



A Healthy Church

STUDIES IN I THESSALONIANS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2012



SONGS OF WORSHIP

Our God Saves
You Alone Can Rescue
Our Great God
Rock of Ages You Will
Stand
Before the Throne of
God Above

*Children will be dismissed for
Kid's Worship for 1st - 5th Grade
during the offertory music.*

Welcome to Crosspoint!
*Please take a moment and fill
out the bulletin tear-off strip
and place in the Offering Plate
at the end of the Service.*

How can we pray for you?
**Want to get involved in a
ministry? Would you like a
personal visit?** *Please fill out
the tear-off form and share
your request with us.*

Offerings at Crosspoint:
*Please make your checks pay-
able to East Cooper Baptist
Church or ECBC. Thank you for
your offering to further God's
Kingdom through Crosspoint!*

Membership at Crosspoint:
*Please register for our next
quarterly New Members Class
- go to: www.ecbconline.com
and click on "Connect" for
more information.*

Crosspoint Staff:

Craig Tuck
Campus Pastor

Crystal Cantrell
Administrative Assistant
Children's Ministry
Coordinator

Justin Parrish
Worship Leader

Contact Us:
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THE WORSHIP OF ALMIGHTY GOD

The Lord's Day, February 19, 2012

Crosspoint Campus

As we lift our hearts and voices today in corporate worship,
we give thanks for the glorious grace of God's powerful gospel,
and the health it brings to our lives, and our church.

The Reflections for the Prelude

...Nothing makes God more supreme and more central than when a people are utterly persuaded that nothing - not money or prestige or leisure or family or job or health or sports or toys or friends - nothing is going to bring satisfaction to their aching hearts besides God. This conviction breeds a people who go hard after God on Sunday morning.

-- John Piper on Corporate

Anything that becomes more important and nonnegotiable to us than God becomes an enslaving idol. In this paradigm, we can locate idols by looking at our most un-yielding emotions. What makes us uncontrollably angry, anxious, or despondent? What racks us with a guilt we can't shake? Idols control us, since we feel we must have them or life is meaningless.

-- Tim Keller

THE MORNING SERMON

TURNING TO THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD FROM IDOLS

1 THESSALONIANS 1:9

CONRAD "BUSTER" BROWN, SENIOR PASTOR

⁹ For they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

¹ Some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat down in front of me. ² Then the word of the LORD came to me: ³ "Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all? ⁴ Therefore speak to them and tell them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When any Israelite sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet, I the LORD will answer him myself in keeping with his great idolatry. ⁵ I will do this to recapture the hearts of the people of Israel, who have all deserted me for their idols.'" Ezekiel 14:1-5

"A counterfeit god is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living. An idol has such a controlling position in your heart that you can spend most of your passionate energy, your emotional and financial resources, on it without a second thought. It can be family and children, or career or making money, or achievement and critical acclaim...If anything becomes more fundamental than God to your happiness, meaning in life, and identity, then it is an idol.

Timothy Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*, XVIII-IXX

"Idols of the heart" is only one of many metaphors which moves the locus of God's concerns into the human heart, establishing an unbreakable bond between specifics of heart and specifics of behavior: hands, tongue, and all other members. The First Great Commandment to "love God with heart, soul, mind, and might" also demonstrates the essential "inwardness" of the law regarding idolatry...If "idolatry" is the characteristic and summary Old Testament word for our drift from our God, then "desires"

is the characteristic and summary New Testament word for the same drift. Both are shorthand for the problem of human beings”
 David Powlison, “Idols of the Heart and “Vanity Fair”, *Journal of Biblical Counseling* (Vol XIII-2-Winter 1995), p. 36

The problem: because we deal with sin this side of heaven, we drift.

“You are not yet out of the gunshot of Devil...Let the Kingdom be always before you, and believe steadfastly concerning things that are invisible; let nothing that is on this side of the other world get within you; and above all, look well to your own hearts, and to the lusts thereof, for they are deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. Set your faces like a flint; you have all power in heaven and on earth on your side.”
 John Bunyan, *Pilgrim's Progress*, p. 96

Our response:

Money → 1 Timothy 6:9-10 → the principle of tithes & offerings
 Sex → Ephesians 5:3, Hebrews 13:4 → purity
 Power → Phillipians 2:3-4 → servanthood

The difference between moralism/behaviorism/obedience and heartfelt change or surface idols vs. deep idols.

Be idolatry breaking/the defeating of idols and their bondage in our lives.

1. A continual understanding of the glory, beauty, and wonder of Christ. (1 Thessalonians 1:1, 9)
2. Understanding that repenting and rejoicing go together.

“Rejoicing and repentance must go together. Repentance without rejoicing will lead to despair. Rejoicing without repentance is shallow and will only provide passing inspiration instead of deep change. Indeed, it is when we rejoice over Jesus’ sacrificial love for us most fully that, paradoxically, we are most truly convicted of our sin... Rejoicing in Christ is also crucial because idols are almost always good things. If we have made idols out of work and family, we do not want to stop loving our work and our family. Rather, we want to love Christ so much more that we are not enslaved by our attachments...To rejoice is to treasure a thing, to assess its value to you, to reflect on its beauty and importance until your heart rests in it and tastes the sweetness of it. “Rejoicing” is a way of praising God until the heart is sweetened and rested, and until it relaxes its grip on anything else it thinks that it needs.”
 Timothy Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*, pp. 172-173

3. “Serve the true and living God.” My life has ultimate significance as I am swept up in a grand metanarrative called the kingdom of God.

“In sum (when we pray, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”) so we must may wish nothing from ourselves but that his Spirit may govern our hearts; and while the Spirit is inwardly teaching us, we may learn to love the things that please him and to hate those which displease him. In consequence, our wish is that he may render futile and of no account whatever feelings are incompatible with his will”.
 John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, III-XX-43

Questions for Consideration:

1. What are some of the most significant counterfeit gods in our culture that could be viewed as essentially “good things”?
2. What is the difference between moralism/behaviorism and heartfelt change or surface idols vs. deep idols?
3. How do rejoicing and repentance go together? Do you agree with the quote from Counterfeit Gods on pp. 172-173? Why or why not?
4. What is the most difficult contemporary idol for the Christian? Is it related to an age stage and privilege?
5. How does the incredible gospel story (the ultimate and final metanarrative) give meaning, coloration, and context to our lives?

INFORMATION 02.19

Please complete and place in the offering plate.

Crosspoint Campus

Visitor Tear-off Sign-Up Info

Return Visitor

 HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD NAME

 SPOUSE NAME

 STREET / P.O. BOX

 CITY

 STATE ZIP

(_____) _____
 HOME PHONE

(_____) _____
 CELL PHONE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

(_____) _____
 CELL PHONE SPOUSE

 E-MAIL HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

 E-MAIL SPOUSE

Birthdate Head of Household _____
 Birthdate Spouse _____

Children’s Names / Genders / Birthdates

 NAME M/F BIRTHDATE

 NAME M/F BIRTHDATE

 NAME M/F BIRTHDATE

___ I would like to become a Christian.

___ I would like to join ECBC.

___ I would like a personal visit.

___ I have a confidential need to discuss.

___ Add me to mail / e-mail list.

___ I would like information re: _____

___ I would like to join a Community Group.

___ Other: _____

PRAYER REQUESTS / PEOPLE IN NEED

Prayer Line: 856-3222 ext. PRAY(7729)

Please list your prayer requests and/or names (with detailed information) of people in need. Thank you!

___ Confidential (distributed only to Pastors)

EXPRESS SERVICE

Please print your name and contact information on the opposite side of this tear-off.

___ I am interested in attending the Crosspoint Express Service.

ANGEL TREE PRAYER PARTNERS

Please print your name and contact information on the opposite side of this tear-off.

___ Please contact me about being an Angel Tree Prayer Partner.

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Please print your name and contact information on the opposite side of this tear-off.

___ Please contact me about joining the Ladies' Bible Study.

BAPTISM

Please print your name and contact information on the opposite side of this tear-off.

___ Please contact me for a baptism interview.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Please print your name and contact information on the opposite side of this tear-off.

I'd like more info on Community Groups regarding:

Group you'd like to join:

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Please print your name and contact information on the opposite side of this tear-off.

Please contact me about helping with:

- ___ Prayer Ministry
- ___ Children's Ministry
- ___ Youth Ministry
- ___ Prison Ministry

BULLETIN BOARD

WELCOME TO CROSSPOINT

We are glad you are here to worship with us! Crosspoint is an expansion campus of East Cooper Baptist Church. Pastor Craig Tuck and Crosspoint's Worship Team will be leading our worship service. Our teaching Pastor Buster Brown will be preaching by video. Please take a minute to fill out the information tear off form and place it in the offering plate or at the information desk in the foyer.

LOVE & RESPECT MARRIAGE CONFERENCE @ CROSSPOINT - MARCH 9 & 10

Register now: www.loveandrespect.com Registration is now open for both campuses of ECBC! Already 12 couples from Crosspoint have registered. Be sure to register before Feb. 27 to get the reduced rate!

MISSION'S SUNDAY NEXT WEEK @ CROSSPOINT - FEB. 26

ECBC is conducting the annual Global Impact Conference (Feb. 24-26). Pastor Brown will be preaching in person @ Crosspoint and a special mission's luncheon will follow the Worship Service. Please bring an international side dish and dessert to share. Meat and drinks will be provided.

BAPTISMAL SERVICE - FEB. 26

Crosspoint will conduct our first baptismal service in March in our 11 a.m. Worship Service. A portable baptistery will be in place and a few people have already been interviewed for baptism. If you have not publicly professed Christ through Baptism and desire an interview, please fill out the tear-off form today and we will contact you.

EXPRESS SERVICE @ CROSSPOINT

Crosspoint leadership is strongly considering an early abbreviated worship service gathering for all adult children's workers who serve during the 11 a.m. Worship Hour. This worship gathering would include music, devotional and prayer (and Communion when scheduled) with Child-care provided. Pastor Tuck and Elder Adkins will be leading this time on a weekly basis from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. If this would interest you, please indicate on today's tear-off form.

ATTENTION MEN: Men's Friday Breakfast - Friday mornings @ 6:30 a.m.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY - TUESDAYS @ 6:30 P.M.

Join in this new study led by Nancy Johnson on the book, "Seeking Him: Experiencing the Joy of Personal Revival" by Nancy DeMoss. Please indicate on today's bulletin tear-off form of your interest in participating. Books are available for purchase. Since this is an evening study, child-care will need to be pre-arranged by each family.

ANGEL TREE FAMILY MINISTRY

Prayer partners are needed for caregivers and prisoners of Angel Tree Families. If you are interested in serving as a prayer partner, please indicate on the tear-off form and place it in the offering plate or at the info desk.

CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY GROUPS

Get plugged in to a small group: Please fill out the bulletin tear off form or stop by the welcome desk in the foyer. Groups resume meeting in January.

- North Charleston Groups: Dorchester Road on Wednesday nights (Jim & Anne Marie Hill - 552 5896)
- Hanahan Group: Tanner Plantation on Sun nights at 6:00 p.m. (Johnny & Ali Campbell - 553-7263)
- Summerville Group: The Ponds on Sun nights @ 6 p.m. (Patrick & Sarah Cumbie - 771-2255)
- Goose Creek Group: Crosspoint Campus on Sun nights @ 5:30 p.m. (Joe & Cindy Crook - 760 2638)
- Mt. Pleasant Group: Wednesday nights @ 6:30 p.m. (Jeff & Amy Adkins 881 0848)

For more information about Community Groups, please go to: www.crosspointecbc.com.

ECBC PASTORAL STAFF

Danny Beech	Middle School	856-3222 ext. 2027
Andy Boyer	Equipping	ext. 2026
Conrad Brown	Senior Pastor	ext. 2006
Dave Bruner	Global Impact	ext. 2026
Jonathan Chapman	High School	ext. 2029
Dean Henderson	Worship	ext. 2040
Steve Heron	Young Adults	ext. 2026
Josh Romine	College	ext. 2010
Carl Schooling	Pastoral Care	ext. 2003
Craig Tuck	Ministry Development	ext. 2000
Steve Tuck	Children & Family	ext. 2028