

Cliff's Notes

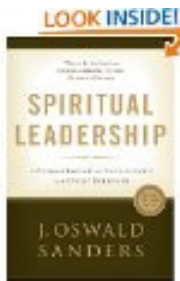
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GBF got off to a good start in 2009. We had many visitors and guests over the holidays, including a flurry of collegiates on break from school. We continue our Friday night Bible study on the 'One Anothers.' We had an encouraging AC meeting—our 40th! We averaged 116 folks per Sunday. We've had first-time visitors every Sunday. We had the privilege of baptizing our brother Nick Bell, whom God sent our way about 6 months ago. We had worship in the big sanctuary for the first time—it seats about 600. After 36 sermons, we are now in John 9. God continues to raise up saints to do the work of the ministry. We thank Him for His promise that He will continue to build His Church (Matt 16:18).



"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."
(Matthew 28:19)

On Sunday, January 18, we had the privilege of baptizing Nick Bell at **GBF**. Nick has been with us a little less than a year. He trusted in Christ with full understanding not long ago. Nick reminded us all that God's gracious gift of forgiveness was "undeserved" and a "gift" that can't be earned!



Good Read! Chuck Swindoll, John MacArthur and many other faithful pastors have said for years one of their favorite books is J. Oswald Sanders' "Spiritual Leadership." I have read it several times. What I like about it is that it's short, an easy read, practical, and convicting. Sanders has a warm, pastoral heart as well. Feed and challenge your soul. Get a copy at Amazon. It's not just for pastors, but all Christians.

Give Glory to God!

Nebuchadnezzar once said, "Babylon the great, which I myself have built...by the might of my own power and for the glory of my majesty" (Daniel 4:30). Herod once threw a party for himself and received worship from the people, who cried out saying, "The voice of a god and not a man!" And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died" (Acts 12:22-23). Muhammad Ali, heavyweight boxing champion, was known for saying, "I am the greatest!" It was refreshing



and rare when recently, Tim Tebow of the **Florida Gators** and Kurt Warner of the **Arizona Cardinals**, gave glory –NOT to themselves—but to their Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, when they both came out on top in their respective major football victories.



Both these men are committed and vocal Christians who know the Bible decrees, "Let another praise you, and not your own lips" (Proverbs 27:2).



This month marks the 36 year anniversary of the landmark case in America, Roe v. Wade—the decision that made abortion legal in America. On January 22, 1973, 7 judges on the Supreme Court ruled that babies in the womb were not persons, and as such could be killed. Since then almost 50 million babies have been killed. To enact this loathsome atrocity, abortionists argue that babies in the womb are not "persons." History is replete with the same twisted reasoning that ushered in horrendous examples of genocide. The Egyptians said the Israelites were not "persons"; slavery proponents in America argued that blacks were not "persons." Hitler argued the Jews were not "persons" and slaughtered 6 million. The Bible teaches that life is sacred. God is the author of life. Babies in the womb are persons, made in God's image. God told Jeremiah the prophet, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you" (1:5). God forms the baby while in the womb and God knows each one intimately. David prayed to God, "You formed my inward parts; You did weave me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:13-14). The baby in the womb is not a thing, fetus, glob of cells, or inhuman embryo, but sacred life, breathed by the Creator. There is no such thing as an 'unwanted pregnancy' to God—Scripture declares that every time a woman becomes pregnant, it was God who "opened her womb." Keep praying for the protection and vindication of the unborn.