

REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

By Pastor Brian De Jong

Some words in our language are over-used to the point of becoming meaningless. One such term is “good.” This one word answer can be given to thousands of questions: “How is your sandwich?” “Good!” “How are you feeling?” “Good!” “What do you think of the Brewers?” “They’re good.”

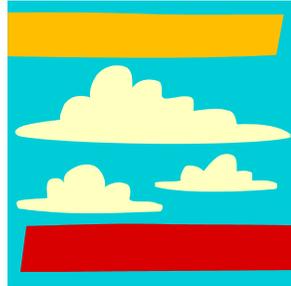
Despite the current emptiness of this term, the goodness of God is an important attribute of our Lord. Our Westminster Confession says that God possesses “infinite goodness.” The chapter on Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day states, *The light of nature showeth that there is a God, who hath lordship and sovereignty over all, is good, and doth good unto all, and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the might.*”

Our Lord is good (His essential nature) and doeth good (His providential works) unto all. “Goodness” defines who He is and it describes how He acts. But what does “goodness” really mean?

The New Bible Dictionary says that “‘Good’ in the Scripture is not an abstract quality, nor is it a secular human ideal; ‘good’ means first and foremost what God is, then what he does, creates, commands and gives, and finally what he approves in the lives of his creatures...” They go on to observe that the Scriptures “define good in terms of God; not vice versa. Accordingly, the biblical position

is that God, and God alone, is good without qualification; and He is arbiter and judge, as he is the norm and standard, of creaturely goodness.”

A.W. Pink, in his book The Attributes of God, writes that “*The original Saxon meaning of our English word “God” is “The Good.” God is not only the Greatest of all beings, but the Best. All the goodness there is in any creature has been imparted from the Creator, but God’s goodness is underived, for it is the essence of His eternal nature. As God is infinite in power*



from all eternity, before there was any display thereof, or any act of omnipotency put forth; so He was eternally good before there was any communication of His bounty, or any creature to whom it might be imparted or exercised.”

You might suppose that these two “definitions” fail to define what we mean by God’s “goodness.” Rather, they orient us so we can obtain a trustworthy and faithful definition of goodness. What both the NBD and Pink suggest is that we look at God – who He is and how He functions – to discover what “goodness” really means. There is no abstract conceptual standard that we use to measure God’s goodness. Rather, we derive our understanding of “the good” by studying God Himself.

As God bountifully and kindly condescends to care for His creatures, we see goodness displayed. When God opens His hand to feed us, we taste His goodness....

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February 2014

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A Remedy for Wandering Thoughts

Chapter 8, Sections 4-5

by Richard Steele

SECTION VI REFLECTION

The sixth cure of these distractions is, a watchful reflection of the soul upon itself, and a cry unto God. It is said, "a wise man's heart is at his right hand, but a fool's heart is at his left." Eccles. 10:2. Is not this the meaning of it, that a wise good man hath his heart ready, it can speedily serve him, instantly recoil upon himself; but a wicked foolish man's heart is awkward and unskillful, a left-hand heart, unwieldy and unready for any good work. O get then a dexterousness of heart to bolt in, and break the sinful knot of your vain imaginations that a distraction may not sit so long on the heart, that it hatch and breed yet more of the kind, and so swallow you up in condemnation. It is said, "When the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abraham drove them away," Gen. 15:1; not when they were sitting or feeding upon the carcasses, but as soon as ever they alighted; we must not give place to them for a moment. Mr. Dodd adviseth us to ask ourselves often these two questions: 1. What am I? 2. What am I doing? We are well, if we can well answer these two questions. If thou canst answer, "I am a child of God," and "I am doing God's will," it will stand thee in more stead than if thou couldest answer all the questions in Aquinas. We read that in the building of God's house, "every one, with one of his hands, wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon;" Neh. 4:27; work and watch, work and fight was the employment of them. And he that will edify in God's house yet, must do the same; hear and watch, and watch and pray, and fight and struggle, and pray still. This hill we climb inch by inch: one may tumble into hell, but the strait gate must be striven at. Let conscience then perform its part, and speedily glance into the heart with all fidelity. Abraham's fowls came without sending for, and yet would not go away without driving. You cannot hinder a thief from coming near the house, but you may from quartering with you, at least with any quiet and approbation.

And it is good to cast off these wandering thoughts with a cry to God, else the destruction of one will prove the generation of another. ...This will engage divine strength, and make God your friend. Do as the Ephesians, when they thought Alexander would speak evil of Diana, "they cried. Great is Diana of the Ephesians." Acts 19:34. ...¹ Send up thy prayer in a parenthesis, like that, "Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity, and quicken me in thy way. Forsake me not, God, my strength. And take not thy Holy Spirit from me" Awake, O north wind, and come thou south, blow upon my garden."These darting desires sent up with faith, will weaken the habits of corruption, and affright Satan from his suggestions. This resisting the devil will make him flee from you: as the golden spikes were set on the temple to keep the fowls from thence, so will these, being conscientiously used, keep off vain thoughts from lodging upon your sacrifices. Up therefore and stir up thyself, by this means to save thy sacrifice from being devoured, and thy soul polluted. Alas! we are daily told, and we feel it, that the heart is deceitful above all things; if a wary eye be not kept over it, you will find it sometimes in the bed of lust, sometimes on the pinnacle of honour, and often digging in the world, and yet salve up all with an "I thank God, I am not as other men are." If ever you be rid of these guests, you must do as good Barnabas advised the Christians at Antioch, "with full purpose of heart to cleave unto the Lord." Acts 11:23. There must be heart, purpose of heart, full purpose of heart, and then you will cleave unto the Lord.

Object. But I am suddenly fallen from God, before I was aware,² and when I see it, and resolve anew, yet ere five sentences be past I am gone again.

Answer. This shows the sad corruption of our nature, and should therefore humble us; and this argues also the contracted ill disposition of the soul; when a disease hath such revivals and returns, it speaks that it is too deeply rooted, yet in this case you must not give up, nor lay down your

Steele Continued...

watchfulness; ... If the devil and your unregenerate part be unwearied in their assault against you, you must be unwearied in your resistance, and die in self defense. And you will find, as use and custom have strengthened these temptations, so an use of reflection and strenuous opposition, will at length weaken, and at last extinguish them.

SECTION VII
STRENGTH OF GRACE

The last and great cure of distractions is strength of grace. As no props without will keep the ship steady, except there be a store of ballast within, so no external helps will establish your hearts against these wanderings, without grace, yea, strong grace within. "It is a good thing that the heart be established with grace." Heb. 13:19, for,

1. The more sanctifying grace you have, the more mortified will you heart be unto the world, and the flesh, the great disturbers of divine service. The fairest landscape shown to a dead man moves him not at all. A heart dead to the world, is not removed from God with every trifle of the world. "While we look not at the things that are seen, but at things that are not seen." 2 Cor. 4:18. Things visible are not worth looking at, especially when things invisible are in place. What is a temporal house, or land, or children to me, that see, and am labouring for an eternal and glorious house and state? Alas! what taste is there in these rotten things?

2. The more grace, the clearer will be your eye of faith, to behold the majesty of God,³ with whom you have to do, and the reality of the things about which you treat; for "faith is the evidence of things not seen," and makes the soul as real as the body, and heaven as real as the world, and the day of judgment as real as the present day: and how undistractedly would a man pray, that saw the earth in flames, or himself dropping into another world?

3. The more grace, the more tender will be your conscience, and the sooner smart, and more oppose these enormities; the tender eye cannot bear what the harder hand can. A distraction in a duty more troubles a tender conscience, than the total omission of it doth another. A little sin, is no little sin, where there is a great deal of grace. O keep your conscience tender, with all the care and skill you can employ. A little wedge makes way for a greater, and a little thief can let a greater in. Blessed is the man that feareth always, and he that hath a soft heart is always hard to sin.

*"He that
hath his usual
conversation
in heaven,
will not eas-
ily have his
heart from
thence in
prayer."*

4. The more grace, the more affections to things above; "set your affections on things above," Col. 3:2, and where there is much affection, there is little distraction. A heavenly mind is all in all. Isaiah 26:8, 9. When the desire of the soul is to the remembrance of God, when with thy whole soul thou hast desired him in the night, then with thy spirit within thee, thou wilt seek him early.⁴ He that hath his usual conversation in heaven, will not easily have his heart from thence in prayer. It is a clear case, where the treasure is, there will the heart be also. A mind above, will not so easily have thoughts below. Where is the man who can say, "My soul breaketh for the longing it hath to thy judgments at all times." Psalm 119:20.

He whose heart longs for the presence of God, will break his heart when he slips from him: and he that cries, O when shall I come and appear before God? will not privately wish, When shall I have done, and take leave of him?

5. The more grace, the more disposed frame will the heart be in, for the service of God. And it is indisposition to an ordinance, that lets in distractions there; as an instrument out of tune hath divers jarring strings, and still one or other slips and spoils the melody; a distraction is a string slipped that spoils the music, a tuned and disposed heart would prevent it much. The flock of sheep that is

Steele Continued...

indisposed and unwilling to drive, start out of the way into every lane's end; one this way, and another that; and just so it is with an unwilling heart, one thought starts this way and another that, and it requires skill to drive them forward. but a willing heart, a heart prepared and ready to every good work, flies upward, and delights itself in the Lord; "the law of God is in his heart, none of his steps shall slide." Psalm 37:31.

6. The more grace, the more spiritual and invisible sins are observed and resisted. Small grace discerns and mortifies the filthiness of the flesh; but strong grace sees and hates the filthiness of the spirit, and so perfects holiness in the fear of God. Gross sins are left at first, but more refined sins, spiritual wickedness in heavenly employments; these are work for riper grace afterwards. Hence the strong Christian can with ease avoid oppression, cruelty, uncleanness, drunkenness, and the like; but the weak Christian hardly conquers spiritual pride, passion, unbelief, distractions, and such like; a little mote more troubles the eye, than much dirt molests the hand; so a holy, tender heart is more troubled with these undiscerned sins, than another man with greater crimes.

7. The more grace, the stronger resolutions you will put on against them; and resolution breaks the heart of them. The poor countryman going to his market, at every door in town almost there is a snare laid for him; here one calls him in, and there another; but he resolved in the morning not to spend a penny, and thereby he breaks through and avoids them all. Alas! his whole week's earnings had gone at once, and he should have had nothing but repentance to feed on the week following. Even so, when thou comest into a holy ordinance, the soul's market, where the soul hath much business; here one thought stands and beckons, and there lies another, and at the door of every verse and sentence, a suggestion stands; but if thou hast firmly resolved at the beginning of the duty, by God's grace, I will not stir from my God, from my work one

tittle, thou wilt not heed nor exchange a word with these vain follies; for alas! if thou shouldest, the whole gain of thy duty would be eaten up, and the end of thy duty would be the beginning of thy grief.

8. The more grace, the more business you will find you have to do with God in his ordinances; little grace hath little to do, and much grace hath much to do; he hath always business with God, special earnest business." One thing have I desired of the Lord, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord," and why? "to behold the beauty of the Lord,

and to enquire in his temple." Psalm 27:4. O, I have somewhat to enquire after, I am to do something by this duty, and therefore cannot trifle. He that comes to visit a friend in a compliment, talks, walks, trifles, and goes home again; but he that comes upon business is full of it. He is like Abraham's honest and faithful servant; "and there was meat set before him to eat, but he said I will not eat till I have told mine errand." Gen. 24:33. I have great business with the Lord, about the church, and about my soul, and I will not eat, nor talk, nor think, nor trifle, about any thing, till I have told mine errand, or heard my Maker's errand unto me; and for this end, it is a rare thing to carry somewhat always on the spirit to spread before God, a heart full of some

needful request, or matter whereof to treat with God. "My heart is inditing a good matter," and then "my tongue shall be like the pen of a ready writer." Psalm 45:1 then I shall go merrily on in his service, when I have matter prepared in my heart. And indeed, as the mariner sees more new stars the further he sails, he loseth the sight of the old ones, and discovers new; so the growing Christian, the further he sails in religion, discovers new wants; new scriptures affect him, new trials afflict him, new business he finds with God, and forgetting those things that are behind, he reacheth after those things that are before, and so finds every day new business with the Lord his God; and he that is busy trifles not; the more

*"...the growing
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discovers new
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scriptures
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Steele Concluded...

business, the less distractions. And therefore be advised all ye that intend for heaven, to get more grace. It is as much your duty to get the second grace, as it was your duty to get the first grace; and as the want of this would damn you, so a want in that will displease God, and that is as bad.

Question. But how should a poor weak Christian get strong grace? If I can get any grace it is well for me, a little grace is much for him that had none at all.

Answer. Though thou art a poor weak Christian, yet that strong and blessed God, whose thou art, "gives power to the faint, and to them that have no might he increaseth strength." Isaiah 40:29. And though it is well for thee to have any grace, yet it is better for thee to have more; few people are contented with merely living, but they would live well and comfortably, they would be healthful and plentiful; and will a little only of grace serve thy turn? And though a little grace be well for him that had none, yet it is not well for him that hath such means and motives for much grace, as thou hast. And therefore I renew my counsel, if ever you would attend upon God or enjoy him hereafter without distraction, strive for stronger grace; and to obtain it,

1. You must be upright and humble.

Upright, for "he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger." Job 17:9. The healthy child grows; the child painted on the wall thrives not; so the sincere Christian, though he feel it not, makes progress, and goes from strength to strength; but the hypocrite never grew, for he never had a root. And humble you must be; the humble vallies grow; God never thinks he lays out too much upon a humble heart.

2. You must manage the means of growth with your whole strength. Attend upon the most edifying ministry, read the most profitable books, consort with the most lively growing Christians, and particularly be frequent in the trial of the state of your soul. Each week, if possible, call yourselves to some account, and strive to discern a weekly growth; but if you cannot, desist not from that work, but try again; single out some special grace, or duty, to thrive in

next week; as for example, the grace of patience, saving knowledge, the duty of a husband, parent, or child. And still be trying; you will find one time or other, what will fully pay you for your labour; only observe, he that thrives in the world takes pains and care; and so in grace, he that will grow, must strive and labour for it. A little grace is worth a great deal of pains.

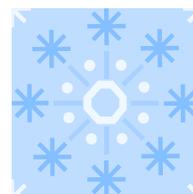
And thus you have the eighth point: to wit, the cure of distractions, if you will apply it; but to what end are rules, unless you will be ruled by them? These helps cannot help you, except you now faithfully put them in practice. The antidote cures not in possession, but when applied to the disease. And your charge be it, if these do you no good. Review them, then, and resolve by divine grace to practice them every one, and the Lord of heaven give his blessing.

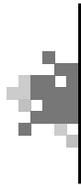
¹ *Cry unto God, Lord, wilt thou suffer thy slave to abuse thy child before thy face, while he is on his knees for a blessing? - Dr. Harrison*

² *Neh. 4:11. "And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them and cause the work to cease." Thus Satan says, and on this principle he acts.*

³ *Psalm 48:9 "We have thought of thy loving kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple." These are the thoughts of such as see by the eye of faith.*

⁴ *If a man have store of gold and silver in his pocket, and but a few farthings, he will bring out gold more readily than farthings; so when there is much grace, much of heaven in the soul, your thoughts will savor of that." Cobbett.*





February Birthdays

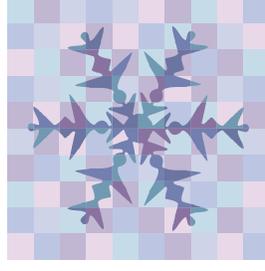




Grace OPC

February 2014

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	4	5 Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.	6	7 Taco Supper & Game Night, 6:30 p.m.	8
9 Missions Sunday	10 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i>	11 Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	12 Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.	13	14	15
16	17 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	18	19 Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.	20	21 Men's Retreat	22 Men's Retreat
23 Lord's Supper, p.m.	24 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i>	25	26 Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.	27	28	

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None of self and all of Thee

Oh, the bitter pain and sorrow
That a time could ever be
When I proudly said to Jesus:
“All of self, and none of Thee.”

Yet He found me; I beheld Him
Bleeding on th'accursed tree;
And my wistful heart said faintly;
“Some of self and some of Thee.”

Day by day His tender mercy,
Healing, helping, full and free,
Brought me lower, while I whispered:
“Less of self, and more of Thee!”

Higher than the highest heavens,
Deeper than the deepest sea,
“Lord, Thy love at last has conquered.
None of self and ALL of Thee!”

- Theodore Monod

“I found this poem stuck in between the pages of a very small book given to me years ago by Grandma Churchill. I thought—what a great message for me going into this new year! ~ Gail Moody

Devotional on Romans

from Carla De Master

Tabletalk, a devotional published by Ligonier Ministries, is studying Romans for the whole year, starting January. You can send for copies or borrow copies from subscribers in the church. Romans is the book that converted Augustine of Hippo. One thousand years later the same book gave a young Martin Luther the assurance of righteousness before God. Many people consider Romans as the fullest definition of the gospel in Scripture. See Marge, Don

and Pam, Ivan and Carla and many others for details or a source for the magazine.



Mission Trip to Neon, Kentucky

December 7 -11, 2013

by Don De Troye

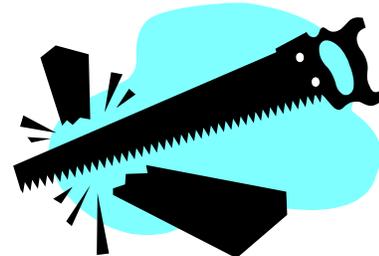
On December 7, I had the opportunity to be part of a work team that went down to Neon, Kentucky to help finish the work on Pastor Jay Bennett's apartment. Peter Onnink and Henry Schroth, (both from Orland Park OPC, Linc Davies (Bethel OPC), and myself made up the team. The Church is located on the lower level of a two-story building with three apartments on the second level. Pastor Jay and his family live in one of the apartments above the Church. We were able to stay in one of the apartments so our work area was right outside our door. The project of combining two apartments and making them into one apartment was started about a year ago to increase the living space for Pastor Jay and his family. Numerous Churches were involved in the work consisting of tearing out all the inside walls, building new stud walls, and installing the dry wall. We came in to finish phase two of the project which was hanging five doors, installing three windows and finishing the outside in aluminum, painting and caulking all the rooms, finishing the electrical and hanging fixtures, laying one thousand feet of laminate flooring, installing crown molding, base molding, and door trim, and painting all the trim.

Neon, Kentucky is a small town in a hollow, nestled in the mountains near the southeast corner of the state. It is a very depressed area due to the EPA and the government shutting down a lot of the coal mines, which drove the unemployment rate very high. Neon Presbyterian Church was started in 2000 and is a mission work with about thirty-three communicant members. Pastor Jay Bennet is the pastor, and he has been there just over two years. Pastor Jay and his wife Andrea have two children. We were able to worship with them on Sunday, and after the morning service, we were treated to a lunch in the fellowship hall. It was a real blessing getting to know the members of the church, and they were very gracious to

us. They had meals brought in each night to the church so we wouldn't have to spend time going out to eat. On the last night we were there, Pastor Jay cooked up a storm and treated us to southern style ribs. It was a great time of fellowship, and it was delightful getting to know him.

The days were long and tiring, but Peter Onnink kept us moving seeing he was the young guy. Each day we would work from 7:00am to around 10:00pm. Things went very smoothly thanks to Seth Long, an elder from the church, who would bring us the supplies that we needed or ran out of. We managed to finish sweeping up all the sawdust at around 10:30pm on Tuesday night and packed up all our tools to depart early Wednesday morning. It was a great trip with a great team of guys to work with and a real blessing getting to know the church family in Neon.

Please keep the church in Neon in your prayers. Pray for Pastor Jay and his family as they minister in Neon and that God will work in the hearts of the people that they reach out to.



Good As New

Happy New Year from the Good As New Shop in Cedar Grove. Are you looking for a new opportunity for service? Do you enjoy meeting people? We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to commit to a 4 hour shift as a clerk in the store. Currently our hours are Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thursday and Friday: 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. We are hoping to expand our store hours on Thursdays and Fridays to 5 p.m. which means we would need more volunteers in order to run two 4 hour shifts every day. If you are interested or have

questions please call Gwen Gesch ... Thanks for partnering with us in this ministry.



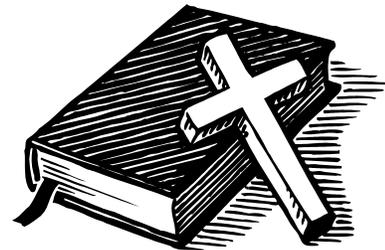
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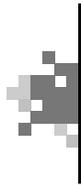
Most notably, as God sends His only begotten Son to die upon the cross for guilty sinners, we can know goodness in its most distilled form.

Thus your own spiritual journey is a grand demonstration of the goodness of God. That He came to you when you were dead in your trespasses and sins, and saved you by His grace – that is goodness. Justifying you freely, adopting you into His own family, sending His sanctifying Spirit to dwell in your heart – all of this cries “God is good! God is good!”

And as you walk through this vale of tears – this world of woe – and you see God working all things together for good – you can see His goodness in action in your own experience. Particularly as He con-

forms you to the image of His Son and transforms your life, you taste and see that the Lord is good!





Nomination

from Carla De Master

Congratulations to Neil and Lenore Tolsma and their daughter, Christine Cain (author's name: Liz Tolsma)!!!

Nomination for the INSPY award: Snow on the Tulips, by Liz Tolsma

INSPY awards are “the bloggers award

for excellence in faith-driven literature.” These bloggers look for “the very best in literature that grapples with expressions of the Christian faith.” Congratulations!

SCCHS Events

Sheboygan County Christian High is hosting a Winter Open House! Thursday, February 6 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. We would like to invite all of our friends, families, supporters and incoming students to see our remodeling and walk through the school. Faculty will be available and registration will be taking place. You can stay and support our girls' basketball team. We would love to share our excitement with you! Please call the school office if you have any questions.

Remember to pick up your cherry and blueberry pies. at SCCHS at 929 Greenfield Avenue on Saturday, February 8 from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. or Monday, February 10 from 10:00a.m.-6:00 p.m.. All grandparents and friends of SCCHS are invited to join our work party & help assemble these delicious pies on Sat., Feb. 8 from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Come for an hour or for the day. We hope to see you there!

submitted by Carla De Master

Drivers Needed!

Pine Haven Christian Communities is looking for social individuals to transport residents to and from appointments using the company provided vehicle on an as needed basis. A driving record will need to be obtained for insurance purposes. Training will be provided.

Please contact Denise Walter for more information:



Book Review

by Carla De Master

Book Review: [The Hidden Art of Homemaking](#)
Christian Classics. Oldies but Goodies

When we were raising our kids in the past, I had 2 books to help in child rearing besides the Bible: Dr. Spock and Edith Schaeffer's, [The Hidden Art of Homemaking](#). I could discern a disease or diaper rash, etc. from the first, and Creative ways of parenting from the second. Since Edith Schaeffer's books are timeless, I urge young moms to check this book out of the church library. Her books, [Affliction](#) and [What is a Family?](#) are also great and available there. I think I have read everything she has written. [L'Abri](#) is a favorite.

Chapters in [Hidden Art](#) are: The First Artist, What is Hidden Art? Music, Painting, Sketching, Sculpturing, Interior Decoration, Gardens and Gardening, Flower Arrangements, Food, Writing,

Drama, Creative Recreation, Clothing, Integration, Environment. Recent sermons on the tabernacle cause us to know that God loves beauty. As His people we can use beauty in our home and yard to give joy, peace, and sharing.

A practical suggestion in the chapter on sketching is how to teach your child to write sermon notes. With many illustrations, Edith shows how she began with a small child on her lap, whispering what she is drawing from the sermon. When the child is older, sitting next to him/her, a mom can write the sermon notes and the child copy. Soon he/she is on his/her own, listening and writing and drawing. I have a small file of sermon notes from each of our children. Good memories!

Visit Edith Schaeffer in our library. She is wise, godly, and loves beauty.

Gluten-Free Cheesecake Bars

- ★ 1 box gluten-free yellow cake mix
- ★ 1/2 C. cold butter
- ★ 2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened
- ★ 1/2 C. sugar
- ★ 1 tsp. vanilla
- ★ 1 egg
- ★ 1 (21 oz.) can pie filling (Duncan Hines Wilderness brand pie fillings are gluten-free)
- ★ 1/3 C. chopped nuts (optional)

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9x13 pan. In a medium bowl, cut butter into cake mix. Reserve 1 and 1/2 cups of cake mix mixture, and press remainder into the bottom of the 9x13 pan. Bake for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, in bowl of electric mixer, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add vanilla and egg, and beat until combined. Spread over baked crust. Spoon pie filling over cream cheese mixture. Sprinkle reserved cake mix mixture and nuts (if desired) on top. Bake 35-40 minutes. Cool for 30 minutes, then chill for at least 2 hours before cutting.

★If you aren't avoiding gluten, just substitute a regular yellow cake mix for the gluten-free kind.

Samantha Nyhof



“The eyes
of all look
to You,
And You give
them their food
in due time.
You open
Your hand
And satisfy
the desire of
every living
thing.”



Showing forth the
excellencies of Jesus
Christ

Grace OPC

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Spurgeon Corner

*“I have learned, in whatever state
I am, wherewith to be content.”
(Philippians 4:11)*

These words show us that contentment is not a natural propensity of man. “Ill weeds grow apace.” Covetousness, discontent, and murmuring are as natural to man as thorns are to the soil. We need not sow thistles and brambles; they come up naturally enough, because they are indigenous to earth: and so, we need not teach men to complain; they complain fast enough without any education. But the precious things of the earth must be cultivated. If we would have wheat, we must plough and sow; if we want flowers, there must be the garden, and all the gardener’s care. Now, contentment is one of the flowers of heaven, and if we would have it, it must be cultivated; it will not grow in us by nature; it is the new nature alone that can produce it, and even then we must be specially careful and watchful that we maintain and cultivate the grace which God has sown in us. Paul says, “I have *learned* ... to be content;” as much as to say, he did not know how at one time. It cost him some pains to attain to the mystery of that great truth. No doubt he sometimes thought he had learned, and then broke down. And when at last he had attained unto it, and could say, “I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content,” he was an old, grey-headed man, upon the borders of the grave—a poor prisoner shut up in Nero’s dungeon at Rome. We might well be willing to endure Paul’s infirmities, and share the cold dungeon with him, if we too might by any means attain unto his good degree. Do not indulge the notion that you can be contented without *learning*, or learn without discipline. It is not a power that may be exercised naturally, but a science to be acquired gradually. We know this from experience. Brother, hush that murmur, natural though it be, and continue a diligent pupil in the College of Content.

Evening, February 16, Morning & Evening, by C. H. Spurgeon

Taco Supper & Game Night

Come to the Taco Supper & Game Night, which will be held on Friday, February 7th starting at 6:30 p.m. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Everyone is asked to bring a topping for the tacos. Don’t forget to bring a few of your favorite games to play after the meal is done!

