

# GRACE PRESBYTERIAN NEWSLETTER

## REDDING

February

2012



2095 El Verano St. Redding, CA 96002  
(530)223-5288



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Come support Ansel Wilder by eating at Chevy's January 31<sup>st</sup>. 25% of profits will be given to Ansel for his neurodevelopmental program. See JJ or Nichole Wilder for more info.
- The next Fellowship Dinner is February 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Don't forget to sign up on the cleaning list for the new year!
- Bible Study is on Wednesday evenings. Please come join us!
- Feb 12<sup>th</sup> -Join us for hymn singing. Bring a sack lunch to church and carpool or meet at 1:30 in front of Marquis Shasta. (3550 Churn Creek Rd. ) Contact Sara Mintz for more info.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- The Millers and their efforts to move to Red Bluff
- Our elders and deacons
- Expecting mothers
- Ansel Wilder and Cora Dore with their health issues
- Those in our congregation looking for work

### Grace Presbyterian Church

Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday School (all ages) 10:00 am  
Red Bluff Mission Worship 5:00pm



### **The Lord Always Provides, Part 1**

*A Brief Reflection on the Providence of God*  
by Pastor Carl W. Miller

Westminster Confession of Faith (1647)

#### V. Of Providence

1. "God the great Creator of all things does uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy."

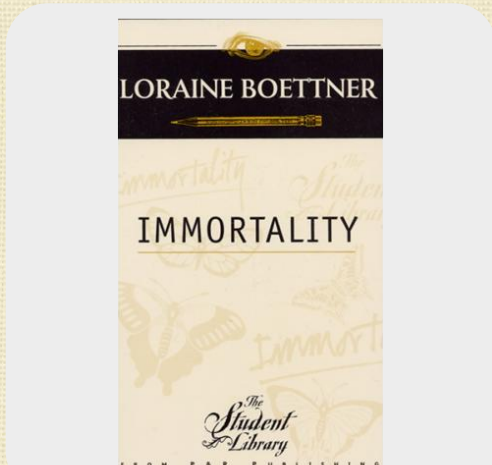
Why do the events of our lives happen the way they do? Even if we are unsure why something came to pass, if we saw it as good, we tend to be happy and pleased that it happened. We experience joy in the good times and sorrow in times of trial and suffering. So, why do things happen the way they do? The Westminster Confession, being in agreement with Scripture, tells us that all things happen as a result of God's providence. The providence of God is a topic of such depth that I cannot adequately discuss it in one article. Therefore, I will begin here and continue in subsequent editions.

The following are a few passages from the Bible that give us detail regarding His providence:

Proverbs 15:3 *"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good."*

Psalms 104:24-32 *"O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions -- This great and wide sea, In which are innumerable teeming things, Living things both small and great. There the ships sail about; There is that Leviathan which You have made to play there. These all wait for You, That You may give them their food in due season. What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good. You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth. (continued p. 3)*





## IMMORALITY

By Loraine Boettner

Reviewer: Mary Montague

Whenever I find a book by Mr. Boettner, I know from the start that it will be worth reading, and he lived up to my expectations in this book. His knowledge is wide and deep, and his writing is clear, concise, and convincing. This volume, though of fewer than 150 pages, is rich in content, filled with wisdom, biblically grounded, and supported by Scripture.

This book is divided into three sections: Physical Death, Immortality, and the Intermediate State. He defines three kinds of death-- spiritual, physical and eternal. Spiritual death in his words means "the separation of the soul from God," physical death as "separation of the soul from the body," and eternal death as "spiritual death made permanent." He goes on to say, "The first death is physical, and it awaits every human being. The second death is spiritual, and it awaits only those who are outside of Christ....Those who are born twice die only

once, the physical death. These latter are the Lord's redeemed."

In facing death, as he points out, for the Christian there are two aspects of death that must always be kept in balance. On the one hand, death has been so transformed by the atonement wrought by Christ that its sting has been removed and it comes now as the last earthly discipline, preparing him for that which lies ahead. As many of us have been able to witness, myself included, having ministered to dying loved ones, approaching death can bring the sufferer into a state of mind in which he is not only ready but willing to leave this world. On the other hand, (according to Mr. Boettner) death is never to be thought of in itself as a blessing. As he states in Part I, chapter 5, "The Bible is uncompromisingly honest about death. It does not sentimentalize. It informs us that death is penalty for sin, and that its infliction on the human race was an awful calamity.

I am tempted to quote from nearly every page, but allow me instead to list a few chapter titles to give a sampling of what to look for in Section I: *The Christian Attitude Toward Death, Comments by John Calvin, Making Preparations for Death, What Happens at Death, Christian Not to Sorrow As Those Who Have No Hope, Prayers for the Dead, and Burial or Cremation?*

The second section "Immortality" discusses many theories and beliefs regarding immortality, a concept of probably every society from the most ancient of times. The author concludes this section with two chapters titled *Scripture Teachings Regarding Immortality* and *Wholesome Results That Flow From a Belief in Immortality*. In one of the last chapters in Section II he states: "The grave, then, is not a blind alley, but a thoroughfare, leading to a much richer life beyond. This life is but prologue; the primary sphere of our existence lies in the future. We can attain completeness only in that other realm where is no more sickness nor death and where progress is always onward and upward."

Section III The Intermediate State I found very interesting indeed, and enlightening in some new ways. In the first chapter he says "The life of man ...falls not into two stages, as is so often assumed, but into three. First, there is the stage from birth until death, which is life in the present world and in the natural body; second, life in between death and resurrection, is the intermediate state, which is life without the body; and the third life in the resurrection body, which is the final and eternal state." He debunks the many theories of a second probation, or another chance for redemption (such as purgatory), as not one verse of Scripture lends any support to these ideas. He also proves the falsity of the theory of annihilation, as taught by the Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh Day Adventists. On this point he says, "The theory of annihilation does violence to the justice of God that demands that the sinner shall receive punishment commensurate with his crime, not annihilation." And he poses the question, what would be the sense of David's declaration about everlasting contempt if the sinner himself had ceased to exist? Daniel 12:2

I enthusiastically recommend this book to all Christian readers. It is available in our Church Library.



## OUR YOUTH ON THE MOVE

Jessica Doebler and Ashley McCain will be headed to Peru with Teen Missions International to help build a church and to work with children in a village in the Amazon Basin on the Ucayali River near Pucallpa. Please go to [www.teenmission.org](http://www.teenmission.org) to get more information and to donate to their trip. Please keep these girls and their work in your prayers.



Tanner Dore and Ian Montague are headed to Europe this summer as Student Ambassadors with the People to People program. They will travel to Ireland, Wales, Belgium, England, France and the Netherlands studying the different cultures and each nations government. They are asking for prayers for their trip as well as looking for donations. You are welcome to speak directly to them about donations.



*May the glory of the Lord endure forever; May the Lord rejoice in His works. He looks on the earth, and it trembles; He touches the hills, and they smoke."*

Acts 17:25-28 *"Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'"*

Consider this, what are "luck" or "chance" next to the reality that nothing comes to pass apart from God's sovereign plan? As Psalm 104 tells us, He opens His hand, they are filled with good. He hides His face, they are troubled. He takes away their breath, they die and return to their dust. Acts 17 teaches us that, "He gives to all life, breath, and all things...for in Him we live and move and have our being...". My friends "luck" and "chance" don't exist. All things happen by God's most wise and holy providence.

It's easy to recognize God's providence when things are going well. However, what about when things aren't going well? What do we do in times of suffering and trial? We must learn to see it there too. In addition, we must not only recognize it, but rest in His provision for us.

King David is a great example of a godly man who wrestled, at times, in understanding God's providence, but also trusted in His providence. Psalm 4 and Psalm 5 tell us of David's distress as well as his recognition of God's relief of his distress (Ps. 4:1, Ps. 5:1-3). David didn't walk with his fingers crossed. His hope was secure in the Lord! (Ps. 5:3, 13) David's moments of sorrow, anxiety and insecurity were met quickly with the comfort of God's blessing, defense, and protection.

Like David, we must put off the anxieties of uncertainty, and trust His faithfulness, goodness, love, grace and mercy as He providentially cares for us. Whether we are walking on top of the mountain, or down in the valley, or even in a time of waiting for His guidance and direction, remember- the Lord always provides! He always has and He always will. God brings all things to pass for a reason, to the praise of His glory.

You may have more questions, than you have answers. However, the Bible is thoroughly rich with these truths. God promises that He is at work in us, sanctifying us and expanding our understanding regarding His person and work. As we grow in understanding of God's providence, I encourage you to consider not only the depth of this great work of God, but also how it is a reflection of His character. Stay tuned as we examine this more in the next edition.

# GPC YOUTH NEWS AND UPDATES

**Youth Group:** Join us as we study Genesis 7-8:30pm (for 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

**February 1<sup>st</sup>** - Doeblers home (Games, Wii, Fellowship, Bible study & Food)

**February 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, & 29<sup>th</sup>** – GPC (Games, Fellowship, Singing, Bible study, & Prayer)

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>** – No Youth Group



## GPC YOUTH GROUP

