

Volume IV, Issue 6 \ June 2011

# PERSPECTIVE

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF MOUNT VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH



*Proverbs*  
*Words on Friendship*





850 Mt. Vernon Hwy. NW \ Sandy Springs, GA 30327  
Phone: 404.255.3133 \ Fax: 404.255.3166  
info@mvbchurch.org \ www.mvbchurch.org



**Aaron Menikoff**  
Senior Pastor  
aaronmenikoff@mvbchurch.org



**David Carnes**  
Associate Pastor/Corporate Worship  
davidcarnes@mvbchurch.org



**Jacob Hall**  
Pastoral Assistant/Youth  
jacobhall@mvbchurch.org



**Chip Cofer**  
Recreation Minister  
chipcofer@mvbchurch.org



**Kathryn Searle**  
Children's Ministry Assistant  
kathrynsearle@mvbchurch.org



**Anne Russo**  
Financial Assistant  
annerusso@mvbchurch.org



**Bryan Pillsbury**  
Associate Pastor/Missions  
bryanpillsbury@mvbchurch.org



**Brad Thayer**  
Assistant Pastor/Administration  
bradthayer@mvbchurch.org



**Terry Earl**  
Children's Ministry Coordinator  
terryearl@mvbchurch.org



**Priscilla Barry**  
Administrative Assistant  
priscillabarry@mvbchurch.org



**Bert Neal**  
Administrative Assistant  
bertneal@mvbchurch.org

## STAFF > SERMON SCHEDULE

June 5	<b>Will God Give Up on Me?</b> <i>Numbers 27:12-36:13</i>
June 12	<b>When God Answers Prayer</b> <i>Psalms 3</i> Jacob Hall, Pastoral Assistant
June 19	<b>Find True Joy</b> <i>James 1:1-18</i>
June 26	<b>Look to the Word of God</b> <i>James 1:19-27</i>

## > FIGHTER VERSE

<sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

## INSIDE THIS EDITION > Serving the Body: Deacon Recommendations

A brief announcement from the Elders discussing the recommendation of Deacons.

page 1

## The Bookshelf: Reverberation by Jonathan Leeman

A book review concerning the effect God's Word has on the life of the local church.  
by Brad Thayer

page 2

## Proverbs: Words on Friendship

An article on biblical friendships.  
by Aaron Menikoff

page 4

# Serving the Body Deacon Recommendations

The Elders have been discussing Deacon ministries and are now ready for your recommendations for men to serve as Deacons. Please keep in mind the following:

- Read Acts 6:1-4 and I Timothy 3:8-13 and prayerfully consider the men that exemplify those biblical qualifications.
- All adult male members, *excluding* Staff and Elders, are eligible to be recommended.
- All forms are due by the end of **Sunday, June 19**. You may place them in the offering plate or return them to the church office.
- The Elders will nominate men to serve in specific ministries for your approval on **Sunday, July 3**. You will have nearly one month to consider the nominees and voice any questions or concerns you have to the Elders.
- You will be asked to vote for men individually to serve in specific Deacon ministries at the next quarterly Church in Conference on **Sunday, July 31**.

Please let the Elders—Gerry Chatham, John Hall, Jim Heiskell, Ken Henson, Aaron Menikoff, Bryan Pillsbury, Hank Sturgess, Brad Thayer, and Mike Wilkinson—know of any questions you may have. We are praying that the Lord will give us wisdom and a spirit of unity.

Recommendation forms will be available inside the weekly bulletin and at the church office.

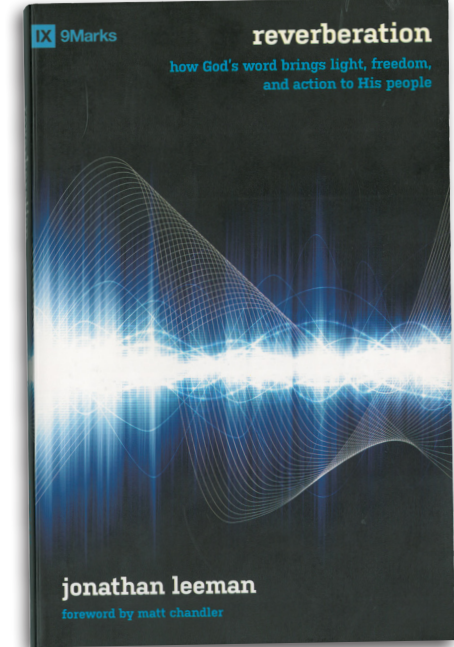
## Before You Give Up...

On June 19, Pastor Aaron will start an eight-part sermon series through the book of James.

Each sermon will be available online the Monday after it is delivered through the Mount Vernon Podcast on iTunes, in *The Courier*, or on the church's website at [www.mvbchurch.org](http://www.mvbchurch.org).

Sermons will also be available on CD for \$5 per copy.





# Reverberation: How God’s Word Brings Light, Freedom, and Action to His People

by Jonathan Leeman

*Reviewed by Brad Thayer*

CONSIDER THIS COMMON SCENARIO. You are informed one day that you have to relocate for your job, thereby uprooting your family from everything and everyone you’ve known and loved. After accepting what may have been a difficult decision or requirement, you prepare for the big move by making checklists. You have lists of all the details to handle before you leave and when you arrive. And somewhere in the midst of compiling all the to-dos, you spend a little time researching churches to visit after you’re settled.

Fast forward to the new city. You’re settled and start visiting churches, and here’s the stated or unstated question in your mind: What’s the *most* important thing in finding a church? What will determine whether or not to attend more than once? Is it the preacher’s oratory skills, the emotions you feel from the music, the building’s aesthetics, the friendliness of the people, or the ministries provided? Is it the church’s cultural relevance, trendy attire, or casual atmosphere? Is it the number of people similar to you in age or life experience? Is it the church’s involvement in the community? Or is it just something indescribable that left you feeling inspired?

What is *central* to a church’s life is an important topic for Christians to consider. It is the biblical pattern, expectation, and command that Christians gather together in local churches. If you’ve been a Christian for any length of time, you’ve most likely been involved in a church as part of your walk with Christ. So why is it that you choose to gather with this body (or whatever body you gather with) versus another body of believers? Jonathan Leeman’s *Reverberation: How God’s Word Brings Light, Freedom, and Action to His People* is a gift to Christians in thinking through what gives “octane for powering life and growth in our churches” (17).

*Reverberation* is, very simply, a book about God’s Word in the life of a local church. God’s Word is spoken from the mouth of

the preacher into the lives of the people. But it doesn’t end there. It reverberates to the church’s music, prayer, and ministries. It bounces back and forth in conversations among elders and members. It echoes outside the walls of the church building into the homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods of members. *Reverberation* explains how this happens in theological and practical terms.

Leeman’s main point is biblically grounded, pointed, and timely in our modern church culture: “God’s Word, working through God’s Spirit, is God’s primary instrument for growing God’s church. In fact, God’s Word is the most powerful force in the universe” (19). That is the point, simple and straightforward. If that is true, what does it mean for local churches like Mount Vernon? “*One thing is necessary* in our churches” writes Leeman, “hearing God’s Word through preaching, reading, singing, and praying” (22, original emphasis).

Now at this point in the review, stop and re-read the previous paragraph. Did anything stand out to you? Anything like “the *most powerful* force in the universe?” Leeman himself emphasized something that is striking—“*one thing is necessary* in our churches.” There’s only one thing that is *necessary*? Being on staff, I spend time doing a lot of different things that seem pretty necessary to this church’s life. But could there really be just *one thing* that is necessary? Could growing a fruitful, joyful, healthy, Christ-like church really be so straightforward and non-formulaic? Before I answer that, let me summarize the book.

## Summary

*Reverberation* is divided into three parts—The Word, The Sermon, and The Reverberation. In “The Word,” Leeman shows how the Word of God, i.e., the Bible, is spoken from the preacher or evangelist’s mouth and has an effect on their hearers. It “invites and divides.” He writes, “This is the dividing

line that runs through all history and humanity: God’s people listen to God’s Word; no one else does” (31). Chapter two, “The Word Acts,” is the most important for supporting everything else in the book (47). He gives “five reliable statements” from Scripture proving how God identifies Himself with and acts through His Word. So the Word invites, divides, and acts. It also “frees” enslaved human hearts from the power of sin. As a matter of fact, “*Only the truth of God’s Word* working with the Holy Spirit” can free an enslaved heart” (70, emphasis added). That truth has implications for understanding the “relationship between the Word’s unique power [to free] and the host of other factors that seem to play a role in a ministry’s outward success” (74). Such factors include a preacher’s speaking ability, the church’s financial resources, and much more. Lastly, “the Word gathers.” As the Word is spoken, it gathers people from humanity, creating them anew, and in turn the people gather to hear and learn how to obey the Word. It’s like a boomerang that goes out and comes back.

In part two, Leeman addresses the main way the Word of God is communicated in the life of a church—“The Sermon.” The sermon is to “expose” the meaning of the biblical text, simply and directly, to God’s people (110). The “best manner” of doing that is through expositional preaching (113-115). The content of the sermon is about “announcing the amazingly good news of Jesus Christ” (124). Lastly, the Word in the sermon “confronts your present reality, and then the Spirit gives you a new one” (141). Leeman rightly notes how the sermon confronts the fundamental problem with humanity. He writes, “If our basic problem is self-rule, then we must be confronted again and again at the point of our wrong allegiance and called to a better allegiance” (143). The preacher’s goal in the sermon is to confront four areas in the congregation—the worldview, spiritual state, social state, and corporate meaning.

In part three, “The Reverberation,” Leeman shows how the Word ministry in a church is not limited just to the pulpit. Rather, it goes out from the pulpit to “reverberate” throughout the church’s entire ministry, namely the singing, praying, discipling, and evangelizing. The Spirit of God works in the lives of individuals as they sing the Word to one another in corporate worship, as the pray the Word for each other in private and corporate prayers, as they disciple other members and practice church discipline with the Word, and as they speak the Word in the world thereby fulfilling God’s plan for creation.

## Implications

So can it be so straightforward and non-formulaic that in order to have a growing, Christ-like church only “*one thing is necessary*,” namely hearing God’s Word through the church’s preaching, reading, singing, and praying? Is it true that God’s Word is the most powerful force in the universe? In the simplest term, yes!

If a Word ministry is the one necessary thing to the life of Mount Vernon then there are implications for our corporate gatherings and ministries. Let me mention just a few. Some are derived from *Reverberation*, and this is in no way an exhaustive list.

## Corporate Worship

The Word ministry begins in the pulpit during our main corporate gathering. It starts as the preacher reads, explains, and applies the meaning of the biblical text. Therefore, the sermon should take up the majority of time in the service. It means that

the point or theme of the sermon will inform what songs we sing. The songs should accompany or accentuate the theme. The Scripture reading and prayers are read and prayed with the theme in mind. If the Word is central, we should seek to remove unnecessary distractions from it and pray that God would bring people to Himself through the preaching of it.

## Leadership

The biblical leadership structure in a church reflects the fact that the Word ministry is the one thing necessary to our life together. This is why one of the two unique qualifications of an elder, a spiritual overseer in the church, is that he be able to teach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9). This is why the apostles had the church appoint deacons in Acts 6. An important physical need (one could call it ministry) needed attention lest it take away the apostles’ time from the ministry of the word and prayer (Acts 6:1-4). This means that you should pray that your Elders would know the Word, model obedience to the Word, and care for you with the Word. They are not administrators, directors, or managers of programs but pastors of people. And the tool God has given them to use in the church is to teach, pray, and model obedience to the Word.

## Membership

As the Word goes out from the pulpit, it reverberates in the conversations among members. Practically speaking, as you have a meal with another member talk about the sermon and service. Ask others two simple questions: How were you convicted of your sin, and how were you spiritually encouraged this past Sunday? One of the ways you ensure the Word is reverberating outside of the corporate worship service is to regularly engage in spiritually encouraging conversations.

The Word reverberates also as you get to know new members. I encourage you to have dinner with two new members over the next two months and ask three questions in your time together: How did you come to know the Lord (the Word first at work in the person’s life)? How are you growing spiritually (the Word still at Work in the person’s life)? How can I be praying for you (pleading that the Spirit would use the Word in very specific ways)?

## Finances

The church’s finances should be seen as a means of promoting and reverberating the Word ministry and not the result of the Word ministry. That has very practical application for how we think about our church budget. As we prepare a budget, it’s appropriate to ask, “Are we trusting in these resources to grow and prosper the church or God’s Spirit through the Word?” Every ministry, program, and administrative cost should be evaluated to ensure that it is building a good platform for the Word to do its work. At times it may mean funding facility renovations in order to have a safe and presentable building in which to gather. It also may mean budgeting more by faith or sacrificing in a particular area in order to fund a strategic mission or ministry opportunity. And it means that the more you give generously and sacrificially the more opportunities there are to see the Word reverberated here and across the world.

## Conclusion

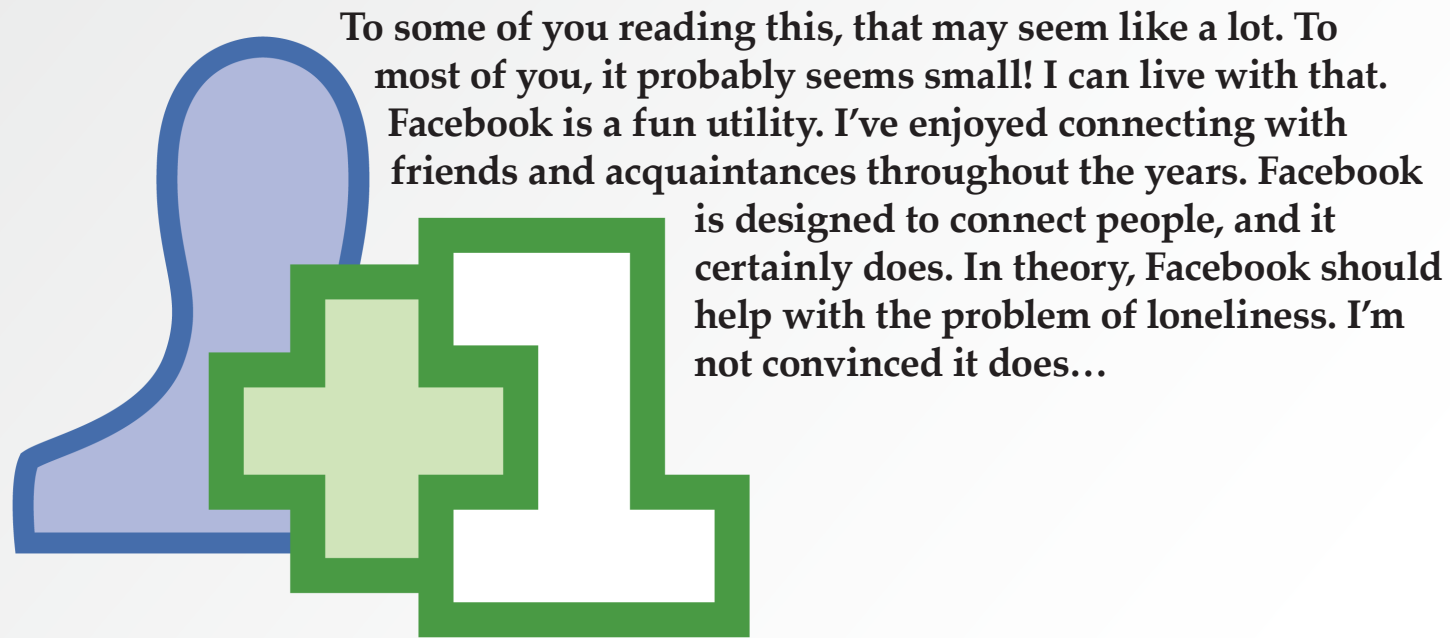
As a Christian, you’ve given a lot of time, effort, money, and emotional and spiritual energy for a local church. But have you spent all of that to ensure that God’s Word is central? ■



# Proverbs

## Words on Friendship

As of now, I have 541 “Facebook” friends.



To some of you reading this, that may seem like a lot. To most of you, it probably seems small! I can live with that. Facebook is a fun utility. I’ve enjoyed connecting with friends and acquaintances throughout the years. Facebook is designed to connect people, and it certainly does. In theory, Facebook should help with the problem of loneliness. I’m not convinced it does...

Facebook can make loneliness worse. The more we are able to look at one another’s lives without actually being in one another’s lives the easier it is to feel alone. The more we call “acquaintances,” “friends,” the less friendship actually means. Using Facebook to make real friends makes as much sense as using a putter to drive a golf ball.

In this article, I want us to think about friendship. I’m surprised we talk so much about marriage, when not everyone is married, and so little about friendship, when we can all be friends. C.S. Lewis argued that we largely ignore the topic of friendship because few of us truly experience it. Is he right? Do you have dozens or hundreds or thousands of acquaintances but no real friends?

The book of Proverbs forces us to stop and think about friendship. Friendship is a prominent theme in the book. As we learn about friendship from the pages of Proverbs, we learn more about our God who has befriended us in Christ. To help us better think about friendship, I want to ask four questions.

### First, who is a friend?

The Bible has several words that are translated “friend.” Sometimes they mean little more than a friendly acquaintance. Other times they refer to a best man. In Proverbs, though, a friend is like a brother or sister. A friend is someone who draws near to give and receive encouragement.

Not everyone who presents himself as a friend is really a friend. In Proverbs chapter 1, Solomon tells us his son will be tempted to draw near to people who will cause him harm—they aren’t true friends. Proverbs 14:20, “The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends.” Proverbs 19:4 makes a similar point: “Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man’s friend deserts him.” In both cases, these aren’t real friends. Money can’t buy love or friendship. These false friends are simply using the wealthy as a tool to meet their needs.

Sadly, people will pretend to be friends when they want something from you. Maybe it is money. Maybe it is prestige. Maybe it is time.

So we learn that when it comes to defining friendship, our motives matter. This should force us to think about why we pursue the people we pursue. Are we wanting to draw near to them to encourage them and be encouraged by them, or are we hoping that if we are near them, we will get something from them: money or popularity or access or affirmation? A true friend draws near to give and receive encouragement.

### Second, how do you make a friend?

One of the most famous friendships in the Bible is that between David and Jonathan. As you read through the book of 1 Samuel, David and Jonathan are both striking figures. They are brave and honest and worthy of respect. They meet after David kills Goliath and stands before King Saul, Jonathan’s father. It is at this point that they become friends. But we don’t know why. We simply read in 1 Samuel 18:2, “From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father’s house. And

Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.”

Providence brought David and Jonathan together. Think about your own friendships. Do you know what, exactly, made you friends? God has a way of drawing people together. Acts 17:26, “From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.” God is powerful. He is in control. He brings people together and makes them friends. We don’t always know why.

We know that Jonathan respected David, and as the account continues we see how Jonathan sided with David—even against his own father. It’s a wonderful friendship, but again, we don’t know what *made* them friends.

Proverbs doesn’t answer the question of how to make a friend. But it does give us some insight. Proverbs 16:7, “When a man’s ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.” We learn here that holiness is attractive to others. When you please the LORD you shouldn’t be surprised to find that others are pleased with you as well. It seems a man of great integrity should not be surprised to find people wanting to spend time with him. Proverbs 22:11, “He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for a friend.” So we see a pattern. Those who please the LORD, those who have pure hearts, those who pursue holiness are the types of people who have friends.

One of the things we learn in Proverbs is that a life lived for God is blessed. In other words, when you are wise (God fearing, holy, righteous) you can expect to receive blessings in this life and in the life to come—even friendship. It’s not a promise that always holds true, but it often holds true. When we think of blessings, we often think of money and prestige and perhaps even family—all these are wonderful gifts of God. But do you think of a friendship as a wonderful gift from God too—a gift God loves to give to those who fear him? In that sense, friendship isn’t something you make at all; it is something you receive.

We have to remember that the most righteous man to ever live, Jesus Christ, was abandoned by his friends. The Savior always said the right thing. He was full of compassion for others. Nonetheless, he went to the cross alone. Proverbs teaches us that those who are pure in heart will make friends in high places. Jesus shows us that in this fallen world, those who are pure in heart will often lose friends.

But Jesus also taught that when we follow him, we will gain even better friends. When you become a Christian you may lose a great deal. There may be people in your life who shun you—even family and close friends. But those who give things up for the Gospel will receive things from the Gospel: “homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields”—in other words, God blesses those who fear him with friends (Mark 10:30).

You should look for friends in a local church. You won’t find buddies in every pew, but you *will* find men and women you can draw near to in order to encourage and receive encouragement. Friends may be gifts from God but they don’t grow on trees; it requires an investment of



People are not the cure to loneliness; God is.



Share

time and energy on your part. So let me offer two pieces of counsel to those of you who may want friends but not have them. First, pay attention to your own holiness. The closer you are to God, the closer you will grow to other people. Second, invest in people’s lives. If you simply come and go on Sunday morning, you will never have biblical friendships. But if you come, stay, talk, come to smaller meetings, join the church, and serve, you will soon find your life overlapping with other people who love the Lord. You will get to know them. They will get to know you. And you will find friends whom you can draw near to for encouragement.

**Third, how do you keep friends?** I’ll give you four words to flesh this out: *consistency, honesty, humility, and proximity.*

Ask people what they appreciate about their friends, and more often than not they point to **consistency**—men or women consistently available to help and to pray and to listen. Proverbs 17:17, “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” Proverbs 18:24, “A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” You may know lots of people. You may greet people on Sunday and have many conversations, but a friend is described as someone “who sticks closer than a brother.” He is consistently there for you. Proverbs 20:6, “Many a man claims to have unfailing love, but a faithful man who can find?” A good friend is a faithful man. He or she loves you and shows you that love regularly. Consistency.

A good friend is someone who values and practices **honesty**. He doesn’t tell you only what you *want* to hear but what you *need* to hear. Proverbs 27:6, “Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.” Enemies flatter you. They say things to win your approval. A true friend may hurt you with his words. But if he is really your friend, you can trust him. He may say things that are hard, but his words help. This is the idea we find in Hebrews 3, as these early Christians are instructed how to live the Christian life together. Verse 12, “See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.”

We all face the danger of turning from God. How will we meet that danger? Verse 13, “But encourage [or exhort] one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.” God uses friends to keep us from being hardened to God. Friends encourage us, not with flattery, but with truth, even when it hurts. Proverbs 27:17, “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

At Mount Vernon we have Covenant Groups. They are basically small groups for members—people who are

committed to the church and to each other. These are places for honesty. If you would like to be in a Covenant Group, please talk to one of the pastors. We’d happily help you find one. Honesty.

We are going to lose friends right and left unless we learn to overlook their faults. This requires **humility**. Proverbs 10:12, “Hatred stirs up dissension, but loves covers over all wrongs.” When you love a friend, you are willing to overlook a wrongdoing, even a sin. Your pride will separate you from your friends. It won’t allow them to wrong you. Humility will save your friendships. Are you humble enough to overlook the faults, even the sins of your friend? Humility.

Finally, there is something to be said for **proximity**. Whether it’s Facebook or the telephone, technology has changed the way we relate. It has brought us closer. But it’s not the same as seeing someone face to face. It is not the same as having a conversation with a friend who regularly sees me. Proximity is important. Proverbs 27:10, “Do not forsake your friend and the friend of your father, and do not go to your brother’s house when disaster strikes you—better a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.” Interesting. Brothers are wonderful! But in times of trial, when a tornado rips off your roof, it is your neighbor who will help clean up the rubble.

We are called to befriend those who are near. Whether it is Proverbs 27:10 or the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Scripture calls me to befriend the people I am near, week in and week out. This is a challenge to us to invest in the men and women sitting around us today. Don’t take the people you see on a regular basis for granted. God has put them in your life for a reason. They may not all end up your best friend, but you never know. Proximity matters.

**Fourth, what does the Gospel have to do with friendship?**

All of us know what it feels like to be lonely. Recently, a young woman posted the following note on a website:

I’m 20 years old. I feel like I should be having the best time of my life right now, but I’m not. I feel so lonely and worthless. Nobody wants to hang out with me. I always call people and everyone is ‘busy.’ I don’t even know why this is happening to me. Why me? Weekends are horrible for me. While everyone goes out to the movies, dancing, eating at restaurants, I just stay home and feel sad. I’m tired of people rejecting me. I know people don’t hate me but I guess I was meant to be alone.

Her feelings are not unusual; they are not strange. They are, in fact, common. It is true that most of us learn to

live with our loneliness. Not all of us cry out the way this young woman cried out. But we all know what it is like to feel isolated, to feel alone, and to want friends. Still, the answer to loneliness may surprise you.

People are not the cure for loneliness; God is. This is because the root cause of loneliness is not estrangement from people, but estrangement from God. Though we were made to know Him, love Him, serve Him, and enjoy Him—our sin has broken that relationship. If you are not a Christian, you are God’s enemy. Colossians 1:21, “Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.” And when we were God’s enemy, we were enemies of one another. We were filled with anger, rage, malice, and slander. When our relationship with God was broken—every human relationship became broken as well. We were isolated from others because we were isolated from God.

And even if you are a Christian, you are not as close to God as you should be. Why else would we be instructed to come near to God (James 4:8)? Isn’t it because we are tempted to pull back? Yes. But when we pull back from God, it is not only our relationship with Him that suffers, but our relationship with others suffers as well.

Our response is to seek friends. We do things to be likable. We wear certain clothes. Talk about certain teams. Complain about certain people. We dress ourselves up literally and figuratively to win the approval and the friendship of others. But this is ridiculous. This is like putting a band-aid on a broken arm. Our fundamental problem is with God.

So what can we do? How can we fight loneliness?

*First, draw near to God.* And here is what you will find: a God who has befriended us in Christ. This is the Good News, the Gospel! God made us to be His friends, even though we declared war against Him and were His enemies. He has the right to send us to Hell—to punish us for rejecting Him. But instead, God chose to send His only Son to die for sinners just like us. God chose to love His enemy. He chose to befriend us in Christ. How did He do that? By sending His Son to die on the Cross.

When you submit your life to Christ—trusting in His death and resurrection—you find God is your friend. You will never be alone again. You may still battle with loneliness—but you are not alone. When you believed the Gospel, you became God’s friend. James 2:23, “‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God’s friend.” To know God is to be called God’s friend. In Christ, God has drawn near to us to save us. The Gospel makes us God’s friend.

*Second, let friendship with God help you be a better friend to others.* God’s friendship with us is the basis of our friendship with others. John 15:12-15, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

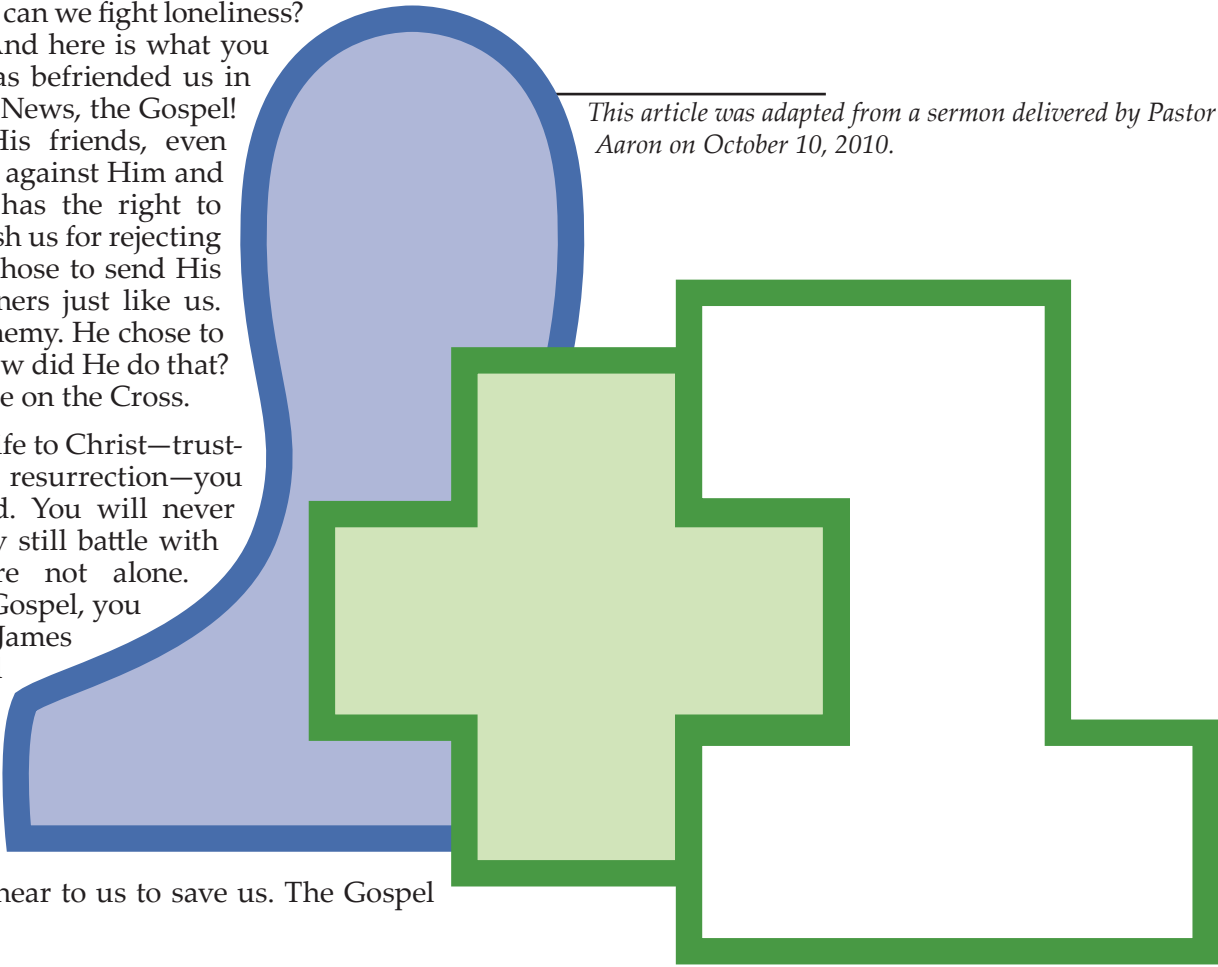
Jesus defines love and friendship in terms of sacrifice. “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” Not long after Jesus said these words, He proved them by dying for sinners on the Cross. So, you prove that you are Christ’s friend if you do what He commands. And what does Christ command? That we follow him on the path of sacrificial love: “This is my command: Love each other.” Jesus is saying, “I sacrificed for you, I befriended you. Now you, go and befriend others.”

Do you see how God has treated you? Even when you were his enemy, He made you a friend. When you hated Him, He drew near you to save and encourage you. Christ suffered and bled and died for you. If you are Christ’s friend, what will you do? You will draw near to others to encourage them. This is because of the Gospel.

Social networking is amazing. But it is not enough. Real friendships take time, energy, and the work of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.■

~ Aaron Menikoff

*This article was adapted from a sermon delivered by Pastor Aaron on October 10, 2010.*



# June 2011

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	
12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	

9:15 am

Knowing MVBC: Session 1

12:00 pm

Knowing MVBC: Sessions 2-4

6:00 pm

Lord's Supper

10:30 am

Guest Preacher: Jacob Hall

9:30 am

Father's Day Joint Shepherding Group

6:30 pm

Vacation Bible School

6:30 pm

VBS Family Night

6:30 pm

SBC Annual Meeting

6:30 pm

Missions & MVBC w/ Bryan Pillsbury

6:30 pm

Rockbridge Day Camp

6:30 pm

Colossians Study Begins

## EVENTS > BIRTHDAYS

### Churchwide▼

June 5 6:00 pm Lord's Supper  
We encourage members to examine their hearts and relationships with one another in preparation for this celebration of Christ's death and resurrection.

### New Members▼

June 5 9:15 am Knowing MVBC: Session 1  
12:00 pm Knowing MVBC: Sessions 2-4  
Knowing MVBC: The Membership Class is a 4-part course introducing you to life at Mount Vernon. It covers our commitments, beliefs, spiritual disciplines encouraged among members, and some nuts and bolts about our structure and ministry. This class is a requirement for membership. Lunch will be provided.

### Children▼

June 6-10 9:30 am Vacation Bible School  
(See ad below.)

June 8 6:30 pm VBS Family Night  
We welcome all families of our VBS children and all church members to learn about what's been going on at VBS. This is in lieu of all other Wednesday night activities.

### Adults▼

June 22 6:30 pm Colossians Bible Study  
Pastor Aaron will lead an inductive Bible study through the book of Colossians.

### Recreation▼

June 13-17, 20-24, 27-July1 Rockbridge Day Camp  
The goal of Rockbridge is to use nature, adventure, and recreation as tools to build and strengthen our children's relationships with friends, family, and ultimately, Jesus Christ. Brochures with registration details are available in brochure racks around the building.

1	Anne Barnes	18	Kris McNeese
	Wanda Patterson		Jeffrey Timmons
2	Clayton Wood		Doug Young
4	Pat Knowles	19	Linda Sproull
	Judy Kuhlman	20	Carolyn Chatham
	Matt McCurdy	21	Carrie Rochester
5	Antoinette Garrison	22	Michelle Hoover
7	Jonathan Mosby		Holly Reeves
8	William Long		Rosie Reeves
9	Claudia Payne	23	Paula Costello
10	Stan Thompson		Ethan Meadows
11	Chris Spruill		Benjamin Tingle
12	Abigail Higgins	24	Cameron Davis
13	Rebecca Cox		Bill Frantz
	Brittany Nash		Matthew Reid
15	Gayle Hynds	25	Tom Pamplin
16	Helen Carter	27	Joy Hudson
	Kris McCleskey		Hubert McDonald
17	Corb Hankey	28	Kelly Dudley
	Ben Hudson		Barbara Hodge
	Julia Johnston	30	Joel Andrews
			Justin Weltscheff

# Vacation Bible School

Groups  
Holy Land  
ADVENTURE®

## Galilee BY-THE-SEA

June 6-10

**It's time for another Holy Land Adventure!**

Last year we visited Bethlehem village where Jesus was born, and this year we are going to Galilee by the Sea!

Watch Jesus heal the blind and make the lame to walk as we discover His power over sin, death, and all creation.

Register now at:  
[www.mvbchurch.org/vbs](http://www.mvbchurch.org/vbs)





850 Mount Vernon Highway NW  
Sandy Springs, GA 30327