

**AND THE PEOPLE CAME...**

- Week of July 17, 2022 -

Sunday Morning Service	-----45
Sunday Evening Service	-----26
Wednesday Eve., 07/20/22 Service	-----22

**AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...**

- Week of July 17, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	----- \$ 1,252.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/17/22:</b>	<b>\$ 1,252.00</b>

- Week of July 10, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	----- \$ 1,149.27
Love Offering	----- \$ 20.00
Church Gas Line Repair Fund	----- \$ 1,548.28
Church Sign Repair Fund	----- \$ 491.72
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/10/22:</b>	<b>\$ 3,209.27</b>

- Week of July 3, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	----- \$ 2,223.00
Church Gas Line Repair Fund	----- \$ 30.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/03/22:</b>	<b>\$ 2,253.00</b>

- Week of June 26, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	----- \$ 1,329.68
Church Gas Line Repair Fund	----- \$ 125.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 06/26/22:</b>	<b>\$ 1,454.68</b>

- Week of June 19, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	----- \$ 1,389.00
Church Gas Line Repair Fund	----- \$ 100.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 06/19/22:</b>	<b>\$ 1,489.00</b>

- Week of June 12, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	----- \$ 1,307.00
Church Gas Line Repair Fund	----- \$ 274.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 06/12/22:</b>	<b>\$ 1,581.00</b>

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

**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.



**THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!**

During the early part this pandemic, we were unable to meet in the church-house. But - that did not mean that the expenses of having a church-house were suspended. We still had bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc., and, praise the Lord, His people kept praying, watching online, & supporting their church with their giving.

Sadly, some people only give when they are in attendance at church - sort of like paying for "services rendered" - but the truth is that they are robbing **THEMSELVES** of God's blessings when they withhold their tithes and offerings and only give when they are here (see Malachi 3:10). Thankfully, most of our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

**WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:**

1. **By mail** - 23 East Wells Blvd., Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. **Drop it off** - call the Church Office to arrange it. 224-1924
3. **Online** - Go to the link below and give electronically:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=433047>

**WE ARE GLAD WE CAN NOW GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD & STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE! YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND CONTINUE OUR RENEWED OUTREACH EFFORTS!**

**Church Directory**

Todd W. White	----- Pastor
Lois Mae Floyd	----- Pianist/ Organist
Mickie Shatwell	----- Evening Pianist
Derek Quinnelly	----- Greeter
Larry & Mary Byars	----- Outreach
Bertha Segebarrt	----- Custodian
GinaMarie Shufelt	----- Flowers
Seth White	----- Sound/Video

**SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY**  
**REMINDER**

Volume XXVIII

July 24, 2022

Number 30



**The Most Important Word In Any Marriage**

*Why Trust Is Important in Marriage and How to Rebuild It*  
by Kurt Skelly, Pastor - Faith Baptist Church, Fredericksburg, Virginia

**Y**ou might be thinking it's the word remote control. I guess that's actually two words. And certainly a case could be made that the remote control is a major factor in the health of any marriage. In my opinion, watching successive episodes of any HGTV program is the visual equivalent of the sound of scratching fingernails on a chalkboard! Of course, I'm kidding...that is, about the remote control being the most important word, not the part about HGTV and the chalkboard.

OK, let me just cut to the chase: it's **TRUST**. That's it. In my view, trust is the most important word in your marriage.

Trust can be defined as "an assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something."

When I think of God in light of those defining words, I realize that my trust is well placed! After all, His character, ability, strength, and honesty are unparalleled. **Trustworthy**—that's what God is, worthy of trust. And with that quality comes the predictability and confidence I need to enjoy a healthy relationship with Him.

But we already know that God is trustworthy, or at least we should know it. The harder question is this: **To what degree am I trustworthy? Does my spouse—or anyone else, for that matter—have good reason to trust me?**

Before we self-evaluate our own trustworthiness, it might be well for us to consider just why trust is so important in a relationship. I think the primary reason for its importance is that trust is foundational to relationships. Think through that for a second. "I love you," and similar statements are meaningless when no relationship exists. In fact, without trust, any term of endearment loses impact.

I grew up with a mother who verbally affirmed her love to me often. I appreciate that. I've tried to do the same with my own children. My children have heard me tell them, "I love you" umpteen million times. And I mean it every time. Families ought to readily, meaningfully, and repeatedly convey their loving sentiments to each other. In my opinion, that's normal.

Let me tell you about something that was not normal, at least to me. When I first attended Bible college years ago, I began to encounter a lot of fellow students who would randomly say things to me like, "I love you, Brother!"

Really? I kind of thought that a prerequisite for loving someone was actually knowing his name! Now don't get me wrong. I'm sure some of my college peers had just grown up in environments where "I love you" was more of an encouraging verbal gesture or some kind of social nicety. Being a suspicious east coaster, my feeling was, "I don't know you; therefore I don't trust you; therefore 'I love you' is meaningless."

**Relationships Begin with Trust.** That's how your relationship with God began. You trusted Him and His Word. You put your faith in His promise. Someone introduced you to Him. You learned more about Him in His Word. You decided to put your trust in Him.

**Good choice!**

Unless you're on the lunatic fringe, you didn't walk up to your spouse-to-be the very first time you met him/her and propose marriage. My wife speaks Spanish as her first language. When I first met her, I wanted to impress her by saying something to her in Spanish, a language of which I was completely ignorant. After asking her friend what might be a suave and attention-getting Spanish clause, I proceeded to tell my wife-to-be to, "Go take a bath!" Attention-getting? Yup! Suave? What do you think?

**THE BASIS FOR TRUST -**

A true relationship finds inception with trust. As I already implied a couple paragraphs ago, trust must have an object. You can't  
*(continued inside)*

**LISTEN TO -**



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just “trust.” That’s like saying, “Just have faith.” Have faith in what? *Trust must have a source and faith must have an object.* Sometimes, counselors throw around some well-meaning and impressive-sounding bits of advice like, “You just need to learn to trust.” Or, “Just have faith that things will work out.” Statements like those are not helpful because they do not address real issues. They are whipped cream words of fluff that taste good in the fleeting moment but offer no real spiritual nutritional value.

The basis for trust in another person lies in his reliability and reputation. Let me explain:

The Bible says that confidence in an unfaithful man is like a broken tooth or a foot out of joint. If you’ve ever had a toothache or a sprained ankle, you know what I’m talking about. You’re definitely not ordering a candy apple from the carnival concession stand, and you’re not signing up for the upcoming half marathon. Why? Your normally reliable tooth is broken and your typically healthy ankle is sprained. No longer can you put your weight on them.

I’ve encountered an alarming number of marriages in which a spouse is afraid to put any weight on what the other says. The Book of James is one of my favorite books in the Bible. Practical and powerful, it deals with so many real issues in a succinct, understandable way.

But toward the end of his epistle, James says something truly remarkable. He tells us that - above all things - **we should be people of our word.**

*Above all things.*

I often tell parents that the most important thing they can teach their children is for them to keep their word. One’s word is the outward and examinable expression of his character. Perhaps this is why the Bible says that God has magnified His Word above His very name (reputation). Reputation is predicated upon the reliability of one’s word.

Think of it this way: your reputation is simply a report card of your perceived reliability in a given area. Paul exhorted Titus to be a pattern of good works, especially in mentoring young men. And one of the major ways by which he was to be that pattern of good works was in the employment of sound speech that cannot be condemned.

### ***The Enemies of Trust -***

Often we behave in ways - albeit sometimes unwittingly - that erode the trust of our spouse. If a husband tells little lies in front of her, she questions the truth of what he says to *her*. Keep that in mind the next time you’re tempted to save a few bucks on your income tax or when you needlessly embellish a story for emphasis sake. Dishonesty is the mortal enemy of trust. It begs the question, “Why are you lying?”

Sometimes dishonesty disguises itself more passively in the more shadowy form of evasiveness. Evasive people may not be overtly dishonest, but they are less than forthright with the truth. Stuff like, why does a wife hide her computer password from her husband? Why is he so protective of his cell phone? Why was he

nebulous about his whereabouts after work? Why does open communication seem so stilted?

***Evasiveness begs the question, “What are you hiding?”***

When I claim to be something somewhere else without being that person at home, I am sabotaging the trust of my spouse. Nothing will neutralize trust any more quickly than hypocrisy. Our spouses know the real us. To the degree that our public persona differs from our private persona, we threaten the ability of others to trust us. Like Timothy, we must possess an unfeigned faith. How real are you? Hypocrisy begs the question, “Who are you really?”

### ***How Can I Rebuild Trust?***

Regrettably, in at least some way, we all violate the trust of those whom we love. What are some key components in the rebuilding of that trust? Even in situations where trust has been seemingly irreparably damaged, these simple steps can be effective in the rebuilding process.

***OVER COMMUNICATE.*** When trust has been breached, suspicion will inevitably fill the gaps of communication with negative thoughts. For this very reason it is important for couples to communicate proactively. Don’t assume the other knows what or why. Be transparent. Awkward transparency now will do much to stave off a more toxic suspicion later. And don’t expect these conversations to take place spontaneously.

***SCHEDULE TIME TOGETHER.*** Give it priority. Is it coffee after dinner with an understanding among the children that this is “Dad and Mom time”? Is it an early morning walk? (Not in my house!) Perhaps it is the late night, turn off the TV and make the kids go to bed. Whenever it is, find a time slot that will work best and then do it.

***INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY.*** Ronald Reagan had a little desk ornament in the oval office that read, “Trust but verify.” Trust and verification are not mutually exclusive. In fact, one who desires to rebuild trust will invite accountability, not run from it. Even in extreme cases like marital infidelity, it is possible (always with God’s help!) for a couple to salvage their marriage. But the victim will need from the offender more than words of regret and promises of reformation.

To the one who has breached trust I would advise, “*Take your medicine and learn to appreciate inspection!*” Don’t view increased accountability as a negative thing either. Decide to view the other’s suspicion as evidence that he is still in the game, not as an indicator that he wants to quit.

***GIVE IT TIME.*** I’m not suggesting that time alone will heal all wounds, but I do believe that time is a necessary component in rebuilding broken trust in a relationship. There needs to be space for a patterning. Actions speak, but habits shout. Let your patterns of new behavior loudly proclaim your trustworthiness.

By the way, this is why full disclosure is so vitally important when trust has been shattered. When the offending party only tells what he thinks his spouse might already know, or what she will likely find out, he is playing a very dangerous game. Why?

Because incremental future findings will only cause additional pain and trample the sprouts of renewed trust.

Among my favorite verses in the Bible is I Peter 3:7 where the Lord tells us that married couples share together the “grace of life.” What a privilege to share the precious gift of life with another soul!

May we share it honestly, humbly, and happily.

## ***NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS***

**\* *THE LIE THAT NO SCIENTISTS REJECT DARWINIAN EVOLUTION*** - In June 2022, Armin Moczek, a biologist at Indiana University, told Stephen Buranyi of The Guardian (London), “*There are certain core evolutionary principles that no scientist seriously questions.*” Richard Dawkins says: “*Evolution is a fact, and [my] book will demonstrate it. No reputable scientist disputes it, and no unbiased reader will close the book doubting it*” (The Greatest Show in Earth).

This is not true. Dr. Jerry Bergman has compiled a list of 3,000 “Darwin Skeptics,” including about a dozen Nobel Prize winners. Bergman has a private list of about 1,000 names of persons who do not want their names on a public list “*because of real concerns over possible retaliation or harm to their careers.*” Bergman says, “I estimate that, if I had the time and resources, I could easily complete a list of over 10,000 names” (“Darwin Skeptics: A Select List of Science Academics, Scientists, and Scholars Who Are Skeptical of Darwinism,” Aug. 24, 2014).

This is a result of the Darwinists who act like howler monkeys and Nazi SS troopers to try to stamp out every vestige of “creationism” from the field of science. (For documentation, see Silencing the Darwin Skeptics: The War Against Theists by Jerry Bergman.) The Discovery Institute has published “A Scientific Dissent from Darwinism”. On the front page is the following quotation from David Berlinski, Ph.D., Philosophy, Princeton University:

***“Darwin’s theory of evolution is the great white elephant of contemporary thought. It is large, almost completely useless, and the object of superstitious awe.”***

As of May 2021, the list had been signed by about 1,213 scientists who agree with the following statement: “*We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged.*”

**\* *VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS COMPARES PRO-LIFE LAWS TO SLAVERY*** - Vice President Kamala Harris sparked criticism from Christians and pro-lifers this week when she compared the views of pro-lifers with those of pre-Civil War slave owners.

Harris, in addressing the NAACP national convention in Atlantic City, N.J., said the U.S. Supreme Court’s Dobb decision “took away a constitutional right ... from

the people of America, from the women of America.” She then pivoted to slavery.

“We know, NAACP, that our country has a history of claiming ownership over human bodies,” she said. “And today, extremists, so-called leaders are criminalizing doctors and punishing women for making healthcare decisions for themselves – personal decisions that it is her right to make in consultation with her doctor, her pastor, her priest, her rabbi, her loved ones, not her government telling her what to do.”

America, she said, “must also take steps to protect ... the freedom for a woman to make decisions about her own body.”

Brent Leatherwood, acting president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, criticized the comments.

“The point that the vice president is obviously missing is that, in her pro-abortion worldview, human bodies continue to be treated as worthless and disposable,” Leatherwood told Baptist Press. “She is just failing to recognize the obvious: Those preborn lives deserve the freedom to live and should be protected by our laws, not extinguished by them.

“These comments are further evidence that, while the Dobb decision represents an unqualified victory for the pro-life movement, it also means our work continues through principled advocacy to leaders, life-saving efforts in the legislative arena and earnest appeals to the conscience of every American,” Leatherwood added. “Central to all of this will be our pastors, whose proclamations about the truth of God’s Word that each and every life is precious will be as important as ever.”

