. This feels good, maybe even “natural.” We may be tempted to like the idea of feeling that there is something good in us to esteem. Temptation may also arise to like the idea that we can fix ourselves if we just put our mind to it and work through the issues.

Though it may feel good, the tragedy of the development of this false understanding of self is that it grows and props up the lie that there is “good” in us apart from Christ. It tells us that we can mend and cultivate this “good” in our hearts to bring health and healing. In addition, it reflects nothing about the truth of who we are in Christ or His work in us and our utter dependence on Him.

To further understand the dangers of this promotion of self, we need to put aside the world’s perspective, and ensure our view of self is grounded on the Bible. David declared to the Lord, “*You are my Lord, my goodness is nothing apart from You.*” (Psalm 16:2). “*There is none who does good, no not one*” (Romans 3). We were “*dead in trespasses and sins*” apart from Christ (Ephesians 2). Our righteousness is “*like filthy rags*” before the Lord. (Isaiah 64:6) Thus says the Lord regarding the wickedness of our hearts, “*The*

heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruits of his doings.” (Jeremiah 17:9-10) As we understand these truths more, we realize that we can’t stand on our own attempts to esteem or better ourselves. Beloved, reality is that a high view of self results in a low view of Christ. We don’t need to be sucked into self-focus and self-esteem. When our focus is there, we see nothing but our filthy rags. Instead of being self-centered, we can and must now be Christ-centered. We need to have a deep, glorifying recognition and esteem of Jesus Christ and His work in us (Philippians 1:6).

Matthew Henry rightly commented on Paul words to the Galatians (quoted above) when he said, “He is crucified, and yet he lives; the old man is crucified, but the new man is living. Sin is mortified, and grace is quickened. He [Paul] has the comforts and the triumphs of grace; and yet that grace is not of himself, but from another. He is interested in the death of Christ, so as to die unto to sin; and yet interested in the life of Christ, so as to live unto God.” Paul had a right understanding of grace. He knew that it had nothing to do with him and everything to do with Christ. Paul didn’t say “thank you” to God for Christ’s work of redemption and then move on with his own agenda. Jesus worked in his heart to be fully committed to a life of living “*by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*”

Brothers and Sisters, be comforted and strengthened! Denial of self is tied to the death of Christ. Jesus calls us to put off the “old man” and put on the “new man” (Colossians 3) and walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4). We are no longer bound to the works of the flesh as seen in selfishness and selfish ambitions (Galatians 5:20). Rather, we are cut to the heart, drawn out of ourselves, as He shows us the depth of His love in the selfless giving of Himself for us. May God grant us grace to fix our eyes upon Jesus daily, having joy, comfort, and confidence in who we are as children of God, as we deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow Him!

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Scripture to ponder

Mark Chapter 1

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; 2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 5 And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; 7 And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. 8 I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost. 9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. 10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: 11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 12 And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. 13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him. 14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. 16 Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. 17 And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. 18 And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him. 19 And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets. 20 And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him. 21 And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. 22 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.