

# The Emerald Beach Christian

## Two Extremes of Religion

Barry Gilreath



Truth  
Alone

"No Emotion"



Emotion  
Alone

"No Truth"

It has been said: "Religion without emotion is like a barren desert. Religion without truth is like a cotton candy." In the context of Christianity, this truthful statement sheds the light on two aspects: the emotion of the heart and the truth of Christianity.

### "Barren Desert" Religion

When considering the aridness of the land, the heat of the day, the cold of the night, and the unforgiving terrain, a desert is just about the last place in which one would desire to be upon the face of this earth. The thing about a *barren desert* is just that: it is *barren*. There is no life there.

Yet, sadly for some, they are in the midst of a barren desert when it comes to their own spiritual lives. There is no life there! For some, the doctrine is right, but the emotion of the heart is simply not there. They understand a great deal about the love of God, the grace of His church, and the horrors of sin, but they fail to exhibit a true response from the depths of the soul. Their involvement is that of a mechanical nature. They are simply *going through the motions*. This is not the proper approach we are to have in matters pertaining to religion. You may even feel as if you are stranded in this barren desert? You have the truth, but the emotion of the heart is simply not there. This is a dangerous extreme indeed!

### "Cotton Candy" Religion

Cotton candy has its place in this world. Personally, I am not a fan of the beloved carnival treat, but I know there are those who treasure every second spent with this fluffed up sugary substance. Let's face it: the nutritional value is very limited. There is simply no substance to it. The pleasure of eating cotton candy is very short lived.

There are those today who choose to ascribe to solely to their emotions, and in doing so they are following after *cotton candy religion*. Their guide is what they feel. There is no substance to these feelings, for the feelings of man will not guide one in an appropriate and upright path (Jer. 10:23). Furthermore, these feelings are fleeting; they are here one second and gone the next. One who is under this false understanding of having his or her heart in it with absolutely no religious truth is completely walking blind in darkness (Psa. 119:105).

### What is the answer?

The answer is simple: *both* truth and emotion are needed in the life of the child of God! The right balance to this equation is the point where truth meets emotion. The right answer is when one makes a decision from the heart based upon the truth of God's Word, which is truth itself (Jn. 17:17). The gospel of Christ is a message which leads one to truth, and it ever requires an emotional response from the heart.

*Emerald Beach*  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Contact Information

#### Address

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#### Email

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#### Website

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Connect with us on facebook 

www.facebook.com/emeraldbeachchurch

### Times of Assembly

#### Sunday

9:00 AM – Bible Classes  
10:00 AM – Worship  
6:00 PM – Worship

#### Wednesday

7:00 PM – Bible Study

### Staff

#### Minister

Barry Gilreath III

#### Secretary

Duffie Chisolm

### Emerald Beach Contacts

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# Announcements

## Attention Visitors

Thank you for choosing to be with us this Lord's Day! You are our welcomed guests, and it is our prayer that we make you feel welcome this morning! We would love to have a record of your visit, and we ask that you please either sign the guest book (located in the back of the auditorium) or return to us a *Visitor Information Card* (located on the back of the pews). If you have any questions or comments about your visit with us, please express them to any of our members.

## Brethren, Thank You!

The members at Emerald Beach would like to thank our brothers and sisters in Christ for their financial support in the Gospel of Christ! We are small in number, and our out-of-town visitors have been ever faithful to help support the work of this congregation throughout the years. Your support to see the work of the Lord being accomplished in Panama City Beach means so much to us! Thank you!

## Congratulations

**William & Beverly Brown** – on the birth of their daughter, **Bonnie Bellamy Brown**, who was born late Friday afternoon at Gulf Coast Medical. She weighed 6 lbs., 4 oz. We also congratulate **Farris & Betty Brown** on the birth of their new granddaughter.

## Prayer Requests

*Updates:* **Omia Gibson** - mother of Gail Casteel is at home and feeling better; **Mary Swindle** – her surgery has been rescheduled for Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>

**Kelly Altman; Debbie Brown; Ivan Burnett** – sister of Jean Nichols; **Clint & Ann Byars; Alice Heath** – Mother of Betty Brown; **Charlie Hernandez; Edna Jones; William Jordan** – At *Bay Center* (Room 112); **Carol McGinnis** – Ann Byars' sister; **Sam & Louise Maxwell; Jim Murrell; Jean Nichols** – Mother of Sharon Stockton; **Jo Nesbitt; Dorris Richardson; Mary Swindle; Pat Young**

## This Week's Birthdays

Gail Casteel (20<sup>th</sup>)  
Duffle Chisolm (22<sup>nd</sup>)  
Carla Nave (22<sup>nd</sup>)



## Mark Your Calendar



**Wednesday, July 20** – *Birthday & Anniversary Celebration @ 8:00 PM*



**Saturday, July 23** – *Ladies' Luncheon* – 11:30 at the **Cantina** (Mexican) at Pier Park next to Panera Bread.



**Sunday, July 31** – *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship Meal* following morning services.



**Saturday, August 6** – *Vacation Bible School* from 10 AM – 1 PM. Volunteers are needed; see Gail Casteel to volunteer.

## Last Week's Records

AM Bible Study	60
AM Worship	220
PM Worship	62
Wednesday Bible Study	45
Contributions	\$3,010

## Serving in July

*Announcements*  
**Barry Gilreath**  
*Greeter*  
**Pat Montgomery**

*Locking the Building*  
**Barry Gilreath**  
*Preparing Communion*  
**Pat Montgomery**

## Benevolence Requests

Condiments	Crackers
Canned Meats	Hamburger Helper
Beef Stew	Jelly
Canned Beans	Spaghetti Sauce
Spaghetti	Mac & Cheese
Canned Tomatoes	Peanut Butter
Cereal	Ramen Noodles
Chili	Ketchup & Mustard
Soups	Toothbrushes
Canned & Powdered Milk	Toothpaste



# How Much are You Worth?

Tyler Gilreath

Do you know how much you are worth? In this economic crunch that has been evident the past several years, many do not want to know the answer to this. Many have invested their life's savings in the stock market, only to watch it dissolve into almost nothing. Others have tied up their money in real-estate (hoping to make a profit), but now realize that all they have done is tied up their money in real-estate. Others might say that they didn't have much to begin with, so the economic times haven't really affected them. Many people may not be worth very much financially at this moment, but all classes of people are worth a lot spiritually to God.

If you could put a price on your soul, what do you think it is worth? Is your soul worth \$10,000? Maybe it's worth about \$100,000, or perhaps \$100,000,000. The fact is that one could put 1,000,000 zeros at the end, and it still would not adequately depict how much one soul is worth. Jesus said to his disciples, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:26) The Lord says that one's soul is worth more than this entire world. What a statement of Christ! What we all need to be reminded though, is that these aren't just empty words. The same Jesus, who professed statements such as this, is the same Jesus who would hang upon a tree. One may ask, "But why? How does this relate to how much I am worth?"

Why did Jesus hang on the old rugged cross? Many have suggested that He had no choice, wrong! Skeptics have preached that He was overpowered, wrong! Some atheists teach that this never really transpired, wrong! Some have even had the audacity to say that Jesus was a criminal, also wrong! Jesus was crucified in order that he might buy you. The purchased apostle wrote, "For **ye are bought with a price**: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:20) A man may ask, "If this is true, from whom or what did Jesus buy me?" The same apostle, Paul, wrote that Jesus "gave himself for us, that he might **redeem us from all iniquity**, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:14) "Ok I understand that now, but with what does he buy souls?" Friend, Peter penned, "But **with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you." (1 Peter 1:19-20) Shocked and overwhelmed the man rhetorically asked, "He did that for me?" Reader, Jesus thought you were worth the price of the blood than ran through his veins, which is the reason that your sins can be remitted today (Hebrews 9:22). A little girl was walking by a pet store, and saw a beautiful bird caged near the front window. She ran inside and bought the bird only to free it minutes later. That is what God does for us. When one is born again through biblical faith, he or she is set free from the shackles of sin.

Friend, your worth is not determined by how much money you have, or what kind of car you may drive; your worth has been determined by the God of this Universe. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:16-18).

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Visit our website to sign up to receive an electronic edition of *The Emerald Beach Christian* in your email inbox each week.

## Thought of the Week

Jesus *died for you!*  
Will you *live for Him?*

## Study the Bible

Do you want to study the Bible? If you are interested, see one of the members here. We offer a variety of FREE Bible study courses:

*You Can Be Sure* - Many today teach that you cannot be sure about anything. This course teaches how one can be assured of God, the Bible, salvation, the church, and one's eternal destination.

*Bible Correspondence Course* - This 8-lesson study is perfect for one desiring to study from the privacy of his or her own home.

*Open Bible Study* - This 3-lesson course is a question & answer approach to understanding the fundamental teachings of God's Word.

*Searching for Truth* - One who participates in this DVD Bible course will embark on a journey for Biblical truth.

## Obey the Gospel

- Hear the Word (Rom. 10:17)
- Believe in Christ (Mark 16:15)
- Repent of Sins (Acts 17:30)
- Confess Christ (Rom. 10:9-10)
- Be Baptized (Acts 2:38)
- Live Faithfully (2 Tim. 4:6-8)