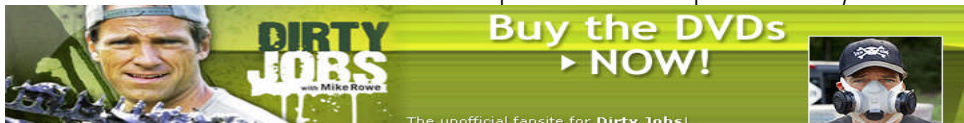


Dirty Words!

No doubt you have heard of Mike Rowe and his TV show called "Dirty Jobs." I think it's on the *Discovery Channel*. He showcases real people who, vocationally, have dirty, messy jobs...but important ones. Somebody has to do the dirty work. Well, the Bible has words and concepts that are necessary, but more and more people today, professing to be Christians, don't want anything to do with them—they disparage these biblical truths, calling them "dirty words" to be eschewed and forgotten. Here's the first one I'd like to note: **"DOCTRINE"**-- many in the modern feel-good church dismiss this word with facility, saying it's too stuffy, archaic, does not promote the spirit of Jesus, is too cerebral and notional and leads to a dead, wooden, lifeless orthodoxy. "We don't need doctrine, let's just love, love, love," they drone. But the Bible says otherwise—"doctrine" simply means "teaching" and "truth." Jesus commanded His disciples to "know the truth" (John 10:32). God commanded Christians to "watch your life and doctrine closely" (2 Timothy 4:16). The Holy Spirit warns the church that the time will come when professing Christians "will not endure [tolerate] sound doctrine; but will want to have their ears tickled" (2 Timothy 4:3). Sadly, that time has come. In the next several issues we will explore more indispensable "dirty words."



One of my favorite people of all time is Fanny Crosby (1820-1915). She was blinded at 6 weeks of age by a doctor's error. A prolific poetess and songwriter, she composed 9,000 hymns during her life. She never became bitter about her blindness, but rather it drew her all the more to Christ and dependence upon God. She memorized almost the entire New Testament before she was 10. In her day, she was one of the most famous women in America. My favorite hymns she composed include *Blessed Assurance*; *Praise Him, Praise Him*; *To God Be the Glory*.

The Word of God

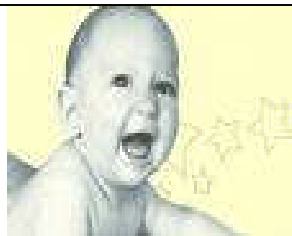
Interesting facts on how God preserved the written Scriptures through history: *the first books of the Bible were written on dried papyrus leaves and animal skins—it took a whole flock of sheep skins to write the NT* *by 400 AD the Bible had been translated into 500 languages* *Shakespeare quoted the Geneva Bible over 5,000 times* *chapter divisions were not added until the 1200's* *verses were not added until 1551* *in 382 Jerome produced the Latin version from the Greek text* *in 1455 Gutenberg printed the first book on a printing press—a Latin Bible* *the 1st Bible printed in America was for native Americans in 1663* *there are over 5,000 Greek manuscripts of the NT today*

Clean Jokes: where does the King keep his armies?
(ask Pastor Cliff for the answer)

Web-sites of the Month: www.AlbertMohler.com,
www.desiringgod.org & www.9marks.com

CLIFF'S NOTES

*Random Musings About 'What in the World is Going On?'
(past and present) (November 5, 2006; Vol 1; No. 2)
www.gbfsv.org*



GBF is now 77 days old—or 11 weeks—still just a baby. Eleven-week old babies can raise their heads, smile, flop their limbs around, take bathy time, make eye contact and giggle. But they are still vulnerable, weak, fragile and need constant nurture and care. That's true of us—we still need to depend upon God for all of our most basic needs. And He is faithfully providing! We have a committed, faithful core of servants, a wonderful facility, lots of young people and we have had a first time visitor join us every week so far...that's amazing! "How great is the love of the Father..." (1 Jn 3:1)

Who Punished Jesus On the Cross?

This is the most important question in the world, for the death of Jesus is what gives people salvation. The Bible says that "Christ died for our sins" (1 Corinthians 15:3). That is the "gospel" or "good news." But many today in the church are undermining the meaning of Christ's death which is the very heart of the saving gospel by giving wrong answers to the above question. Emerging Church (EC) pundits are inflicting the church with a mangled soteriology. They are purporting that Jesus did not get punished on the cross. But the Bible clearly teaches otherwise. Here are three basic truths to keep in mind about the meaning of Christ's suffering on the cross: 1) **Q:** Did Jesus get punished on the cross? **A:** Yes! But EC people, like Brian McLaren, are saying, "No, He didn't...and such a notion is schmalzy." 2) **Q:** Who punished Jesus on the cross? **A:** God the Father. Isaiah 53 says Jesus was "smitten of God, and afflicted" (v.4). 53:10 says, "the LORD was pleased to crush him, putting him to grief." EC people are rejecting that basic truth and are calling it "cosmic child abuse"—one EC guy, Calias Willard, calls people like me "vampire Christians" because I believe in this sacred doctrine. 3) **Q:** Why did Jesus die? **A:** as a substitutionary sacrifice to appease God's wrath and anger toward sin. 1 John 2:2 says "Jesus...is the propitiation for our sins"—'propitiation' means 'to appease one's wrath.' EC leaders reject this truth as well, saying God is a God of love only, not a God of wrath and anger.

Election Tuesday

This Tuesday, November 7th, are the Midterm Elections. Eight states have anti-gay marriage initiatives on the ballots. Many are predicting that Democrats will take a majority in the Senate. Pray for God to put just rulers in authority: "*When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when a wicked man rules, people groan*" (Proverbs 29:2). We also need to pray as a church in light of 1 Timothy 2:1-3: "*I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.*"