



# Valley Baptist Church Newsletter

## July 2008

### From the Pastor's

Dear Church Family,

What a blessing it is to serve as your pastor! And what a blessing it is for my family to be able to worship with you at Valley Baptist Church! God has done and continues to do a great work. Let us pray that we will be faithful to Him and to each other so He might use us to enlarge His Kingdom.

A professor at my most recent doctor of ministry seminar suggested we pastors tell you about what goes into the preparation of a sermon. I thought that was a good idea. What follows is a description of the sermon preparation process most weeks:

As you know, for the most part I like to preach through a book of the Bible or a chapter. There are many benefits. One is that we are able to get the big picture of what a book or passage is teaching. Also this ensures we get a "balanced diet" of the different aspects of God's Word.

After prayerfully determining the chosen passage for the week (either the next passage in the book of the Bible we are studying or some other text) I begin reading and studying. I read the text prayerfully, seeking to discover what each verse is saying to us and then what the central theme of the passage is. Then I begin seeking the best way to divide the passage and the best approach to explain the text. Many weeks I find it easier to explain the text using points (1,2,3, etc). Some weeks it seems more natural for me to explain the passage in more of a narrative, like a story or a journey, walking through the text with you in one large point.

Having determined the central theme of the text and arranged a basic outline then comes the time to study what others have written about the text. I pull out three or four commentary books and read what those men have to say about the text. There are usually a few new insights drawn from these sources. I will also do some word searches, trying to better understand some of the Greek or Hebrew meanings of certain words. There are also cross-references to consider - are there other verses that will aid in our understanding of the verse in question? If so, then these are added to the outline.

Having made many notes - not very legible I might add - it looks messy - These notes are arranged to their proper places within the outline.

Then comes the time to think about illustrations. The best illustrations many times come from life itself. There are also other sources specifically offering sermon illustrations. I am usually prayerfully looking for balance - humor can be appropriate if not overdone. Illustrations can be so long that they overshadow the Scripture text. I have to consider whether my illustration might endorse something I do not want to endorse.

At this point, I must prayerfully seek to make a Biblical, understandable message that communicates not just from my head to yours but from my heart to yours and from my life to yours. In this process of typing out either an entire manuscript or a detailed outline, some of my notes are discarded and the Lord gives some new insights as I type and prepare.

Once the message is completed, there are still a few more steps. One step is what I call the “so what?” step. Basically, if the message is not inspiring to me then I will have a hard time delivering it to you. What does this message really say, if anything? Yes, the Word of God itself is powerful, but the portion of words that I have written, are they true to the Scripture? Does it challenge me? Does it offer any insights? Does it call for a response? These are important questions for me.

Next, I will want to talk through the message, as if I were preaching it to you. This process is most helpful to me. Since you listen to my messages rather than reading them, how do these typed words sound when spoken? Does it communicate? Is there a shorter or more precise way to speak these truths? In this process, the Lord will often give me additional insights or help me to clarify some of the content I was attempting to explain.

Then there is the incubation or slow-cooking time. Hopefully I have finished the message early enough in the week to get to think on it for a few days. Even at this point, some things will get removed from the message and some things will be added. This goes on many times up until the time I enter the pulpit. On weeks where the Scripture text calls for somewhat difficult subjects, I am crying out for the Lord to give me the grace to say what must be said and that He will help me communicate clearly and not give my opinion, just His Word. Some weeks I will memorize all or a portion of my text. Not only does this help me memorize the Word, but it also aids in my understanding of the text.

Throughout this entire process, there is prayer. On Sunday morning, I am praying for the power of the Holy Spirit. I am praying that I will be true to His Word. I am praying that I will be able to “get out of God’s way” and allow Him to speak.

Then, finally, one of my favorite times of the week arrives – the moment I have the unspeakable privilege of being God’s delivery boy. If I had 1,000 lives to live, I would wish to live them all as a preacher of God’s Wonderful Word.

When the sermon time is done, I am tired. Emotionally and physically, I am spent. However, it is a rewarding feeling. In a few hours, Monday will come and it will be time to do it all over again. Recalling Paul’s words in I Corinthians, it is a foolish exercise. Why would I repeat this process week after week that requires so many hours and so much energy? Because the Scripture says, “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.” I Corinthians 1:21 and also, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears” II Timothy 4:2-3

I love serving you as your pastor,

*Ronny*

## ***Fellowship Meal***

Sunday’s 12:00 noon

## ***Worship & Prayer***

Thursday Mornings 10:30 am

At the church

❖ **VBC Family & Music**

## Teaching children about finances

by Crown Financial Ministries  
www.crown.org

Each generation is responsible for passing on the Gospel message and the truths found in the Scriptures to its children. "*Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it*" (Proverbs 22:6). Since parents are the primary teachers of their children, especially during their early years, they should be the ones to instill within their children God's principles of finance as detailed in God's Word.

### **Methods of teaching**

Generally, parents spend from 18 to 22 years preparing their children for life and adulthood. However, they usually spend only a few hours teaching them the value and use of the money they will use throughout their lives and how to handle that money according to God's established principles.

In order to teach God's principles of finance and how to handle money, parents should use three methods: *communication, example, and application.*

*Communication.* "*These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up*" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Parents need to use the Bible and show their children God's principles of finance as they are found in His Word. In addition, they need to communicate verbally with their children and teach them the scriptural ways and means of handling money.

*Example.* In addition to the study of God's Word and verbal instruction, parents must also "practice what they preach" by being good examples. Because children are so impressionable, they easily recognize and adopt their parent's attitude toward money. Therefore, parents must be godly role models on how to handle money. "*Everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher*" (Luke 6:40). In other words, parents can verbally teach what they believe, but they reproduce who they are and what they live.

*Application.* Children need to be given the opportunities to see how God's financial principles are applied in the lives of their parents and need to be given the opportunity to apply them themselves. The best model for children is for them to see their parents actually applying God's principles of finance in their family life. Then the children can see that the family is blessed and family needs are met because scriptural principles are followed.

### **Areas of teaching**

There are certain areas of financial teaching that parents need to adopt as their primary focus: *income, budgeting, saving, debt, tithing, and giving.*

*Income.* As soon as a child is ready for school he or she should begin to receive an income to manage. Whether that income is earned or given as an allowance is a decision that must be made by the parents. Whatever the choice, parents need to begin to instill within their children that boundaries must be placed on how money should be spent and that spending must not exceed income. In other words, encourage them to discipline their spending to remain within their income, discourage them from borrowing, and impress the need to save and accumulate in order to buy.

*Budget.* As soon as children begin to receive income, they should be taught how to divide that income into categories and to budget. The categories may be as simple as saving,

spending, and giving. Whatever the case, encourage them to budget and not to spend their entire income on personal desires just because they have it to spend.

*Saving.* Children should be encouraged to save regularly a portion of their incomes and not to deplete their savings when they want to buy something that they feel they need. Saving must be ongoing and if any of it is withdrawn and spent it should be replaced. Eventually they should be taught the difference between emergency savings, long-term savings, and investment saving.

*Debt.* Parents need to teach their children the cost of borrowing and how difficult it is to get out of debt once they are in debt. They should be encouraged to stay out of debt and to purchase with cash whenever possible.

*Tithing.* Parents must instill within their children from the very beginning the mandatory necessity of tithing to the Lord and help them understand that this is a principle that must not be compromised. The first part of any and all of their incomes must be tithed to the Lord—before personal purchases, savings, or recreation.

*Giving.* In addition to tithing, parents need to encourage their children to set aside a certain amount of their incomes to help people in need, such as missions or special humanitarian projects or to purchase or give items for the benefit of others.

### **Conclusion**

Since parents should be *the* primary instructors of their children, biblical principles of finance and how to handle money is an area of instruction that must not be neglected. However, it will not come naturally. Parents must make financial training a priority, and they must discipline themselves to be consistent in their instructions and in their example.

by Crown Financial Ministries / [www.crown.org](http://www.crown.org)

## **Hymn of the month**

### ***Just a Closer Walk with Thee***

I am weak but Thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Thro' this world of toil and snares,  
If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

When my feeble life is o'er,  
Time for me will be no more;  
Guide me gently, safely o'er  
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

For we walk by faith, not by sight - 2 Corinthians 5:7 KJV

*Bobby*

## ***10 Ways a Husband Can Keep From Damaging the Spirit of His Wife***

Outline borrowed from Jim Sammons  
Galatians 6:7

1. Make sure she is constantly aware that she is first place in your life.
2. Be a good spiritual leader.
3. Give her time to prepare for changes.
4. Do not compare her with other others.
5. Develop inner discipline.
6. Recognize and show appreciation for her special attempts to please you.
7. Do not attempt to correct her in public.
8. Do not reject her opinion as unimportant.
9. Be consistent in your loving discipline of the children.
10. Be willing to ask forgiveness.

One example of a family devotional format:

1. "person of the day"\* opens with a short prayer
2. starting with the "person of the day"\* read the Bible out loud in a circle, with each person reading 2 verses each (you can stop after one round or you can keep going if you are trying to cover more ground - you choose. Little ones can repeat a verse after you in short phrases. Dad can comment anytime he feels led)
3. everyone shares their favorite verse and why (little ones might just pick out a random verse)
4. ask if anyone in the family needs to ask another family member or the whole family for forgiveness ("\_\_\_\_, I was wrong when I \_\_\_\_\_. Will you forgive me?")
5. everyone prays a short prayer (or long)
6. "person of the day"\* picks a hymn for everyone to sing

\* rotate the person of the day.

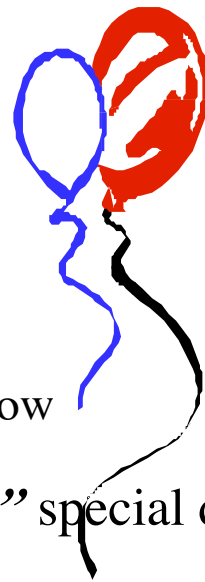
## *9 Ways a Woman Can Avoid Damaging the Spirit of Her Husband*

Outline by Jim Sammons  
Ephesians 5:22,33

1. Do not rehearse forgiven failures.
2. Do not neglect home responsibilities.
3. Do not have undefined expectations.
4. Accept His leadership.
5. Show confidence in his decisions.
6. Have a grateful spirit.
7. Build Loyalty in the children for him.
8. Do not expose your marital problems to outsiders.
9. Be flexible to his priorities.

### **\*July Birthday's and Anniversaries\***

July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Lindsey Walsh
July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Caitlyn Menne
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	Leslie Taylor
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Mandy Sanchez
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Amy Coburn
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ken Lund
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Matt Sweet
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sharon Whiteley Tom & Nancy Snow



Have a GREAT “*Jesus Loves You!*” special day!!!

### **Upcoming Events**

July 9<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting – 6:30 pm  
July 11 – 12 Turkey Rama

July 13<sup>th</sup> Brad Stamey – Missionary in Russia  
 - Speaker morning service  
 Youth Discipleship – 1:30 pm  
 July 19<sup>th</sup> Walk for Life  
 July 27<sup>th</sup> David Wilhelm – speaking in the  
 morning service  
 Men's Discipleship – 1:30 pm  
 July 28<sup>th</sup> Quilting – 6:30 pm

### Making More Room

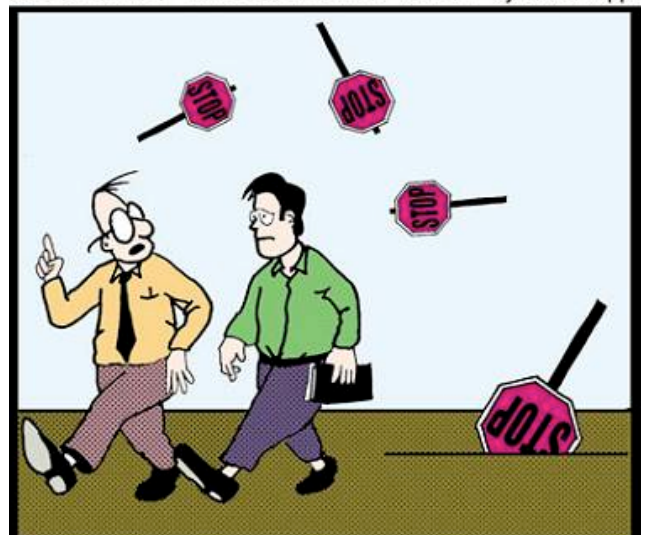
It is exciting to see so many new faces in our fellowship. In order to not set a limit on how many new faces can gather in our facilities, a committee has been studying ways to enlarge our sanctuary by removing some of the walls in the back of the sanctuary. What can you do to help? (1) Pray for those on this "facilities task force" to have wisdom and find the most effective yet affordable ways to enlarge the seating capacity (2) Give - continue giving generously to our church's regular needs. Soon we will begin receiving special gifts toward this expansion to pay for seating, paint, etc. (3) Be flexible and patient - this process will necessitate some changes in where certain classes and other ministries meet, etc. (4) Be a friend to the new individuals God is sending our way. Thank you for being on the team.



**Has your home address, phone number, or  
 your e-mail address changed?  
 PLEASE keep us posted!**



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



If we have omitted anyone from our *birthday / anniversary* list, please let us know, so that we may recognize your *birthday* and/or *anniversary* in future newsletters.

Also, if you have recently started attending, please let the church office know, so that we can be sure to recognize your *birthday* and/or *anniversary* as well.

**[www.macvalleybaptist.org](http://www.macvalleybaptist.org) or [www.macvalleybaptist.com](http://www.macvalleybaptist.com)**