

The New River Rapids

THE TALE OF THE LITTLE VINE AND THE OLD OAK TREE by Pasture Scott



These are upsetting times. Someone recently commented that a “perfect storm” is converging in the earth, fed by radical religious ideology, terrorism, global economic chaos and mounting fears that the end is near. Just this morning I heard of a run on guns, fearing forthcoming legislation that would blockade such purchases and also to arm homes for the very real possibility of protection in the face of looming depression. Bankers and CEO’s are turning to yoga and other meditative disciplines just to cope with the stress of a slip-and-slide market.

A friend was telling me yesterday about a tornado that had descended on a sleepy little town, destroying everything in its path. Everything, that is, except for two marvels of nature. When the disaster relief personnel surveyed the aftermath, they found a lone tree standing in the middle of a field with a fragile young vine wrapped around its base, clinging to it for dear life.

The tornado that had uprooted fences, overturned homes and flipped cars would certainly have torn such a feeble vine to bits had it not learned to attach itself to an immovable object.

Isaiah prophesied of two invasions that would obliterate the separate kingdoms of Israel, north and south, save only the remnant that remained loyal to Yahweh. The northern kingdom, Israel, would fall prey to advancing hordes of Assyrians while the southern half, Judah, would have to deal with brutish Babylonians years later. But to both he offered this enduring promise:

*“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength (literally, go from strength to strength)...”
(Isaiah 40:31a)*

“Wait” in Hebrew has the idea of twisting one’s self around something. Like that delicate vine wrapping itself around the massive oak tree, Isaiah is telling a people facing their own perfect storm to let go of their kingdoms and abide in the Vine of Life. The shaking that is coming will destroy everything in its path, leaving in its wake homes built on sand, moths and rust and purses with holes and everything else that draws affection away from Jesus.

This is a time to cut ties.

This is a time to break unholy alliances.

This is a time to cast a single vote for Jesus.

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November Events

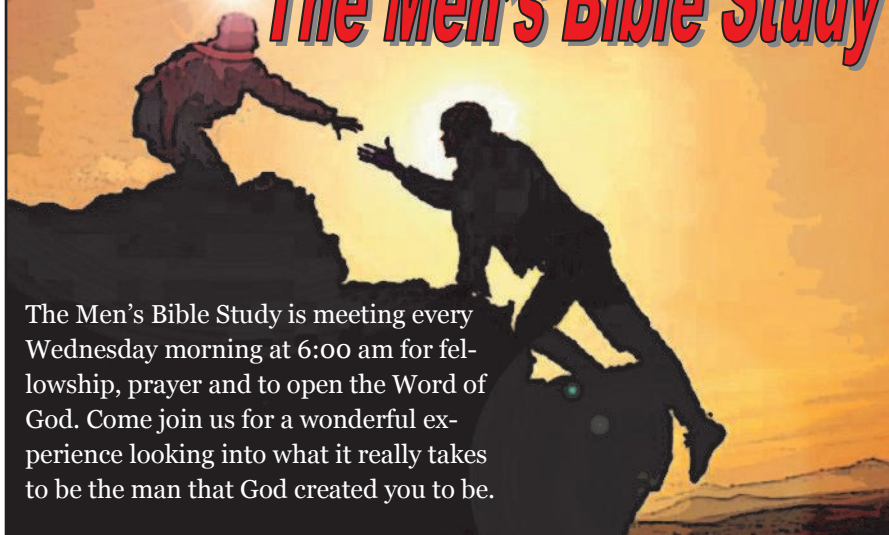
For more details about these and other events at New River go to www.newrivercc.com/events

Global Bridegroom Fast	3rd-5th
Prayer	6th,13th,20th,27th
Navigator meeting.....	12th
Fellowship Dinner.....	19th
LIFEgroup leaders meet.....	9th
Silent Siege	15th
City of Refuge	23rd
Hallelujah Fest	1st
Men’s Retreat	14th-16th
New River Tgiving Dinner	19th



LIFE ON THE RIVER

The Men's Bible Study



The Men's Bible Study is meeting every Wednesday morning at 6:00 am for fellowship, prayer and to open the Word of God. Come join us for a wonderful experience looking into what it really takes to be the man that God created you to be.

Pray For The Nation

Monday, Nov. 3rd, 7 PM

"Will the Church return to God in repentance and the Nation in spiritual awakening?"



Come join us in intercession for our nation in this most pivotal time in history!

Attention Youth Parents

Please join us for a time of fellowship while our kids are meeting on Wednesday nights. Child-care will be provided.

Wednesdays at 7 PM in the Church Office



7 Project Stats

- 6500+ attended rally
- 700+ volunteers
- 500+ commitments or commitments to Christ!

MEN'S RETREAT

Men! Manly Men! Massive Men! and the rest of you! It is almost time for the MEN'S RETREAT in the north Georgia Mountains! The dates have been changed to try to accommodate as many men as possible, so we hope you can come on these dates: November 14, 15, 16 (Friday-Sunday). If you are able, the "early birds" will be going up as early as Wednesday Nov 12! Come and join us for a relaxing weekend of fellowship, worship and EATING!! Yes we DO eat!!! Cost will be \$40, at least two pounds of thick sliced bacon, and a minimum of two dozen HOME-MADE COOKIES!! (Notice I said HOMEMADE. If yours are NOT home-made, you WILL be sent home!!! ☺)

You are welcome to sit and enjoy the huge camp-fire or join us on a hike

to a great hidden waterfall and/or to the lookout tower on top of the mountain, (bring a camera) and our camp site is near a beautiful creek (which we will be bathing in!) We also set up a target range for Air rifles (BB-guns) and archery, so bring em if you have em! We cut our own firewood, so chainsaws, axes, etc are useful, but we will supply them if you forget yours! You WILL want to help out with clearing the campsite, cutting, gathering, and carrying firewood as to work up a good appetite for the meals we are going to eat. Just to whet your appetite, consider some of the dishes we've had in years past, smoked turkey, deep fried turkey, pork loins wrapped in bacon, Low-country boil, venison steaks, and seafood skewers just to name a few.

So invite your family and friends 16 years to 160 years old! (That means you Don.) All will have a great time. Contact Mark Grant at 770-891-9159 or Bill Demarest at 404-216-6563, be sure to leave a message if we don't answer, because we'll be answering all the other guys that want to go! Again, Cost will be \$40, two pounds of thick sliced bacon, and two dozen HOME-MADE COOKIES!!

Politics, Activism, and the Gospel

By John MacArthur,

With the nation focused on the November elections, we thought a post on politics might be appropriate. The point of this article is not that we should abstain from any participation in the political process, but rather that we must keep our priorities straight as Christians. After all, the gospel, not politics, is the only true solution to our nation's moral crisis.

We can't protect or expand the cause of Christ by human political and social activism, no matter how great or sincere the efforts. Ours is a spiritual battle waged against worldly ideologies and dogmas arrayed against God, and we achieve victory over them only with the weapon of Scripture. The apostle Paul writes: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

We must reject all that is ungodly and false and never compromise God's standards of righteousness. We can do that in part by desiring the improvement of society's moral standards and by approving of measures that would conform government more toward righteousness. We do grieve over the rampant indecency, vulgarity, lack of courtesy and respect for others, deceitfulness, self-indulgent materialism, and violence that is corroding society. But in our efforts to support what is good and wholesome, reject what is evil and corrupt, and make a profoundly positive impact on our culture, we must use God's methods and maintain scriptural priorities.

God is not calling us to wage a culture war that

would seek to transform our countries into "Christian nations." To devote all, or even most, of our time, energy, money, and strategy to putting a facade of morality on the world or over our governmental and political institutions is to badly misunderstand our roles as Christians in a spiritually lost world.

God has above all else called the church to bring sinful people to salvation through Jesus Christ. Even as the apostle Paul described his mission to unbelievers, so it is the primary task of all Christians to reach out to the lost "to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me [Christ]" (Acts 26:18; cf. Ex. 19:6; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9).

If we do not evangelize the lost and make disciples of new converts, nothing else we do for people--no matter how beneficial it seems--is of any eternal consequence. Whether a person is an atheist or a theist, a criminal or a model citizen, sexually promiscuous and perverse or strictly moral and virtuous, a greedy materialist or a gracious philanthropist--if he does not have a saving relationship to Christ, he is going to hell. It makes no difference if an unsaved person is for or against abortion, a political liberal or a conservative, a prostitute or a police officer, he will spend eternity apart from God unless he repents and believes the gospel.

When the church takes a stance that emphasizes political activism and social moralizing, it always diverts energy and resources away from evangelization. Such an antagonistic position toward the established secular culture invariably leads believers to feel hostile not only to unsaved government leaders with whom they disagree, but also antagonistic toward the unsaved residents of that culture--neighbors and fellow citizens

they ought to love, pray for, and share the gospel with. To me it is unthinkable that we become enemies of the very people we seek to win to Christ, our potential brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Author John Seel pens words that apply in principle to Christians everywhere and summarize well the believer's perspective on political involvement:

A politicized faith not only blurs our priorities, but weakens our loyalties. Our primary citizenship is not on earth but in heaven. ... Though few evangelicals would deny this truth in theory, the language of our spiritual citizenship frequently gets wrapped in the red, white and blue. Rather than acting as resident aliens of a heavenly kingdom, too often we sound [and act] like resident apologists for a Christian America. ... Unless we reject the false reliance on the illusion of Christian America, evangelicalism will continue to distort the gospel and thwart a genuine biblical identity.....

American evangelicalism is now covered by layers and layers of historically shaped attitudes that obscure our original biblical core. (The Evangelical Pulpit [Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993], 106-7)

By means of faithful preaching and godly living, believers are to be the conscience of whatever nation they reside in. You can confront the culture not with the political and social activism of man's wisdom, but with the spiritual power of God's Word. Using temporal methods to promote legislative and judicial change, and resorting to external efforts of lobbying and intimidation to achieve some sort of "Christian morality" in society is not our calling--and has no eternal value. Only the gospel rescues sinners from sin, death, and hell.

The Wailing Women to Visit New River

Rev. (Mrs.) Chinyere G. Madugba of Nigeria, Ebele Okafor of New Jersey and three more representatives from the ministry Women Intercessors for the Church and Nations (The Wailing Women) will be the guests of New River and the Prayer Force on Wednesday, Nov. 5th and Thursday, Nov. 6th. The Wailing Women are seeking to plant groups of women intercessors to intercede for the church and the nation in these last days. You may remember our dear sister Helen Lah from Cameroon is involved with this ministry. The meetings will be held in the Worship Center at 7 PM. No childcare will be provided as of press time. Is God calling you to become an intercessor for His bride in the dark days that are sure to come? Are you sure?

Announcements

- Backpack Ministry donations – put into the backpack in foyer-WE NEED YOU!
- NRCC Youth meet in Dugout and Parents meet in the office building on Wednesdays at 7 pm
- Operation Christmas Child 'Shoe Box' collection is Nov. 16th

LIFE Institute
Season 1 on DVD!

You don't have to wait until Sunday to see Scott Mitchell! Now you can have the complete first season of the LIFE Institute on DVD for your home viewing pleasure! This 20 DVD set includes all the foundational New River teachings by Scott with guest appearances by Neal Beard and Ed Corley. As a bonus you get all the teachings in .mp3 format all in an attractive CD wallet for the low, low price of \$40. Get your order form in the foyer today.

The Normal Kingdom Life

Coming November 9th



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“Our mission is to advance the kingdom of God as devoted followers of Jesus Christ by intentionally passing our faith on to our children, our community and the world,
MAKING AND MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES TO THE GLORY OF GOD!”

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
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