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The Berean BANNER

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Beauty, Order, and Abundance in the Kingdom of God

During my experiences in Northern Ireland, I have been struck by the significance of the Biblical imagery of a garden. The Garden of Eden, like any good garden, had beauty, order, and abundance. God gave us authority to work together with Him in cultivating and expanding this garden but the Fall led us to creating our own definitions of good and evil. As sin entered the world, it became a place where beauty, order, and abundance are in conflict with destruction, chaos, and scarcity.

During these last six months of studying the Bible I have noticed how often God prioritizes the redemption of beauty, order, and abundance within His pursuit of reconciling Himself to humanity. God valued beauty in the construction of the Tabernacle. He chose Bezalel and Oholiab and filled them with the

Holy Spirit to create skillful and beautiful works of art with metals, stone, and wood. When the Jewish people came out of Egypt after hundreds of years of being enslaved, God gave Moses the Law to restore their humanity and identity that was damaged through generations of enslavement. Another reason God gave the Law was to provide order during the challeng-

ing social shift from being a people under the control of a dominant empire to a nation of their own. In the wilderness, God also provides abundance through the manna from heaven and water from the rock.

Another important truth I have learned is there has never been a time where Jesus did not represent God and where God did not represent Jesus. Hebrews 1:3a says, *“The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being.”* So if Jesus is an exact representation of God's

being, we can see God's heart for beauty, order, and abundance represented in Jesus as well.

Before His ministry, Jesus was a craftsman and during His ministry He was a gifted storyteller and teacher. He brought beauty into the world similarly to how we all can, by using His gifts and talents to benefit and build up others. The social structure of Jesus's time was divided in various ways religiously, ethnically, economically, whether you were male or female, social status, etc. Jesus throughout his ministry displays the true order of equality by lifting up those society had considered less and challenging those who valued themselves above the rest. Jesus also brought order by fulfilling the Law and correcting distorted views of what following God looks like. Jesus displayed abundance through many of His miracles: turning water into wine, the miraculous catch of fish, the feeding of the 5,000 and 4,000, and the many people that abounded in health after being healed by Him.

Recognizing instances of beauty, order, and abundance in the Bible has helped me reflect on ways that we can bring those elements into a world that is desperate for them. In Ireland I helped a flower farm that sends all of its profits to the ministries in the Great Lakes regions in Africa, which was a great example to me of what producing beauty and abundance can look like. Other practical ways I see cultivating beauty in the world is through the arts and how they can reflect and share God's heart to ourselves and others. Order is being in right relation with others and with God which involves seeking God's definitions of right and wrong and praying for areas in our world that need justice, equality, and freedom. Abundance, in practice, is being aware of scarcity and helping to meet the needs of those who are lacking provision or relation. It is important that in the pursuit of these things we don't let beauty turn into vanity, order turn into control and domination, or abundance turn into greed.

By Jakob Turner

*How abundant are the good things that
 You have stored up for those who fear You,
 That You bestow in the sight of all,
 On those who take refuge in You.*



Psalm 31:19

Family News

Our Sympathy: *Pamela O'Neill's* brother recently passed away after a long illness; *Corky Arkfeld's* sister, Margaret, has also passed away.

Small Groups

Opportunity knocks! Have deeper relationships in a small group while studying God's Word and praying together. Pray about joining a group. Sign up at the display in the fellowship hall.

1. Tuesdays beginning Sept. 29; 7:00 pm, "Enjoying Bytes Together" Zoom Group, Mark Freudenburg (leader)
2. Thursdays beginning Oct. 1; 6:30 pm, Don Perdue (leader) Bev Perdue (hostess) Montague
3. Sundays beginning Sept. 27; 5:00 pm, James Johnson (leader) Leslie Tragitt (hostess), Yreka
4. Mondays beginning Sept. 21; 6:30 pm, Tom Clark (leader) Jack Darnall (host) Yreka
5. Mondays beginning Sept. 28; 6:00 pm David Vredenburg (leader) Bridget Vredenburg (hostess) Big Springs
6. Fridays beginning Oct. 2; 6:30 pm, Richard Black (leader) Kathryn Cowley (hostess) Little Shasta

Fall 2020

Opportunities for Women at GCBC!

Women's Bible Study during AWANA

Time: 6:15pm - 7:30pm

Location: Church Library

Twelve Women from the Bible

video and discussion
facilitated by Debbie Wetzig

All women are welcome!

Tuesdays - A nine week study of the Book of Romans chapter by chapter with discussion led by Laura Martin.
10:00 am in Hebrews; Childcare provided

Coming up...

Oct 17 Women's Hike

Nov 21 Pie-making

Dec 12 Ornament Exchange & Dinner

Follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information (Grenada Community Berean Church) and also pick up a church bulletin weekly!

Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 am Worship Service
In the Auditorium

10:45 am Worship Service
In Wetzigs' Backyard

For infants during the 9 am Worship Service:

Infant Cry Room for mothers with infants.

For Children during the 10:45 am Worship Service:

Nursery for infants and toddlers ages 0-3 located in the CE Building

Kingdom Kids for ages 4-1st grade dismissed before the sermon with teachers to room 2.

Club 3¹⁶ for grades 2-5 dismissed before the sermon with teachers to room 5.

Worship Service Online

Facebook Live

www.facebook.com/grenadabereanchurch.

Draw people to Jesus and grow together as His followers!

AWANA SNACKS NEEDED! Cookies, fruit, healthy snacks WITH NO NUTS, and crackers are needed for AWANA clubs! Individually packaged are helpful but large containers are good, too. We provide snacks for the nursery, Cubbies, Sparks, T & T's, Jr. High Youth group, women's Bible study, and staff so it takes a lot of food each Wednesday. Extra cookies will be frozen for future weeks! Thank you for helping the clubbers and staff feel truly welcome!



**13 week session
Beginning October 29
Thursdays @ 1:00pm**

Taking breaks for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Eve

Location:

Montague Methodist Church
150 S. 12th St. in Montague

If you have suffered the recent death of a loved one, *Grief Share* is a program that offers weekly devotionals, DVD presentations, a helpful workbook, and group discussions enabling you to find the peace and comfort you need to make it through.

Questions?

Contact the church office at 436-2529 or email: gcbcoffice1@gmail.com

Church Finances as of August 2020

YTD General Offerings: \$220,867

YTD General Budget: \$228,979

YTD General Expenses: \$225,553

Average Attendance YTD: 168

Our 2020 Budget Goal is \$346,859

Option for general giving... *You are welcome to give online for your general tithes and offerings! Go to our church website, www.grenadaberean.org and look for the "Donate" button on the home page. You can give through Pay Pal using your credit or debit card.*

You can also mail in or drop off your donation during office hours. Your gifts are tax-deductible.

Thank you for your faithful giving so that the gospel of Jesus Christ can be proclaimed in our valley and around the world. Please continue to pray for wisdom for our church board as they oversee our finances. God is the great Provider of all



All Church Prayer Service

6:00 pm, Saturday, October 24

In the Auditorium

*"They raised their voices together
in prayer to God." Acts 4:24*

Run to You Women's Prayer group meets outdoors behind the church on Thursdays at 9:00 am.

Prayer chain: To put a prayer request on our prayer chain, please call the church office 436-2529 or email: gcbcoffice1@gmail.com.

Listen on the Web!
Our Sunday morning message is put on the web each week.
Check it out at www.grenadaberean.org