

Bible Studies for Life Series for December 17: The intermingling of faith, hope & love

December 11, 2006

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Bible Studies for Life Series for December 17

The intermingling of faith, hope & love

- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

By Kenneth Lyle

BaptistWay Bible Series for December 17: In the light of the noonday, darkness abounds

December 11, 2006

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BaptistWay Bible Series for December 17

In the light of the noonday, darkness abounds

• John 4:1-30; 39-42

By David Wilkinson

Explore the Bible Series for December 17: God works through spiritual leaders

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Explore the Bible Series for December 17

God works through spiritual leaders

• Ezra 7:8-10; 9:1-2, 4; 10:1-5

By Howard Anderson

Diversified Spiritual Associates, San Antonio

Ezra proves to be a godly spiritual leader coming to Jerusalem during the

reign of Artaxerxes, probably over a century after the completion of the temple in 516 B.C.

BGCT responds to clergy sex abuse; victims want more

December 11, 2006

Posted: 12/08/06

BGCT responds to clergy sex abuse; victims want more

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—Recent sex scandals among [Catholic](#) and evangelical leaders are prompting renewed calls for action against clergy sexual abuse. But with [research](#) indicating such abuse is more prevalent among clergy—including [Baptists](#)—than other counseling professionals, abuse-victim advocates are asking if enough is being done.

Comprehensive studies are difficult to find. But a 1993 survey by the [Journal of Pastoral Care](#) found that 14 percent of Southern Baptist ministers admitted to engaging in inappropriate sexual behavior. Seventy percent said they knew another minister who had.

See Related Articles:

- [Victims urge BGCT to release list \(3/03/06\)](#)
- [Abuse means betrayal, panelists say \(3/03/06\)](#)
- [Editorial: Churches must act to prevent clergy sexual abuse \(4/22/02\)](#)
- [BGCT churches urged to report clergy sexual abuse \(11/11/02\)](#)
- [Predicting which ministers will cross sexual boundaries 'nearly impossible' \(11/11/02\)](#)
- [BGCT will provide information on verified clergy sexual abusers \(10/02/00\)](#)

CYBER COLUMN by John

Duncan: Wishing for Christmas

December 11, 2006

Posted: 12/08/06

CYBER COLUMN: Wishing for Christmas

By John Duncan

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, wishing for Christmas. Here in our town, it feels like Christmas. Ice, sleet and snow fell from the sky. Winter's chill thrills the air. Giving swells in my heart. And Christmas soon comes!

The old preacher Philips Brooks in the 1800s said, "The earth has grown old with its burden of care, but at Christmas it is always young." How true. When it snowed here recently, I wished for inches, white covering the earth like a cotton blanket. I longed for the snow to pile up so I could grab the neighborhood kids and slide on boxes, throw snowballs and fix hot chocolate. I also wanted to run down to Blockbuster and rent three movies, *Elf* and *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *It's a Wonderful Life*, just hear those infamous movie lines: "I know him! I know him!" and "It's always winter but never Christmas" and "See (George) Bailey, you've had a wonderful life!" Ah, Christmas soon comes!

John Duncan

Commentary by Jinny Henson: Black Friday

December 11, 2006

Posted: 12/08/06

COMMENTARY: Black Friday

By Jinny Henson

It was Black Friday, the fabled day after Thanksgiving and I had absolutely no desire to shop. The consumerism, the materialism...I was taking the moral high ground and refusing to shop. My mother and I discussed how crazy people were to get up at dawn's crack and fight fellow citizens for the last low-priced cart wheeling tiger or karaoke machine.

But then I realized we needed orange juice and milk. Hmmm...you know, Target had such great prices on those things....a full .17 cents cheaper on the O.J. and a whopping .23 on the milk. It was the only fiscally responsible move one could make.

Jinny Henson

Can a university be distinctively Baptist and academically excellent? Or_seay_92203

December 11, 2006

Posted: 9/19/03

Can a university be distinctively Baptist and academically excellent? âOr ...

By Chris Seay

As I travel the country speaking to pastors, I get a lot of questions about my commitment to our denomination. I believe denominations are quickly becoming dinosaurs. So, many wonder why I invest my time and resources as a Texas Baptist. I tell them straight up that the Baptist General Convention of Texas is more like a family than a denomination. While segments of the Baptist faith have been fighting with moderates, Jews, Catholics and Mickey Mouse, my friends in Texas have been focusing on being the presence of Christ, starting churches, feeding the hungry, caring for orphans, opposing the death penalty and avoiding the wrong kind of controversy.

Maybe I spoke too soon. While the BGCT has remained above the fray, Baptists on the Brazos have locked themselves in a no-holds-barred cage match and thrust the worst stereotypes of people of faith onto the international stage. I, for one, have had enough. If being in the Baptist or Baylor family means taking sides and arms against one another, then I am

opting out.


Baylor's quest: Joel Gregory Ella Wall Prichard Chris Seay

Around the State

December 11, 2006

Posted: 12/01/06

Around the State

- The [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#) art department will sponsor the 10th Christmas Workshop Dec. 9 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. This year, the workshop will include a musical component, and a fee of \$15 will be charged instead a gift collection as in years past. Children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult for the entire time. Children will make a variety of Christmas decorations and then will be entertained by Toucan Jam, a duo that plays musical instruments from around the world. Children who wish

to attend only the musical portion of the event will be charged \$8. Space is limited, and prior registration is recommended. For more information or to register, call (254) 295-4676.

[East Texas
Baptist
University](#)

mascot
“Toby the
Tiger” and
last year’s
homecoming
queen,
Lizzie
Wunsch,
crowned
Kerry Bryan
of Joaquin
and Corrin
Conway of
Glendale,
Ariz., as the
2006
homecoming
king and
queen.

- Phil Rhodes has been named director of institutional research and assessment at [Houston Baptist University](#), effective Dec. 11. He most recently was senior research analyst at Baylor University, serving in that position since 1998.

- Audrey Chumchal was crowned 2007 Miss Mary Hardin-Baylor at the university's annual pageant. Chumchal, who represented the freshman class, is a biblical studies major. Others honored included Lindsey Harkrider, first runner-up; Katrina Esco, second runner-up; Leslie Anne Estes; and Martha Sicking, fourth runner-up.

- Richard Blackaby, a well-known Canadian Baptist leader, was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree by Dallas Baptist University during its fall convocation. He is president of [Blackaby Ministries International](#), founded by his parents. For 13 years, he was president of Canadian Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta. He also is the author of several books. His father, Henry Blackaby, is author of the best-selling *Experiencing God*.

Texas Baptist Forum

December 11, 2006

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Texas Baptist Forum

BGCT follow-up

If our Baptist General Convention of Texas leadership is the best we have, God help us.

How can intelligent people [interpret](#) *Robert's Rules of Order* by saying the Executive Board is above the convention itself, especially when the body is in session? Where is the Christian example from our leadership when they shut down a messenger who was given his rightful time to speak to his own

motion, only to embarrass and denigrate him in front of the audience—especially when everything looked orchestrated?

- [Jump to online-only letters below](#)

Letters are welcomed. Send them to marvknox@baptiststandard.com; 250 words maximum.



"I feel like an older groom who has been married before. I know what I'm in for, but I'm so excited about the honeymoon, I can't think straight."

Robert Sloan

At his installation as president of Houston Baptist University, reflecting on his 10-year presidency of Baylor University

"If there are some who are concerned about the viability of the (National Association of Evangelicals), it's based on their ignorance, not reality. ... This is like a plane crash. When a plane crashes, you're sad and it's big news, but you don't abandon the airline industry. You recognize that's the safest way to travel."

Leith Anderson

Interim president of the National Association of Evangelicals, responding to criticisms the resignation of former President Ted Haggard due to sexual immorality has exposed weaknesses in the organization (*Christianity Today/RNS*)

"The problem is not the Quran or the Torah or the Bible. Indeed, I have often said that the problem is never the faith; it is the faithful and how they behave toward each other."

Kofi Annan

United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan (*The New York Times/RNS*)

We lost monies in having parliamentarians who ruled with an iron hand and allowed no freedom of expression at all.

CYBER COLUMN by Brett Younger: Shoe business

December 11, 2006

Posted: 12/05/06

CYBER COLUMN: Shoe business

By Brett Younger

Every five years or so, whether I need to or not, I go to the cheapest shoe store I can find to buy a new pair of everyday shoes. My old pair was beyond old. I avoided puddles with my left foot because of the hole in the sole. The insoles were missing, so they slipped up and down like flip-flops.

When I told Carol it was time for new shoes, she sent Caleb along to buy tennis shoes. I was confused when he stayed in the aisle where I was until I realized that my 12-year-old now shares my shoe size. Caleb also picks shoes by the same criteria—the first ones we try on with which we can live. He quickly selected midnight navy/metallic silver Overplay Nikes that cost more than all the Keds I ever wore.



Brett
Younger

Evangelicals told blogs best way to shape public opinion

December 11, 2006

Posted: 12/05/06

Evangelicals told blogs best way to shape public opinion

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Evangelical leaders shouldn't fear expressing their beliefs in the blogosphere or be afraid of a potential Mormon president, conservative law professor and radio talk-show host Hugh Hewitt recently told a group of evangelical theologians.

Hewitt, speaking in Washington after a midterm congressional election that swept many religious conservatives from power, said the next year will

have “enormous significance” when it comes to faith and politics.

RIGHT or WRONG? Forgiveness vs accountability

December 11, 2006

Posted: 12/01/06

RIGHT or WRONG? Forgiveness vs accountability

In many sermons, two terms—accountability and forgiveness—are mentioned as if they are separate Christian virtues. Am I missing the point in thinking they are two sides of the same coin?