

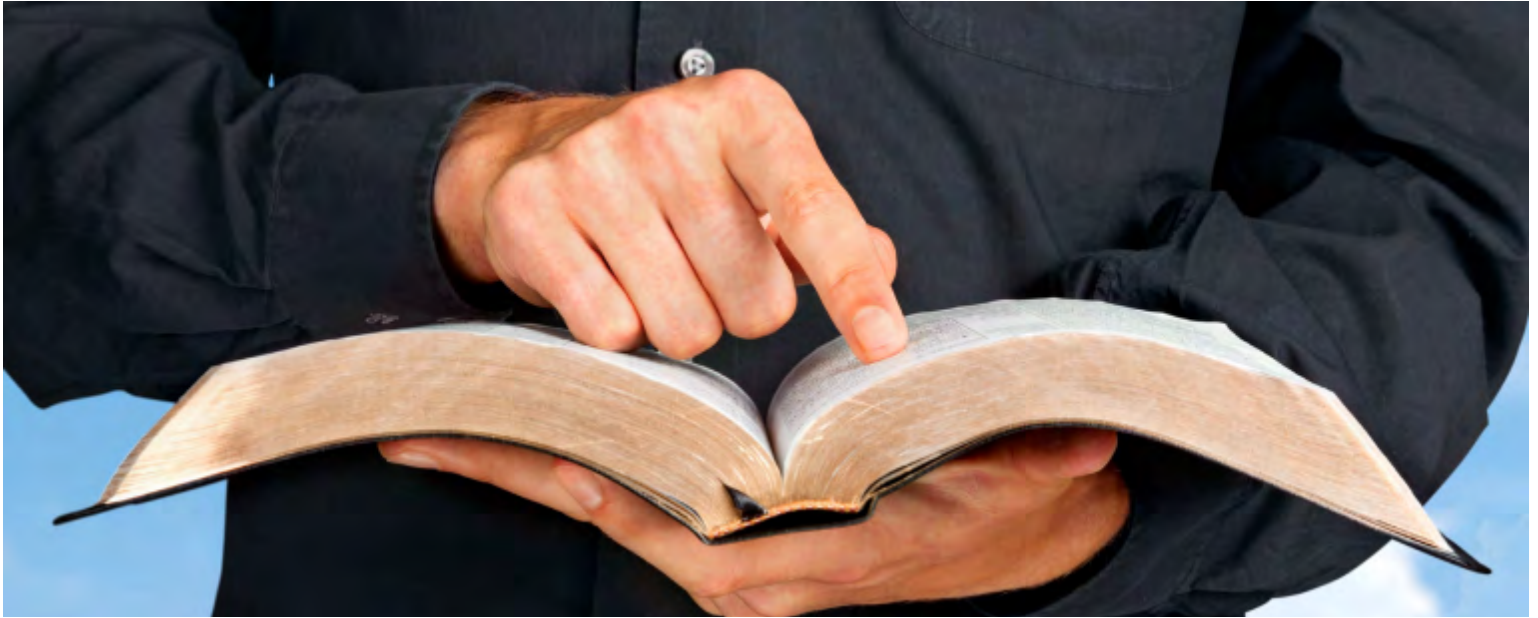


Spring 2017

BAYLOR TRUETT SEMINARY

The Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching

The Preacher's Briefing



Update from the Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching...

Greetings from the Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching and welcome to another edition of The Preacher's Briefing. As always you'll find links to helpful, informative, and sermon worthy links here.

The Kyle Lake Center just completed our twelfth E.K. Bailey Preaching Event featuring Bishop Keith Reed, pastor for 35 years of the Sharon Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA. This annual event celebrates both black preaching and the influence of E.K. Bailey on it. If you were unable to attend, I hope that you will take some time to view the sermons on our website. You be richly rewarded.

As we announced in the last issue of the Briefing, September 11-12 The Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching and the Baylor Institute for the Study of Religion will host "God's Word and Our words: A National Symposium on the Significance of Preaching from the Prophets to the Present and Beyond." The symposium will bring together a host of the most significant voices

in the study and practice of Biblical preaching today to consider the role of preaching past, present, and future. For more details on this historic symposium, please visit Baylor.edu/truett/preachingsymposium.

I am also very happy to announce that the Kyle Lake Center is now on YouTube. There you will find interviews with guests of the Center. Check us out. I hope all of these things will provide a deeper insights great preachers and great preaching. Now it's time for your Briefing.

Read and enjoy!

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December 11 Is When Most Break Ups Happen

Whether someone is trying to save cash on Christmas presents or doesn't want to introduce a significant other to the family when a relationship isn't going well, statisticians have found that December 11th is the date most couples break up. The date appears to be far enough away from Christmas so that plans can be changed and there is some time to adjust to the relationship change before Christmas.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2hx2V4y> | The Mirror

Lutherans and Calvinists Show Different of Christmas Views

Martin Luther and John Calvin show two different approaches that can inform Christians today. While Calvinists and Puritans rejected Christmas celebrations for the most part because they were not mandated in scripture, Luther advocated for a moderating view where festivities can be celebrated but only without overshadowing the religious meaning.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2gCjmrs> | Baptist Press News

Astronaut John Glenn Was a Committed Presbyterian

Former astronaut and senator John Glenn recently passed away at the age of 95 and is being remembered for his Christian faith as a long time Presbyterian. Glenn shared that seeing the earth from space only made him appreciate God's creation all the more. Glenn added that the scientific teaching such as evolution does not have to be in conflict with faith.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2gEAqNp> | RNS

Kansas City Pastor Focusing on Political Unity

Reverend Adam Hamilton, a methodist pastor from Kansas City is intentionally trying to pastor across the political divide. "When you have a congregation like ours that's divided on both sides of the political spectrum ... the question is how do I continue to be pastor for all of these people? And how do I help them hear each other?" writes Hamilton.

Source: <http://n.pr/2kr1ip3> | NPR

Eritrean Soccer Team Among Many Refugees

The country of Eritrea has been under emergency military rule since 1998 and the country has largely been under surveillance with limited liberties. Many are conscripted into the army without leave, and those who wish to travel out of the country require an exit visa. The entire Eritrean soccer team has defected, leaving their country behind in order to seek opportunities abroad. Many of the migrants traveling to Europe are from Eritrea.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2gtVPsq> | The New Yorker

Gatlinburg Man Shows Forgiveness after Losing Family in Fires

After losing his wife and 2 daughters in the Gatlinburg wildfires, Michael Reed reports that he has forgiven the teens who are accused of starting the fire. "We will pray for your peace. We will show you grace. Why? Because that's what Jesus would do" writes Reed in an open letter.

Source: <http://usat.ly/2h1n1Pq> | USA Today

X-Mas Is Still About Jesus After All

Many are up in arms over phrases like "Happy Holidays" or Merry X-Mas. But, what would happen to these signs if everyone understood that Xmas literally means Christmas in the original Greek? If you take a look, , which is Greek for Christmas starts with an X and when translated into English you can sub the letter X for Christ, something deeply Christian priests and monks have been doing since as early as 1021AD.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2h4QVmf> | Vox.com

78 Year Old Man Has Summited Mt Baldy over 750 Times

If you find yourself hiking California's Mount Baldy, you just may run across Sam, a mountain regular who believes hiking to be better than medicine. "I'm feeling God's embrace — this is better than church, my shortcut is the holy spirit" he tells fellow hikers as they climb. Sam plans to break 1,000 climbs by this time next year.

Source: <http://lat.ms/2h5LoMc> | LA Times

Former Professor Buys Seasons Hockey Tickets for His Deceased Love

Nationwide Arena, home of the Blue Jackets, saw it's 6th largest crowd for a regular season game the Thursday before Christmas. One of the only empty seats in the arena was next to long time fan John Kennedy, who still buys a season ticket for his girlfriend Jane who has been deceased for 5 years. "I keep it because it's her seat," says Kennedy, "She is there, she is at the game. Can you ever imagine what will happen when we get into the Stanley Cup final and she doesn't have a seat?"

Source: <http://bit.ly/2idzamY> | Blue Jackets Extra

Winner of Free Pizza Donates It to Food Bank

After leaving a session of chemotherapy for colon cancer, Josh Katrick learned that he won a year of free pizza from a nearby pizza restaurant in his Pennsylvania town. Katrick knew that he has been helped by many in his fight against cancer, so he wanted to pass on his blessings to others by donating the pizza to the Northampton Food Bank.

Source: <http://ind.pn/2iDM2CT> | The Independent

Disney World Creates Pilgrimage Experience

Visits to Disney World are considered to be an imitation of medieval pilgrimages according to anthropologists and religion scholars. The design of the park mimics medieval cities and pilgrimage centers with its bounded parks, central castle (replacing the church spire), and pathways divide the park into different sections. Disney offers a kind of other-worldly experience for visitors who momentarily escape their everyday worries and tasks.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2ihlh5j> | Atlas Obscura



**BAYLOR
TRUETT SEMINARY**
Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching

Upcoming Events

February 28, 2017

The Night Cometh –
Truett Seminary Lenten
Devotional

April 28th, 2017

Preacher's Bookshelf –
Dr. Ron Cook

September 11-12, 2017

God's Word, Our Word
symposium

The Incarnation Is About Grammar and God

Stanley Hauerwas notes that the grammar of the New Testament is essential in understanding the incarnation so that we realize Jesus was with God from the beginning but also was "begotten not made." He adds that the mysteries of God often escape us until someone gets it wrong, meaning that heresy can help us clarify what we believe as we respond to it.

Source: <http://ab.co/2ihnxK3> | ABC

Man Broke Into Church Just to Pray

The warden of a South London church found the side door forced open and every candle in the church lit. However, there was no other damage to the church beside the door. The man who broke in sat in the front row, quietly praying. The church has been vandalized in the past, but this is the first time that someone broke in for the purpose of prayer.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2j8dnQ3> | The Guardian

Paralyzed Officer Advocated for Reconciliation and Peace

Detective Steven McDonald of the New York City Police Department was shot in 1986 at the age of 29. The incident nearly claimed his life and left him paralyzed. However, McDonald forgave the teen who shot him, wrote letters to him while he served his term in prison, and then traveled the world to promote peace and understanding, including a trip to Northern Ireland. McDonald passed away this week.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2jb7tou> | Christian Science Monitor

How the Reformation Changed Germany

Austerity, a love of music, a passion for reading, and a careful eye for finances are all essential parts of the German culture today, and in many ways, these elements can be traced back to the ways that Luther's theology and practices shaped the German people during the Reformation. Luther's 500 year anniversary of posting his 95 theses at Wittenberg is being celebrated in 1,000 events in 100 locations throughout Germany.

Source: <http://econ.st/2ikTy3R> | The Economist

Jesuits Served as Diplomats Historically

As Jesuit missionaries traveled throughout the world, they provided a vital link between nations due to their fluency in Latin. Jesuits were able to forge agreements and treaties between nations as they served as de facto translators. However, there was a cost to this as well, since some Jesuits were swept up into the world of power and political intrigue.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2jcqv6G> | OZY

Friendship Benches Overcome Mental Health Stigma

In the African nation of Zimbabwe, depression and anxiety carry a stigma, and it's not uncommon for some to seek an exorcism. However, once counselors and other trained community members settle down for conversations on a park bench, they are more likely to be sought out by community members. A study of friendship benches found that nearly 90% of those who used them saw their depression and anxiety relieved.

Source: <http://n.pr/2jK98YS> | NPR

Majority of Workers Feel Like Imposters

A study of working professionals found that up to 70% struggle with the imposter syndrome, believing they are not qualified for their jobs. However, this mindset is often the result of unhealthy perfectionism, pessimism, and self-handicapping, such as delaying projects until the last minute. Talking with colleagues, collecting stories of hard-earned success, and letting go of perfectionism when mistakes happen.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2jRiYYN> | 99u

Marketers Use Scarcity to Manipulate Buyers

When a business notifies consumers that there is limited stock of a product, it's likely that consumers will assume this is a sign of the product being superior. This use of scarcity also adds an element of urgency, prompting consumers to stop debating a buying decision. However, a recent Geico ad may have flubbed the scarcity tactic by asserting that a stack of 10 cookies is better than one. However, studies of scarcity found that consumers assume the single cookie is better because that stack was clearly a better cookie.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2jRnGg3> | Neuro Science Marketing

Renegade Priest Went from Radio Pioneer to Axis Supporter

During the depression of the 1920's, Detroit priest Charles Coughlin launched a radio program at the start of the radio revolution. As more households bought radios, many found his messages easy to understand as he explained the ways that elites had given the poor and working class a raw deal. Coughlin soon turned away from American institutions and supported fascists in Europe until the Catholic Church shut him down.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2iH8dv5> | OZY

How to Avoid Medical Errors When You See a Doctor

There are 250,000 medical deaths each year that are traced back to physician error, and up to 40% of medical errors could be traced back to rude behavior on the part of a patient or parent who put a doctor under stress. Rudeness can prevent doctors from thinking clearly, remembering information, or to prescribe the wrong medication.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2iH8Lr> | OZY

Alaskan Town Embraces Heritage It Once Resisted

Ipalook Elementary School is located in Alaska, just within the Arctic Circle, and its students are primarily of Inuit descent. While the schools in this town had once banned their Iñupiaq language, the school's curriculum now integrates it into regular science classes and other activities, teaching even the non-native students the basics of the language.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2kiLDq2> | Orion Magazine

Languages Evolve and Sometimes Disappear

National Geographic's Vanishing Voices project studies the changes taking throughout the languages around the world. The project in particular will examine more than 3,000 endangered languages. The project records videos and transcribes details from the endangered languages.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2k6xE8V> | Free Tech for Teachers

Cleveland Restaurant Trains Former Prison Inmates

Over 200 former prison inmates have trained as cooks at Edwins restaurant, a French fine dining restaurant in Cleveland, OH and have not reoffended. Prison inmates can struggle to find work upon release, and restaurants can offer some of the best opportunities. However, Edwins goes a step further, training former inmates to become chefs and earning a reputation for serving excellent food.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2kpH7Gg> | Big Think

Is Your Optimism a Smoke Screen?

Social disapproval has been uncovered as one piece of the puzzle when it comes to our optimism bias. The majority of people assume that bad things may happen to other people, but they will somehow beat the odds in their own case. While some of this is a simple survival instinct, there are cases when people remain optimistic in order to hide something embarrassing.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2kq3xat> | Insead

Set Goals You Can Reach

A salesman reflects on the advice of an MLB pitching coach that he gives to his pitchers: "Hit the glove." That advice helped them focus on the most important practice for today that would ensure success down the road. Setting your sights on small, accessible goals can build momentum for success far more effectively than setting a lofty goal without a definite plan for reaching it.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2kq53cG> | Leadership Now

Stories Can Inspire Action and Change

While a story can serve the purpose of grabbing an audience's attention, it's even more effective when tapping into emotions so that listeners will change their attitudes and behaviors. Through good storytelling and imagination, leaders can communicate who they are, where they hope to go, and how others can join them.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2kSnYAi> | Insead

We Are More Aware of Loss Than of Gains

A study of food and drink supersizing found that consumers are significantly more aware of products that shrink than they are aware of products becoming larger. When a drink is supersized, consumers don't notice just how much more they receive. However, when a drink size is limited, consumers can very accurately determine how much less value they are receiving.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2kSsheX> | Insead

Indian Monks Make Cheese for Income

When the monks of the Benedictine Vallombrosian Order in Bangalore, India sought ways to earn an income, they ruled that making table wines, as Italian monks often do, would not work well in India. However, there has been a strong demand for all kinds of cheese in India, but imported cheese is too expensive. After contacting restaurants with samples of the monastery's cheese, the order produces over 220 pounds of cheese daily when the monks aren't practicing contemplative prayer.

Source: <http://n.pr/2kSQK3J> | NPR

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Source: <http://lat.ms/2h5LoMc> | LA Times

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