

## Cornerstone Connection

Thinking Biblically by Bill Moore

### Here I Stand

On October 31, 1517, a seemingly insignificant action ignited a theological explosion in Germany that changed the course of Christianity. An obscure monk by the name of Martin Luther nailed a document of ninety-five theses on the cathedral door in Wittenberg. Luther contended against the selling of indulgences, basically a fund-raising scheme, a church bake sale on steroids. The practice of Johann Tetzel, who sold indulgences to collect money for the bishop of Mainz, in particular provoked Luther's ire. As Luther pointed out in Thesis 27: "They preach only human doctrines who say that as soon as the money clinks into the money chest, the soul flies out of purgatory."

Announcements routinely were nailed on the church door, but Luther's went to the heart of the abuses and excesses of the Roman church. The idea of indulgences went to the heart of what it means to be forgiven and to be declared right with God, to be justified. The first five theses set the stage:

1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" [Matt. 4:17], he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.
2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.
3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortifications of the flesh.
4. The penalty of sin remains as long as the hatred of self, that is, true inner repentance, until our entrance into the kingdom of heaven.
5. The pope neither desires nor is able to remit any penalties except those imposed by his own authority or that of the canons.

As a younger man, Luther had been deathly afraid of dying outside of God's forgiveness. He would go to his priestly confessor, seeking absolution for what many would deem the most insignificant sins. He so wore out his confessor that Luther was told not to return to the confession booth till he had something worthy of confessing!

Luther, however, came to understand the reality of justification through faith alone in Christ alone. He recognized the biblical teaching that the person who repents and believes on the crucified Christ is justified, counted righteous, in the sight of God. "The righteous shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17). The church's pronouncing the forgiveness of sins not only for the one who paid the indulgence but also for deceased family members who may be undergoing punishment in Purgatory was contrary to the teaching of Scripture, so Luther protested: "36. Any truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt,<sup>1</sup> even without indulgence letters.

"37. Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church; and this is granted him by God, even without indulgence letters."

There would be much that Luther would refine about his theology, but on October 31, 1517, he placed his vocational security and even his earthly life in jeopardy in standing upon the Scriptures. When later called upon to renounce his positions, Luther responded, "Since your most serene majesty and your high mightiness require from me a clear, simple, and precise answer, I will give you one, and it is this: I cannot submit my faith either to the pope or to the councils, because it is clear to me as the day that they have frequently erred and contradicted each other. Unless therefore I am convinced by the testimony of Scripture, or by the clearest reasoning— unless I am persuaded by means of the passages I have quoted—and unless they thus render my conscience bound by the Word of God, I cannot and I will not retract, for it is unsafe for a Christian to speak against his conscience." Luther would allow the Scriptures alone to determine his beliefs: "Here I stand. I can do no other. May God help me. Amen."

## Monthly projects

**United Ministries** continues to distribute food to needy families in our community. Cornerstone is asked to provide flour, sugar and peanut butter.

Remember to pick-up one or more of these items the next time you are in the grocery store.

Don't forget to save empty inkjet printer cartridges, old cell phones, Campbell Soup and Tyson Chicken labels, and Box Tops for Education found on General Mills products for **Laurens Academy**.

**The Laurens Baptist Association** helps families in need and in crisis situations. We can help by donating the requested items each month.

Crisis Center needs for October are:  
peanut butter, jelly  
coffee, tea

Baskets are outside the church office for collection of monthly project items.

### Church Directory

The Cornerstone family directory is being updated. If you have any changes in address, email or phone numbers, please call the church office at 833-1777 or email at [cstonebapt@bellsouth.net](mailto:cstonebapt@bellsouth.net).

**All college students** are invited to lunch at the home of Bill and Kynette Moore after the morning service on Sunday, October 2.

**The G.L.O.R.Y. Group** will meet for dinner on Thursday, October 11, at 6:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Check with Nancy Layne about what to bring.

**The Cornerstone family is invited** to a spaghetti supper/baby shower honoring Matt and Courtney Frick on Saturday evening, November 5, at 6:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Matt and Courtney are expecting a boy in December.

Registered at:  
Buy Buy Baby  
Target



### October Birthdays

Kaitlyn Lollis	4
Mac Duncan	11
Earlene Duncan	15
Danny Graydon	17
Christy Cash	20
Ronny Fisher	26
Linda Campbell	26



Don't forget that the monthly financial reports will be on the table in the narthex on Wednesdays after the first of each month. The reports are also available in the church office at any time.

**Cornerstone has a great opportunity to host  
the Clinton High School FCA  
on Tuesday evening, October 11, at 7:00 p.m.**

Tommy and Sara will show a video that has been particularly meaningful to our youth.

We will also provide supper (grilled hamburgers and hot dogs) for approximately 75-100 students.

Your help is needed:

- \*give monetary donations for food
- \*provide dishes for the meal (baked beans, coleslaw, chili)
- \*serve guests (3-4 people)
- \*help grill (1-2 men)

Help support this endeavor by giving as you can. Please place donations in basket at Wednesday Night Suppers or place a donation in the offering plate and mark for FCA.



**Updates from missionary friends:**

Peter and Sharon McMillan in Madrid, Spain

[www.psmcmillan.blogspot.com](http://www.psmcmillan.blogspot.com)

Craig and Ava Cook in Spain

email the cooks at [craig.cook@worldteam.org](mailto:craig.cook@worldteam.org) and ask to be included on their email newsletter list

Paul and Elvie Barner in Philippines

[www.barner.org](http://www.barner.org)

Dear church family,

We would like to thank you for all the support, love and gifts that you gave to Elias and us. Elias was a surprise blessing and your kindness of giving support, love and gifts was very much appreciated. Words cannot express how we are truly thankful and blessed by our church family. Once again thank you for your giving spirit, sharing and presence in our lives during this special blessing.

Love,  
The Littletons



Dear Cornerstone Baptist Church,

On behalf of PC School of Pharmacy students, faculty and staff, thank you for your participation in our church fair and potluck lunch. Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship provided by your church.

It was such a pleasure to meet you and learn more about your church!

Warmest regards,  
Gloria King

Thank you for the support Cornerstone Baptist Church gave us during the time of Betty Anne's (Mama's) sickness and death. We always will be thankful for what was done for us in our time of need.

Sincerely,  
Bobby, Joey, and Karen

Dear Cornerstone family,

Thank you very much for the generous gift. I'm blessed to be a part of such a loving body of believers. I'm especially grateful to all of our musicians who give unselfishly of their time and talents.

Your sister,  
Claire

## FALL BIBLE CONFERENCE Sharing in His Holiness OCTOBER 22- 23

Westminster Presbyterian Church will join Cornerstone on October 22 and 23, for a Fall Bible Conference, with speaker, Dr. Richard Belcher. Dr. Belcher has planted and pastored several churches, is currently the pastor at Covenant Baptist Church in West Columbia, and retired from Columbia International University. He has also authored numerous books including the popular journey series theological novels.

### Saturday

**8:00 am** Men's (teens-adults) breakfast at Westminster \$2.00

*"An Introduction to the Subject of Personal Holiness"*

Q & A for those wishing to remain

**6:00 pm** Session 1 at Cornerstone  
*"The Necessity of Personal Holiness"*  
Featuring: Cornerstone Choir

### Sunday

Dr. Belcher will lead Session 2 at both churches

**9:45 am** Session 2 at Cornerstone

**10:45 am** Session 2 at Westminster

*"The Definition of Personal Holiness"*

Cornerstone's Bible Study Classes will begin ten minutes after the conclusion of the session.

**6:00 pm** Session 3 at Cornerstone  
*"The Importance of Personal Holiness"*  
Featuring: Westminster Choir

Reception following service—Bring finger foods for this time of fellowship.

### CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

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[www.cornerstoneclinton.wordpress.com](http://www.cornerstoneclinton.wordpress.com)

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