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the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

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O.N.E. School

The Fall semester begins Tuesday, August 25. That is a few weeks away.

The only 15-week course being offered is "How to Understand the Bible." Already four people have signed up for the class—one of them living in the state of California. This course teaches how to understand the truths in the Scripture passages. We live in a day when people have a variety of beliefs. Attending this course, you can gain not only a greater understanding, but also conviction in what the Bible really says. In 2 Tim 2:15, God says to all of us,

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

The class will be on Zoom, 3 to 6 PM.

The Ohio NorthEast School of Theology serves as a Local Center for Gateway Seminary, one of our six SBC seminaries. The courses offered are biblical, practical, accessible, and Christ-centered.

Executive Board Mtg

The Executive Board Meeting which usually meets in July has been postponed until Sept. 14. If all goes well we will meet at the Cornersburg Baptist Church building, starting at 7 PM.

All SVBA Pastors invited to Zoom Mtg

All pastors are encouraged to join in a Zoom Meeting for fellowship and prayer, Thursday, Aug. 27 at 7 PM.

Missions & Ministry

Acts 2:17 & 21,

In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams... And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

On the day of Pentecost, two thousand years ago, the Lord sent His Holy Spirit to indwell all believers. What was the purpose? Here in Acts chapter 2 the purpose is that God's people will be empowered to proclaim God's Word and to have direct access to God, whereby He will reveal spiritual truth to His faithful. We know that just one chapter earlier Jesus promised to send

see M&M, next page

Book Review

The Holiness of God
by R.C. Sproul,

Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1985, 234 pp. hardback



Bill Mazey

Webster's Dictionary defines "classic" as a work of enduring excellence. To me that description would fit this title. The first time I finished reading this was January 15, 1986. I know the date from the response I wrote at the back of the book. I have read it a few times since then. I have recommended it quite a few times. It is a book I believe every pastor, missionary, and teacher should read at least once.

see Book Review, next page

Awesome !!!



Gary Frost
Assoc. Missionary

The word "awesome" has degenerated to become a common term to describe anything from barbeque sauce to the vastness of the universe. Though it's a word that demands by its very definition some level of elevated emotion from its user, it has unfortunately become a mediocre term that has lost its punch. I remember recently encountering a brother in the Lord and when I asked how he's been doing he said to me with an expressionless face "Man I am awesome." I wanted to say "Really?"

The dictionary informs us that the word "awesome" means *causing or inducing awe; inspiring an overwhelming feeling of reverence, admiration, or fear*. I remember very clearly my first visit to the grand canyon ... now that was awesome. Seeing such a vast and deep hole in the ground was thoroughly intimidating; I felt overwhelmed. For some reason I'd expected there to be a guard rail or some kind of barrier lining the rim of the canyon but there was none. If you got too close and lost your balance you would soon be history but on the positive side you'd have a good bit of time during your fall to catch up on your prayer life.

It is to be noted that the King James translators frequently used the word "terrible" to translate the

Book Review, from previous page

There are nine chapters designed to make the reader think deeply about God and what God's Word has to say about Him. Then the reader begins to think about how this truth affects him or her and what the response should be to that truth. It is not an easy read in the sense of reading through it quickly with a rush of feel-good emotion. But if you stick with it and think deeply about what is being taught you will come away with a newfound appreciation and reverence for our holy, holy, holy God.

These are the chapter titles: 1) The Holy Grail; 2) Holy, Holy, Holy; 3) The Fearful Mystery; 4) The Trauma of Holiness; 5) The Insanity of Luther; 6) Holy Justice; 7) War and Peace with a Holy God; 8) Be Ye Holy; 9) God in the Hands of Angry Sinners.

There are good quotes to start each chapter. The author does make of the work of various writer's as

well. The downside is there is no bibliography and no use of footnotes or endnotes.

I have underlined passages and written notes in my copy of this book. I have not tired of re-reading it or parts of it from time to time. This book is well worth the time invested in reading it. I'll leave with a quote from page 210: "The key method Paul underscores as the means to the transformed life is by the 'renewal of the mind.' This means nothing more and nothing less than education. Serious education in the things of God. We need to be people whose lives have changed because our minds have changed ... That cannot happen without a mastery of His Word. The key to spiritual growth is an in-depth Christian education that requires a serious level of sacrifice."

What ever you choose to read I hope it encourages you to know God deeply, serve Him faithfully, and trust Him whole-heartedly. Stay faithful and read well until next time.

Awesome, from previous page

Hebrew term *yare'* which contemporary translations render as "awesome." Psalm 47:2 says, "*For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.*" Psalm 66:5, "*Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men.*" Psalm 68:35, "*O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places ...*" Psalm 99:3, "*Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.*"

These passages remind us that when God reveals Himself by any means to men and women it should provoke a degree of reverential fear as the Hebrew writer wrote, "*For God is a consuming fire*" (Hebrews 12:9). Throughout the scripture we find occasions when men fell on their faces in terror in the presence of God; in his presence is fullness of joy but there is also the awareness of our vileness. While we as preachers may attempt to stimulate holy fear in our hearers by way of our voice our vol-

ume and our vocabulary we find that such technique is impotent in provoking true reverence in either sinners or saints. Only God's sovereign presence can cause the inner core to tremble.

I'm afraid that we have become or are becoming too familiar with God and relegate His person and His work to the realm of the ordinary. The very essence of God's holiness assures us that He is anything but ordinary or common; He is totally not like us. We have lost the appreciation of His "terribleness" and when I say that, I am including myself as well. If we expect to see the revival and awakening that is so desperately needed in our land it must begin with a new awareness of God's true awesomeness. It seems peculiar to encourage you to pray for fear, but, not until we fall before God in His terribleness will we live before the world in His power. **OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD.**

M&M, from previous page

the Holy Spirit to empower us to be His witnesses throughout the world. The presence of the Holy Spirit is our power source to represent Jesus to a lost world. If you are a born-again child of God you have the power of God within you to work through you in mighty and powerful ways. There is no limit to what God can do in and through someone who is fully committed to living for His glory.

I truly believe that this doesn't change when there's a pandemic. As a matter of fact, I believe people are more desperate for Jesus during this pandemic, making the fields very ripe and ready for the harvest. NOW Youngstown's street ministry has been going door to door handing out bags with a New Testament, a copy of Our Daily Bread and some gospel tracts in them. We offer to pray with them and their families and almost every time they are so glad we came. Some have even asked Jesus into their hearts! One woman said she needed prayer for depression and just laid her head on the shoulder of the woman who prayed for her.

In our association we have some who are on fire for the Lord and want to share Him with others such as Cindy Burdick from Memorial Baptist Church and Chuck Homa, pastor of Austintown Baptist Church. I ask that you prayerfully seek God and ask Him to guide you and your congregation to join them in sharing Jesus in a lost world.

It is very evident that we are living in the last days. I hope you can sense the urgency in reaching the lost before it's too late. I pray that the church may come alive in these times and move in the power of the Holy Spirit in sharing Jesus. Let's show the world the power of the Living God through His church! God bless you all,

Rafael Cruz Jr.

Missions and Ministry Team Leader

SVBA's New Address

Please mail all correspondence and checks to 545 Commerce Ave. NW, Warren, OH 44485. The Tod Avenue address is no longer the mailing address for Steel Valley. Thanks very much!