

WEEKLY IMAGE



THE WISDOM OF GOD

“GOD’S ALMIGHTY WISDOM IS ALWAYS ACTIVE, AND NEVER FAILS. ALL HIS WORKS OF CREATION AND PROVIDENCE AND GRACE DISPLAY IT, AND UNTIL WE CAN SEE IT IN THEM WE JUST ARE NOT SEEING THEM STRAIGHT. BUT WE CANNOT RECOGNIZE GOD’S WISDOM UNLESS WE KNOW THE END FOR WHICH HE IS WORKING. . . . GOD’S WISDOM IS NOT, AND NEVER WAS, PLEDGED TO KEEP A FALLEN WORLD HAPPY, OR TO MAKE UNGODLINESS COMFORTABLE. NOT EVEN TO CHRISTIANS HAS HE PROMISED A TROUBLE-FREE LIFE; RATHER THE REVERSE. HE HAS OTHER ENDS IN VIEW FOR LIFE IN THIS WORLD THAN SIMPLY TO MAKE IT EASY FOR EVERYONE.

WHAT IS HE AFTER, THEN? WHAT IS HIS GOAL? WHAT DOES HE AIM AT? . . . HE PLANS THAT A GREAT HOST OF MANKIND SHOULD COME TO LOVE AND HONOR HIM. HIS ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IS TO BRING THEM TO A STATE IN WHICH THEY PLEASE HIM ENTIRELY AND PRAISE HIM ADEQUATELY, A STATE IN WHICH HE IS ALL IN ALL TO THEM, AND HE AND THEY REJOICE CONTINUALLY IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF EACH OTHER’S LOVE – MEN REJOICING IN THE SAVING LOVE OF GOD, SET UPON THEM FROM ALL ETERNITY, AND GOD REJOICING IN THE RESPONSIVE LOVE OF MEN, DRAWN OUT OF THEM BY GRACE THROUGH THE GOSPEL.”

J.I. PACKER

IMAGE OF THE WEEK WHAT IS THIS A PICTURE OF?

LET JEREMY OR MEGIN KNOW WHERE YOU THINK THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN. THE FIRST ONE TO ANSWER CORRECTLY GETS A FREE DOLLAR AT THE HITCHING POST.

*LAST WEEK’S PICTURE WAS A CLOSE UP OF MEGIN’S BIKE





**FAMILY CAMP
IS NEXT WEEK!**



What is this picture?



“Who do you carry the torch for, my young man? Do you believe in anything? Or do you carry it around just to burn things down?”

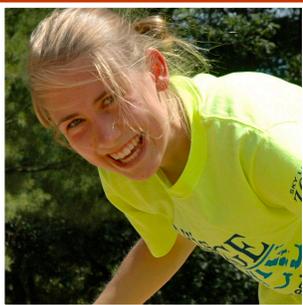
These are the first few lines of one of my favorite songs, “The Archers’ Bows Have Broken” by alternative punk band Brand New. Though they aren’t considered a Christian band, much of Brand New’s lyrical content focuses on the inward struggle of identifying with a higher power, especially on their third album, *The Devil and God Are Raging Inside Me*, on which the above lyrics are found.

I have kept these words in the back of my mind ever since I first heard the song. I love the symbolism that is used in these lyrics, which compare our beliefs to a flame. The fascinating thing about fire is that while it can give heat and sustain life, it can also cause devastation in the wrong circumstances.

The Gospel is the same way. When presented properly, it can bring life to the coldest hearts. However, if presented in a manner that condemns or puts down sinners, it can be harmful, driving unbelievers away from God and the church. Paul writes in the letter to the Colossians that we must “walk with wisdom towards outsiders, making the best use of the time.” (4:4) We must not approach lost souls with disdain, but rather with grace, mercy and love. If we share the Gospel in this manner, then people will accept the truth more readily.

Therefore, carry your torch carefully. The Gospel is a precious truth. We must not use it to destroy souls, but instead we are called to give light and warmth to a cold, dark world.

Andy Koenig



Staff Outing

This Friday afternoon we will make a short trip down to Portage for dinner and some shopping. There is a Walmart, Goodwill, Taco Bell, McDonalds, Subway, KFC, and a few other stores you can check out.