

# Senior Pastor

By Brandon Lemons, Senior Pastor

## New Sermon Series



On Sunday, September 11, we will begin a new 6-week sermon series called *Big Buts: Examining Objections to Christianity*. Many of us find that when we try to talk with family or friends about our Christian faith, we encounter challenging questions that we struggle to answer. And it's very common for us share these same questions and doubts. Well, this sermon series is going to give us the opportunity to examine these objections.

Based on our survey of the Friedens congregation that yielded 32 suggestions, we will be examining the following "Big Buts" (objections) to the Christian faith:

- **But how could God allow so much suffering and evil?**  
*September 11*
- **But how can we know that God exists?**  
*September 18*
- **But what about all of the errors and contradictions in the Bible?**  
*September 25*
- **But doesn't science disprove the Bible?**  
*October 2*
- **But what about all of the other religions?**  
*October 16*
- **But Christians are so hypocritical.**  
*October 23*

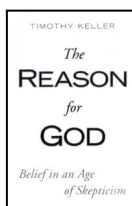
Please note that we will be taking a week off of the *Big Buts* series on October 9 because Dan and Deb Kensel, our missionaries in Thailand, will be speaking.

The questions we are addressing in the *Big Buts* series are truly challenging. None of them yield simple answers, and on this earth, we will never fully understand the depth of God's perspective on these topics. Yet they are all important questions, because for many non-Christians, they represent major obstacles between them and Jesus. In addition, these topics also hit home in the lives of many sincere Christians. So rather than ignoring these challenging topics, we are going to examine them directly and humbly.

*Big Buts* is a great series to which you can invite your friends and family. Each topic will be examined in a sensitive manner that strives to take seriously the challenging nature of the questions. My prayer is that God will work through this series to: 1) strengthen the faith of those who are already Christ-followers, 2) draw many people into a life-changing relationship with Christ, and 3) demonstrate to everyone that the Christian faith really does make sense and lead to true life (John 10:10).

From now until the conclusion of this series, there will be *Big Buts* postcards at the *Welcome Center*. Please take a few to distribute to your family and friends who might be interested in any or all of these topics.

If you're interested in studying more on these and other challenging topics, I highly recommend the following books, all of which are available in the "Apologetics" section of Friedens' library ("apologetics" means "a defense or explanation").



*The Reason for God* by Tim Keller is a Gospel-centered examination of skeptics' questions and a logical explanation for why belief in God is reasonable. Lee Strobel was an agnostic investigative journalist who examined the claims of Christianity and became a Christ-follower based on his findings. *The Case for Christ* examines the basis for who Jesus is. *The Case for Faith* looks at challenging questions like those in the *Big Buts* series. *The Case for a Creator* examines why it's rational to believe that God created the universe.

