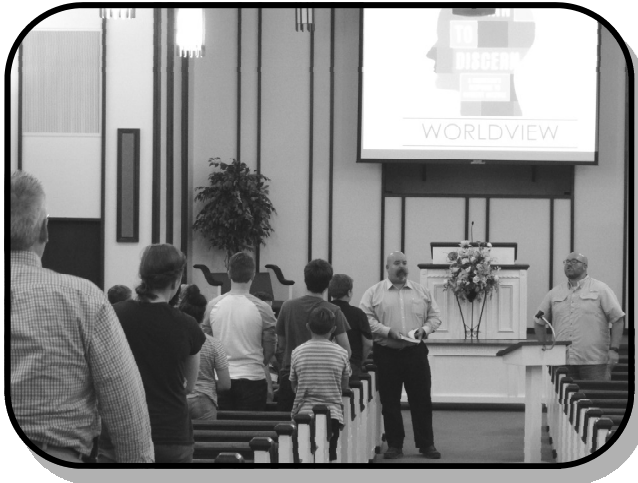
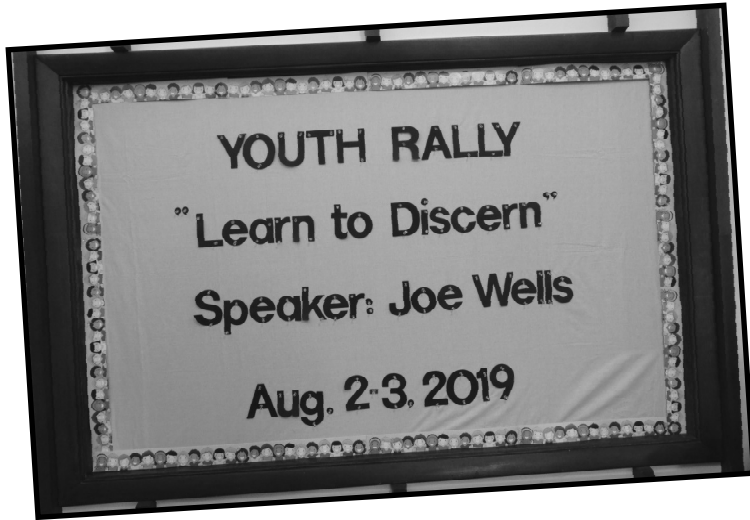


The Caller

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Hatred Has No Place

Amidst all the shootings that have increased over the past few days, many political figures including the highest office in the land have stated that hatred has no place in America. While this is a true statement I'm sure most all who would suggest such would suggest that really there is no place for hatred ANYWHERE! Hatred is one of the most dangerous emotions a human can hold in their heart and mind.

Hatred is so dangerous that it often leads to acts of violence and murder. Hatred has as its seed anger. How many times has a person been enraged by the driving habits of another, become angry, and then without care or concern for human life end up shooting and killing the road rage victim? Sometimes the weapon is a vehicle and the road rage leads to a deadly crash. Anger which leads to hatred leads to such acts of violence because it sets in our hearts and we cannot let it go.

It is not surprising then that the Bible addresses the topic of hatred throughout both the Old and New Testaments. It was Cain's anger, the seed of hatred, that led Cain to murder his brother, Abel. God's displeasure with Cain is clearly indicated in the text of Genesis 4.

It was a growing hatred that led the Jewish authorities to seek and successfully crucify Jesus. God, in His foreknowledge, understood that people would hate and reject His Son. What is quite amazing is that it was an act of love by God that led to the hatred men showed to His Son.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son... (John 3:16). In Romans, Paul expresses that God showed His love toward mankind in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us! Christ gave up the glory that He had with God in heaven to come to earth and suffer, ultimately being nailed to the cross and bearing the wrath of God, for the penalty for sin, for all of mankind, for all time.

When we understand God properly, love is the overriding attribute that we need to practice in our life. It is God's love (when properly understood) that leads to God's justice. His infinite knowledge and power make His love even more amazing. God is love. If we say we love God and hate our brother, then the love of God is not in us.

Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount still ring true with power..."Ye have heard it said 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thy enemy: but I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you!' Yes, it is indeed true, there is no place for hatred anywhere in the world, but especially in our hearts.

*John F. Board
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