

The Pastor's Quarry

First Baptist Church of Granite Falls, MN
May, 2006

The One Who Knows Us

As I waited with my wife in “pre-op” I could not help but overhear the nurse on the other side of the curtain; she was interviewing the patient in the next bed. The nurse asked rapid-fire questions like, “Ever had a heart attack? Diabetes? Stroke? Problems with depression?” No matter how many answers the patient gave the nurse, the nurse had another question for her. It might have been five full minutes of relentless questioning before the nurse desisted, and of course, the nurse knew the patient not at all. The nurse knew little about the patient’s personality, character, loves, fears, wants, griefs, and joys.

You can spend a lifetime trying to get to know somebody. You can live with somebody in holy matrimony for many years and still learn things you did not know about your spouse. Even the most inquisitive and observant wife will not exhaust all that there is to know about her husband, and *vice versa*.

But God knows us all in every detail! He knew us even before we were formed in the womb. (Jer 1:5). God knows our hearts better than we know them ourselves. He searches the heart and tests the mind (Jer 17:9-10). He knows the secrets of the heart (Psa 44:21). He never misunderstands us, for his knowledge is perfect (Job 37:16). He already knows everything we will do and think and feel for the rest of eternity (Isa 48:3-5). He is *omniscient* – he is all knowing!

When we are seriously ill or injured we do not hesitate to go to doctors and nurses for help, even though they really know very little about us. In fact, we might dial 911 to save every second we can. How much more confidently, and how much more speedily, should we go to our God in our hour of need!

Bible Geography

On Sunday, April 30, we wrapped up our examination of the Coastal Plain and began to study the Shephelah, the western foothills of the Judean Hills. Much Old Testament history takes place in the Shephelah, like Sampson’s exploits and the battle between David and Goliath. As we study more and more of the land, you should begin to recognize place-names that you encounter in your Bible study. You might even be able to picture in your mind what these places look like, and how to get there from one place or another in the story!

Fifth Sunday Biographies

In the afternoon service on April 30, our first “Fifth Sunday Biography” focused upon Martin Luther. This was my first try at presenting a biography, and I am looking forward to the next one! The next “Fifth Sunday” is on July 30; Lord willing, I will have another biography prepared for that service.

Installation Service

My heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to, participated in, attended, and prayed for the Installation Service held Saturday, April 29! The music was beautiful, the challenges from Dr. Bauder and Dr. Hauser inspiring, the food more than satisfying, and the guests heart-warming. The rain outside served only to remind me of the fruit being borne inside; truly God was glorified at First Baptist Church that day.

As one Master of Theology student wrote of the service, “I was reminded that God can spread a table in the wilderness; he can make the desert to rejoice and blossom like a rose.” Indeed God can, and has. Praise his holy name!

Business Meeting May 21

On April 23 I announced that we would have a business meeting on Sunday, May 14. One of the brethren kindly informed me that May 14 is Mother’s Day! Out of respect for the mothers in our number (for they truly deserve it!) we will *not* hold a business meeting on that day.

Let us plan on having a business meeting on Sunday, May 21, at 1:30 PM. The meeting will begin with a song and brief devotional. Let us attempt to glorify God in this meeting as deliberately as we do in any other assembly

Men’s Coffee Time

My brethren are welcome to join me for coffee on Saturday mornings from 8:00 – 9:00 AM in the church study. I think it would be enjoyable and profitable to study our church doctrinal statement by comparing and contrasting it with historic statements of faith, little bit by little bit. Interested? Come on over!

Pastor’s Schedule

Underlined dates indicate times when I will be in town without my “better half.”

In Granite, May 5, 6, 7
CBTS Commencement,

Saturday, May 13

In Granite, May 14

In Granite, May 20, 21

In Granite, May 27, 28

In Granite Jun 2, 3, 4

Baker-Vind Wedding in
Crookston, Jun 10

In Granite (Jun 10), 11

In Granite Jun 16, 17, 18

In Granite Jun 24, 25

In Granite Jun 30, Jul 1, 2

John Donne
(1572-1631)

A Hymne to Christ, at the Authors last going into Germany

IN what torne ship soever I embarke,
That ship shall be my embleme of thy Arke;
What sea soever swallow mee, that flood
Shall be to mee an embleme of thy blood;
Though thou with clouds of anger do disguise 5
Thy face; yet through that maske I know those eyes,
Which, though they turne away sometimes,
They never will despise.

I sacrifice this Iland unto thee,
And all whom I lov'd there, and who lov'd mee; 10
When I have put our seas twixt them and mee,
Put thou thy sea betwixt my sinnes and thee.
As the trees sap doth seeke the root below
In winter, in my winter now I goe,
Where none but thee, th'Eternall root 15
Of true Love I may know.

Nor thou nor thy religion dost controule,
The amorousnesse of an harmonious Soule,
But thou would'st have that love thy selfe: As thou 20
Art jealous, Lord, so I am jealous now,
Thou lov'st not, till from loving more, thou free
My soule: Who ever gives, takes libertie:
O, if thou car'st not whom I love
Alas, thou lov'st not mee.

Seale then this bill of my Divorce to All, 25
On whom those fainter beames of love did fall;
Marry those loves, which in youth scattered bee
On Fame, Wit, Hopes (false mistresses) to thee.
Churches are best for Prayer, that have least light:
To see God only, I goe out of sight: 30
And to scape stormy dayes, I chuse
An Everlasting night.

My Contact Information

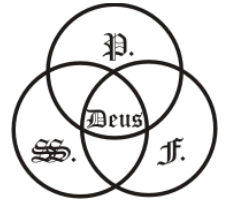
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“Walk-in” office hours

10:00-12:00 each Saturday morning, in
the church study.

A Bit of History

Expressing
the doctrine of the
Trinity is fraught
with danger, for it
is easy to make a
mistake. The



Trinity has at
times been unfortunately described
as essentially more than one God, or
even as less than three persons.

The early church sought to
understand the revealed truth in the
New Testament about the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Heresies abounded, and the church
responded to them with statements
of doctrine called “creeds.”

One early heresy was
“Modalism,” the belief that God is
really only one person who simply
appears in different forms at
different times in history. Tertullian
refuted this heresy in the early third
century A.D., and was the first one
to use the Latin word *Trinitas* (from
which we get the word, “Trinity”).
He showed that God is indeed one
in substance while at the same time
existing in three persons.

Another early heresy was
“Arianism,” the belief that since
Christ was “begotten” of the Father,
there must have been a time when
he was not, i.e. Christ was *created*
by the Father. The Council of
Nicaea condemned this heresy in
325 A.D, asserting that Jesus was,
“begotten, not made, being of one
substance with the Father.” This
wording is in the “Nicene Creed,” a
beautiful summary of the Christian
faith.

Three interwoven circles have
been used for at least 800 years as
one way to describe the Trinity. In
the symbol above, the different rings
represent three persons. One ring
represents the Father (*Pater*), one
ring represents the Son (*Filius*), and
one ring represents the Holy Spirit
(*Spiritus Sanctus*). Interwoven, they
are one God (*Deus*) in substance.