



April 2023

Fox River Life



The following is an article written by Sinclair Ferguson he is a Ligonier teaching fellow and Chancellor's Professor of Systematic Theology, Reformed Theological Seminary.

In His Name & For His Glory,

Pastor Tim

Part 1

Holiness Means More Than Killing Sin

He was 31 years old. Born in modern Algeria, from all accounts he had an ambitious streak that could border on ruthlessness. But it was matched by a probing intellect and a thirst for reality that had the potential to unbalance him or even lead to perpetual disappointment. The combination had taken him to great cities and led him to inquire into world religions and philosophies. But now, barely into his thirties, he was on the verge of despair so extreme that one day, despite his pleasant surroundings, he could scarcely sit still or stem the flow of tears. And then he heard two Latin words — *Tolle lege* — that

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changed everything. At first, he thought the words must be part of a child's game. But he knew no game that included the mantra "Take it and read it." But by what John Calvin would later call "a secret instinct of the Spirit," he reached out for the copy of the Scriptures that lay beside him. Opening it randomly — as people in antiquity did, hoping for divine direction — he read the words that brought him to faith in Christ.

You likely have guessed his identity. Perhaps you recognized him from the first sentence: Aurelius Augustinus — Augustine. But do you know where the Scriptures "randomly" fell open, and the words that changed everything? Romans 13:14: "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." Augustine would ponder and seek to apply these words for the rest of his life. For all the profundity of his grasp of God's grace, he could doubtless say of them what he wrote of the mystery of God's sovereignty: "I see the depths, I cannot reach the bottom" (Works of Saint Augustine, 3.2.108).

Gospel Grammar

Underlining the significance of Paul's words from the vivid context of Augustine's conversion hopefully serves to secure them in our minds and hearts — "like nails firmly fixed . . . given by one Shepherd" (Ecclesiastes 12:11). In fact, the words are so pointed that repeating them a couple of times may fix them permanently in your memory banks. And they need to be well secured there because they enshrine key biblical principles for living to the glory of God.

Paul's words contain two imperatives. What is particularly striking about them is that they not only tell us what to do, but the first imperative contains within itself the indicative that makes possible the effecting of the second imperative. Their importance can be measured by the fact that the effect of Romans 13:14 on the history of the church through Augustine is rivaled only by the effect of Romans 1:16–17 on the church through Martin Luther.

The biblical gospel has a grammar all its own. Just as failing to properly use the grammar of a language mars our ability to speak it, so an inadequate grasp of the grammar of the gospel mars what the older translations fittingly called the "conversation" of our lives. It results in lives that reflect Christ in a stilted manner. So how are the substructures of gospel grammar illustrated in Romans 13:14?

The Balance

First, the emphasis on the positive ("put on") is matched and balanced by an emphasis on the negative ("make no provision"). This is characteristic of Paul. Think of Galatians 5:24: "Those who belong to Christ [positive] have crucified the flesh [negative]." Or consider Ephesians 4:21–24: you were taught as the truth is in Jesus . . . to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires [negative], and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness [positive].

Perhaps the clearest and fullest example is in Colossians 3:1–12. Those who have died and been



SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST & PRAISE - Timothy (Newborn)

You might have read our recent letter asking for financial support (sent via mail and email). We highlighted the story of a baby who came to CSC after being found on the street. Here is more about him.

A teenager was walking along the street and heard soft cries. He bent down and saw a little baby, swaddled, on the ground under a car. He yelled for help from others around him, and they brought the newborn to the local hospital. The baby was found to be in good health. After searching for the mother unsuccessfully, they contacted CSC and asked if we'd take him in. He is being called Timothy.

Our social work team and the government representatives continue to look for his biological family. In the meantime, he'll be safe and sound in our Duterte nursery.

He'll have round-the-clock caregivers who respond to his cries, feed him, and give him lots of snuggles. Timothy is in the nursery with another young baby named Saffy. Older kids living in the Duterte home sometimes walk the scenic route to go past the nursery and get a sneak peak at the little ones. The babies are quite the hit at the shelter!

Will you please pray with us for Timothy and his birth family? We can't imagine the circumstances that brought this little one to end up where he did on the street. We praise the Lord for the teenager and adults who found him and got him to a safe place. We thank God for the chance to be in his life, and we pray that we are able to provide for him in the way he deserves and the way we have been called.

been raised with Christ, those whose lives are hidden with him and who will appear with him in glory, are to “put to death whatever is earthly [negative]” and to “put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience [positive].” The grammar lesson? There is no growth in holiness unless both the negative and the positive elements are present.

More Than Mortification

None of us is by nature “normal” or “balanced.” We sinners are inherently lopsided. Each of us has a natural bias either to the negative or the positive. If we have not discovered that, we probably have not yet come to know ourselves adequately. Thus, some of us tend to think of sanctification largely, if not entirely, as a battle against sin. John Owen’s eighty pages on *The Mortification of Sin* is the book for us! (In the circles in which I moved as a teenager, not to have read Owen on mortification was tantamount to apostasy! And after all, the addresses that lay behind it were probably first preached to teenagers — students at Oxford University.)

The mortification of sin is indeed vital. Owen was right: if we are not killing sin, it will be killing us. His memorable one-liner comes as a shock to much modern Christianity: “Let not that man think he makes any progress in holiness who walks not over the bellies of his lusts” (*Works of John Owen*, 6:14). But sin is never truly mortified by mortification alone. To borrow from our Lord’s parable, if we only empty the house (mortify sin) without filling it (putting on graces), the devils will simply return in greater force (Matthew 12:43–45). We need to furnish our lives with the fruit of the Spirit. Repentance involves conversion; conversion means a reversal. So, we need to put on as well as put off. Making no provision for the flesh (mortifying sin) by the power of the Spirit is not an end in itself. It is not the Spirit’s ultimate goal; in fact, on its own, it is not sanctification. It is a vital means to a greater end — and that end is that we may live in unclouded fellowship with our holy Lord..

Part 2 in May’s Newsletter

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Thank you all for the abundant donations of diapers, pull-ups, baby wipes, and other items delivered to Vida last month. Vida is doing a wonderful work of supporting pro-life in the Fox Valley, and they depend on community help. You are a blessing to them.

March's Craft Day was a lots of fun. Thanks to the ladies who joined us to paint pictures of "The Three Crosses." The next craft day will probably be in June. Watch for a future announcement.



Children's Church

Children's Church has seen 9-10 students over the past months (though not all at the same time). We are working on memorizing foundational verses.

We have also been using the past few weeks to prepare the kids for Palm Sunday and Easter. We will be having a "Triumphal Entrance" celebrating on Palm Sunday and then some special activities on Resurrection Sunday. So many special moments and comments from these wonderful children.



DISCIPLESHIP

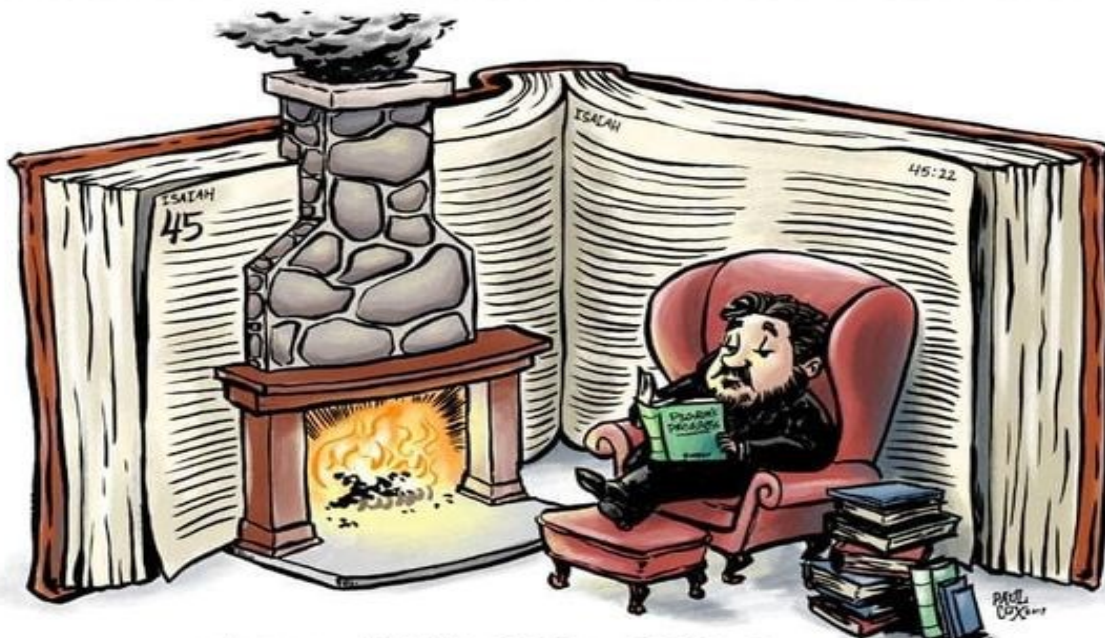
Bible Study

Our Men's and Women's Bible Studies continue to chug along nicely. Please feel free to attend these studies if you so desire, even if you come in the middle, you will receive something from the time spent.

In the month of April we are going to be doing a couple of things differently in regard to Sunday School. On the 2nd and the 16th we will be looking at a couple of Puritans in our time together. This has become somewhat of a pattern of throwing these in every so often and I believe they are quite profitable. On the 9th we will be celebrating Resurrection Sunday and therefore we will not be having Sunday School, so that families can be together for the rest of the day after the morning worship.

On the 23rd we begin the new unit of our Sunday School Curriculum and the books will be available this Sunday and the cost for the book is \$5. Finally make sure to look at the calendar carefully as there are some changes to the Sunday Evening Service.

In His Name & For His Glory, Pastor Tim



VISIT MANY GOOD BOOKS,
BUT LIVE IN THE BIBLE.
— Charles Spurgeon



Sunday Evening Services Schedule

April 2—Ask Pastor Tim @ 5:00 pm

April 9 —No Evening Service

April 16—Prayer @ 5:00 pm

April 23—Solus Christus @ 5:00 pm

April 30—Prayer @ 5:00 pm



Financial Update 2023
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2836.35
Received: \$ 3,214.80 per week
Contact Mark Wildenberg with questions.



Women's Prayer
Wednesdays at 9:30am

Women's Bible Study
Thursdays at 1:00pm

Men's & Women's
Bible Study
Saturdays at 8am

Connect
WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY



April 2
Kyle Tubbs

April 9
Howard Schimke

April 16
Bob Abitz

April 23
Scott Smith

April 30
Ryan Smith



Please contact Carol Smith at
(920) 788-9795
to volunteer for Nursery
ministry. There is a sign-up
sheet at the front desk.

Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach
the Gospel to every creature.”
Mark 16:15

MISSIONS BOARD

Missions Board will meet April 3 to review the Yearly Update forms ,which have been returned by each of our missionaries. We hope to have good highlights for you in the upcoming Missions Spotlights.

Young at Heart will be conducting worship services at Care Partners on April 6 and at Frontida Assisted Living on April 11. If you haven't participated before, but would like to, please contact Lynn Abitz, At 920-788-9482.



Single Women Group

Meeting for lunch at GameDay on the 3rd Sunday of April
Any questions please contact Gail Kroehler at 920-731-7739.

FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



10—Don Wynkoop

12—Gaylord, VanLoo

13— Carolyn Krauss

14 —Bob Abitz

20— Steve Krauss

21—Scott Dohms

23—Donna Zoglman



13— Gary and Connie Snortum

25—Christopher and Sara Smith

Fox River Baptist Church

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**Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday
& Thursday - 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm**



Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new Prayer request email address:

Care to be part of the prayer chain?

Email or call Becky Godfrey at
becl.godfrey@gmail.com —
(920) 277-1526