

THE BEACON BEAM

June 2022

TRUTH FOR TIMES LIKE THESE

Why Preach the Word?

By John MacArthur

For many reasons, faithful and full proclamation of the Word is the only right way to preach.

First of all, such preaching lets God speak rather than man, because it declares God's own Word. And it is an incredibly thrilling privilege to give voice to God!

Second, preaching the Word is the only right way to preach because it brings the preacher into direct contact with the mind of the Holy Spirit, the author of Scripture. It is for that reason that the preacher of the Word finds the process of study and discovery to be even more rewarding than the preaching that results from it, gratifying as that can be.

It is tragic and puzzling that so many preachers who recognize Scripture to be God's own Word spend more time investigating and interacting with the limited and imperfect minds of other men than delving into the infinite and holy mind of God. Part of the reason, of course, is that many hearers do not really want to delve into the depths of God's righteousness and truth, because it exposes their own shallowness and

sin. In his second letter to Timothy, Paul warned his son in the faith about the danger of those who hold "to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power" (2 Tim. 3:5). Later in that same epistle he would warn again that "the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine;...and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths" (2Tim. 4:3-4; cf. Acts 20:29-30).

Third, preaching the Word is the only right way to preach because it forces the preacher to proclaim all of God's revelation, including those truths that even many believers find hard to learn or accept.

Fourth, preaching the Word is the only right way to preach because it promotes biblical literacy in a congregation, not only through the increased desire to study Scripture more carefully and consistently on their own. The faithful pastor, and all other faithful believers, love to learn God's Word because they love the God of the Word.

Fifth, preaching the Word is the only

right way to preach because it carries ultimate authority. It is the complete and perfect self-revelation of God Himself and of His divine will for mankind, which He has created in His own image.

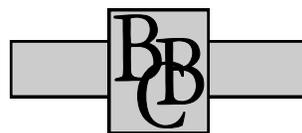
Sixth, preaching the Word is the only right way to preach because only that kind of preaching can transform both the preacher and the congregation.

Seventh, the final and most compelling reason that preaching the Word is the only right way to preach is simply that it is His own Word, and only His own Word, that the Lord calls and commissions His preachers to proclaim.

John MacArthur/Pastor-Teacher
Grace to You

Beacon Baptist Church

1622 Kirkpatrick Road
Burlington, NC 27215
(336) 226-5205
beaconbaptist.com
beaconbaptist@beaconbaptist.com



Gregory N. Barkman, *Senior Pastor*
Michael R. Karns, *Minister of Christian Education*
Robert F. LaTour, *Minister of Pastoral Care*
Gregory L. Phillips, *Minister of Music*
N. Hunter Strength, *Minister of Youth*

Sunday

Morning Worship...9:30 AM
Sunday School.....11:10 AM
Evening Worship.....6:00 PM

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting.....7:00 PM
IMPACT Clubs.....7:00 PM
Teen Ministry.....7:00 PM

A CHRISTIAN ANALYSIS OF CURRENT NEWS CONCERNING ROE V. WADE

by N. Hunter Strength

Preface:

As most of the Nation was preparing for the end of their day, a shockwave was sent through the world with power so undeniable that the eruption of Americans on both sides of the isle have been bursting forth with anthems of praise and shouts of anger. Yes, I am referring to the leaked draft from within one of the most tightly walled institutions in our country, the Supreme Court. In light of such a monumental event, I feel it necessary to write on the supposed leak from the Supreme Court and most particularly what it means for the Christian Church. With that said, I believe it to be beneficial to acknowledge two truths that, though they don't play into the final thrust of this writing's conclusion, do play a greater role in our understanding of this event.

Acknowledgement 1:

Regardless of what side of the political sphere one finds themselves sitting, this leak is one that proposes serious problems as highlighted by the Supreme Court's own Twitter account @SCOTUSblog. They write, "It's impossible to overstate the earthquake this will cause inside the Court, in terms of destruction of trust among the Justices and staff. This leak is the gravest, most unforgivable sin." Though the source of the leak has not been publicly identified, fingers have already begun to be pointed and pointed most notably at one liberal clerk serving the Court. But why? It is no long stretch to say that we have witnessed grave unrest in our nation throughout the past two years, most notably with the riots following the death of George Floyd. After seeing that, it would not take much to assume that such a leak would have been released with intent

to cause such political disturbance that would lead to reconsideration on the part of the Justices who find themselves in favor of abolishing Roe V. Wade. Though at this time that is merely speculation.

Acknowledgment 2:

As a Christian, I have found myself quite weary with how our community, most particularly those who find themselves frequenting so-

***“When justice is
done, it is a joy to
the righteous but
terror to evildoers.”***

Proverbs 21:15 (ESV)

cial media, has found itself enamored with fake news and conspiracy theories. Though this situation is far from either of those, it is necessary to reiterate that this is not a final ruling, but a leak. With that in mind there is also time for the Justices, who are currently sitting 5-4 in favor of overturning the ruling, to change their mind before their final ruling is delivered in June. Thus, we must find ourselves with cautious and prayerful optimism as it must be understood clearly that those who have played the drums around Molech's altar for almost half a century will not be so pleased to hear the music stop. But as Proverbs 21:15 (ESV) says, "When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers."

Analysis:

Roe V. Wade, the controversial Supreme Court ruling made with

a 7-2 majority in January of 1973, held that the 14th Amendment gave a woman implicit rights to access abortion within the amendment's provided right to privacy. This ruling, which has left our nation divided for over forty-eight years now, has, according to an estimate published in 2021 by The National Right To Life Committee, left some sixty-two million children dead within its wake. This has led us to where we are now with the potential of the approaching delivery of a ruling that would overturn such an "impactful" case.

So what does this mean? It means that, should this ruling be overturned, we would witness the ball being placed within the court of the individual fifty states where they would be responsible for ruling on the matter within their respective jurisdictions. In a recently published article by NBC News, Chantal Da Silva shares, "An NBC News analysis of Center for Reproductive Rights data shows that 23 states would institute bans, with "trigger laws" on the books in 13 of those states. A second abortion-rights advocacy group, the Guttmacher Institute, counted 26 states considered certain or likely to ban abortion, based on laws passed before and after Roe in the event it was overturned." If such estimations prove accurate, we would certainly witness a change of landscape on the matter, though not as radically as we should be pleased to see.

Call to Arms

Taking authorial liberty and openly holding to the presupposition that such a ruling as the one proposed in the leak should come to pass, we should sit to ask ourselves as the Church, "What now?" Well, should

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we find the power placed within the sphere of the individual states, we will also be lifting our eyes to find it sitting within our own backyards. Though I acknowledge to some extent the ball has been there for sometime, we should find ourselves with a renewed vigor as never seen before. In Proverbs 24:11 (ESV), we read, “Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.” This call to arms is not merely extended by your friendly neighborhood youth pastor, but by God Himself. Thus, we must genuinely ask ourselves, “How can we put shoe leather on this truth? What are we to do?”

First, we must earnestly seek the face of God. Though we may be tempted to have some sense of fleshly boasting in this moment within the realm of political rivalry, we must not think that this is the doing of the simple power of man. It is the Lord who has appointed such a time as this, and it is to that same Lord that we must come to for strength as we prepare to fight, asking that He would be pleased to go before us to change the hearts of those whom we come in contact with. Matthew 6:9-13 (ESV) “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” and it most certainly is God’s will that abortion be abolished.

Second, we must be active in the public sphere. Long gone must be the days of a passive Church and newly rediscovered must be the identity of the Church militant. We are the servants of the One true King who sits at the right hand of the Father and is actively placing His enemies beneath His footstool (Psalm 2). This same highly exalted Lord has commissioned you and me to go forward as He said in Matthew 28:18-20

“It is the Lord who has appointed such a time as this, and it is to that same Lord that we must come to for strength as we prepare to fight, asking that He would be pleased to go before us to change the hearts of those whom we come in contact with.”

(ESV) “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” And, lest we should find ourselves pessimistic in our venture, Matthew 16:18 (ESV) reads, “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” It may be most beneficial for us to take notice that gates are used by defenders and with this in mind we must both acknowledge that we are on the offensive and assume roles fitting to that reality.

Practically this would be seen as engaging the opposing viewpoint with unwavering dedication to truth seasoned with grace. It would entail us praying for and reaching out to our local and state leadership, calling upon them to acknowledge their roles as servants of God to govern righteously. It would look like ministering to the needy mother and coming alongside them as a present help providing care and counsel, or giving financially to Christian pregnancy centers that are dedicated to meeting the needs of

the women in our community, or prayerfully considering adoption. It would be the Church asking herself whether we are willing to be obediently active in the public sphere or not. This is not the final frontier. There are many fights to be fought, and they shall be won with the Lord on our side. But this is the one we find at our doorstep, and this is one of the battles before us.

Citations:

SCOTUSblog "It's impossible to overstate the earthquake this will cause inside the Court, in terms of the destruction of trust among the Justices and staff. This leak is the gravest, most unforgivable sin." 9:07 PM · May 2, 2022. Tweet

“NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE RELEASES EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT: THE STATE OF ABORTION IN THE UNITED STATES.” *National Right to Life*, 21 January 2021, <https://www.nrlc.org/communications/national-right-to-life-releases-eighth-annual-report-the-state-of-abortion-in-the-united-states/>. Accessed 3 May 2022.

Da Silva, Chantal. “Map: 23 states would ban abortion in a post-Roe America.” *NBC News*, 3 May 2022, <https://www.nbcnews.com/data-graphics/map-23-states-ban-abortion-post-roe-america-rna27081>. Accessed 3 May 2022.

SOME THINGS I HAVE LEARNED

Greg Barkman

Our church celebrated its forty-ninth anniversary last month. Where did the time go? It seems only a few short years since we started a brand new church with nineteen adults in May, 1973. Now, many of these dear folks are with the Lord, and others are struggling with health issues. Marti and I are still going strong, all praise to Him who reigns above. With hip replacement behind me in December, I have renewed mobility and energy, not to mention the absence of pain. Anniversaries are times for reflection, and I have been thinking about lessons learned during these forty-nine years as I have traveled the road from youth to senior citizen.

GUIDANCE. In my youth, I thought a lot about “finding God’s will for my life.” Did God want me to be a missionary, and if so, where? Did He want me to become a pastor? After concluding that God was directing me into the pastorate, the next question was where? Marti and I have fond memories of a lovely church in West Hartford, Connecticut, that extended a call to pastor. In almost every way, it seemed like the ideal situation. We loved the location, the people, and the prospects for this young and vibrant church. But for some reason, I just didn’t feel right about accepting their call, although I had a hard time explaining why. I simply could not feel at peace about saying “Yes.” After delaying my answer until I was embarrassed to wait any longer, I issued a reluctant, “Thank you, but no thank you. I just don’t have peace about it.” How does one explain a decision based upon “peace”? What is that, exactly? It’s impossible to explain fully, but I believe most Christians have experienced similar guidance in their lives. For questions about which the answers are not spelled out in the Bible, God has other ways of guiding His children.

“I just know that God was guiding me to North Carolina, and I have never doubted that once over these past forty-nine years. God knows how to assure His children in their decisions.”

Some months later, I was approached by a group of Christians from Alamance, North Carolina, who invited me to lead them in starting a new church. My first reaction was, “Thanks, but no thanks.” The initial circumstances were not as inviting as those in Connecticut, and I had several reservations about accepting this call, but over the course of two weeks, my perspective reversed completely. After much prayer as well as counsel from a couple of seasoned pastors, I knew in my heart that this was the place God wanted me to serve. I went from “No” to “Yes” in a very short time. This time, I had complete peace about my decision. Again, how can I explain this “peace”? I can’t. I just know that God was guiding me to North Carolina, and I have never doubted that once over these past forty-nine years. God knows how to assure His children in their decisions. Christians need not fret over discovering God’s will for their lives. If you sincerely want His guidance, He will make it plain.

PROVISION. Looking back to that humble beginning in 1973, I can scarcely believe how Marti and I

survived financially. We were truly as poor as the proverbial church mice, but never lacked anything we needed. God faithfully provided for our growing family. There were many times when I wondered how we could afford the necessities of life, but we prayed and trusted God at every juncture, and He always supplied. How would we pay for the first baby already on her way? One day as I was mowing the lawn, a man we barely knew drove up to our little two bedroom white frame rental house in Elon, got out of his old pick-up, and handed me an envelope with several hundred dollars. “I saw you at Holly Hill Mall the other evening. I realized your wife was expecting and I thought you could use some extra to help with the baby.” Amazing. “Thank you, Lord.” And so it went time and again. When I had a serious battle with cancer, God faithfully provided for every need. When we enrolled our four daughters, one by one, in Alamance Christian School beginning in Kindergarten, God faithfully supplied. Private school tuition for four children was beyond our means, but not beyond His. When it was time to send our girls away to college, God provided. As we faced the costs of four weddings, God provided. How does one survive college and four weddings on a pastor’s salary without debt? It seemed impossible, but with God, all things are possible. I’ve learned a lot about God’s provision over these years. Faithful service, frugal living, and generous giving invite God’s blessing. Dear friends, you can trust God to keep His promises.

PREACHING. At the beginning, my concepts of success in ministry were immature. I wasn’t comfortable simply preaching, and trusting God’s Spirit to do His work. I was full of

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fleshly programs to help make the church grow. It did, but the results were not impressive when evaluated by the Bible. Gradually, I learned to focus upon prayer and the ministry of the Word and leave the results to God. That's when the church began gaining spiritual strength. I must confess it was not easy to rely completely upon careful exposition of the Word and trust the Spirit of God to make this effective as it pleased Him. But that's what the Bible teaches, and gradually, I learned to trust His Word. As a pastor, my primary duty is to pray, prepare, and preach. The results are entirely up to God. If I am faithful in preaching, I will receive God's approval. If I resort to entertainment, gimmicks, and programs to make things happen, I may gain the applause of men but forfeit the approval of God. "Preach the Word" is my primary task, and I will be happy if my legacy is a reputation as a faithful preacher. Others may want to be known as a dynamic leader who knows how to make things happen. I want to be known as one who gave himself completely to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

FAMILY. God has graciously blessed me with a lovely wife and four beautiful daughters. No man could ask for a better nor happier family. Pastors often struggle with how to prioritize their time between family and ministry. There are no "one size fits all" answers. Am I neglecting my God given ministry responsibilities? Am I neglecting my God given family responsibilities? These are tough questions. I was encouraged by a conversation, many years ago, with my oldest daughter, Jordana. I asked her if she found it difficult to be a PK, a preacher's kid, knowing that she did not claim as much of my time as many of her friends with their fathers, and that she forfeited many of the luxuries enjoyed by some of her friends. I wondered if she resented the "glass

Gradually, I learned to focus upon prayer and the ministry of the Word and leave the results to God. That's when the church began gaining spiritual strength.

house" syndrome, as people nit-picked for evidences of failures that might diminish the reputation of her father. "No," she replied. "I've always considered it a privilege to be a pastor's daughter. I've felt blessed that God made me a PK." What more could I desire? I know I have failed as a father more ways than I can possibly count, but in our family, as in every other area of life, God has been both faithful and exceedingly kind. "Thank you, Lord."

HEALTH. Many of you know that I was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer in 1984. The outstanding doctor at Duke University Medical Center who treated me, predicted that the severity of the chemo would seriously damage my organs, and that I would not live much beyond the age of sixty. Then, in 1997, I survived another totally unrelated cancer, and a few years later, was diagnosed with a common but potentially serious heart condition known as a-fib. I am happy to report that I recently celebrated my seventy-fourth birthday, and that I am strong and healthy. My primary care physician told me that he calls me "The Miracle Man." "And why do you call me that?" I asked. "Because I don't know anyone who has had the kind of chemo

you've had, who is still alive, much less has decent health." Yes, I am indeed, a testimony to God's sustaining power. Why should I enjoy good health at this age, when so many others are struggling? Simply because God wills it. He, who appointed my health problems for His wise and gracious purposes, has chosen to confound the doctors, and grant good health to allow me to continue my life-long pastoral ministry. I have learned that I can entrust my health into His hands. If He deems it wise for me to struggle with illness, I know He will provide everything I need in that situation. If He chooses to give me a healthy mind and body at this stage of life, it is for the purpose of continuing to preach His Word. I am content and blessed. "All praise to Him who reigns above in majesty supreme."

Psalm 24

by Greg Phillips

The Earth Is the Lord's

PSALM 24

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters. Psalm 24 begins, as does Genesis, with an account of God's creation of the world out of nothing. King David adds in his song the logical and inevitable understanding of this creative act, that the LORD also *owns* it. And not only does He own the earth, but He also owns everything on it, including its inhabitants: *the world*. In the first verse of this psalm, we are already confronted with God's sovereignty over us, opposing our sin-deformed sense of independence and freedom: God owns us.

The next stanza of the psalm (vv 3-6) describes the ones who can enter into the place of the Lord. They are a "generation" of those who seek the Lord, not merely a group in time, but all those who receive their righteousness from God. In our case, the requirement for holiness is satisfied by the once-for-all sacrifice of God's own lamb, Jesus. In his time, David was qualifying those who obeyed the ritual sacrifices and were "clean," but he also added the invisible requirement of a pure heart, much as Jesus did in the Sermon on the Mount when he taught that the heart's intention of a sinful act is the same sin as the act itself.

The third stanza of the psalm (vv 7-10) speaks poetically to the gates and doors, asking them to open for the "King of Glory." David was bringing the ark, and thus the presence of God, into the meeting place of his day. Perhaps he was looking forward to the temple not yet constructed until Solomon's generation, even thinking of those doors as "everlasting." But we clearly see Jesus, the King of Glory, entering through "everlasting" doors to reign on a heavenly throne. With David we can sing this Psalm, looking forward as he did to the King of Glory entering truly everlasting doors, reigning forever over His redeemed people.



1. The earth is the Lord's and all it contains;
2. And who shall ascend the hill of the Lord;
3. This one shall from God his blessing receive;
4. O rise, ancient doors! Be lifted, ye gates!
5. O lift up your heads, ye portals of old!

the world, and all those who dwell on its plains.
or who, then, shall stand at rest in His ward:
and righteousness be his gracious relieve.
And welcome your King; prepare His estate!
And welcome your King; His glory be hold!

Up on the dark seas, its foundations are laid;
the one with clean hands and the purest of heart,
To all generations who seek for His face,
And who is this King, in His glorious might?
And who can it be, this our glorious King?

and deep in the rivers, its moorings are stayed.
who speaks not in vain, nor a falsehood imparts.
Al-mighty Jehovah shall pour out His grace.
The Lord firm in battle and strong in the fight.
The Lord God of hosts, whose great glory we sing!

Words: David P. Regier; Music: Joseph Martin Kraus, 1756-1792, in W. Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815 LYONS
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Congratulations! Graduates

High School

Zachary Beck—*Alamance Christian School*

Trinity LaTour—*Alamance Christian School*

Jack Verroi—*Alamance Christian School*



Saint Augustine was a crass hedonist before his conversion to Christianity. He pursued the sensuous route; he was a pleasure seeker. His famous prayer, penned after his conversion, expressed the human dilemma: “O God, thou has created us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee.”

Augustine saw a link between human restlessness, a gnawing form of anxiety, and living against the purpose of our creation. We were created for God. Just as fish are in despair out of water, so the human soul is in despair when it is outside the fellowship with God. The Westminster Catechism asks: “What is man’s chief end?” The answer provided is: “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever..”

—R. C. Sproul, *Running the Race*

THE BEACON BROADCAST

Monday thru Friday

WTTA 1490 AM (Knoxville, TN) 9:30 a.m.
WKBA 1550 AM (Roanoke, VA) 10:00 a.m.
WKPA 1390 AM (Lynchburg, VA) 10:00 a.m.
WBAG 1150 AM (Burlington, NC) 12:15 p.m.
WBAG 105.9 FM (Burlington, NC) 12:15 p.m.
WTRU 830 AM (Winston-Salem, NC) 2:00 p.m.
WDZY 1290 AM (Richmond, VA) 6:15 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
WDZY 103.3 FM (Richmond, VA) 6:15 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
WSKY 1230 AM (Asheville, NC) 7:15 a.m.
WYYC 1250 AM (York, PA) 5:00 p.m.
WYYC 98.1 FM (York, PA) 5:00 p.m.

Sunday

WCRU 960 AM (Charlotte, NC) 9:30 a.m.
WBAG 1150 AM (Burlington, NC) 10:30 a.m.
WTRU 830 AM (Winston-Salem, NC) 10:30 a.m.
WDRU 1030 AM (Raleigh, NC) 10:30 a.m.
WLES 590 AM (Richmond, VA) 10:30 a.m.
Harbour Light of the Windwards 9:30 p.m.
1400 AM/94.5 FM (Caribbean)
WGNQ mixlr.com/wgng-radio (M-F)
8:45-9 a.m. & 4:45-5:00 p.m.
(Internet station based in Greenville/Washington, NC)

Monday thru Sunday

WXTH-LP 101.7 FM (Richwood, WV) 10:05 a.m.
10:05 p.m.

BEACON HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNE

CALENDAR

- 05 Sunday School Promotion
Senior Day & Reception
Summer Elective Adult
Sunday School *begins*
- 12 Lord's Table
- 13 Tri-State Particular Baptist
Fellowship
- 16 Elders/Deacons Meeting
Silver Saints *Year-End-
Review*
- 19 Father's Day
Baby Day
- 23 Men Sharpening Men
- 26 Members Meeting

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Rachel Phillips
- 03 Ron Massey
Melanie Moody
- 05 Cheryl Ingold
- 07 Jeff Barnt
- 15 Linda Spencer
- 17 Suzann Lynch
Christen Verroi
- 20 Nellie Hunter
- 21 Shirley Watkins
- 22 Robin Allred
- 24 Dorothy Campbell
Gail Ellis
- 25 Gary Allred
- 26 Ryan Brigman
- 29 Kevin Kooy
- 30 Sue Elliott
Manuel Pitman

MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Isaiah Jensen*
- 05 Micaiah Bixby*
Alethea Johnson*
- 21 Tammy Honeycutt
- 30 Larrie Bunyan

*Children of Missionaries

*We express our heartfelt
sympathy to the families of:*

Brandon Graves
Greg Perry

The Beacon Beam
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