

The River Current

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. Rev. 22:1

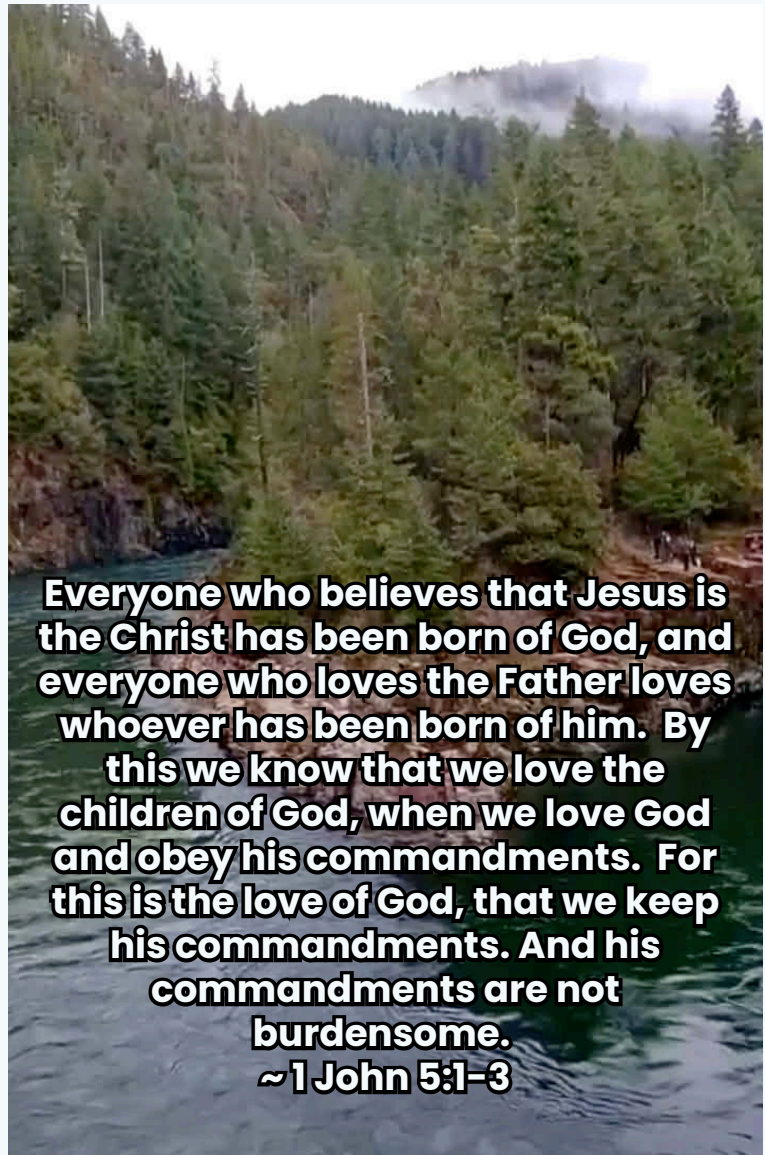
Warmest Greetings

Downstream

- October 10 No Table Talk this week
- October 17 Table Talk 9 AM at church
- October 11 Pastor Steve is back
- October 18 Leadership meeting after church

Please Pray

- Pastor Steve & Pam!
 - continued healing, strength & comfort
- Prayer concerns?
 - Please email Anita at accbme3@aol.com



**Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
~1 John 5:1-3**

In the Flow

Join us this Sunday as Pastor Steve continues to look at our response of obedience to God for our salvation as an act of worship to Him.

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By the Still Waters – Selah

Have you ever asked the question, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” I have had people tell me that the reason I have a cold is that I have sin in my life. Many of us have heard or read in Proverbs that the wicked are an abomination, and the righteous are loved by God. Most of us have a theology that supports the idea: “God rewards the just and punishes the unjust.” Many of us are often comfortable with the formula of Proverbs that shows us that wisdom generally leads to life and foolishness leads to ruin. We have passages like Proverbs 21:20, “Precious treasures and oil are in a wise man’s dwelling, but a foolish man devours it.” The book of Job paints a different picture. That’s why the book of Job is so important, because Job walks in, pulls up a chair, sits down and asks, “Then why does a righteous man, who is living ‘wisely’, have his entire world collapse around him?” The book of Job does not negate the wisdom of Proverbs, but it does stop us from turning a relationship with God into a simplistic formula, “If you do good, God will bless you.” God is not some Genie in a bottle who will grant our wishes when we enter the right password.



Job’s friends spent several chapters telling Job that bad things are happening to him because he must have sinned, that God is punishing him, and that he needs to confess his guilt. Yet in all of this, Job maintains his innocence, and he was right. We have some insight that Job’s friends did not have. Chapters 1 and 2 give us a look behind the curtain so to speak. We see a discussion between Satan and God, where God calls Job blameless and upright. Job’s friends had what seemed to them a watertight theology – God blesses the good and punishes the bad. The sad thing about Job’s friends, and a wonderful warning to us, is that they had taken SOME truths of God and made a locked theological system that left no room for God to work in Job’s life.

I believe that systematic theology is highly important, but we need to be careful to not lock God in a box of our own limits. Humans are incredibly smart. We have explored inside the microscopic world and out into deep space, but all of us together are still no match for the wisdom of God. I often feel like our life here is like a needlepoint work, where we see only the backside. The strings hang loosely and seem to go meaninglessly from one side to the other. Yet when we flip over the tapestry to the front side, we can see a beautiful picture there. We may not understand why things are happening in our lives, but we can rest in the full assurance that God knows; and the mess we see on this side will be something beautiful on the other side because our life is in His hands.