

Pastor Pete Kontra

The Blue Marble

In an article for *Decision* magazine, Samuel Kamaleson illustrates the difficulty of submission through a Christian folk story from South India. There are several versions of it, but here it opens with a young boy who loved to play marbles. He regularly walked through his neighborhood with a pocketful of his best marbles, hoping to find opponents to play against. One marble in particular, his special blue marble, had won him many matches.

During one walk he encountered a young girl who was eating a bag of chocolate candy. Though the boy's first love was marbles, he had a weakness for chocolates. As he stood there interacting with the young girl, his salivary glands and the rumbling in his stomach became uncontrollable, and he thought to himself, *I have got to get my hands on those chocolates.*

Concocting a plan, he asked the girl, "How about I give you all these marbles for those chocolates?" She replied, "Sounds fair to me."

He put his hand in his pocket, searching for the distinguishing cracks on the surface of the blue marble. Once he identified the blue marble with his finger tip, he carefully pushed it to the bottom of his pocket and pulled out all the other marbles.

As he handed the marbles to the girl in exchange for the chocolate, the boy thought his plan was a success and turned to walk away. As he began to eat the candy, he suddenly turned to the girl and asked, "Hey, did you give me *all* the chocolates?"

Our human nature wants to do the same as the boy in this story. We want everything the Kingdom of God has to offer. We want to have a secure sense of God's presence, we want all our prayers to be answered, we want to "feel close" to Jesus, we want to flourish in the riches of God's glory—we want it all. But often we are unwilling to give up everything for it. Many times there is a "blue marble" in our lives that we seem unwilling to offer to the control of Christ. Until we can fully subjugate ourselves to God's will, our participation in God's kingdom will be limited.

What blue marble are you holding onto? What about for us as the church?

In Luke 9:23 Jesus says, "*If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*"

God is leading us into the world to make more disciples of Christ. It's time for us to empty our pockets and hold nothing back as we follow. Pray with me that it would be so by the grace of our Lord. Blessings, Pastor Pete

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Grains of Rice

Pastor Kent Rice

"In studying any attribute, the essential oneness of all the attributes soon becomes apparent. We see, for instance, that if God is self-existent He must be also self-sufficient; and if He has power He, being infinite, must have all power. If He possesses knowledge, His infinitude assures us that He possesses all knowledge. Similarly, His immutability presupposes His faithfulness. If He is unchanging, it follows that He could not be unfaithful since that would require Him to change. Any failure within the divine character would argue imperfection and because God is perfect, it could not occur. Thus, the attributes explain each other and prove that they are but glimpses the mind enjoys of the absolutely perfect Godhead.

All of God's acts are consistent with all of His attributes. No attribute contradicts any other, but all harmonize and blend into each other in the infinite abyss of the Godhead. All that God does agrees with all that God is, and being and doing are one in Him. The familiar picture of God as often torn between His justice and His mercy is altogether false to the facts. To think of God as inclining first toward one and then toward another of His attributes is to imagine a God who is unsure of Himself, frustrated and emotionally unstable, which of course is to say that the one of whom we are thinking is not the true God at all but a weak, mental reflection of Him badly out of focus."

From--*The Absolutely Perfect Godhead* by A.W. Tozer

As inconsistent, conflicted people we can't help but project some of ourselves onto the absolutely perfect Godhead. We know this is backwards, that we are created in His image not vice versa, but we keep on doing it. I wonder how much of our faith suffers because the God we believe in is full of our own inadequacies? Perfection is indeed impossible for us to even imagine. So what do we do?

Something I've been learning is to look for *moments*. Moments where God connects to us through his Holy Spirit and there's a thought, an emotion, a clarity, a desire, etc. that "comes out of nowhere" yet seems to be the only thing that makes sense. Sometimes the Spirit even takes the time to do nothing more than encourage after a big spiritual encounter. It's awesome.

Listen, pray and prepare yourself for your next encounter. We might not be able to fully grasp the perfection of God, but we can be intentional about not making him less than perfect in our own eyes. And we can wait with anticipation for those moments when He demonstrates His love for us—a love that is...perfect!

Messages in September

September 7

What If?—*Luke 9:23*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

To pursue Jesus, He says we **MUST** deny ourselves, carry our cross daily and follow Him. What if you did that right now? What would happen? The questions are not: “How much can I get?” but “How much can I give?” Not, “What is the safe thing to do?” but “What is the right thing to do?” Not, “What’s the minimum I can do?” but “What’s the maximum possible?”



September 14

A Crazy Love Affair—*Luke 9:57-58*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

Jesus wants us to follow Him, pursue Him, out of the passionate love we have for Him. It’s a love that will make us do some crazy things according to the world’s perspective, and so Jesus makes it very clear: The cost is everything you have, to gain everything you cannot lose.



September 21

What Would You Have Done?—*Luke 9:59-60*

Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching

Luke’s account of the cost of following Jesus has three fascinating encounters with those who were ‘in the crowd’, but had not taken the bold steps to become disciples, as the 12 had done. Jesus looks this guy in the face and says the exact same thing to him that he said to Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Matthew: “Follow me.” They responded by immediately answering the call and leaving everything else. His response: “There’s something I have to do before I can follow you.” What would you have done – what do you do – in that same situation? How many of us, when confronted with the stark, hard choice that Jesus gives – to follow him or something else – choose him?



September 28

Don’t Look Back—*Luke 9:61-62*

Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching

Last year's crop will not feed the family tomorrow. Seeds need to be planted today; without the work today, right now, the family will go without food tomorrow. Life often consists of times of comfort and times of trial. Times of stillness and times to move. What will you do when the time comes? Hesitate or go?



September Ministry Schedules

September 7
September 14
September 21
September 28

NURSERY—SS

Bob & Mary Ellen McEvoy
Keith/Karma Witmer
Keith/Karma Witmer
Keith/Karma Witmer

NURSERY—WORSHIP

Donna Schaidle, Betty Lull, Laura Myer
Marg Zurin, Sue Brubaker, Jen Baker
Jill Stout, Courtney Barry, Kensey Rice
Betty Cox, Sarah Fisher, Libby Rannels



September 7
September 14
September 21
September 28

SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

No 8:00 service
Rich & Jamie Bushong
Dave Schott
Matt Markey

SOUND TECHNICIANS—10:15

Blaine Garber & Rich Bushong
Matt Markey & Rich Bushong
Mitchell Barnes & Rich Bushong
Matt Markey & Rich Bushong



September 7
September 14
September 21
September 28

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

No 8:00 service
Randy Ziegler
Pete Cope
Ray O'Boyle

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Geoff Davis
TBA
TBA
TBA

SPECIAL MUSIC



September 7
September 14
September 21
September 28

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

TBA
TBA
Sanctuary Choir
Vicki Smith

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Dave Bendit
Nate Polonchak
Dave Bendit
Doug Howard

September 7
September 14
September 21
September 28

DEACON GREETERS

Wes Bowers
Lois Killian
Tom Connelly
Ruth Johnson

JNH GREETERS

Bob & Mary Lou Haldeman
Jason & Hilary Hoffman
Earl & Betty Zimmerman
Carl & Lisa Polonchak



OFFERING TABULATORS
Dave Dum, alternate, Rick Schaidle

HCOB Adult Sunday School

† **THE CHRISTIAN HOMEBUILDERS** classes will meet in the library. We study the International Lesson. We have three or four regular teachers who each teach about one Sunday a month. We have several socials a year with the majority of our class participating. Our offerings are used for special needs within our congregation or community. The contact people are Ruth Johnson and Millie Hoffman.

September 7 A Vision of the Future
September 14 Restoration
September 21 A New Future
September 28 Improbable Possibilities

Teacher: Denny Bushong
Teacher: Butch Nachbar
Teacher: TBA
Teacher: TBA

† **THE SEEKERS**— Seekers Class usually studies a book of the Bible and discusses what we are learning. Feel free to join the class for one lesson or thru the end of the study. Rich Bushong is the contact person.

† **CONVERSATIONS**— In the Great Commission, Jesus told his disciples to go everywhere and baptize, preach, and teach everything he commanded. But what exactly were Jesus' commands and why are they important for us to know? Conversations Class will continue to examine Jesus' commands through the book, "What Jesus Demands from the World" by John Piper, in weekly examination of Jesus' words and what they mean in our lives and our mission. We meet in our classroom on the second floor. All are welcome to come. Geoff Davis is the teacher.

Praying Attention



In light of all of the seemingly impossible situations worldwide, with the persecuted Christians in Iraq and elsewhere, the 200 Nigerian girls in the hands of Boko Haram, the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa, the unrest in Missouri and the list goes on and on, it almost seems hopeless. However, Jesus encourages us in Luke 18:1-8 through the parable of the persistent Widow to always pray and not give up. Listen to what verses 7 & 8 say: "And will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, He will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" He's looking for our faith while enduring all kinds of trials and part of that faith is being persistent in our prayers. After all, He can make what seems impossible, possible; and if we don't ask, He can't answer. May you be richly blessed in your prayer life.

HCOB Family News



BRETHREN VILLAGE WHEELCHAIR WALK is scheduled for September 25. Please contact Gerrie Hurst or Lois Killian if you can help. The residents of the Village thank you!

CHURCH PICNIC!!!! SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH.

NO SIGN UP IS NEEDED for the picnic! Just mark your calendar, and bring a pew-full of friends to experience the joy and grace of our Lord as we live it out as family here in this place! Dress casually since following 10:15 worship we will have our church picnic with barbecued chicken and all the trimmings! Details for picnic are below. See you there!!!!



- We will provide chicken, chips, drinks, plates, utensils and cups.
- Families whose last names start with A-O to bring salad, fresh fruit or relish to serve 10 to 12 people.
- Families with last names from P-Z to bring dessert to serve 10 to 12 people.
- No serving utensils are needed.
- Please drop off your food in the kitchen BEFORE the 10:15 service.
- We will serve the food from the Fellowship Hall.
- Seating inside and outside, weather permitting.
- If you plan to sit outside, you may bring chairs and blankets in case all the seating outside is taken.

2014 FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



Yes, you read that right! Now, don't fall over, this is just to get the ball rolling and make sure it is on your calendar.

On Sunday, December 7th, we will be having our Family Christmas Celebration. This year will be a little different than past years. We will have Bethlehem set up in the gym!

Yes, the plan is to set up Bethlehem in the gym so that families can move around and enjoy different activities, such as making a snack, wood working, games, and more! After that concludes, we will all join together to hear Piercing Word present the Christmas story. So, put that on your calendars!

Now, another thing, how would you like to be a part of Bethlehem? Interested in dressing in Biblical costume and running a stand or milling around? Do you have a special interest? The more participants we have, the more enjoyable it will be for all! Please keep an eye out in the Narthex for a sign-up sheet during the month of September. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Rice or Donna Reed. This will be such a wonderful way to embrace and participate in the true reason for Christmas!!!

HCOB Youth News



TNT STARTS THURSDAY SEPT 11TH at HCOB! All youth and friends grades 7-12 are invited to come for games, hanging out, snacks and devotional time. See you in the gym!

HCOB Kids News

TEACHERS AND ASSISTANTS NEEDED!



The children of Hempfield COB need you! We are in need of teachers for the 1st through 3rd grade class and the 4th & 5th grade class. We also need assistants. There are not enough adults involved for the upcoming Fall session. We have amazing children who deserve your time and life experiences. Materials are provided and are easy to

follow. Ask one of the current teachers or assistants if they believe their time with the kids is worthwhile. We also need more folks in the Nursery. Who doesn't want to spend time with an adorable baby or toddler?! What a blessing! Please see me if you are interested in being involved. Also see me or Deb Bendit if you need your clearances done. Thank you! --Karen Rice

HCOB Calendar

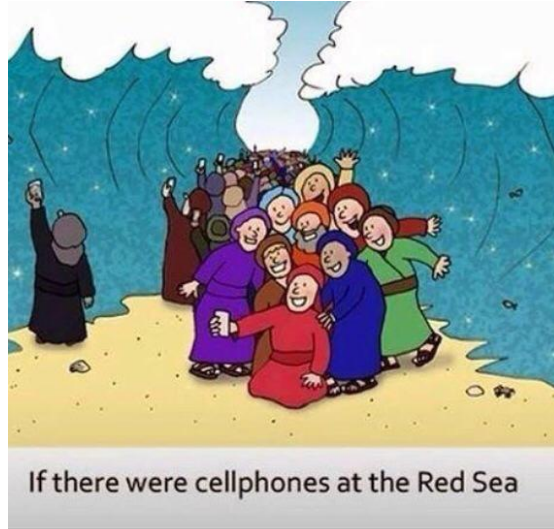
Keep up with what's happening at Hempfield COB by checking out our online calendar.

Please go to

<http://www.hempfieldcob.org/whatsup.html>

for a full calendar of events.

**Toon of
The Month**



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The Month**

Hempfield Church of the Brethren
P.O. Box 246
East Petersburg, PA 17520

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

