

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

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Announcements

Evening Worship

Join us tonight for Evening Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Elders' Meeting

Monday, August 11, 7:00 p.m.

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, August 12, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night

Youth at 6:30 p.m. Wacky Wednesday and Adult Bible Study at 6:45 p.m.

Old Savannah City Mission Lunch

Tom Keller will teach and serve lunch at the Old Savannah City Mission on Saturday, **August 16**. Eleanor Bowden and Kelly Zittrouer will help him. If you'd like to help, talk to Tom.

Senior Saints' Lunch

The Senior Saints will have lunch at Jim & Nick's at Oglethorpe Mall on Tuesday, **August 19**. Sign the list in the hall and meet at the restaurant at 11:00 a.m.

Adventure Club Kickoff & Wednesday Suppers!

Adventure Club begins Wednesday, **August 20**! Wednesday night meals also begin. Sign up in the hall!

Wedding Shower!

All ladies are invited to a wedding shower for Lilly Chapman and Kevin Zeigler on Thursday, **August 21**, 7:00 p.m. Their future household is set up pretty well so far, so there is no registry, but small gifts or gift cards, especially for restaurants, would be appreciated!

Movie Night!

We will have a movie night on Friday, **August 22**, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The movie is *The Ark and the Darkness: Unearthing the Mysteries of Noah's Flood*. Please bring a snack to share.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Hebrews 4:14-16 Pew Bible p. 1003

Greeting

Prayer of Praise

Hymn, bulletin p. 6

"Good and Gracious King"

Prayer of General Confession Steve Posner Psalm 28:6-7 Pew Bible p. 461

Hymn, bulletin p. 7

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

Scripture Reading Romans 2:17-29 Tom Keller Pew Bible p. 940

Hymn #393, bulletin p. 8

"Take My Life and Let it Be"

Message Bob Dimmitt

Jesus and Moses, Fish and Manna Matthew #98 Matthew 14:13-21, Pew Bible p. 820

Hymn, bulletin p. 8

"Doxology"
Old Hundred Tune

A.M. Notes

Jesus and Moses, Fish and Manna Matthew #98 Matthew 14:13-21

John 6:1-2; Mark 6:33-34

The normal posture for prayer in the 1st Century was standing and looking up to heaven

Some think that here Jesus asked God to perform a miraculous feeding, but there is no indication of that. The text says he said a blessing. A Jewish meal involved specific blessings for each type of food served.

In Mark 6:41 the verb *gave* is translated in the CSV this way = *He blessed and broke* the loaves. <u>He kept giving them</u> to His disciples to set before the people.

Jesus repeatedly refilled the disciples' baskets after they emptied them.

These are not quaint picnic baskets but large baskets with a shoulder strap, used by soldiers to carry their gear, pick axe, saw, rope, grappling hook, bedroll and a three-day supply of food

Jesus is the prophet like Moses: Deuteronomy 18:15-19

John 6:32; Exodus 16:4-7 and Exodus 16:14-15

Unbelieving human reason always fails because it leaves out the infinite, almighty, omniscient Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

Jesus is the prophet like Moses: Deuteronomy 18:15-19

- 1. The Prophet must be Jewish, and Jesus' heritage was from the tribe of Judah.
- 2. Both were shepherds
- 3. Both were sent to bring salvation after 400 years of apparent inactivity from God
- 4. Both fasted for 40 days and nights
- 5. Both spent time in Egypt as children
- 6. Both were born at a time when evil kings pronounced death to all Jewish baby boys in the area
- 7. Both were called by God to lead and save
- 8. Both did miracles to testify to their God-given authority
- 9. Both instituted a covenant of blood that brought salvation for many
- 10. Both were given God's public stamp of approval with an audible voice from heaven
- 11. Both gave up great riches to lead a humble life of service and poverty
- 12. Both were initially rejected by the Jews
- 13. Both were criticized by their own families
- 14. Both were willing to sacrifice their own lives for the sake of those they were leading, and to pay for the sins of their people
- 15. Both miraculously provided people with bread to eat
- 16. Both were accepted by Gentiles
- 17. Under Moses, all those who believed him followed the instructions and put the sacrificial blood on their doors and were saved from death. Under Jesus, all those who appropriate his sacrificial blood, shed for us to save us from the power of death have entered into the faith community of those who follow Him.
- 18. Seven weeks (50 days) after the Exodus, the Israelites waited upon God to receive the Torah. Seven weeks (50 days) after the resurrection, the disciples waited as Jesus instructed them to receive the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him."

Important Upcoming Events



August:

11	Elders' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
12	Deacons' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
16	Old Savannah City Mission with Tom: Eleanor Bowden	
	& Kelly Zittrouer	11:00 a.m.
19	Senior Saints' Lunch: Jim & Nick's (O. Mall)	11:00 a.m.
20	Adventure Club Kickoff! Wednesday Night Meals begin!	5:30 p.m.
21	Wedding Shower for Lilly Chapman & Kevin Zeigler	7:00 p.m.
22	Movie Night, The Ark & the Darkness: Unearthing the Mysteries	
	of Noah's Flood	7:00 p.m.
23	Back to School Bash	Time TBA
30	Men's 5th Saturday Breakfast	7:15 a.m.

September:

6	Old Savannah City Mission with Tom: Wise Family,	
	Donaldson Family	11:00 a.m.

ThriVe Ministry Opportunity

ThriVe's ministry to women in crisis pregnancies has an ongoing need of diapers (especially sizes 3-5), wipes, and baby clothing that is in great shape. See Amy Keller!

Food Pantry Needs

We are running low on staple supplies for our food pantry for folks in need who come in from time to time. Canned fruits, vegetables, and meats, peanut butter, jelly, pasta and sauces, and just things that will help families prepare a few meals until their next check comes in. Thanks so much for all your generosity. No out of date items, please.

If there is no God and we live in a strictly material, evolving universe, violence and suffering are just a part of the natural world with no inherent morality attached to them. In this case violence would not be evil; it would simply be a part of the evolutionary process. Without God compassion for others is nothing but chemical changes in the brain. Suffering is meaningless, violence is meaningless. There is no such thing as good or evil.

Bob Dimmitt



Ho-ly, ho-ly, Lord Al-might-y, good and gra-cious, good and



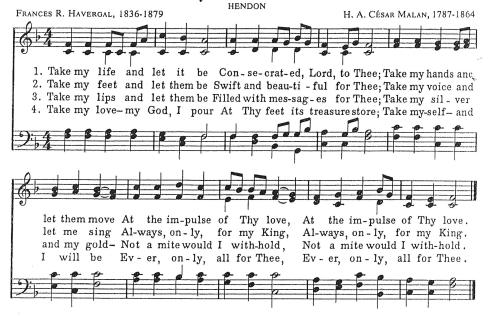
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How Deep the Father's Love For Us

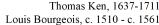
Stuart Townend

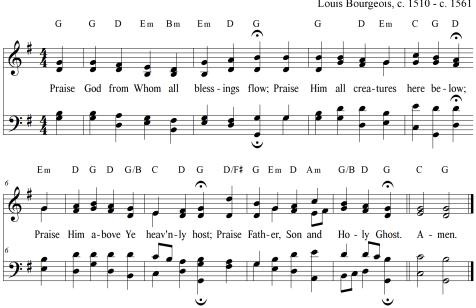


Take My Life and Let It Be



Doxology





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Articles

Preventing Church Discipline by Choosing Wisely Where You Sit in Church

By Eric Brown

Imagine you've just gotten in your car after a members' meeting in which the church has disciplined a member. You stare off in the distance thinking, "Is there anything I could've done to prevent this?" In most cases of excommunication, multiple factors in the person's life have contributed to that heartbreaking final step. Most likely, many of the factors have developed under the radar and probably over a long period of time. Even the person being disciplined may not, in a moment of honest reflection, be able to identify exactly when or how the pattern of sin first began to develop.

But imagine that there were warning signs to observe. What could a member do to possibly get in front of the situation and make a small difference toward helping prevent church discipline in the first place?

One overlooked way to make a difference is by choosing wisely where you sit in church.

When we walk into a worship service on Sunday mornings and do a quick scan of the available seating options, perhaps we look for where our friends are sitting. Or where the person who annoys us is *not* sitting. Or which seat is closest to the door. Or simply where we will draw as little attention to ourselves as possible.

But what if we looked for the people sitting alone? Or those who seem unplugged from community? You might give someone the sense that they are loved, which might keep them from giving in to various temptations.

It's not hard to imagine that, over the course of time, sitting with someone as opposed to leaving them alone could result in a drastically better spiritual scenario. Conversely, leaving someone to sit alone, for yet another Sunday, might make them think, "No one sees me. No one cares. I'm done here." And perhaps a pattern of sin develops, deepens, and eventually leads to discipline. Where you sit has consequences.

There are at least three ways you can bless church members by choosing your seat wisely.

1. The Ministry of Speaking

Hebrews 10:25 tells us that one of the benefits of not skipping church is that, as a result, we are able to encourage others. Every week we gather, we are sitting in a room with battle-scarred Christians who are worn down by life. There are young parents who might feel a little self-conscious about trying to keep their kids from spilling crayons all over the floor. There are college students away from home who are in the midst of the hardest season of their lives. What about recent widows or widowers? They've grown used to sitting next to their spouse on a weekly basis for

thirty, forty, and even fifty years. Now their spouse is gone. Do you think that sitting next to them could do something significant for their soul? Or could choosing to *not* sit next to them potentially lead to their spiritual harm?

I'm urging you to serve your church by being intentional about where you sit, who you talk to before and after the service, how long you stick around afterwards, and the kinds of questions you ask others. God calls us to serve our churches not just by public participation in worship services or hosting a small group or teaching a class, but by caring for our fellow members.

To profitably serve your church, you don't need a title, such as deacon or Sunday school teacher. Neither do you need someone to give you a specific task, such as collecting the offering or handing out bulletins. If you are a Christian with God's Word hidden in your heart, you can make a positive difference in the spiritual lives of others. Paul says as much to the church in Rome: I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another -Rom. 15:14.

While you sit with someone, you can ask them good questions: something like, "How can I be praying for you? What stands out to you about the sermon text? How has the Lord been encouraging you at church or home?" And when you get to know them, you can ask more personal questions like, "How's your soul? How are things between you and your wife these days? How are you doing fighting sin when you're home alone or traveling?" Ask hard questions while someone's heart is still soft enough to assemble with the saints.

2. The Ministry of Singing

Another potential way to help prevent church discipline is to sing intentionally. Sing in a way that lets the people around you know that you're there. By singing enthusiastically, you're serving the people around you. You're "teaching and admonishing" your church (Col. 3:16). You're helping someone feel connected, loved, and nourished by truth. You're showing that Jesus is better than the pleasures of sin.

You were saved for this very purpose—good works (Eph. 2:10). One of those good works is engaging in the elements of the worship service with all your heart. You just might encourage a sheep tempted to stray enough to prevent church discipline down the road.

3. The Ministry of Seeing

While you're sitting in a carefully chosen seat and engaging meaningfully in the worship service, pause for a moment and ask yourself, "Is there someone who often sits in this area of the room who hasn't been here for a while?" If someone hasn't been to church for the last three weeks, is it possibly a sign that they're in some trouble? What about if they haven't been there for three months? You probably won't even notice unless you've been choosing a seat based on how you can best serve others.

Two strategies may prove useful in deciding where to sit. **First**, you may decide to sit in different parts of the auditorium each week. Moving around helps you get

to know who usually sits where, and you can invest in different people than you might if you only sit in the back right corner every week. By getting a feel for where everyone is, you will more easily identify who is routinely alone and be able to help by sitting with them. **Second**, you may decide to sit in the same section of the gathering each week. Whereas the first strategy facilitates good ministry to the loners, this second strategy sets you up to care for the absent. After all, people are often creatures of habit. If you're observing the same section week after week, you will start to notice when someone isn't coming. Once you notice that someone hasn't been there recently, give them a call, send them a text, or write them a handwritten note. Ask how they're doing, whether you can pray in any specific ways, and whether you can take them to coffee or lunch just to chat sometime. In so doing, you just might prevent future church discipline.

Rescue the Wayward

Perhaps you've seen the video of a group of turtles calmly swimming, but in the middle of the group, one turtle is making a bit of a scene. He's spinning around in circles, creating ripples in an otherwise calm body of water. That's because he's upside down, and he can't seem to do anything about it. Thankfully, about a dozen turtles respond to the urgent call. They circle him, get underneath him, and flip him right side up so he can move on with his life. In fact, the other turtles very possibly save his life.

Those life-saving turtles are a picture of what it is to serve the church. When God created turtles, he made them to instinctively know when and how to help other turtles in need. When God created the church, he did so in a way that requires Christians to depend on one another for their spiritual well-being.

In other words, maybe there's an upside-down turtle in your church, and you get to be one of the ones who help him get turned right side up. You can help them be reoriented to the truth, to move toward repentance, to receive the transforming grace of Christ (cf. Jas. 5:19–20). You can safely assume that every time you walk into your church, there are turtles who need help being turned right side up. And I would argue, you just might find one by choosing carefully where you sit. •

Why Am I Anxious?

Real talk on the relationship between anxiety and Christian faith By Casey McCall

"How do I know whether my anxiety is related to sin or caused by forces outside of my control?"

I get some version of this question regularly. Most of the time, it comes from a Christian who has received a mental health diagnosis but is afraid there might be something more going on spiritually. Sometimes it comes from a person who has been fighting anxiety through faith and prayer to no avail, and seeking a diagnosis begins to seem like the appropriate next move.

We struggle with complex questions like this one because we'd much prefer neat and tidy answers. Simple explanations give us the assurance of control. If I can accurately name my struggle, I can find a solution for it. When it comes to the inner lives of human beings, however, we need to accept that simple explanations are rarely available, for "the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick" (Jer 17:9). A major dictum of historical thinking is that history is always more complex than it seems. Thus, the historian intentionally avoids monocausal explanations. History is complex mainly because humans are complex. We need to follow the same rule when it comes to the inner lives of human beings—there's rarely one single cause.

Our culture doesn't tolerate uncertainty very well. Every corporate decision is analyzed with predictive statistical formulas. When I write an article for my Substack, for instance, I get emailed statistical analysis with suggestions on how to better master the algorithm to gain more readers. We've reduced the unpredictable world of transcendent surprise to the clinical world of boring quantitative precision. When it comes to understanding our anxieties, we'd much rather hook our brains up to a machine and get a precise reading—15% hormones, 25% sleep deprivation, 20% lack of faith, 40% genetics. Thankfully, that kind of machine doesn't exist yet.

In recent years, the pendulum has swung almost exclusively toward therapeutic explanations for our inner struggles. A person experiences anxiety, which is unpleasant. Since feeling good is almost universally accepted as the goal of life, that person is encouraged to do whatever it takes to get rid of those anxious feelings. Therapy promises help with very precise sounding medical vocabulary—diagnosis, treatment, medicine. For many, therapy does indeed help, and we should be thankful to God that it exists.

But what do we miss when we sprint as quickly as possible toward therapeutic solutions? Believe it or not, the Bible has a lot to say about anxiety. Excluding the Psalms, in which anxiety is consistently expressed in prayer to God, Jesus and the apostles mention it often. In all instances, it is explicitly connected to faith. When Jesus's disciples understandably grow anxious from the boat during a windstorm, Jesus asks, "Where is your faith" (Luke 8:25)? A few chapters later in Luke, Jesus instructs his hearers to "not be anxious about your life" (12:22) and acknowledges that lack of faith is often the cause (12:28).

Similarly, Paul offers prayer and supplication to the Philippian church as the way to find peace which surpasses understanding when they are anxious (Phil 4:6-7). Peter, too, instructs the church to cast their anxieties on the God who cares for them. Jesus says we're often anxious because we don't have faith, and the apostles offer prayer—the vocal expression of faith—as the solution to anxieties.

Of course, faith is only as strong as its object. There's nothing inherently valuable in faith by itself. Faith is powerful only when its object is powerful. Jesus wants his followers to have faith because he wants to give us access to himself. When we have faith in him, we connect our lives to the greatest source of power and love in the world. When we experience anxiety, we must not cut faith out of the equation. When we fail to consider faith, we fail to consider the Christ who commands life's storms.

When we rush toward therapeutic solutions for unpleasant feelings, we fail to consider that sometimes anxiety is an appropriate signal—a gift from God indicating that something is not right in our lives. If we apply therapeutic techniques and prescribed chemicals to just feeling better, we may never address the problem our anxiety is pointing us to.

We should feel anxious, for example, if our lives are disordered and chaotic. God made us in his image, and he is a God of order (1 Cor 14:30-33). Similarly, if we spend hours each day staring into the abyss of our iPhone screens, comparing ourselves to what we see, we will probably experience anxiety. We were created to behold real faces of other human beings, the beauty of God's created order, and even the face of God himself in the person of Jesus Christ. If our lives are disordered away from God's design for us, we will probably experience anxiety.

<u>Similarly</u>, sin causes anxiety. If you are a Christian living in unrepentant sin, you should be anxious. You were saved to walk in righteousness. If you are an unbeliever, you are living your life under the righteous condemnation of God. Anxiety is an appropriate experience for such a person. If you are trying to make your life work without reference to God, living under the illusion that you can control life's varied storms in your own power, your circumstances will eventually shatter your false confidence and cause you to panic.

None of these observations contradict that sometimes we can be doing everything relatively right and still experience anxiety. We live our lives in a fallen world of corruption. Our bodies sometimes rebel against us. We inherit things from previous generations. Sometimes we're anxious because we're sick. My advice is simply this—don't run to therapeutic solutions without seeking answers from Jesus. If you're seeking Jesus and still anxious, don't feel guilty about therapeutic solutions. �

Missionary of the Week

Robbie & Briana Hughes Reaching & Teaching - Japan

We're here! After months of preparation and your incredible support, we have safely arrived in Japan. We are so grateful for your prayers and generosity that made this possible! Here's a quick update on our arrival...

Safe Travels

We landed in Tokyo on Thursday, July 31 at 4:50 p.m. after smooth flights from Louisville to Chicago (1 hr) and then Chicago to Tokyo (12 hrs). All our luggage arrived safely, and Aletheia did exceptionally well on the long flight!

Settling In

Customs went smoothly, and we were issued our residence cards—our official IDs in Japan. Pastor Ben met us at the airport, and after dropping off our lug-



gage at a delivery service, we made our first stop at a convenience store for onigiri and dumplings. We're now settling into the church parsonage where we'll stay initially.

Prayer Requests:

- **Adjustment** For smooth settling in, restful sleep, and grace as we navigate a new culture and language.
- **Ministry Beginnings** For meaningful connections with both believers and non-believers as we begin life and ministry here.
- **Spiritual Focus** That we stay rooted in God's Word and find daily joy in Christ during this transition.

It feels surreal to finally be here. These next few days will be full of reading Japanese labels, recovering from jet lag, and beginning life in a new culture. We'll share more in our next newsletter, but for now, we just want to say **thank you**—your partnership made this possible, and we praise God for you!

With deep gratitude, Robbie & Briana Hughes

he God of Scripture is extraordinary when compared to other so called gods: Only the God of the Bible is entirely personal and unlimited at the same time. He communes with people on a level they can understand, and yet He is the One who created all matter, energy, and time. They do not control Him. He does not subject Himself to the scrutiny of human hands and eyes seeking proof of His existence through observation and measurement, but He reveals Himself to the humble, who seek Him with their whole heart. His existence is not explained. We must come to Him believing simply as a child. He is Lord over all He has made, and there is nothing which has come into existence apart from His creative act.

> From Assumptions that Affect Our Lives by Christian Overman



here should be something about Christians (us) that the world can't quite understand. I don't mean that people would think of us as strange or weird but that they would certainly see something different about us.

Instead we kind of blend in. There's nothing different about us. We are conditioned to think, talk and believe in the way the culture encourages us to think, talk, and believe, but we forget that our culture isn't a Biblical one.

As Christians we ought to feel some discontentment here. We ought to feel like this world is not our home. YET many of us do feel at home here, at home in our world and comfortable in what we have.

The Martyr's Oath

Nursery August 10 Babies:

Lynn Ernst, Jeanie Groover, Beth Lewis Toddlers:

Michael & Karrie Walker

Preschoolers:

Avalon DeLoach, Stacey Kelly

Nursery August 17 Babies:

Eleanor Bowden, Mary Fowler, Kay Stanford

Toddlers:

Deborah Focht, Tricia Morris

Preschoolers:

Brittany Hall, Linnea Posner

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If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service, drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons



Today

Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship	7:00 p.m.
Monday	
Elders' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	
Women's Bible Study: <i>Elizabeth</i>	11:00 a.m.
Women's Bible Study: <i>Elizabeth</i>	6:30 p.m.
Men's Bible Study: Romans	6:30 p.m.
Deacons' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	
Youth	6:30 p.m.
Wacky Wednesday	6:45 p.m.
Adult Bible Study	6:45 p.m.
Thursday	

Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.

Lockup Deacons for August: Danny Edwards, Howard Ernst

Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

The Law of Moses:

Senior Adult Bible Study: Isaiah

Women's Bible Study: Elizabeth

Young Adult Bible Study

Survey of 613 Laws Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt 1 Kings Youth House: Steve Posner Union with Christ Gym Overhang: Tom Keller

Children and Students

Babies Room 3: Kay Stanford, Saundra Bridges Toddlers Room 24: Donna Martin. Deborah Focht Room 25: Pre-K Michael & Ruth Kleinpeter K, 1st and 2nd Grade Room 28: John & Pam Humphrey 3rd-6th Grade Boys Room 202: Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills 3rd-6th Grade Girls Room 204: Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton Youth Guys & Girls Room 206: Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion

Avalon DeLoach

10:00 a.m.

6:15 p.m.

6:30 p.m.