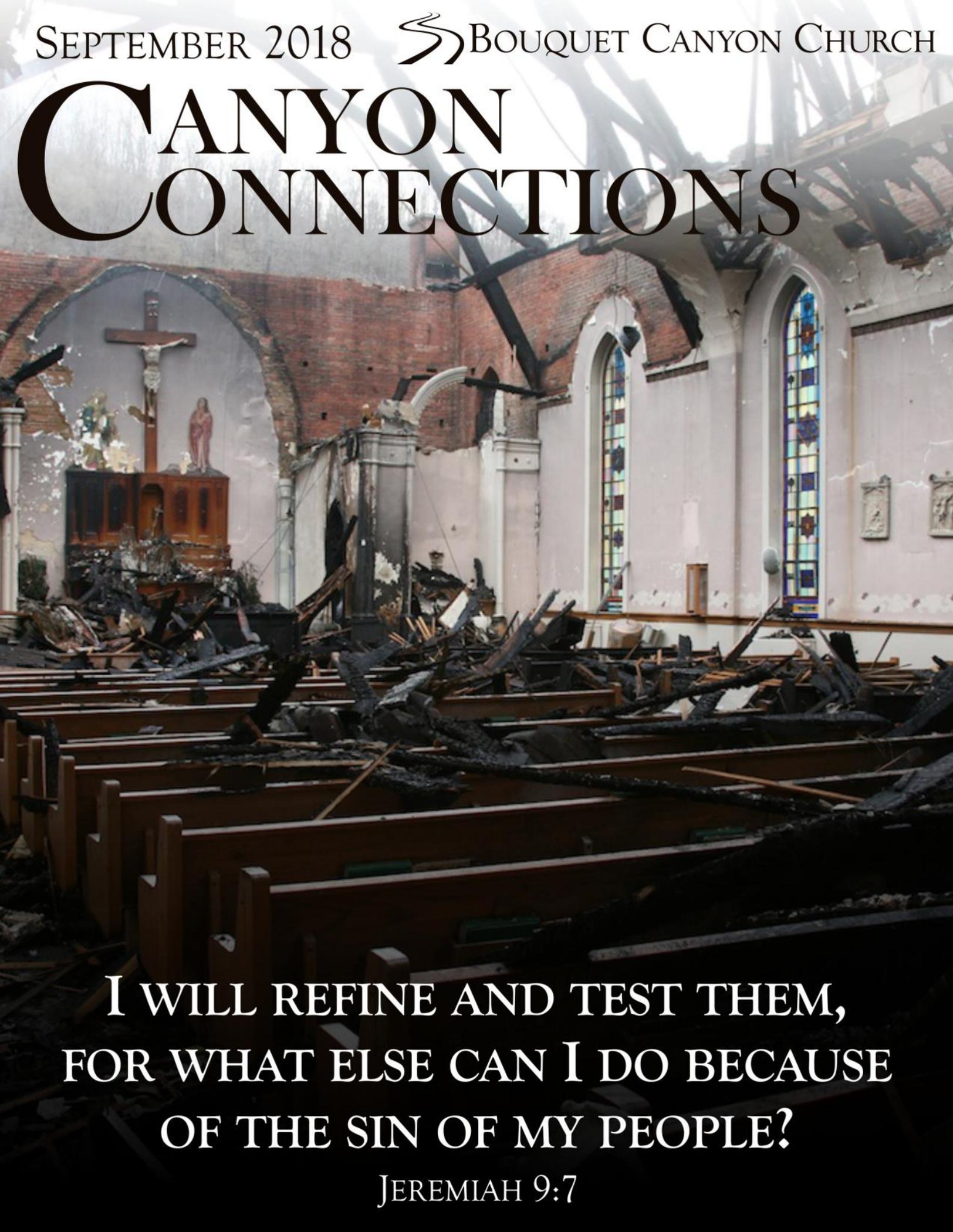


SEPTEMBER 2018  BOUQUET CANYON CHURCH

CANYON CONNECTIONS



I WILL REFINE AND TEST THEM,
FOR WHAT ELSE CAN I DO BECAUSE
OF THE SIN OF MY PEOPLE?

JEREMIAH 9:7

When Spiritual Leaders Fail

By Billy Ford, Pastor

When the #MeToo movement hit, many were shocked by the sordid tales and were sorrowful for the victims, but glad that Hollywood was being exposed for what it really is. When scandal rocked the Catholic Church, we shook our heads and rightfully hoped for true reform. But it least it isn't us, we thought. Now, scandal is beginning to rock the evangelical world as well (most prominently with the fall of Bill Hybels, founder of Willow Creek Church and a major evangelical leader for the past 30+ years). It's not as if the occasional moral failure of a Christian leader is anything new, but this season seems different.

I'll never forget the first time a major spiritual hero of mine fell morally. It was a worship leader who had put out some amazing worship albums through Hosanna Integrity Music. Denise and I chose one of his songs to be played during our wedding. His music was so powerful, so anointed. Then news broke that he had been unfaithful to his wife in an ongoing affair with a teenage boy. This was incomprehensible to me. I felt completely gutted. How?

I've heard a statistic that when a pastor has a moral failing, a third of the church's congregants will stick with the church, a third will leave and eventually find a new church, and a third will never go to church again. Add to this the fact that there are countless people in the world who desperately need Jesus but have no respect for the Church. It makes me want to cry.

We tend to like messages that are uplifting and encouraging, so I apologize if this article is a bit of a downer! But there is good news in all of this. The sins that are being uncovered have been going on a very long time. It is a good thing that they are now being exposed. This is a season in which God is dealing with his Church. As Peter put it, "*It is time for judgment to begin with the family of God*" (1 Peter 4:17). But isn't it too damaging to the Church and to the name of Christ? Yes, it is extremely damaging, but not as damaging as continued sin that grieves the Holy Spirit. God wants his Church to be pure and holy, clothed in righteousness as a beautiful bride for him. Better to lose our reputation for a while than to slide deeper into corruption, dishonor the Lord, and lose the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit.

What should our response to all of this be? What should we do?

1. **Keep your eyes on the Lord**

We need spiritual heroes to look up to, but we must remember that anyone can fall. Jeremiah 17 tells us, "Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength." On the other hand, "Blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence." Choose your heroes wisely and

don't revere them too highly. The Lord is the only one you can fully trust.

2. **Grieve over sin**

In Ezekiel 9 we read a devastating account of God's glory beginning to depart from the temple in Jerusalem (because of sin). The Lord decrees death for his own people, but there is a special protection granted to those who "*grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done*" (Ezekiel 9:4). In other words, God takes notice and is pleased when we are sorrowful about sin. When you become aware of sin (whether your own, a Christian leader's, or in the Church at large), take time to grieve. Sin in the Church is dishonoring to God and turns away people who need salvation. It is appropriate and necessary to mourn.

3. **Humble yourself**

Be careful not to condemn those who fall. Instead, realize that it could have been you (and still might be). 1 Corinthians 10:12 says, "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" The 16th Century English evangelical preacher, John Bradford said the following when he saw criminals being led to the scaffold: "There but for the grace of God, goes John Bradford." Be very, very humble!

4. **Be wise**

Make sure that you have safeguards built into your own life. Billy Graham had rules for himself that he carefully followed (e.g. never be alone with a woman other than a family member, never oversee your own ministry's finances, etc.). He recently went to heaven, apparently never having fallen into major sin. Bill Hybels, on the other hand, never followed such rules. And for some reason, his church never made him. Was Billy Graham morally stronger than Bill Hybels? Maybe. But maybe he was just wiser. Build safeguards into your life. Make sure that you have accountability. Enlist one or more friends with whom you can be open about your temptations and weaknesses. Don't put this off!

5. **Pray**

Jesus taught us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." Pray for yourself and for your family, that you will be freed from any bondage to sinful addiction and protected from temptation. Pray for spiritual leaders (including me!) that they will be protected. And pray for the Church. Pray that there would be a true revival in which God's people, instead of covering up their sins, would come into the light, confess their sins, and repent. This seems like the perfect season for that to happen.

PARENT MEETING

ALL PARENTS OF JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS, JOIN US TO DISCUSS:

~OUR VISION FOR THE MINISTRY

~SUMMER/WINTER CAMP DATES

~OUR TEAM

~SERMON POINTS &
STRUCTURE

~EVENTS FOR THE YEAR

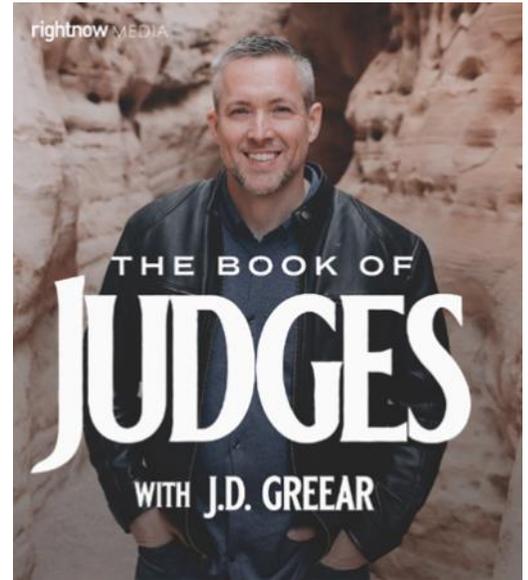
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

ⓐ 6:30P-7:00P

Youth Sunday School 9:30-10:30am

The book of Judges cracks a window into the depths of the human soul. Watch a nation struggle with its identity and relationship to its God. Heroes and heroines arise, who seem to have the potential to save Israel. But in the end, each proves to be a broken savior that cannot deliver.

In this series, pastor and author J.D. Greear wades into the book of Judges to shine a light onto the muddy waters of human rebellion. The stories and truths within are not just archaic tales with no relevance for us today. Rather, J.D. works through each chapter unpacking the truth of God's grace in the midst of human wickedness, and shows how only the divine can redeem the fallen.



Jr High and High School Ministries
Raising Up Disciples of Christ



Bouquet Canyon Church

churchpicnic

Saturday, September 22nd / 11:00am to 3pm
West Creek Park
24247 Village Circle, Valencia

FUN, FOOD AND GAMES FOR ALL AGES

Fried Chicken & Hot Dogs

Water & Lemonade Provided

What to bring:

- Side dish or dessert to share
- Lawn chairs or blankets

Optional items to bring:

- Easy-up
- Lawn Games
- Frisbee
- Other games to share

For more information
contact the church office.
661-481-0801

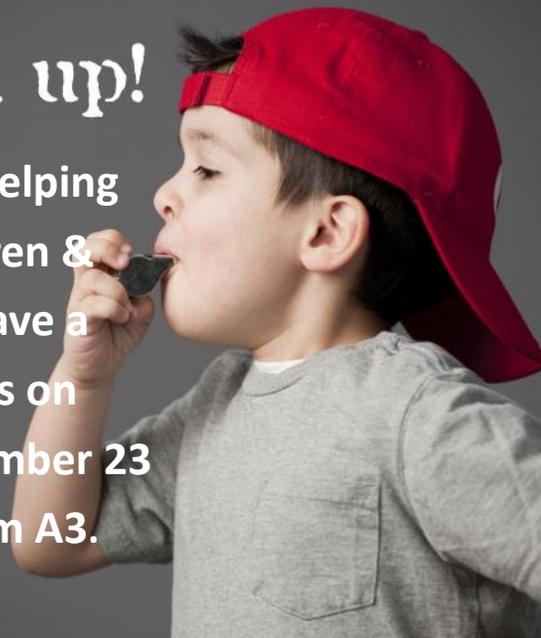


Upcoming EVENTS

- 101 Class, Sunday, Sept 9, at 10:40 am
- Back to School Bash for Teens, Wednesday, Sept 5, 6:30 - 8 pm
- All Wednesday night groups begin again, Sep 5, at 6:30
- Rooted Classes begin on Sunday, Sept. 9 & Wednesday Sept. 12
- Men's Retreat at Thousand Pines, Sept 14 - 16
- Parent Meeting for Jr Hi and High School parents, Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 pm
- Church Picnic, Saturday Sept. 22 at 11am
- Children's Ministry Training, Sunday Sept. 23 at 9 am
- SCV Pregnancy Center Walk for Life, 8 am at Crossroads Community Church
- Family Promise Fundraiser, Box City, Saturday/Sunday Sept. 29/30

Listen up!

Interested in helping
with our children &
babies? We have a
training for this on
Sunday, September 23
at 9 am in room A3.



Join us for Harp & Bowl

We are excited to continue our monthly time of worship and intercessory prayer for the needs of our church, community and nation. We meet every 1st and 3rd Saturday night at 6:30pm.

Intercession is everyone's ministry!

Questions?

Call Charli Tuttle (661) 904-3424 or email charlituttle@gmail.com

Harp & Bowl?

"And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints." Rev 5:8



September

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | 1 6:30p Harp & Bowl Intercessory Prayer |
| 2 9 & 11a Worship 9:30a Teen Sunday School | 3 - Office Closed Labor Day | 4 6:45p Men's Bible Study | 5 6:30p Stellar Kids Junior High High School Adult Bible Study 8:30p College Grp | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 9 & 11a Worship 9a Rooted 9:30a Teen Sunday School 10:40a 101 Class 1p Copperhill Life Grp 6:30p Saugus Life Grp | 10 10:15a Prayer Meeting | 11 7a Walking the Paseos Group 8:30 Ladies Coffee & Connect 6:45p Men's Bible Study | 12 6:30p Stellar Kids Junior High High School Adult Bible Study Rooted Class 8:30p College Grp | 13 7p Leadership Board | 14 Men's Retreat | 15 6:30p Harp & Bowl Intercessory Prayer Men's Retreat |
| 16 Men's Retreat 9 & 11a Worship 9a Rooted 9:30a Teen Sunday School | 17 10:15a Prayer meeting 7:30p Missions Meeting | 18 6:45p Men's Bible Study | 19 6:30p Parent Meeting 6:30p Stellar Kids Junior High High School Adult Bible Study Rooted Class 8:30p College Grp | 20 | 21 | 22 11a  |
| 23 9 & 11a Worship 9a Rooted 9a Kids Min Training 9:30a Teen Sunday School 11a Adult Study 1p Copperhill Life Group 6:30p Saugus Life Grp | 24 10:15a Prayer meeting | 25 7a Walking the Paseos Group 8:30 Ladies Coffee & Connect 6:45p Men's Bible Study | 26 6:30p Stellar Kids Junior High High School Adult Bible Study Rooted Class 8:30p College Grp | 27 | 28 | 29 8a Walk for Life  4p Box City |
| 30 9 & 11a Worship 9a Rooted 9:30a Teen Sunday School 11a 201 Class 11a Adult Study | | | | | | |

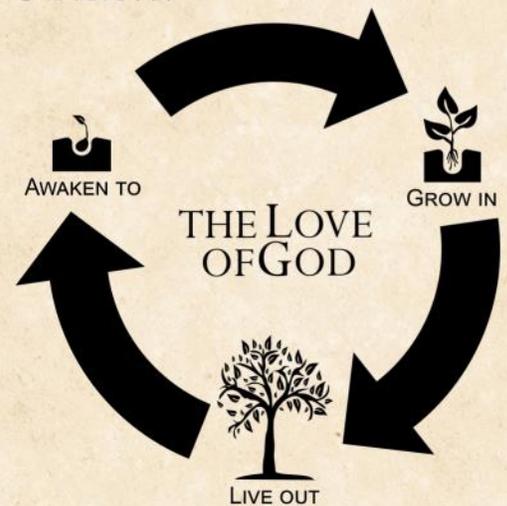
BOUQUET CANYON CHURCH

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www.bouquetcanyonchurch.com
Office hours: 9am-3pm weekdays

OUR PURPOSE AS A CHURCH IS TO DO THREE THINGS
REALLY WELL. WE HELP PEOPLE...

AWAKEN TO THE LOVE OF GOD,
GROW IN THE LOVE OF GOD, AND
LIVE OUT THE LOVE OF GOD.



OUR CORE VALUES SUPPORT OUR PURPOSE AND HELP TO
MAINTAIN A HEALTHY AND BALANCED MINISTRY.

Guard your heart above all else,
for it determines the course of your life.
- Proverbs 4:23

IT IS OUR AIM THAT THE "HEART" OF BCC'S MINISTRY WILL BE CHARACTERIZED BY:

HARVEST VISION – We will keep our eyes on the harvest fields, those who don't yet know God in the sphere of influence He has given us (John 4:35).

EMPOWERED MINISTRY – In order to be a help and blessing to all people, we will operate by the love of God, consistent prayer, excellent training, and the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18).

AUTHENTIC WORSHIP – We will love and honor God by living lifestyles of genuine worship, faith, and Christ-likeness. We will not simply offer our community a philosophy, but will be a place where people can experience genuine encounters with the true and living God (Matthew 22:37).

RELATIONAL COMMITMENT – We will be a dedicated spiritual family, devoted to one another and maintaining a culture of love, grace, and forgiveness (Romans 12:5).

TRUTHFUL TEACHING – Devoted to the truth of God's Word in Scripture, we will present it in a way that makes sense and helps people to grow into spiritually mature disciples (1 Timothy 4:13).