

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

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We Gather Together. . .

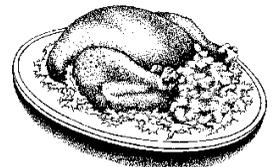
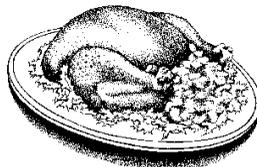
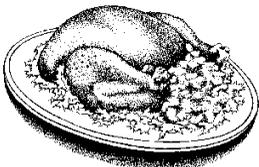
CHURCH-WIDE



THANKSGIVING

DINNER TODAY!

Everyone's Invited To Have Thanksgiving Dinner Together Today Following The Morning Service!





The Pilgrims' Religious Beliefs

John Robinson (1575-1625) was the pastor of the Pilgrims after their removal to Holland in 1607-8, and many of his writings survive - giving us a direct view of the Pilgrims religious beliefs and theology.

The Pilgrims' separatist movement can be directly traced back to John Calvin (1509-1564) and Calvinism, from which also descends Puritanism and Presbyterianism.. The Pilgrims' separatist movement sprung up from primarily Nottinghamshire, where Richard Clyfton and John Robinson, both Cambridge alumni, began their preaching. Beginning in 1604 with the ascension of King James I, the persecution of Protestants increased. Members of Clyfton and Robinson's church had to meet secretly, and were hunted continually by the authorities-and when caught, thrown in jail. By 1607, they could no longer take the persecution, and made their escape to Amsterdam, Holland, and a year later moved to Leyden where they established their congregation.

In addition to John Robinson, William Bradford and Edward Winslow have added their own remarks to various theological debates of their day. Below is a basic outline of some of these religious beliefs supported and practiced by the Leyden Pilgrims. For those who are interested, the Pilgrims used John Calvin's Geneva translation of the Bible, nicknamed the "Breeches Bible".

SACRAMENTS AND POPERY - To the Pilgrims, there were only two sacraments (ordinances of the church): baptism and the Lord's Supper. The other sacraments (Confession, Penance, Confirmation, Ordination, Marriage, Confession, Last Rites) of the Catholic and Anglican churches were inventions of man and were therefore not Holy. The Pilgrims opposed the mass, and considered marriage a civil affair (not a religious sacrament). The legitimacy of the pope, the saints, and the church hierarchy was rejected, as was the veneration of relics. Icons and religious symbols such as crosses, statues, stained-glass windows, fancy architecture, and other worldly manifestations of religion were rejected.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION - The church of the Pilgrims was organized around five officers: pastor, teacher, elder, deacon, and deaconess (sometimes called the "church widow"). However, none of the five offices was considered essential to the church. The Pastor was an ordained minister whose responsibility was to see to the religious life of the congregation. John Robinson was the pastor of the Pilgrims, but was never able to get to America before his death in 1625. The Teacher was also an ordained minister who was responsible for the instruction of the congregation. The Pilgrims apparently never had anyone to fill that position. The Elder was a lay-person responsible for church government, and he was also the church's eyes and ears, assisting the Pastor and Teacher in admonishing the congregation. See: [A Just and Necessary Apology of Certain Christians](#), by John

Robinson (1625), chapter 9, "Of the Ecclesiastical Presbytery".

William Brewster was the Elder for the Plymouth church. The Deacon collected offerings, and attended to the needs of the poor and elderly. John Carver and Samuel Fuller both were deacons during their life. The Deaconess attended the sick and poor, and often played the role of mid-wife as well. The Deaconess of the early Plymouth church is not named, but may have been Bridget Fuller. The church building itself had no significance to the Pilgrims, and was usually called simply the "meetingplace" or "meetinghouse". The meetinghouse was kept drab, and had no religious depictions or icons. Starting about the summer of 1622, the fort served as the Pilgrims meetinghouse. The Pilgrim men brought loaded guns to church in case they were attacked during services.

INFANT BAPTISM. - The Pilgrims believed baptism was the sacrament which wiped away Original Sin, and was a covenant with Christ and his chosen people (as circumcision had been to God and the Israelites), and therefore children should be baptized as soon as practical. See: [Of Religious Communion, Private and Public](#), by John Robinson (1614). This was in opposition to the **Anabaptists** (*our forebearers* - TWW), who believed that baptism was essentially an initiation ceremony into the churchhood of believers, and therefore could only be administered to believing adults who understood the meaning of the ceremony. The Pilgrims believed that "Baptism now, as circumcision of old, is the seal of the covenant of God". They further believed that at least one parent must be of the faith for the child to be baptized into the church. See: [A Just and Necessary Apology of Certain Christians](#), by John Robinson (1625).

HOLY DAYS AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS - The Pilgrims faithfully observed the Sabbath, and did not work on Sunday. Even when the Pilgrims were exploring Cape Cod, to the Mayflower crew's dismay, they stopped everything and stayed in camp on Sunday to keep the Sabbaths. See: [Mourt's Relation](#) (1622), chapter 1. The Pilgrims did not celebrate religious holidays, Christmas and Easter being the prime examples. These holidays were invented by man to memorialize Jesus, and are not prescribed by the Bible and therefore cannot be Holy. "It seems too much for any mortal man to appoint, or make an anniversary memorial". See: [A Just and Necessary Apology of Certain Christians](#) by John Robinson (1625) chapter 5; and [Of Plymouth Plantation](#) by William Bradford, chapter 12.

MARRIAGE - The Pilgrims considered marriage a civil affair, not to be handled by the church ministers but instead by civil magistrates. See: [Of Plymouth Plantation](#), Ch. 12.

Marriage was a contract, mutually agreed upon by a man and a woman. Marriage was ordained by God for the benefit of man's natural and spiritual life. Not getting married (and thus remaining a virgin) was not considered a sign of piety. Marriages were considered important for two main reasons: procreation of children, and to avoid the sin of adultery. The important characteristics to find in the proper spouse, according to

Robinson, are (1) godliness, and (2) similarity - in age, beliefs, estate, disposition, inclinations, and affections. In the marriage, "the wife is specially required a reverend subjection in all lawful things to her husband", and the husband is "to give honour to the wife", and the Lord requires "the love of the husband to his wife must be like Christ's to his church". See: Observations Divine and Moral, by John Robinson (1628), chapter 59 "Of Marriage".

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN, AND DISCIPLINE -

The Pilgrims believed that in the child's early years, the mother was the most important educator. But as the child grew, the father became the more important figure - from the father they are to learn manners, wisdom, and authority. The Pilgrims believed that children needed to be disciplined "with the rod" when necessary, as the Bible proclaims in Proverbs 13:24 and 22:15. Children were also expected to learn from the husband's disciplining of his wife - a wife was to be disciplined just as the children were disciplined when she disobeyed her husband or sinned against God. See Observations Divine and Moral (1624) by John Robinson, Chapter 60 "Of Children and their Education".

The Pilgrim's distinction between beating a wife, and disciplining a wife, is akin to the modern-day distinction between beating a child and spanking a child. The standard court-administered punishment for wife-beating was a public whipping, which is certainly more severe than the modern "punishment". None of the Mayflower passengers were ever accused of wife-beating.

Education was thought very important, but in early years of the Plymouth Colony there was not enough time or qualified individuals to teach. All children, boys and girls both, were taught to read (because reading the Bible was something everyone needed to be able to do). Writing, however, was not taught to girls, and in fact many boys never learned to write either. If the situation required, writing was a skill that could be learned fairly easily by someone who already knew how to read.

SOURCES -

1. The Works of John Robinson, Pastor of the Pilgrims. Edited by Robert Ashton (London, 1851). 3-Volumes.
2. The Reformation: A Narrative History Related by Contemporary Observers and Participates, by Hans Hillerbrand (Grand Rapids, repr. 1994).
3. Reformation Europe, by De Lamar Jensen (Lexington, 1992).
4. Of Plymouth Plantation, by William Bradford. (written 1630-1654).
5. Mourt's Relation: A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth (London, 1622) - copied

Thankful for Forgiveness

"And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children unto Leah, and unto Rachel, and unto the two handmaids. And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and

Joseph hindermost. And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept" (Genesis 33:1-4).

No matter what you've done, God wants to forgive you.

The foundation for salvation is forgiveness. Without God's merciful forgiveness, his judgment would reign supreme and we would be destined to eternal punishment. Yet through His loving mercy, we are forgiven and saved. An example of God's forgiveness toward us is found in the lives of Jacob and Esau.

Jacob and Esau were twins born to Isaac and Rebekah. From birth they were in a sibling battle in which they each tried to outdo the other in nearly every area of life. While Esau was the outdoorsman, Jacob stayed indoors and found his specialty in cooking. Their parents Isaac and Rebekah didn't help the rivalry much as they each chose a "favorite" son and favored one over the other.

One day Esau was hunting when he became extremely famished. Seeking relief, he returned home to find Jacob cooking a delicious pot of soup. Desperate, he agreed to Jacob's sneaky terms of giving up the family birthright in exchange for the soup.

Years later when Isaac was about to die, he pulled aside Esau to give him the blessing of the birthright. While Esau was out hunting to prepare his father a meal, Rebekah devised a plan to trick Isaac into giving Jacob the birthright. Rebekah's plan worked and Esau swore to get revenge, causing Jacob to flee.

Yet despite the hatred and vengeful feelings Esau felt that day, when he reunited with Jacob years later, his reaction to him was one of forgiveness, "**And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.**"

Like Esau, we have sinned against God. We've turned our backs on Him, denied His blessings, strayed from His will, ignored His commands, and rejected His help. Yet despite all that, God approaches us with open arms, offering us complete forgiveness.

Are you thankful for God's forgiveness? Many people live without hope of forgiveness. Their idea of forgiveness is based on works, good deeds, or chance. They live in worry, wondering if they've done enough to merit God's forgiveness. Yet God promises that if we repent of our sins and ask Him for forgiveness, He will give it to us: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Take a minute right now to thank God for His free forgiveness. No matter what you do or what mistakes you make, God will forgive you.

In light of God's forgiveness, let that carry over in your own life. Be liberal with your forgiveness. Don't hold a grudge against others, but just as God has forgiven you, forgive others. As preacher Andrew Murray once said, "**To forgive like thee, blessed Son of God! I take this as the law of my life. Thou who hast given the command, givest also the power. Thou who hadst**

love enough to forgive me, wilt also fill me with love and teach me to forgive others. Thou who didst give me the first blessings, in the joy of having my sins forgiven, wilt surly give me the second blessing, and deeper joy of forgiving others as thou hast forgiven me. Oh, fill me with the faith in the power of thy love in me, to make me like Thyself, to enable me to forgive the seventy times seven, and so to love and bless all around me."

- Dr. Paul Chappell, Pastor

Lancaster Baptist Church - Lancaster, California

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Bertha Segebarrr

Cradle Roll 2: Janet Bridges

6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Kristi Hooper

Cradle Roll 2: Andrea Hooper

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of November 14, 2010

Sunday School ----- 20

Sunday Morning Service ----- 35

Sunday Evening Service ----- 28

Wed. Eve. Service, 11/17/10 ----- 21

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of November 14, 2010

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 833.00

Insurance Fund ----- \$ 74.00

Total Received for Week of 11/14/10: \$ 907.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

INSURANCE FUND REPORT THIS MONTH:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08

Amount Received 11/07/10 ----- \$ 185.12

Amount Still Needed By 12/06/10: \$ 87.96

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*



Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

WE WILL NOT HAVE A WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE THIS WEEK IN ORDER TO HELP OUR CHURCH MEMBERS BETTER PREPARE FOR THANKSGIVING WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford, Dwayne English ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White