



## Family Events:

June was moving month. The process of re-arranging our home in order to accommodate the remaining library and desk from the GWU office has taken most all the month. In fact, both May and June have been largely devoted to this project -- and a little still remains to be done, although not much. The third week of June was interrupted with the trip to see Donald, Hallie and the kids in Sterling, VA, outside Washington D.C. We had a delightful time relaxing and visiting with them. Donald's new company, [Katalyst Solutions](#), is getting off to a wonderful start. He does web design and development for a growing number of clients in the D.C. area, and is moving toward doing web hosting services as well.

One highlight of the visit was to take all three grandkids shopping for birthday gifts. With almost two dozen people in our immediate family now, I have had great difficulty remembering everyone's birthday and getting a gift



to each of the grandkids. So with those that we get to see on occasion, we just go shopping together and they select items they want within a budget limitation. I've had more fun watching them work their way through Toys-R-Us or Wal-Mart etc. counting out their 'pennies' in order to use every cent of the allowed budget. The shopping experience is the high point for me, and that when I absolutely detest going shopping. That's basically why I do almost all my shopping and purchasing over the internet. When going to a store becomes necessary, I try to know in advance exactly what I want, go straight to it in the store, and then head for the checkup counter. Additionally, I can typically find much better prices for items over the internet, than in a store.

The new office at home is beginning to shape up wonderfully well. Having the executive desk here now is providing substantially more space for 'spreading out' while doing research and writing. Words can't describe how wonderful it is to have the appx. 4,000 volumes of my personal library in one place and available for the research. With two major writing contracts under way at the moment, in addition to the regular GWU classroom materials, this arrangement is making the work immensely more enjoyable and easier.

All this moving work has helped me loose over four pounds of weight during the month of June. The neuropathy and arthritis issues continue to slowly expand, but haven't limited me too much thus far.

## AcAdemics:

One of the pressing deadlines during June was the completion of the prospectus on Hebrews for the editorial board of the [Review and Expositor Journal](#). The issue is scheduled to be released late next spring in connection to the Smyth and Helwys Summer Bible Study emphasis. The prospectus was submitted in June, and I have a good feeling about the quality of the issue. A marvelous set of Baptist writers have agreed to write articles for the volume.

Prof. [Peter Rhea Jones](#) of McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta is writing on contemporary trends of interpreting Hebrews. Prof. [Steven Harmon](#) of Campbell University School of Divinity is writing on how Hebrews was treated in patristic Christianity. Prof. [Edgar McKnight](#) of Furman University is writing on the literary design of Hebrews. Prof. [Bruce Corley](#), president of the new B.H. Carroll Institute in Fort Worth, is writing on the Christology of Hebrews. Prof. [Robert Canoy](#) of the M. Christopher White School of Divinity at GWU is writing on strategies for teaching and preaching Hebrews. And Dr. [David Benjamin](#), pastor of King's Cross Church in Tullahoma, TN, is surveying useful commentaries on Hebrews.

Each of these writers brings unique gifts to their task. Some are in the process of completing major commentaries on Hebrews for publication in the near future. Their exceptional skills will make my work as editor much easier. The objective of the issue is to provide a useful tool for a pastor or serious Bible

student who is preparing to teach or preach the text of the Letter to the Hebrews. This would supplement the commentaries that would be used for such an endeavor.

Hebrews is a very interesting book of the New Testament. Its origin is clouded in mystery and its approach to treating the significance of Christ is very unique for the New Testament. It presents a fascinating combination of ancient Greek and Jewish ways of thinking that come together for a magnificent affirmation of the excellency of Jesus Christ as the sole source of hope both in this life and in the life to come. Written not primarily as an ancient letter, but as an ancient Jewish homily (sermon), the book weaves together eloquent expressions of belief about Jesus with admonitions to strict patterns of behavior and commitment that grow out of faith in Christ.

I'm looking forward to reading the insights that each of these six journal writers will provide.

The work on the Colossians commentary for Smyth-Helwys is now getting underway in a serious manner. The office move has limited the time spent in June, but I have managed to complete a [schematization of the Greek text](#) of Colossians and it is posted under [New Testament Study Aids](#) at [Cranfordville.com](#). The word for word analysis of the Greek text is well underway. Additionally, about 200 pages of bibliography on secondary literature has been generated thus far. Some background analysis of the opposition to Paul at Colossae has been completed. For me, this is close to Heaven, to be able to do this kind of study.



## 😊 Claire's Musings:

July, 2004

My last day at school was June 7 and I was so glad to finally be able to work on my studies full time, especially now that I am so close to the end. The bad part was that the library still had a lot of work left in it to do. That will make starting school difficult, but by that time I won't have to worry about homework.

We have had Clay and Taylor for most of June and they have been wonderful. Poor Brian had a huge tile job out of town so we got to keep the kids. Clay got to attend a three-day basketball camp at Gardner-Webb and the next week a five half-day soccer camp. He had a great time and didn't want to stop. When Lorin and I went out of town, he went to work with his dad. Brian said he was a good worker and I am so proud of Clay. I took Taylor to her nursery, which was a little bit of a drive, but it was worth it for her to have friends to play with during the day (Grandpapa and I are not very entertaining) and to give me a better chance to work on my homework. When Brian finished up the job and picked up Taylor, our house was far too quiet and we had to readjust. We missed them being around and brightening up our lives.

The last part of June we made a trip to see Donald and Hallie, and the kids Britney, Preston, and Trevor near Washington D.C. We had a great time and, of course, I got to take pictures. The kids are growing up and getting cuter all the time. I took our laptop computer and finished up my Introduction to Instructional Technology class and made an "A" in that class.

On the way back we spent the night with Chris and

Linda White at Chowan College in Murfreesboro, NC, where he is president. They were so gracious to show us around the campus and I was quite impressed. It is a beautiful place and the people that we met are very nice. Chris and Linda seem so happy, and I think that Chowan is very lucky to have them there.



I am taking my last two five-week classes – Administration of School Technology Programs and Programs for School Library Media Centers. Now I can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Lorin and I have been moving furniture around in our house and I really like it better now. We changed his office to a room a little bigger and he finally has a little more space to work in with his bigger desk from GWU. We added a few more shelves in another room for him to be able to bring in more of his books. In the living room where my "office" was we have put an old computer for the kids to play on, which has sure made them happy. I now have my own office in a back bedroom and finally I can spread out my work. At this moment it is a study room, but that will change quickly to become my "photography studio" and work room. We will put in a futon couch which makes into a bed where guests can stay overnight. Hint – Hint! Come visit us and see the most beautiful part of the country.



## ✌ Lorin's Musings:

As we continue our study of NT Vice/Virtue Lists, we will now focus on the content of the [lists of virtues](#) that surface in

the letters of the New Testament. Excluding the very theologically oriented list in 1 Cor. 13, some thirteen lists surface in the various letters of the NT. Quite interestingly, these lists reflect a greater diversity and contrast to similar lists found in the Greco-Roman world than do the vice lists. J. D. Charles ("Vice and Virtue Lists," *Dictionary of New Testament Background*, pp. 1255ff.) correctly identifies the background to this: "This may derive from the fact that for Christian writers righteousness rather than moral goodness per se is essential."

The biblical Judeo-Christian tradition is not concerned with moral goodness that can be achieved by human determination and self-control. Repeatedly, in contrast, all human moral achievement is condemned as worthless in the eyes of God and a reflection of human pride and arrogance. At the core of human existence lies [sin and sinful living](#). Consequently, individuals are seen as incapable of measuring up to God's standards of absolute righteousness, as Gal. 3:10-11 makes clear (NRSV): [10 For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law."](#) [11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for "The one who is righteous will live by faith."](#)

Fundamentally, [goodness](#) stems from God who is the epitome of goodness. Followers of the God of Abraham must then look to their God for a model of goodness. In Christ, the presence and leadership of the Holy Spirit is the source of goodness for Christians, as Paul's fruits of the Spirit virtue list in [Gal. 5:22-23](#) asserts.

Some affinities between these virtue lists in the NT and the Greco-Roman ethical tradition do exist, however. The positive qualities demanded of the spiritual leader in 1 Tim. 3 bear significant similarity to those demanded of a military general in the Roman army. Almost identical traits that surface in Phil. 4:8; Titus 1:7-8; 3:1-2 and 1 Tim. 3:2-3 are found in the pagan lists. Yet, other lists such as Gal. 5:22-23 and 1 Tim. 6:1 contain very unique traits, that are not found in the Greco-Roman lists.

In the various lists a wide array of positive ethical traits can be seen. In the first list in [2 Cor. 6:6-8](#), note some of those (NRSV): ["6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute."](#) As a part of Paul's reflection on his credentials as an apostle (6:1-17), he sets forth several qualities that are to mark those who follow Christ. These qualities, "purity, knowledge, patience etc.", will set off the Christian as very distinct in the surrounding world. At the core of these traits is a genuineness of character that reflects the character of God and of Christ.