

The Springfield Redeemer



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“His mercies never fail, they are new every morning.” Lamentations 3:22-23

Springfield Recognizes Pastor Cooley

By Roberta D’Amico

As we wrap up 2017, we want to remember Pastor C.S. Cooley, the Director of Holy Grounds Coffee House, who is also President of the Board of Redemption Gate Mission Society, besides pastoring United Temple Church of God in Christ. Earlier this year, he was the recipient of a great honor bestowed by Mayor Domenic Sarno and the City of Springfield.

According to the Citation, Pastor Cooley was recognized by Mayor Sarno for being “an active and valued community partner and a tireless advocate in the neighborhood, together with First



Lady Jacqueline Lee Cooley.” He also said, “Under Pastor Cooley’s

leadership, the Church has been a staple and spiritual beacon for the community.”

The occasion of the Citation was Pastor Cooley’s 20th Pastoral Anniversary on July 23, 2017, to be recognized as “Pastor C.S. Cooley Day.” The theme for 2017 was “Remembering the past, Stepping up to the next level; Achieving victory through Jesus,” from Hebrews 12:1&2. Now, as we begin 2018, let us continue to advance in the Kingdom of God, serving our Lord Jesus, walking in victory and blessing our city, with your prayers and support.

Save the Date!! And a Brief Note from the December 8, 2017, Board Meeting.

Pastor Scott has decided to run for Governor in 2018, as God is leading him. Consequently, he has rejoined the Board, which he withdrew from a couple of years ago when he was embroiled in that bogus law suit, which has since been dismissed. The addition of Pastor Scott makes 8 board members now.

Also we began planning the Family Day event of 2018. **Please save the date** for this Springfield outreach, August 18, 2018. And PRAY for a successful event.

From our readers: Last month, Pastor C.S. Cooley urged you all to read carefully the Thanksgiving Proclamation by President George Washington. At the morning Bible Study, comments were made concerning the Proclamation emphasizing that we ought to be giving thanks to our great God and Savior for His protection of our country and the benefits of living in America. “It is amazing that they [George Washington and others], had such a depth to their thoughts and considerations about a government that would secure a people in such a way that their freedom would be by far the truest freedom that any nation has ever had,” said Brian Blanchard. “To this day worldwide, because of

the founding papers of this country as well as how things are still practiced, although we seem to be losing a lot of it, that the word *freedom* has the strongest draw to the rest of the world to this United States of America. Although that depth of thinking seems to be going by the wayside by many today, it's just amazingly powerful!"

Have a Blessed Holy New Year!

God has given us the blessing of beginning a new year! How will we begin this new year? It used to be that every schoolroom had a copy of the Ten Commandments. What if we started with that? Do you even know them? They are found in Exodus, chapter 20.

1. I AM the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall make no idols, of anything on earth, to worship them.
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.
5. Honor your mother and your father.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. Bear no false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house, his wife, or his property.

This, of course, is the bare bones of what God said back then on Mount Sinai. But, there is a tremendous depth of understanding that God would have us search out. We are sinners and cannot earn salvation by keeping the law. That comes by faith in Jesus. This is often misunderstood: though we cannot get to heaven by the law, this does not mean that the law is not good. The law is a reflection of God's perfect righteousness. It takes study, and much can be learned from those whom God has called to be teachers. We thank Jonathan McNeil for sharing many of these things at the Marriage Seminar at the Coffee House on the first Saturday of the month, 4 to 6 p.m.

For example, although there appears to be ten separate items, in truth the whole ten address the core iniquity that has infected the whole human race, that is, worshipping anything other than God who created us.

Therefore, although the Ten Commandments appear to be brief, there is much contained in them. The first four commandments address our relationship with God Himself. God loves us with a holy jealousy, and will not permit His people to put other things first in their lives, making idols of and loving anything more than God Himself.

Having said that, there are essential concepts which explain why God "itemized" these particular sins, the order He put them in, and why certain things are included and others are not. Being an all-wise Creator, nothing was done by accident. Every Word of Scripture is intentionally determined by our Sovereign God! Here are some things to think about concerning the commandments:

#1 – Establishes God as supreme, but also creates *rebels*. Romans 7:9-10, "with the coming of the commandment sin became alive." It was when I was saved that I realized I was spiritually dead, an enemy of God.

#2 – Do not become overly fascinated by God's creation and things in it. We get too attached to things.

#3 – God identifies Himself with His people, "God of my people Israel," so if His people act wickedly, it reflects badly on Him. The real significance of "not taking His Name in vain (futility)," is a life that glorifies Him and does not dishonor His Name.

#4 – Sets aside a seventh day especially for rest and to celebrate God. Whatever activities we do that day should be holy unto the Lord. As we gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ, we must bring something to contribute and not come just for what we might get out of it. My life must glorify Him every day, but especially on the Lord's Day.

To conclude, each of these commandments points us to God, Almighty. He must be first. He is life our and our truth. He is the way to live here and for eternity. He must be more important than anything in this world.

(This discussion may continue next issue.)

Ongoing Events

SUNDAY SERVICES: 10 a.m.- Pastors Bobby & Kim; 1 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.:** Trust Jesus Recovery – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

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

SATURDAY: Lunch 2 to 4 p.m. except the first Saturday of the month. **1ST SATURDAY:** "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY NIGHTS: Jan 13, 7 p.m., Band Night tba; Jan 27, 7 p.m. Open Mic with Cathy Marvici.