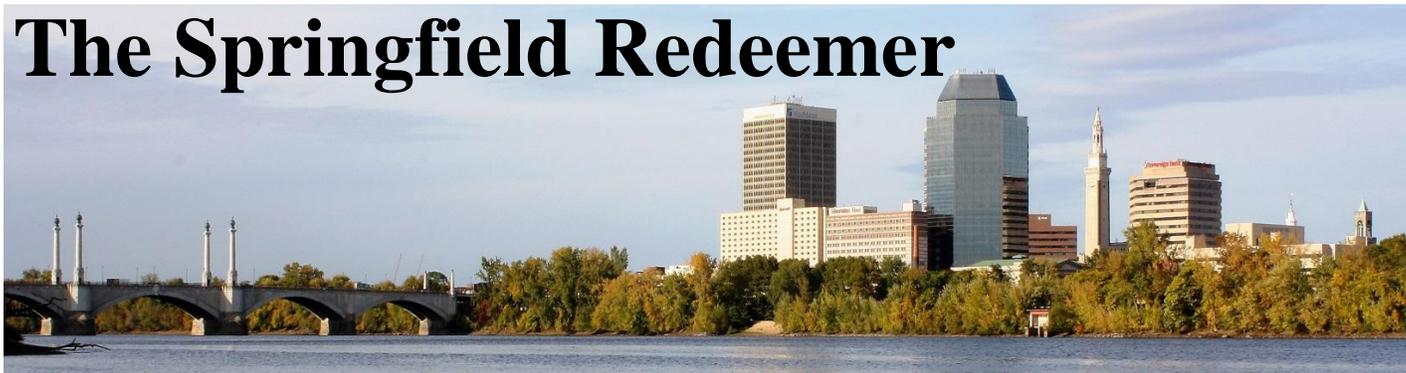


The Springfield Redeemer



The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society, June 1, 2017, Vol. 6, Ed. 6

Jesus said . . . “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” Matt.22:37

Marriage is God’s Plan by Roberta D’Amico

Springfield is where God has placed us, the Redemption Gate Mission Society, to bring His truth and redemption to this troubled area. We have labored here for 9 years to bring God’s healing to our city. Many people, young and old, have been reached with the gospel, many lives changed, but still we have watched the ills of society continue to steal, kill, and destroy lives.

There is a root cause of this evil which underlies the crime, the violence, the broken lives. The most common factor in every troubled person’s life is the broken home. There is a direct correlation between the rise of failed marriages and the increase of the problems that plague society. Perhaps marriage is more essential to mankind than our modern culture wants to admit?

The establishment of Godly families is a major feature of God’s plan for His world. It is in the family that young people are taught to be honest and law-abiding, to respect others and keep their commitments, to be kind and unselfish. These things do not come naturally to us, but by God’s grace in our hearts.

Yet, observe what is happening over the last 60 years. The mere mention of God has been deliberately and systematically ex-

cluded from the schools, from public discussion, from the workplace, from government, and cultural institutions. At the same time, there is a corresponding and dramatic rise in the troubles of society. As marriage becomes un-raveled, so does society, even though many believe today that marriage is unnecessary, even obsolete!

Here are a few startling statistics: the percentage of people married today is 50% less than in the 1960’s! According to Pew research, people are getting married later and divorcing more frequently. Fifteen times as many people are “living together” today. Does this really matter? The opinion of the world says no, that it doesn’t matter how often you marry, if you even marry, or what the configuration of your “family” looks like.

On the other hand, as Christians, we ought to have a different worldview. Brad Wilcox of the National Marriage Project at UVA, says marriage is very important: it marks the commitment that was made; it carries an expectation of fidelity; and it provides purpose and stability. God began his plan with Adam and his wife Eve. They were created together, with Eve to be revealed at the right time. They were to bond for

life, help one another, and build a home and family together. Each had a role to play as they populated the earth for the glory of God.

Yet, in spite of this, even the church today is filled with divorced people, broken homes, and broken hearts, including God’s heart. What is the problem? First, people mistake romance for love. They think that they are “in love”, but that is not real love. Real love is not a feeling, and it doesn’t just “happen to you.” It is something that *you* do for another, like Jesus dying on the cross for my sins. That is love!

Love must grow in us. Romance can be an expression of love, but never a substitute for it. There is a serious lack of love in our world today. It has been replaced by the “me first” philosophy! It’s all about what I need, what makes me happy, etc. To make marriage work, we need to put God first. The Bible says to prefer others before yourself. Our society today makes it easy to put me first. When women were more financially dependent on their husbands, and birth control wasn’t as easy as it is now, and everybody didn’t have their own car, it was harder to just leave a marriage. But God’s plan hasn’t changed with the times and never will.

So how do we do it God's way?

First, I want to emphasize what the Bible says about women. Gleaned from the monthly Marriage Seminar, women are not inferior. They are not weaker, except perhaps physically. Nor are men more important. And men are to cherish and protect their wives as their most valued possession.

Pastor Cooley shared with me this brief outline. He illustrates the marriage relationship as a triangle, with God at the top, husband at the left, wife at the right. The most important thing is to put God first.

We must be willing to sacrifice for His sake, even to suffer for His sake. Self-centeredness is the root problem. Marriage takes hard work, especially on our attitudes.

Finally, Pastor Cooley's advice:

1. Each one should ask God for His guidance.
2. They should be willing to accept His answer.
3. The husband should lead, but if he doesn't, the one who is closer to God should.
4. God should be the final answer.
5. Always consult scripture! Amen!

Brian Greene Ordained Pastor



It was a wonderful day at Holy Grounds Coffee House, a place that looks like a coffee shop, but is really a church. The 2 o'clock service began with prayer by Brian Greene, who then brought a short message from 1st Corinthians 13, continuing his

series on the Holy Spirit. "Knowledge will fail, and we see only in part now," he said, "but love never fails."

Next, Pastor Scott Lively had some good words for us and for Brian. "Ever since he came, a little over two years ago, I have observed that he has a heart for ministry," Pastor Scott said. "To be an effective pastor, focus on the people, and make yourself a pipeline of the Living Water. When you focus on your own needs, you become a blocked pipe. What revelation or encouragement you are receiving from God, is for others."

For years it has been in Brian's heart to be ordained, and today, with the brothers in the faith that were present laying hands on him, Pastor Cooley prayed Brian Greene into God's service as a Pastor!

There were many from Redemption Gate Ministries who came to witness this event and celebrate with us, but it was a special blessing that Brian's parents and other family members were able to attend. How wonderful for parents to see their son serving the Lord!

Save the Date!

March For Jesus!
Springfield, MA

When? - Saturday June 24, 2017, 10:00 a.m.,
Where? - Corner of Homer & State Streets, Spfld, MA.
For more information call 413-222-5293 or 413-563-3490.

Ongoing Events

SUNDAY SERVICES: 10 a.m.- Pastors Bobby & Kim; 2 p.m.- Pastor Brian Greene; and 6 p.m.- Transformation Centered Healing Ministries with Prophet Eric Thomas & Pastor Susan.

MONDAY -- FRIDAY: Morning Bible Study at 7:30 a.m.

WED.: Bible Study - 4:30 p.m.; Recovery at 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY: Women's Bible Study 1:00 p.m.

SATURDAY: Sabbath Service 9 a.m. to 12 noon; Lunch 2 to 4 p.m.

1ST SATURDAY: "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m. **3RD SATURDAY:** "Singles with God" 4 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY NIGHTS: June 10, 7 p.m., Band: *Kinsman Redeemer*. June 24, 7 p.m. Open Mic with Cathy Marvici.