

The Hill (B.A.S.I.C. Training)

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Thanks

Truly, what a Friend we have in Jesus! Never have I been so thankful for His companionship and encouragement. Not once has He been unfaithful to His promises, even when my understanding of His ways has been clouded by the demands of the moment. No doubt, the pursuit of truth (the Person of Jesus—John 14:6) has been the most rewarding aspect of my life. Nothing can compare! Why? Truth cannot be stolen, lost, misplaced, or destroyed. It cannot become flawed, stained, discolored, blemished, or tarnished. Its value, therefore, is limitless—better than gold, yes, than *“fine gold”* (Proverbs 3:14). Consequently, the pursuit of truth is the most valuable use of one’s time, reaping dividends of eternal significance that cannot be swept away. This is great news for the passionate heart, especially considering the uncertainty of the times. My prayer, therefore, is that 2011 will yield bountiful blessings as we pursue the One who is our life (Colossians 3:4).

Ministry News

As every believer understands, to have opportunity to serve the Lord is not only a tremendous honor, but an incredible blessing as well. To see God’s people mature in the faith, and in turn, teach others what they have come to know, is as good as it gets. However, the average home in America, regardless of the socio-economic level, faces enormous challenges. These challenges are not only real, but in many cases, overwhelming. What is the answer? The answer is what many people seek from this ministry. They come with their broken lives, asking what can be done to remedy the chaos. We hurt with them, pray with them, cry with them—our hearts are broken with their broken hearts and lives. However, as hard as this may seem, the answer is not deliverance from the circumstance, but accepting God’s grace while in the midst of the circumstance. Once one learns to live as such, deliverance from the circumstance may very well come. If not, sufficient grace will be provided to live above. This is the only remedy, no matter who might disagree or teach to the contrary; for it is the heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ, who was not delivered from the cross, but delivered in the midst of it to the Father’s glory. Pray for us, therefore, that we might understand this truth ourselves, and in turn, be used of the Lord to communicate it to others. Many have much to unlearn before embracing this core reality of what Jesus demonstrated so powerfully. In fact, many are being taught that adversity in one’s life is, in every case, a result of sin in one’s life. If this were true, Jesus was the greatest sinner of all.

As was stated in our last newsletter, we have asked the Lord to open a wider door of ministry to college students throughout this land. He is honoring our prayers, for Rick and Donna Underhill met with Murray State students (on campus) this past semester. Our first “official” winter college retreat is also scheduled January 7-9, 2011 here on the hill. This retreat will allow the high school students who have attended our summer and winter camps to continue visiting after they enter college. As you probably know, this ministry began as a college ministry. We are excited to see what the Lord has in store.

We will offer a new video link to topical studies in the spring of 2011. These teachings will be videoed on the hill and posted on our website (www.lifeonthehill.org). A variety of topics will be addressed from a Scriptural basis, so hopefully they will serve as an encouragement to you.

Next semester, I will finish the series titled *God’s Heart*, a five semester study. Thus far, we have covered the following subjects: foreknowledge, predestination, sovereignty, free will, and depravity. We began election last semester and will finish it, along with atonement (limited or unlimited), grace (irresistible or resistible), and perseverance of the saints versus the security of the believer, the spring semester of 2011. *Foreknowledge/Predestination*, the first semester’s materials, will be published and available in January. Outside of the Romans series, this may be the most important series I have taught to date. In fact, if I could have my son Benjamin leave home with anything his dad believes, it would be the truths from Romans and this present series. Yes, I deem it that important. Why? It, as much as anything I have taught,

confirms the reliability and infallibility of the full counsel of God's Word. To state it differently, it proves that God is anything but a contradiction and will have nothing to do with the same.

I plan to write a course on Romans 9-11 when this present series is completed. I also plan to rewrite the Romans 1-8 course, adding additional input, as soon as possible. I might even teach the new addition of Romans 1-8 before teaching Romans 9-11, but that decision will be made in the spring.

Events to Consider Attending on the Hill

<u>January 7-9, 2011</u>	Annual college retreat
<u>January 14-16, 2011</u>	Annual winter youth retreat
<u>January 18, 2011</u>	Tuesday night Bible study here on The Hill (7:00 pm).
<u>April 28-May 1, 2011</u>	Annual men's retreat for fathers, their sons, and single men of all ages.
<u>July 10-16, 2011</u>	Annual summer camp for youth (ages 13-18)
<u>August 5-6, 2011</u>	Annual Romans retreat
<u>September 2-4, 2011</u>	Annual discipleship retreat
<u>October 14-16, 2011</u>	Annual fall retreat for couples and singles

A Word of Thanks

Not a day goes by that we do not thank the Lord for your friendship, support, and encouragement. We pray for you regularly, asking the Lord to meet your needs during this season of economic uncertainty. Some who have graciously supported us in the past are unable to do so at this time. If you are one of those individuals (or Christian ministries), we look forward to hearing how God provides through His limitless resources. No doubt, He will meet your needs, as He has ours, even if by means outside the comprehension of man (1 Kings 17:6). Keep good notes, therefore, as to how He provides; for it will be a powerful testimony when the storm subsides. And yes, it will subside!