

# THE NEW PORT REPORT

February, 2010

Well, February is already here, and with February comes Valentine's Day, and with Valentine's Day comes thoughts of love. Some of those thoughts will be superficial – people feeling compelled to give a material token of love in an attempt to make up for the real expressions of love they've neglected throughout the year. Some thoughts of love will be sincere, a tangible sign of the love expressed to that special someone for a lifetime. Many voices give us many ideas about love at this time of year.

I like to read the quotes people have collected from children about love because children often reflect, unfiltered, the reality of what they see. Here are a couple of my favorite quotes from children about love:

- Love will find you, even if you are trying to hide from it. I been trying to hide from it since I was five, but the girls keep finding me. -- *Dave, age 8*
- It's love if they order one of those desserts that are on fire. They like to order those because it's just like how their hearts are -- on fire. -- *Christine, age 9*
- My mother says to look for a man who is kind. That's what I'll do. I'll find somebody who's kinda tall and handsome. -- *Carolyn, age 8*
- Don't do things like have smelly, green sneakers. You might get attention, but attention ain't the same thing as love. -- *Alonzo, age 9*
- One of you should know how to write a check. Because, even if you have tons of love, there is still going to be a lot of bills. -- *Ava, age 8*
- Love is that first feeling you feel before all the bad stuff gets in the way. -- *Unknown*
- When somebody's been dating for a while, the boy might propose to the girl. He says to her, "I'll take you for a whole life, or at least until we have kids and get divorced." -- *Anita, 9*
- Love is when you tell someone something bad about yourself and you're scared they won't love you anymore. But then you get surprised because not only do they still love you, they love you even more. -- *Unknown*

Kids quickly pick up on the idea that love can be a wonderful thing, but also that it can be a very difficult and disappointing thing. And they grow up wondering, how will I know if love is real? How will I know if love will last? Many people bring that uncertainty about being loved to church with them. One of the things ministers hear regularly goes something like this, "I don't know if God can still love me after this." Or, "I'm not sure if I can still love that person after the way they've treated me." So, it's always good to be reminded of how God loves us and how we love only when we've first been totally and completely loved by him.

The theologian Sinclair Ferguson talks about God's love for us like this:

When we think of Christ dying on the cross we are shown the lengths to which God's love goes in order to win us back to himself. *We would almost think that God loved us more than he loves his Son!* We cannot measure such love by any other standard. He is saying to us: I love you this much. The cross is the heart of the gospel. It makes the gospel good news: Christ died for us. He has stood in our place before God's judgment seat. He has borne our sins. God has done something on the cross we could never do for ourselves. But God does something to us as well as for us through the cross. He persuades us that he loves us.

The cross should never be expounded simply as a demonstration of the love of God in a sense of being overwhelmed with

his love, like it doesn't matter if anything else was accomplished on the cross as long as we are overwhelmed by his love and swept along into fellowship with him, and that is the atonement. No. But while wrath is satisfied and Christ dies for our sins, it would be erroneous for us to reduce this to the kind of mathematical formulation of "this is how God has merely dealt with our sins." *No, this is also how God actually proves to us he really loves us!*

If we look to the cross of Christ we can be certain that God loves us with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3). And if we believe that God has loved us this way, we can also be certain that he will give us the ability to love others in the same way. John 4:19 ("We love because he first loved us.") is promise, not a command. If we understand how God loves us in Christ, we will understand the kind of love we most need – and the love we most need to give others. If we are having a hard time loving others, the root difficulty probably is that we haven't understood fully how God has loved us, and the solution must be to reflect on his great dying and undying love for his children in Christ:

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. (1 John 4:7-12)

Let us know the love of God in the cross of Christ so that the love of God might be known through us to a world confused and longing to see real love.

# Attention!

Ladies, meet with us at the church on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

We will have prayer and a short Bible lesson. Dena Walton will be our hostess.



## ***NEW LADIES' BIBLE STUDY***

The New Port ladies will begin a new Bible study in March.

*The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood*,  
by Susan Hunt and Barbara Thompson,  
will cover the following:

- \*How does scripture define womanhood
- \*How are we related to God
- \*Living for God's Glory in relationships
- \*Friendships with Christians and Non-Christians

Please consider joining with other New Port ladies in this study. (We are looking for ladies who will help present the lessons for our monthly study.) Contact Joan Schmidt (636 239-7449) to order a study book. She will need your order by Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, (Valentine's Day) so that we can have the books to begin in March.

***See you on February 17<sup>th</sup>!***



# Worship

*God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)  
Your word is truth. (John 17:17)*

Here are the upcoming sermon texts and titles for your meditation and preparation for worship:

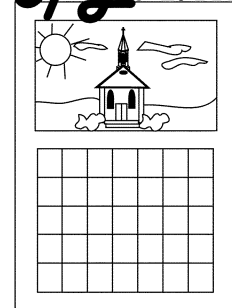
Scripture	Sermon Title	Date
Matt 24:32-51	<i>Are You Ready for the End (or is it the Beginning)?</i>	Feb 7
Matt 25:1-13	<i>Ready for Your Wedding Day: The Parable of the Ten Virgins</i>	Feb 14
Matt 25:14-30	<i>Ready to Settle Accounts: The Parable of the Talents (Lord's Supper)</i>	Feb 21
Matt 25:31-46	<i>Ready to Choose Sides: The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats</i>	Feb 28

Remember, each week's bulletin is posted on the church's website ([www.newportpca.org](http://www.newportpca.org)) by Thursday or Friday. Audio files of past sermons and the current monthly newsletter are also available there.

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- 3 Good News Club at Campbellton, 2:30 p.m.
- 6 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.
- 10 Good News Club at Campbellton, 2:30 p.m.
- 10 Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Worship at New Haven Care Center, 2:30 p.m.
  
- 17 Good News Club at Campbellton, 2:30 p.m.
- 17 Women's Monthly Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Lord's Supper at Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- 24 Good News Club at Campbellton, 2:30 p.m.

## Calendar Of Events



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|---------------------|------------------------|
| 10 Dean Barrett     | 20 Larry Stackhouse    |
| 14 Mabel Barrett    | 21 Stephanie Rust      |
| 17 Shirley Shearman | 23 Kasia Allen         |
| 19 Carolyn Allgaier | 23 Katie Galbraith     |
| 19 Joan Schmidt     | March 2 Dan Breithaupt |