

Shepherd's Voice

Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter



Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

The Minister's Musings

Bro. Archie Miller

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The Bible Project

A year or two ago, I became aware of a website that IS awesome –

<https://thebibleproject.com/>

The Bible Project has more than 1.2 million subscribers on YouTube and over 90 million total views on their videos. Bible Project founders, Tim Mackie and Jon Collins, were friends and roommates all through their days as students at Multnomah University, a non-denominational Christian university in Portland, OR. Tim went on to earn a Ph.D. in Hebrew and Jewish Studies; and is now Professor of Old Testament at Western Seminary. Jon Collins became a specialist in graphic design. They pooled their talents and desires to create one of the most unique ways of presenting the Biblical message. They wanted to connect the world through videos that presented the Bible as “a unified story that leads to Jesus.”

There's a lot to like about these videos. They are beautiful to watch and bring together words and images really well. They also provide lots of good background to books and ideas that would be unfamiliar to most of us. It's also great how they bring every book and theme back to Jesus. As they say on their homepage: “Our mission is to show how the Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus.” They do that very well.

Mackie and Collins want to use exciting images to pull people into the Bible. Dr. Paul Pastor's article in Christianity Today captures this concept: “My screen fills with a glow of color, rich golds and reds blending and shifting. Particles phase into the outline of a DNA double helix, mimicking the pinpoint lights of the globe. A soothing voice speaks, and a story leaps into animated life: a man falling victim to a cosmic setup, a heavenly gamble with the reputation of God at stake. A whirlwind forms among the images, constellations flickering within like lightning or the synapses of a great mind. All morphs into a virtual tour of the universe. Sea turtles swim among the stars; the rings of Saturn give way to underground caverns prickling with crystals.

It plays on, until in just 4 minutes and 39 seconds I have ‘seen,’ like never before, the Book of Job. It's time I read Job again, I think.”

I have two theological disagreements with the Bible Project, but still we'll be seeing some of the videos here at Orcutt Christian Church soon.

Elder Ed Saunders



We ALL Need Support

We have a fine group of people here in Orcutt Christian Church. We are supportive of one another. But, as you know, support is far more than just words. In any family, including the family we call the church, we need Spiritual support, we need financial support, and we need physical support.

Thankfully, we always see some who are willing to answer the call for support.

Here am I. Send Me!

The family is always growing when the family supports each other and their cause. As Christians we are adopted children of God. Paul tells us of our new bloodline when he writes: “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.” (Romans 8:16–17). We are children of God and a fellow heir with Christ. Before the foundation of the world God had us in mind. He created us and then he adopted us as his very own children.

But it came at a price.

In order for us to be brought into God’s family, his Son had to die. God gave his Son for us to be called sons of God. We know that Jesus’s death wasn’t short and quick. It was long and agonizing — and it was for us.

As the family of God, we are there when the family meets to worship and serve; we are there to encourage each other. Paul says it this way: “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*.” (Hebrews 10:24-25) In any family, including the family we call the church, we need Spiritual support, we need Financial support, and we need Physical support. If we don’t have financial support in our homes, the needs of the family are not met.

Our church family has a place where we meet to encourage each other, where we gather to worship the God who redeemed us, where we assemble to learn from His Bible. As a family we each have a part to meet the financial requirements needed to maintain our facilities. Without our financial support the needs of others go unmet.

1 John 3:1-2 says, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God ... Beloved, now are we the sons of God... we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

When we gave our lives to Christ, we made a pledge, a vow, to do all we can, physically, financially, spiritually, to see the cause of Christ go forward.

Invite a Friend to Friend's Day