

He Became a Curse for Us

Recently, a friend of mine, asked me about a particular phrase that is sometimes heard within evangelical circles. I have personally used the phrase which is why he graciously asked about it. In particular the phrase goes something like this: "while on the cross, God the Father turned His back on His Son, Jesus Christ." My friend's question related to the scriptural basis for such a claim.

The fundamental doctrines of the New Testament concern the what and why of the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are many pictures given in the New Testament to help us understand the reasons and implications of God giving up His own Son to die in public shame and humiliation for sinners. Many of these pictures are also resident within the Old Testament traditions. For instance, in the presentation by Jews for Jesus, "Christ in the Passover" which we saw on Wednesday evening at our church, the portrait of redemption given in that historic ceremony provides us an understanding of what God has done in the cross of Christ. Paul even refers to Jesus as "our Passover." Another depiction in the New Testament that is anchored in the Old Testament portrays Christ as our kinsman redeemer. He purchases us into His family through the cross. This analogy is found in the redemption of Israel out of bondage from Egypt where God redeems the people through the plagues. This depiction is reflected later in biblical history in the redemption of Ruth and Naomi through Boaz. This is what Christ has done for us. He has redeemed both Jew, Naomi, and Gentile, Ruth, from our impoverished, desperate and hopeless condition. The redemption of Ruth and Naomi cost Boaz

the purchase price of a plot of land. The redemption of sinners cost God the public humiliation and death of His own Son.

One of the motifs of the New Testament doctrine of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ is the curse motif. This motif is described by Paul in Galatians 3:10-14. It is also eluded to in the language of propitiation as found in Romans 3:21-26, Hebrews 2:12, I John 2:2 and I John 4:10. It is eluded to in the despised suffering servant passage of Isaiah 53. The doctrine of Jesus Christ becoming a curse for us, bearing the Father's wrath while on the cross, is a doctrine that I think those passages listed above along with several other scripture passages (Romans 5:8-10, I Peter 2:22, Philippians 2:5-11, Ephesians 2:11-16, and II Corinthians 5:21 are some that come to mind). Jesus Christ bore the punishment of our sin while on the cross and the punishment for human sin is ultimately the wrath of God. This answers one of the questions as to why Jesus Christ had to die because it addresses how a holy God can receive sinners and maintain His justice and holiness.

When I use a sentence like "God turned his back on His own Son" it is because I think the curse, propitiation, "became sin for us", "bore in His body", etc. captures the intent of the curse language of the Old Testament. Though the exact quotation cannot be found, the concept is there. It is connected to the Old Testament use of the word curse that Paul embraces in Galatians 3:10-14 and is implied in the use of propitiation that is in those other passages as it is applied to the propitiation goat in Yom Kippur.



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Consider the blessings in the Old Testament. Numbers 6:22-27 gives the statement of blessing as follows: ²² Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: ²⁴ The LORD bless you, and keep you; ²⁵ The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.' ²⁷ So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I *then* will bless them." If a curse is the opposite of a blessing then consider Numbers 6 in reverse. "May the Lord curse you and abandon you. The Lord turn His face away from you and judge you. The Lord turn His back on you and give you enmity." To use the phrase, "God turned his back on Jesus" is simply a proverbial way of capturing the Old Testament language that Paul and even Jesus on the cross (My God why have you forsaken Me). This is what it means to be cursed. It means to have God turn His back on us. It means to be cut off from God.

In Deuteronomy 28 God provides a long list of blessings and curses which include the following statements..."The LORD will smite you..." "The LORD will strike you..." "He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you." "so the LORD will delight over you to make you perish and destroy you." "But there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul." Again, when I use the statement that the Father turned His back or turned away from His own Son I am embracing the language of the Old Testament curse motif. God struck, smote, and destroyed His own Son. Jesus became a curse for us. He was treated the way the Father promised to treat Israel in this moment. He was treated as if He were to receive all of these curses from His Father that the Father had promised on those who rebel against Him. The wrath and justice of God is completely satisfied only if Jesus is treated by the curse God promised for lawbreakers. If Jesus does not receive that just punishment then the redemption is incomplete and the Father's wrath is still due on all sinners. I believe this is why Jesus uses the word "forsaken" while hanging on the cross. He is embracing the curse motif of the Old Testament. In Deuteronomy 31:17 God says this, "Then My anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide My face from them, and they will be consumed, and many evils and troubles will come upon them; so that they will say in that day, 'Is it not because our God is not among us that these evils have come upon us?'" In this verse, forsake and hiding His face are connected as equivalent ideas. I view the proverbial phrase "hiding His face" to be equivalent to our more modern phrase "turning His back." When a person turns their back, they are essentially turning their face away or hiding their face from that person. They are abandoning them. They are forsaking them. They are cutting them off. When a theologian uses the proverbial phrase, "God turned His back on Jesus," at least in my case, it is a way of saying Jesus became a curse as described in Galatians 3. The Father treated Jesus as a sinner, II Corinthians 5:21. Jesus bore the wrath of God as if He were guilty of all sin and all sins, Romans 3. The Father abandoned Him in that moment on the cross the way God said He would abandon and did ultimately abandon Israel when they fell under His curse in the Old Testament by "setting His face against them," "cutting them off," "forsaking them," "smiting them," "striking them" and "destroying them."

Think about this for a moment. On the cross, Jesus Christ took upon Himself the curse of God due to our sin. On the cross, Jesus Christ bore the wrath of His own Father so that we could become children of God. ~ Daniel

Christian Counseling Ministry

Making Peace with Your Past

Join us Thursday evenings @ 6:00pm, as we begin to spend time working through how hardships and relationships from our past play a role in our present lives. Contact the counseling office for more details. 972.343.9831.



Students

April Student Events & Activities

- ☞ April 12-14th: We will be attending a special senior retreat at the Equip 14:8 college conference in San Antonio. (High school seniors only) Cost: \$40, and it covers the whole weekend. Please see Zach for more details.
- ☞ April 13th: A youth community service project, led by our own Stephen Clardy. See Stephen for more details.
- ☞ April 24th: Graduating Senior Recognition Reception pictures/letters are due at the end of Collide.

20Somethings



Who are we? We are... sinners in need of God's Grace, part of God's plan for the future, going to make an impact on the world for Christ; we aren't children any more, we are making the decisions that will effect the rest of our lives. We matter to God.



Date: April 17th (We will have this meeting in lieu of the Discipleship this week)
Cost: \$10.00
Time: Leave at 5:00pm return 10ish

Passion: Night of Worship with Kristian Stanfill. His rendition of "One Thing Remains" went to number one on Billboard's Christian charts in December. He was nominated for Best New Artist at the Dove Awards. And now, Kristian Stanfill and his band are bringing the *Passion: Let the Future Begin Tour* to NorthWood on Wednesday, April 17. Interested? Call the church office and talk to Jared, Leslie or Rachel 972.641.2717.

What: Ride on the Pontoon boat, and picnic

Who: 20somethings

When: April 25th

Time: 2-7pm

Cost: \$10pp

Contact: Jared, Leslie or Rachel at 972.641.2717 to reserve your spot on the boat. (If we do not have 10 people that are able to attend, we will have to cancel this event.)



~ May Movie at Maggie's - details to follow ~

Weekly Events:

- * **Sunday AM:** Follow Me by David Platt; 9:45AM
- * **Sunday PM:** Systematic Theology at 6:00pm (Sunday nights we usually hangout after 7:17)
- * **Mondays, 11:30am:** Chik-fil-a at CampWisdom & 360
- * **Wednesday nights:** Bible Study in back of Common Grounds. We are studying *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* at 8:30pm.

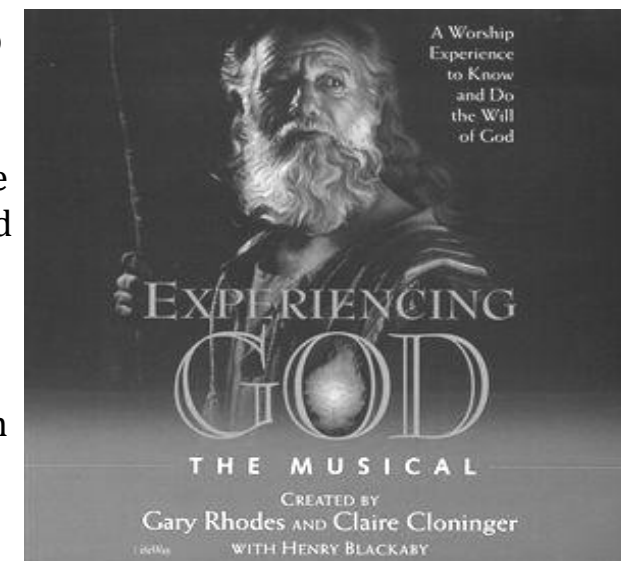
Music Ministry

I hope you and your family are already planning to join us on Sunday, June 2, as we present "Experiencing God: The Musical" in all three worship services. This unique worship experience will help us to recognize God's work around us and then respond in faithful obedience.

It's exciting for me to have all of our choirs joining together along with an orchestra on this special day. It's not too late for you and your family to join us as we prepare for our Spring musical! Please consider attending one of the following Wednesday night rehearsals:

- ♫ Our Children's Choir practices at 6:00 on the second floor of the education building.
- ♫ Proclamation (Youth Choir) meets at 5:45 in the choir room.
- ♫ The Adult Choir rehearses at 6:45 in the choir room.

We hope you'll join us for fellowship and preparation for worship! ~ Jeff



PAW Ministry

Unplugged!
 Unplugged!



Summer Camp

An 8 week camp
 offered
 for Children Ages
 9 months - 12 years

Sponsored by
 PAW @ Matthew Road Baptist Church

Unplugged! at MRBC offers a fun and safe program for children during the summer. It is operated as a non-profit ministry to the children and families in our community. As a ministry of Matthew Road Baptist Church since 2001, our classes are open to any child regardless of race or religious beliefs. **Unplugged!** is Mondays and Wednesdays, from 9:30am - 2:30pm, beginning June 10, 2013, through August 7, 2013. (We will be closed Monday, July 8 and Wednesday July 10 for Vacation Bible School.)

Our camp activities are appropriately designed for the age group and the stage of development of each child. In today's society, our children don't know what it is to be without all their electronics. We want to show them that they can still have fun and be unplugged from all their game systems, TV, computers, internet, etc... **Unplugged!** is our summer semester that offers a fun old fashioned style camp!

For more information about pricing and registration, please contact Cyndi King at 972-641-7380 or by email at cyndikking@msn.com.

Women's Ministry



Sisters of Strength

Be a Sister of Strength!

Take the time to

strengthen a sister!

Make a phone call! Send a card! Pray!

Let us walk this life together!!!

Have a prayer request? Need more information about our Women's Ministry classes or events? Need to get in touch with our Women's Ministry Coordinator?

Then contact us at our email address:
 womensministryofmatthewroad@gmail.com



April's LNO is Game Night in the Fellowship Hall, 7:00pm, April 22nd.

For more information, please see the Women's Ministry Bulletin Board or contact Jennifer at womensministryofmatthewroad@gmail.com.



Ladies Tea Saturday, June 1st

"From Flip Flops to High Heels - We are all made in His image!"

More information to come!!!



- ♦ Ladies Sunday Night Bible Study has begun! Please see the Women's Ministry Bulletin Board, down the nursery hallway, for more information. This is open to ladies of all ages!
- ♦ Ms. Joy's Ladies Bible Study is on Tuesday, at 6:00pm, in the church library. This semester, we will be studying Beth Moore's "Seeking a Heart Like His; Lessons from David." In this examination of the "man after God's own heart," David will delight and disappoint you. You'll want to be just like him at times and nothing like him at others. If you've ever experienced doubts, temptations, losses, family problems, or personal inconsistencies, this study is for you!
- ♦ The Thursday Night Bible Study has also begun. Walking with the Israelites through Exodus - Ladies in the Library, Men in the Conference Room, 7:00pm, Cost: \$5. (childcare provided)



We will need help with setting up, serving our precious guests, watching children, as well as assistance in other areas. Please be in prayer about how you can participate in this amazing ministry opportunity!

Have questions or would like to sign up to serve?
 Please contact Jennifer at
 womensministryofmatthewroad@gmail.com.

Children

Who: Completed 3rd-6th Graders

When: June 24-28, 2013

Where: Mt. Lebanon, Cedar Hill

Cost: \$200

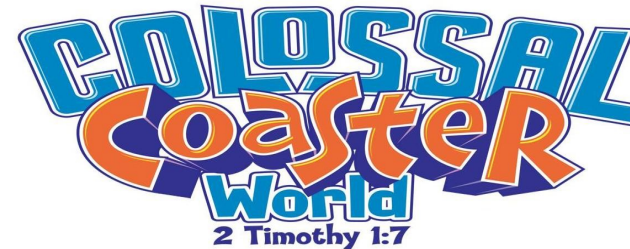
(Scholarships available. See Maggie about the deadline.)

Join us for a week away from home as we participate in Bible study, recreation, games, worship, and much more!

**We will have an informational parent meeting on
 Sunday, April 7th @ 5pm, upstairs in the Education Building.**

Please be sure to attend this meeting if your child would like to go to camp.

Preteen Camp



Matthew Road Baptist Church
 Vacation Bible School
 July 8-12
 Monday-Friday
 6:00-8:30pm
 972-641-2717

Colossal Coaster World will challenge kids to face their fears and trust God as they zip along the roller coaster of life. Through every twist, turn, and dive kids will learn that God has not given them a spirit of fearfulness, but a spirit of power, love, and sound judgment. At the end of the week, kids will want to do it all over again!

VBS Meetings: April 14 @ 5pm and June 30 @ 5pm in the Choir Room. Please email Maggie if you would like to help! **We need A LOT of workers :)**

Parables
 MD²

Join us each Sunday night for games, large group lessons, and small group discussion.

This spring we will be learning about Parables. Come and hear more about the stories that Jesus told.

Sunday nights – 6-7pm
 Education Building – Upstairs
 Children – Kindergarten through 6th Grade
 Small groups are separated by age.



Join us each Wednesday evening as we memorize God's Word, hear Bible stories, play games, and have a lot of fun!

Cubbies - 3&4 year olds
 Sparks - Kindergarten through 2nd grade
 T&T - 3rd through 6th grade
 Wednesdays from 6:30pm - 8:00pm.

**AWANA AWARD NIGHT IS MAY 29th!
 SEE CHARLES OR ANITA FRY FOR MORE INFO!**

Missions

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Join us on Wednesday evenings, at 5:30pm, for a time of food & fellowship. Not only are these dinners a wonderful time saver for our Wednesday night leaders, their families and our guests, but all proceeds are donated to the World Hunger Fund. Reservations are needed and greatly appreciated. Please place your reservation at the Welcome Desk or contact the church office at christy@matthewroad.org. *If you have signed up and are not attending, please contact the church office at 972-641-2717 and let us know. We want to be good stewards of our resources and not waste any food.

April 3
Beef Stew, Bean Salad
Bread, Dessert
Drink

April 10
King Ranch Chicken
2 sides
Dessert

April 17
Dinner supporting Cuban Missions
(see information below)

April 24
Meat loaf
Potatoes
Green Beans
Dessert



Special Wednesday Night Dinner!

Please join us Wednesday, April 17th, at 5:15pm, for a special dinner supporting Cuban Missions. Proceeds will help fund the building of a seminary to train Cuban pastors. We'll be serving Daniel's Famous Lasagna. Come and support this awesome ministry opportunity! Sign up at the Welcome Desk or contact the office at christy@matthewroad.org or 972-641-2717.



Join us for an amazing time of fun, fellowship and food on April 28th, at Lynn Creek Park, for our annual Ride to Rescue! Monies raised will be used for the orphanages in Rwanda. We will begin at 1:00pm. There will be the 5 mile fun ride across the dam, a 27 mile route and, new for this year, a 50 mile route for the more ambitious among us! We will end our day with a delicious barbeque dinner. We will have online registration on our www.matthewroad.org website available soon. However, until then, please pick up your information packet at the Welcome Desk. Questions? Please see Barbara Lyons.

* Please note: we will have all regularly scheduled Worship Services, Events & Activities AM & PM.

April 2013 Events & Activities

For more information, please see our website, www.matthewroad.org, or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

- April 3rd: Missions Committee Meeting, 6:00pm, Kim Sweet's Classroom/Teller Room
- April 4th: Young at Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
- April 5th: Youth TGIF
- April 7th: Preteen Camp Meeting, 5:00pm, Ed. Bldg.
- April 11th: Young @ Heart Bluebonnet Trails Trip
MRA Info Meeting, 7:00pm, CommonGrounds
- April 12th - 13th: 12th Grade Retreat, see ad in newsletter or Zach for info
- April 14th: Deacon Meeting, 5:00pm, Conference Room
VBS Meeting, 5:00pm, Choir Room
- April 15th: PAW Family Night, 7:00pm, Worship Center
- April 17th: Finance Committee Meeting, 6:00pm, Teller Room
- April 18th: MRA Info Meeting, 7:00pm, CommonGrounds
- April 19th: Young @ Heart at DBU Hymn Sing, see Phil for info
PNO, 6:30pm, Worship Center
- April 21st: B&G Meeting, 4:00pm, Conference Room
Quarterly Business Meeting, 5:00pm, CommonGrounds
- April 22nd: Ladies Night Out, 7:00pm, Game Night at MRBC
- April 27th: Churchwide Work Day, see Phil for more info
- April 28th: Ride to Rescue, 1:00pm, Lynn Creek Park



Annie Armstrong Mission Offering
Our Goal: \$7,500
Received to Date: \$4,930

Spring Discipleship

Sunday Nights:

- ◇ The Study of Acts - Sanctuary, 6:00pm
- ◇ Ladies Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 6:00pm
- ◇ Men's Bible Study - ManCave, 6:00pm
- ◇ Adult Bible Study - CommonGrounds, 6:00pm (ongoing)
- ◇ 20Somethings - 2nd Floor, Education Building (ongoing)
- ◇ Guy Talk for youth - classroom behind coke machine in CommonGrounds Bldg. (ongoing)
- ◇ Girl Talk for youth - classroom to the right of the stage in CommonGrounds Bldg. (ongoing)
- ◇ MD² - Education Building, 6:00pm (ongoing)

Tuesday Nights:

- ◇ Ladies Bible Study, 6:00pm, Choir Room

Thursday Nights:

- ◇ Men's and Ladies Bible Studies: Walking with the Israelites through Exodus, 7:00pm, Ladies in the Library, Men's in the Conference Room, Cost: \$5. (childcare provided)

Friday Nights:

- ◇ Bible Study at the Germer's home, 7:00pm, see the Germers for more info

Regular Weekly Calendar

Sundays

Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00am
Morning Bible Study (all ages) 9:45am
Trek/Journey (Jr. & Sr. High) 4:00pm
Evening Bible Study (all ages) 6:00pm
7:17 Service 7:17pm

Mondays

PAW Program 9:00am

Tuesdays

Young @ Heart Activities 9:45am
Ladies Bible Study 6:00pm
Counseling Classes 6:30pm

Wednesdays

PAW Program 9:00am
Proclamation Choir (youth) 5:45pm
Children's Choir (K - 6th grade) 6:00pm
Collide (youth) 6:30pm
AWANA Club 6:30pm
Adult Bible Study 6:45pm
Adult Choir 6:45pm
20Somethings 8:30pm

Thursdays

Bible Study (men & women) 7:00pm

Fridays

In-home Bible Study 7:00pm
(at the Germer's Home)

Saturdays

Men's Coffee Group 7:30am

Financials Thru March 15th

Budget Income	\$171,743
Budget Expense	-203,361
Net Budget	(\$31,618)

Average Morning Attendance for March: 420
Average 7:17 Service Attendance for March: 155