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Announcements:

[Homecoming Banquet](#)
6:30 p.m., Oct. 10, 2008
Enjoy an Enchanting
Evening on
La Rive Gauche, an
Art Show and Delicious
Dinner for only \$20.00

[Homecoming Week](#)
Oct. 6-10

[Union Gospel Mission](#)
Outreach this Friday night,
Sept. 19th, contact the ASB
for more information.

[Max Lucado Live](#)
Oct. 4th at
HP Pavilion, San Jose
Special Tickets
Two for One!
Contact Rita Springer
1-888-476-8749 x476

Election: He Chose

Ephesians 1:3-14 Part 3: Eph. 1:4

By Andrew Johnson

"...who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him." (Eph. 1:3b-4 NASB)

To some Christians, perhaps many, *election* is a scary theological term. Some may consider it a divisive doctrine, an invention of ivory-tower theologians. The term is perhaps most associated with John Calvin. For Paul, who taught it long before Calvin, election was a blessing from God the Father; it was one of the reasons at the beginning of Ephesians 1:3 he starts with *Blessed be God!* Even still it is one of the spiritual [blessings] with which God has blessed us. As I hope to demonstrate in the next article or two, in verse 4 we begin finding some of that "Wow..."

Please see *Election* on page 2

Getting To Know...Professor Ken Bluemel

By Priscilla Marshall

You walk into your first classroom, a little nervous, and skeptical of those brave enough to sit in the front row. You are a few minutes early. You wonder what this professor will be like. Then, in walks a man with a grin from ear to ear. He can barely contain his excitement. Some wonder what he is so excited about...but after a moment passes and you watch him grasp the pulpit and prepare to introduce himself, you get a glimpse of where the excitement comes from. Ahh, it is so clear and so splendid. It is the joy of the Lord in his heart, and what better thing to be excited about?

He introduces himself and says hi and thank you to a few students that he has had in previous classes. He starts in on the syllabi and what the expectations for the quarter will be...but he stops himself and looks up from the binder. He explains that this quarter is all about you learning and that he will take as much time as needed for questions.

Please see *Bluemel* on page 3

“Make California Ring” Feelings on Prop 8

By Priscilla Marshall



Dear Readers: We have been asked to help in getting the word out regarding “Prop 8,” which is on the ballot this November. This legislation proposes an amendment to the California Constitution that will specify that marriage is between a man and a woman, and not between two people of the same sex. Yes, Californians previously voted and passed a similar legislation eight years ago. However, the California Supreme Court 9th District has ruled that the previous proposition is un-constitutional. This is why gay marriage is currently legal in California.

Please see *Prop 8* on page 4

Election: He Chose, Continued from pg.1

...isn’t God incredible” theology we referred to in the first article. We will see this as we dig into verse four and find the theological treasure that election truly is.

The first thing to note about election in this verse is that it is *God who chose*. In the Greek the phrase *He chose* is one word, the verb: *exelexato*. The sense in which this verb is used places emphasis on the one doing the action. God the Father is the one “doing” the action of choosing. The “us” is the recipient of the action, we are the ones being chosen. Election is an act of God, and an action God does *by Himself* and *for Himself* (i.e. for His own interest). God’s own did not choose Him, nor did they have any part in their election. Neither is this election arbitrary; the elect are not winners of some celestial lottery. Rather they were chosen *by God* and *for God* according to *His* purpose, which Paul will expound upon throughout our passage.

The significance of Paul statement in Ephesians 1:4 is seen in another place where he wrote about election, Romans 9. There, in verses 8-13 Paul wrote of the election of Jacob over Esau. Before they were “yet born and had done nothing either good or bad” (v. 11 ESV) it was said that the “older would serve the younger.” The reason Paul gives, “in order that God’s purpose of election might continue.” The conclusion Paul makes, “it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God who has mercy.” (v. 16 ESV) And let us not miss what Paul says about the freedom of God, that “he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.” (v. 18 ESV) Election is the sovereign act of the “mercy-granting” God who is absolutely free, and would be absolutely just if He chose not to have mercy on anyone. If we, like the apostle himself, have experienced the grace and mercy of the Father, then we should with Paul exclaim, “Blessed be God!” for granting mercy on us.

In the next article we will continue looking at Ephesians 1:4.



...And so we may praise Him.

Delving Into Dylan

By Tim Souza

As a child, my parents used to tell me that coffee was an acquired taste. These “sophisticated”, well adjusted grown-ups, with more knowledge than me, drank it regularly so I aspired to do the same. Now I love coffee, I drink it all the time, but it took a while. I had to allow the intricate, bitter and earthy essence of the brew to reshape my taste buds.

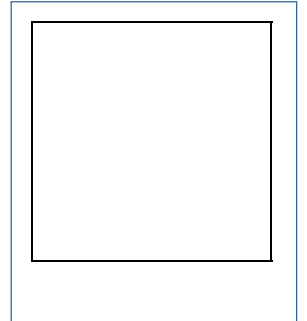
When I was in high school, already drinking coffee, I would frequent the local music store. Here among those who lived for music, was a name being thrown around with a similar respect that the “sophisticates” of my childhood showed to coffee. Bob Dylan was a name spoken with reverence by those “musicians” that I aspired to be clumped together with (at least by title).

My first foray into what I eventually found to be a world of its own, “The World of Dylan,” was a sampling of a few of his albums from the 1960’s. Over the course of the next year I listened to Dylan with a purpose, all the while his “legendary” qualities escaping my attention. At the end of that year I was handed another album of Dylan’s by a music teacher I knew. “Bringing It All Back Home” was released in 1965 and is considered by many to be one of the greatest albums of all time. This album was magnetic, and in turn shed a whole new light on the rest of Dylan’s library for me.

Let me say that I am aware that the man was (and probably still is) a hippy. On those albums he is singing about topics that, in some ways, I am very disconnected from. Nonetheless, he sings with passion and with an honest voice, his music sliding along to a very earthy rhythm. He wrote what can only be considered poetry, through a mind’s eye that saw with unmatched clarity.

Soon after my belated discovery of his talents, I found out that during the late 1970’s, Bob Dylan “found Jesus.” In keeping with his honest and heartfelt style of writing, Dylan began to write about his relationship with, and journey to Jesus. “Slow Train Coming” was the fist in a line of albums that were nearly completely dedicated to interpreting his faith into lyric.

Please see *Dylan*, on page 4



“Bringing It All Back Home”

Bluemel, *Continued from page 1*

Kenneth Bluemel is pastor, professor, father of five, and husband of 33 years! He finds that the most exciting part of working at TLBC is to equip men and women to do the work of God. All of his own children are grown and out of the house. He and his wife are experiencing the “empty nest” and loving every moment of it! He is close with all of his adult children, of which three are married. Ken and wife, Sherri, have five beautiful grandchildren. They work in every aspect of ministry together and it has been such a blessing for them to see their own children also go into ministry! Pastor Ken is the lead pastor at Skyline Christian Center. In this role, he gains true joy in sharing his faith with many people.

I asked Pastor Ken to share a scripture verse with us. He chose Matthew 22:37-40:

Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

It is by this verse that Kenneth Bluemel lives.

Prop 8, *Continued from page 2*

The goal of *Proposition 8* is to overturn the California Supreme Court ruling and to restore the definition of marriage, as was previously passed by 61% of the voters. This is the new ruling that gay marriage is acceptable. If your stance states otherwise, then get in the poll booth and vote “yes” on *Prop 8*, so that marriage will return to being legal only between a man and a woman.

As for LetCaliforniaRing.org...How many have seen the commercials? There's one where the bride is all pretty in her wedding gown, and then breaks a heel. The people don't look happy and she trips and falls. The kicker is when she finally makes it to the isle and an older woman sticks her with her cane and she falls. The groom tries to rush to her side, but he is held back. It is a very sad commercial

and it may pull at some heart strings. Then on the screen it states “What would it feel like if you couldn't marry the person you really loved?”

This is manipulation by the media. It is very effective for those who have not yet decided how they will vote on this issue. This commercial campaign exists solely to gain votes against *Prop 8* and gather positive views of gay marriages.

An organization that is backing *Prop 8* is ProtectMarriage.com. So, if you would like to research this issue more thoroughly, please check out the websites mentioned in this article and then write and let us know:

What is your stance?

Dylan, *Continued from page 3*

Before these albums came out and before he openly professed his Christian faith, Dylan wrote many songs that reflected his search for a spiritual awakening. These mere hints to a spiritual reality matched Dylan's reputation as a kind of chameleon, changing topic constantly.

On some levels Dylan is an open book, translating his persona and his music to reflect his intellectual or spiritual journeys. On another, all too overpowering level, he is a man of mystery, seemingly conscious of all the games of hide and seek he plays with his audience. Undoubtedly, his personal thoughts lace his lyric with the potential to pack a punch of honesty. How much of this is a game, and how much is the bearing of his soul? We may never know.

What I do know is that Dylan is one of a kind. He is a singular talent. Truly, he is unmatched in modern times in terms of lyrical prowess. At times he shares Christ with a passion. At times he weaves incredible stories of heartache and humor. At all times he is an artist who demands your diligent attention.

BOX LUNCHES

This week's lunch is available Friday, September 19th from 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. Enjoy a fresh, homemade Chicken pasta salad with fruit, dessert and a drink for only \$6. Order forms are in your mail box.

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