



IPC Messenger

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“THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE WEST” – 8

Rob Dreher in *The Benedict Option* addresses two additional strategies beyond the home and school for dealing with a hostile secular culture, the first addressing the marketplace, the second, technology.

Businesses and employment

Dreher writes,

As the LGBT agenda advances, broad interpretation of anti-discrimination laws are going to push traditional Christians increasingly out of the marketplace, and the corporate world will become hostile toward Christian bigots, considering them a danger to the working environment.¹

Consequently, faithful Christians may need “to become more commercially innovative and independent-minded.”² If others won’t employ those with historic Christian views, Christians may need to create their own businesses. The Christian community will need to patronize each other’s businesses and build Christian employment networks. Christian employers will need to hire from within the Christian

community. In other words, the orthodox Christian community may need to adapt the strategy employed by ethnic and religious minorities throughout history: support your own.

Technology

Finally, Dreher cautions believers about the use and abuse of technology. Online pornography is a plague on humanity, teaching users to depersonalize others, to view others as objects of erotic pleasure, yet simultaneously rendering many men impotent, and literally reshaping and rewiring their brains.

Dreher points to several other factors that require caution in the use of online technology. First, it trains us to privilege what is new and innovative over what is old and familiar. Implicitly it teaches us to prefer creativity and novelty over tradition. Second, it undermines our ability to give focused attention to any one task. Online technology itself (apart from any specific content) “fragments and scatters our attention like nothing else.”³ He explains:

At the neurological (attention)

Continued Page 2

¹ Dreher, *Benedict Option*, 179.

² Ibid., 188.

³ Ibid., 219.

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2021

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THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE WEST — 8

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level, the Internet's constant distractions alter the physiological structure of our brain. The brain refashions itself to conform to the nonstop randomness of the Internet experience, which conditions us to crave the repetitive jolts that come with novelty.⁴

This steady stream of new images and information inhibits sustained focus on any one thing. It limits deep thought because it creates a preference for new thoughts. Rather than pausing on one thing for an extended period of time, one flits on to the next thing, and the next, and the next. As a result, even the most weighty matters are dealt with only superficially. Political, cultural, social and religious thoughts rarely rise above the sound-bite and bumper sticker, with frightening implications for the future. A people who fail to think deeply are vulnerable to manipulation by the unscrupulous.

Dreher recommends that families observe a digital Sabbath, a day of rest from all technology. Why? So that people can reconnect with the real world. He cites an important essay by the noted writer Andrew Sullivan who completely dropped the internet. Sullivan explained by in *New York Magazine*:

Every minute I was engrossed in a virtual interaction, I was not involved in a human encounter. Every second absorbed in some trivia was a second less for any form of reflection, or calm, or spirituality. "Multitasking" was a mirage. This was a zero-sum question. I either lived as a voice online or I lived as a human being in the world that humans had lived in since the beginning of time.

And so I decided, after 15 years, to live in reality.⁵

Dreher also recommends that parents keep smartphones away from children. He warns,

When parents hand their children small portable computers with virtually unlimited access to the internet, they should not be surprised when their kids—especially their sons—dive into pornography.⁶

Again,

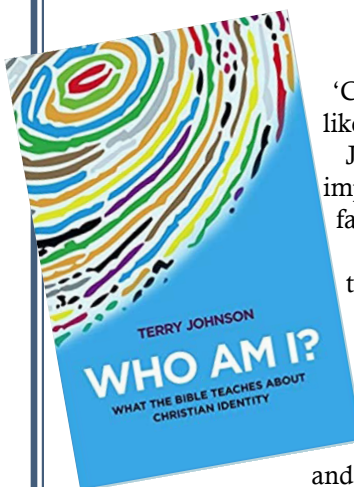
Moms and dads who would never leave their kids unattended in a room full of pornographic DVDs think nothing of handing them smartphones. This is morally insane.⁷

Another consideration is access. The internet gives the whole world access to children and youth without parental permission or perhaps even parental knowledge. This might include creeps on the hunt for juvenile victims or even just other kids and teenagers, which is scary enough. Technology is a wonderful servant and a terrible master. My smartphone simplifies data research a dozen time every week. It also is an ongoing potential source of sensual images that poison the soul along with constant distractions that inhibit sound thinking.

— TLJ

⁷ Ibid.

New Publication by Terry Johnson \$8.00



'Christian Identity' can sound like a strange concept, but Terry Johnson rightly points to the importance of defining Christian faith by what the Bible teaches.

Building on the Scripture teaching of the creation of the human race and the effects of the Fall, he shows that we need a proper theologically balanced understanding of the elements of salvation,

and a clear understanding of how the biblical pictures of the Christian need to be held together. How can the Christian be both saint and sinner, and an adopted son, a servant and a sheep all at the same time? How do these images work together to enable us to serve and obey God fully?

⁴ Ibid., 225.

⁵ Ibid., 233.

⁶ Ibid., 229.



SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL IPC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2021 • JANUARY 8 & 9

GOD'S GRACE IN SEASONS OF CHANGE: FINDING CERTAIN HOPE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Session 1 - God: The Unchanging Author of Change

Session 2 - Holiness: The Good Purpose of Change

Session 3 - Church: Our Constant Companion Through Change

What's new with you? Ask this question of almost anyone, and she will have something to share. Job changes, relationship changes, changes in location, changes at church, financial changes, health changes--seemingly every month brings a new set of circumstances into our lives. And with those changes comes the temptation to anxiety, discontent, or doubt. During this conference, we'll consider how to navigate life's changes in light of God's grace. We'll discuss the source of changes and the purpose of changes, and then we'll apply this to how we can encourage and help one another as we are together changed for the glory of God.



SCHEDULE:

Friday - January 8, 2021

5:45-6:45 - Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

7:00 - Session 1 in Telfair Hall

Coffee and cookies following the session

Saturday - January 9, 2021

9:00-10:00 - Session 2 in Telfair Hall

Break with refreshments

10:30-11:30 - Session 3 in Telfair Hall



Megan Hill is the author of *A Place to Belong: Learning to Love the Local Church* (Crossway, 2020), *Contentment: Seeing God's Goodness* (P&R, 2018), and *Praying Together: The Priority and Privilege of Prayer in Our Homes, Communities, and Churches* (Crossway, 2016). She serves as an editor for The Gospel Coalition, and her writing has appeared in various publications including *Christianity Today*, *The Washington Post*, *Today in the Word*, *Reformation 21*, *Focus on the Family*, *Desiring God*, and *Tabletalk*. A pastor's wife and pastor's daughter, she lives in Massachusetts with her husband and four children where they belong to West Springfield Covenant Community Church (PCA).



FAMILY CORNER

NOVEMBER 2020

YEAR 1–10

YEAR 11–15

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Latin antiphons, 12th cent.

Latin hymn, 1710

Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

O come, thou Day-spring from on high,
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Refrain

TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL L.M.ref.

Plainsong, 13th cent.;

Arr. by Thomas Helmore, 1856

(#194)

“May The Mind of Christ My Savior”

Kate B. Wilkinson, 1925

May the mind of Christ my Savior
Live in me from day to day.
By His love and pow'r controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His pow'r.

May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

May I run the race before me
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

May His beauty rest upon me,
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only Him.

TUNE: ST. LEONARDS 8.7.8.5

A. Cyril Barham-Gould, 1925; alt. 1990

(#644)

Thank You

July 7, 2020

To the Congregation,

At first let me say how sorry I am for being late with this letter of thanks. The last few months have been challenging as you might have expected. I really don't know where to begin.

First and foremost, I extend my deepest love and appreciation to Ron and Donna Parrish. They were there with me from the start and were there every day or called to check on me. I am not sure how I would have made it without them.

Second, to the ladies of the church. What a group. I reached out to them for help in sitting with Joanne in the hospital and right away they were there. They read to her, massaged her hands and feet, prayed with her and did her hair. Words cannot express my gratitude.

Then there is the ministerial staff. Weekly visits by them with their Scripture reading and prayers for both Joanne and me was more than comforting. I cannot imagine an IPC without them.

Last, but surely not least, is the congregation. Phone calls, cards, visits, meals, and prayers. How do I begin to thank each member? There are no words to express my feelings. This is the reason Joanne and I joined the church 45 years ago. This congregation is loving, compassionate, caring, and all the other adjectives that speak to that emotion.

As I close, let me thank each and everyone of you for your prayers and words of encouragement. I am truly blessed to be a member of this wonderful church.

Your brother in Christ,

Paul Johansen



Dear Pastors, Staff, & Members of IPC—

We thank you for your prayers, cards, and food.... The extent of which reminded us of how much we are cared for by our fellow IPC members.

We miss Michael—but have some peace knowing he is with the Lord.

Steve and Teri Bell

Dear IPC,

Thank you so much for the out-pouring of love and support during the untimely death of our son Keith. It has been a sorrowful time, but the love and support from members and friends of IPC have meant so much to us and has helped ease the pain.

Your continued prayers are appreciated.

Love in Christ,

Bob and Brenda Oliver



Dear Members of IPC,

Thank you so much for all of your love and support shown to me and my family with the recent passing of my mother. Your prayers, telephone calls, beautiful cards, and those who were able to come to the visitation and memorial service have all been of great comfort.

I feel very blessed to be a part of such a caring church. Thank you again for your many acts of kindness.

Sincerely,

Mark Stall



Dear IPC family,

Your kind expressions of sympathy in words, cards, calls, and acts of service brought comfort to our family during a time of grieving for my brother.

We thank you for your love and your prayers.

In Christ,

The Orellana Family

MARCH FOR LIFE 2020

This was the second year that my family and I participated in the March for Life in Washington D. C. I must admit the bus ride itself is long and can be uncomfortable at times, especially for those of us that are not quite so young anymore. However, a bit of discomfort is well worth this most important cause. As part of the trip, our group meets and talks with some of our Georgia Representatives and/or their staffers. This year, Senator Kelly Loeffler took the time to personally come and speak with us, which we found very encouraging. What was also very encouraging, although my family and I were unable to witness it for ourselves, was the fact that for the first time in history our President spoke in person at the rally!

The march itself is an event that I recommend everyone experience for themselves at least once. It is hard to describe how awesome it is to be a part of such an immense sea of people, of all ages, races, and religions, joined together for this common purpose of life. As you march, there is a feeling of energy and excitement, with thousands upon thousands of people as far as the eye can see, in front of you and behind. It is a great feeling to be a part of this movement. At the same time, the weight of the reality of why you are marching, and some of the gory images that you are confronted with during the march, can be overwhelming. A deep sadness comes as you grapple with the truth of all the babies' lives being destroyed and all the many women who will be forever

changed by the lies they are being told and the choices they are making.

Toward the end of the March you will encounter some pro-abortion protesters, but you will also hear women testifying about the regret they have from their abortions and how it has affected their lives. Women need to understand that abortion is not going to make all their problems disappear. There are better ways and people willing to help, and as the body of Christ we are called to be that help and speak that truth in love. These women are being enslaved by the lies of this culture, that abortion is freeing and good for them. They need help, healing, and the truth of God's word. Every child is a precious gift from God.

We must stand up for the truth and for the well-being of our culture. That is why my family and I plan to continue going to the March for Life as much as we can and I encourage all of you to join us. If you cannot go yourselves, then I urge you to pray. Pray that eyes will be opened and hearts will be changed. Only the truth of God can set us free from this culture of darkness and death.

Kendra Miller
Psalm 139:13-14

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Jane Torrance
2 Sharon Brown
2 Dean Horstman
2 Polly McCune
2 Andrew Tanner
3 Holmes Bell
3 Agnes Brown
4 Dianna Freeman
4 Hayden Schoeffler
5 Katherine Marie Schenk
6 Ben Robinson
7 Lilly Helton
7 Laura Savage
8 William Brodmann

8 Becky Hill
9 Andy Brodmann
9 Matthew Nyce
10 Nohl Braun
11 Ava Foster
11 Minnie Moore
11 Brenda Oliver
12 Carol Scott
13 Tiffany Breckenridge
14 Julia Barrett
16 Ron Berry
16 Sarah Wiggins
17 Grace Poppell
17 Jody Robinson

17 Laura Sweat
17 Caroline Wood
17 Tracy Wood
20 Molly Elizabeth Gibson
20 Wendy Sutton
20 Andrea Tanner
21 Donna Kay McLaurin
22 Lois Broadwick
23 Rose Wade
24 Alice Chisholm
24 Abby Rookstool
25 Maggie Breckenridge
25 Karen Cooper
25 Susan Jackson

26 Laura Gift
26 Jim Vainas
27 Andrew Barrett
27 Gail Baxley
27 Linden Helmlly
28 Mark Mitchell

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

QUESTION: Which of these quotes is from the Bible?

1. “With great power comes great responsibility.”
2. “From each according to his ability to each according to his needs.”
3. “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required?”

Undoubtedly, the comic book enthusiasts among us will recognize the first quote as the Peter Parker Principle. As for the second one, readers with a background in economics or political science may detect that it is a slogan for Marxism. Therefore, we can deduce that the final quotation resides in the Scriptures.

In the Twelfth Chapter of Luke, our Lord tells His disciples a parable. Before departing, a master entrusts a manager with his household. One could divide the parable into three parts: the expectation, the reward, and the punishment. In it, the master expects the manager to know his will, to act according to his will, and to be ready for his return. For the one who is faithful and

wise, there is blessing—the master sets him over all of his possessions. On the other hand, for the manager who doubts the return of his master, treats others harshly, and embraces gluttony, reprimand awaits.

The astute reader will notice that the parable is an answer to Peter’s question: who are the servants watchful for their master’s arrival? Are they the Twelve or all? In his commentary, Matthew Henry details how the parable of the manager is particularly relevant for ministers. It is they whom Christ entrusts with the “deposit” of His word (2 Timothy 1:14), the administration of His sacraments, the caring of His flock, and with prayer. Even so, there is a general principle here for every believer: manage well the resources God has put into your care. For God entrusts every believer with something and expects us to use it in accordance with His will. If we obey, God promises to bless.

Patrick C. Kenard
Chairman, Stewardship Committee

“FOR YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE POOR WITH YOU...” MATTHEW 26:11

In this statement, Jesus refers back to Deut.15:11 (“For there will never cease to be poor in the land.”) The Old Testament passage (Deut 15:7-11) gives instructions on how one should minister to those who are poor in material possessions. But there are other forms of poverty. One’s poverty can also be seen in a lack of hope, opportunity, health, social or situational stability, supportive relationships, or confidence in God’s saving grace.

There are many such “poor” men and women currently taking part in the Chatham Transitional Ministry’s programs. Not only are they without many of the necessities of normal life, but they are disconnected from the support of their families; they struggle to overcome past substance abuse and the experience of incarceration; they have not formed a stable relationship with the body of Christ.

How can we at IPC minister to these “poor” ones among us? We can make them feel welcome at our services

and meals; we can join them at our Sunday afternoon Bible studies; we can participate in the social activities CTM sponsors for them; we can help them find suitable employment. We can pray for and with them.

If you would like to know more about CTM and how you may assist in our work, contact Program Director Lorie Irish (912-480-5068), or Board members Peter Schenk (912-596-5531), Barbara Rustine (912-306-9876), Chuck Moore (912-656-1913), Bill Brodmann, Sr. (912-920-8679) or Steve Wohlfeil (912-663-4480).

Does the fact that “there will never cease to be poor in the land” mean that we can never meet their needs? Or that we can always wait till tomorrow to help them? No – it means that each day we have the opportunity to show them Christ’s redeeming love.

Steve Wohlfeil

The IPC Messenger

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THANKSGIVING WEEK

Sunday, November 22 – Officer elections during AM services

Thanksgiving Service - 5:30 p.m.

*** Following activities will meet:**

Handbell Rehearsal, 4:00 p.m.

Chapel Choir, 7:00 p.m.

Youth Evening Programs, 7:00 p.m.

Evening Meal, 6:45 p.m.

Monday, November 23

College Bible Study, 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 24

Men's Prayer Breakfast, 6:30 a.m.

Women's Bible Study will not meet

Wednesday, November 25

*** Following activities will not meet:**

Lunch & Bible Study

Youth Choir

Middle School/High School Youth Gathering

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 26 – Thanksgiving Day

Church office closed

New Covenant Bible Study will not meet

Friday, November 27 – Church office closed

Sunday, November 29 – AM & PM services

*** Following activities will not meet:**

Handbell Rehearsal

Chapel Choir

Youth Evening Programs

Evening Meal will be served, 6:45 p.m.

