

# The Trumpet

“The trumpet shall sound...and we shall be changed”  
(I Corinthians 15:52)



Volume 13 Issue 9

## Pastor’s Pen

When I was in high school and college Biology classes, I learned that chlorophyll gives the green color to plants, tree, and grass. Also, photosynthesis is the process by which plants take sunlight and convert it into chemical energy. The plants then use the energy for food and release oxygen as a byproduct. Granted the process is a little more complicated than described but the point here is not a biology lesson. I simply want to highlight the critical need the plant has for sunlight.

As days grow shorter in the Fall, the once green and healthy plants become brown and weak. This changing color of the foliage is looked upon as a thing of beauty. The truth is the colors are changing because the leaves are dying. Their source of energy and sustenance is greatly diminished.

Jesus said, “...I am the light of the world” (John 9:5). That means Jesus is our energy and our sustenance. Therefore, we must ask ourselves if the light of Christ is active in our life. When the light of Jesus shines in us, we are strong, alive, active and attractive to God. Sadly, the spiritual photosynthesis that gives us strength, courage, energy and endurance is non-existent when we allow the light of Christ to fade. The light fades because we allow sin, cares, concerns, busy schedules, burdens, and lack of priority to so darken our lives so that the light of Christ is quelled. When energy for the daily rigors of life should be garnered from the indwelling light of God, too many are being crushed under the weight of relying on their own plans, intellect, resources, social position, or personal perception. Truth-

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fully, when Christians should be shored up, braced, undergirded, and reinforced by the presence of Holy God via spiritual photosynthesis, many are emaciated.

As the Fall beauty yields to winter, plants wither, grass goes dormant, and trees are stripped bare of their leaves. But then spring comes and with it is the arrival of new blossoms and new leaf’s; replete with vibrant colors and new life. So it is with a Christian. It may be the light of God has not been shining brightly in your life. If you’ll pull down, give up, or let go of those

things that have blocked the infiltration of His light in your life, you will experience new blossoms, new leaf's, new hope, and new life. *"In Him was life; and the life was the light of men"* (John 1:4)

I pray each step you take is illuminated by the light of the glorious gospel of Christ.

In Christ alone,  
Pastor Jim

## You're Invited



FIRST SOUTHERN  
Baptist Church

*"Reigniting our Heritage"*

Building Re-Dedication Service

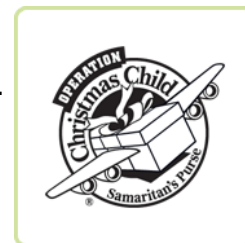
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>,

SPECIAL TIME: **10:30 AM**

**BEGINNING IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

### Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry formed by Franklin Graham that takes Christmas gifts and the Gospel to underprivileged children all over the world. We are collecting items to fill shoeboxes in November. Each month we will highlight a different item to bring in. But, please remember we will take all types of donations at any time! For September please bring in reusable plastic containers, cups, bowls and water bottles.



## **PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD**

### **APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER**

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#### **What Can Wash Away My Sin?**

Most everyone reading this is familiar with the hymn of the same title. So, let's take some time to think about its meaning. There is an assumption built into the title that something called "sin" needs to be washed away. Sometimes sin is defined as missing the mark, but in scripture sin is any violation of God's law. God's law is comprised of everything He wants us to do and everything we should not do. It is his prescriptive will, do this but don't do that. His decretive will, everything that is going to happen, is a will that is known only to God except for a few exclusions. We know, for example, that Jesus Christ is going to return, we know that when He does he will punish sinners and reward believers. We know the general truth that God causes all things to work together for good for those who are called according to His purposes. But, we do not know exactly what will happen next, nor do we know how each event will work for our good.

Because God is both holy and perfectly just, He must punish all sin. God never, never, never overlooks sin. To do so would be a violation of His character. And unlike us God behavior is always consistent with who He is. We vacillate, the Lord never does. Jesus, the one into whose hands the Father has committed all judgment, is the same yesterday, today and yes forever. But, He is also the one who on the cross of Calvary paid the price of the sins of His people and obtained eternal redemption (Heb. 9:12). That is the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus was sufficient to accomplish its purpose. Throughout scripture the imagery given is that a spotless sacrifice is required to pay for sin. Any honest person recognizes that neither he nor she is without blemish. But more than that, even the things we say are good about ourselves the Bible calls filthy rags. We are dead in sin and anything and everything we do only adds to our sin debt. We are in bondage to sin and utterly unable to break its bonds. Even worse, we have no desire to do so because we all love our sin. The book of Romans well describes our position when it says, *as it is written, there is none righteousness, not even one. There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless, there is none who does good, there is not even one* (Romans 3:10-12).

In light of our fallen nature that can only sin we must recognize that there is nothing we can do to remedy our situation. And since we can do nothing to help ourselves we must look outside ourselves for help. Otherwise we will spend eternity in the lake of fire. Those that find themselves in hell will spend eternity shaking their fist at God only increasing their sin because for the unbeliever death does not end their sinning. In fact, it will only increase their sin because the re-

straints we have to sinning in this life will be removed. Our culture, our laws do restrain sin to some extent. We realize this when there is a natural disaster and marshal law has to be declared to keep people who ordinarily would behave well from looting.

All kinds of remedies for our sin debt have been suggested even within the professing Christian church which will be of no assistance. No monk ever tried harder than Martin Luther to deal with his sin through his own efforts. Luther would spend hours in the confessional every day frustrating his superiors. After all, how much trouble can you get into in a monastery? But Luther recognized that all his efforts were in vain, his sin remained. Most of us can find ways to minimize or ignore out sin and its consequences. Luther could not. Only when he recognized that the just shall live by faith was Luther relieved of his burden. His study in Romans and Galatians were used by God to open his eyes

By contrast, we are so familiar with hearing about the sacrifice of our Lord that it is easy to miss the import of His leaving heaven, taking on a human body, not only leading a life without sin but achieving positive righteousness and then dying on the cross while bearing the weight of the sins of His people. But it is only when the benefits of His death are reckoned to you that you are declared righteousness. It is only then that you become acceptable to God. It is only then that you can look forward to spending eternity in heaven with Jesus.

When the hymn says that it is the blood of Jesus that washes away our sin it is speaking of His death. When He was scourged before His crucifixion some of his blood was spilled. And while that is a part of what our Lord suffered it did not pay for our sin. Only His death did that. So, the blood is a euphemism for His death. It must be since the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Death, that is eternal death, is what God gives as punishment for sin. In order to pay for our sin Jesus had to die. Now of course the divine nature didn't die, that is not possible. But the human nature did experience death just like every other human being has except for Enoch and Elijah - and will for those of us who are still alive at Christ's return. One thing that is unique about the death of our Lord is that he is the only innocent person to ever die. Pilate admitted that Jesus did not deserve to die. He was killed for no valid reason. Yet His death served a purpose like no other ever has or ever will. This is because His death really and truly does wash away our sin. It is not a death that needs repeating; he died once for all. Nothing needs to be or can be added to what Jesus did.

None of us is free from sin in this life. So, when you sin do not try to make up for that sin by doing goods deeds. To do so would deny the sufficiency of Christ's death. Instead, confess your sin, repent of your sin and rely only and entirely on Jesus your savior to make you whole again.

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 2 Labor Day - Offices Closed - No MDO
- 7 Air Force Appreciation Day
- 8 Rededication Service (10:30 a.m.)
- 8 Potluck Fellowship (12:00 p.m.)
- 8 - 15 York Dillman State Offering Week of Prayer
- 9 Deacons' Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 20 - 21 Awana Ministry Conference
- 24 Sunday School Teachers' Training (6:30 p.m.)
- 28 Beth Moore Simulcast
- 29 Benevolence Fund Offering
- 29 5th Sunday Sing

### Finance Committee

The finance committee consisting of Martha Hazelbaker, Bob Neubauer and Julie Harper, will be working on the 2020 budget more in keeping with the accounting software we have been using the last two years. Due to less income from tithing for the 2019 budget we expect to make some cuts on some of the lower priority items to insure there will be enough money to cover the regular expenses and for a reserve for any unexpected costs. Our spending is below our income but still above our budget. We will adjust according to the income we project for the coming year. Further adjustments may be required depending on fourth quarter receipts.

Our new full charge bookkeeper, Martha Hazelbaker, is now completely trained and working both independently and efficiently. She is also almost fully trained for her duties as assistant treasurer. The rest of her training will be completed by the end of the year. We are very appreciative of her faithfulness and dedication to her responsibilities.

Julie Harper – Finance Committee Chair

## Early Childhood Ministry

Hello church family!

Last week was pretty exciting for us. The church received new carpet as part of the renovation and the nursery room did as well!! We were so excited for it, because the old carpet had a huge tear along the seam where the vacuum would continually snag it. They installed the carpet better this time putting the seam is against the wall where it should no longer tear. We also removed the 2-shelf barrier that divided the room and put it along the back wall which really opened up the room allowing both more play area for the babies and walking room for the adults.



Over the summer we've had a reduction in church attendance in all areas of the Children's Department. We lost a couple of families and their children due to PCS. Yet at the same time the church stepped up to provide enough nursery workers in the 0 – 4-year-old classes (thank you church members).

We need more Children's Sunday School Teachers (any grade) who would be willing to teach 1-2 Sunday's a month. This would permit our regular teachers to attend an adult Sunday School class so they can be fed as well.

We are praying along with the church body that our new updated sanctuary will bring more families to the church and that if the Lord does provide us with a bigger harvest we will have enough workers.

Thank you,

Jessica Nagel – Childhood Ministry Director

## The Difficulty of Forgiving

The scripture commands us to forgive one another just as Christ has forgiven us. This is not an easy command to obey. Because we are fallen creatures our focus is on ourselves. Though we are redeemed we still sin and must wait for eternity before we are entirely free of wrong actions, thoughts and feelings. Nevertheless, we are still accountable for how we treat our fellow believers and those outside the faith as well. We can of course treat others rightly regardless of how we feel. And if we will remember how much God has forgiven us then we can at least in measure learn over time to forgive others from the heart.

## Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



1. What do you call an exploding monkey? A baboom!
2. What do you call an elephant in a phone booth?  
Stuck!
3. What do you call a baby bear with no teeth? A gummy bear.
4. What is a cheetah's favorite food? Fast food!
5. Why did the dog cross the road twice? He was trying to catch a boomerang.
6. Where does an elephant pack his luggage? In his trunk!

## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

9 Bill McCormack  
9 Bob Neubauer  
12 Devin Osgood  
13 Katie Blalock  
15 Anna Sisson



*Happy Birthday*

22 Carol Ellis  
24 Keith Sisson  
28 Daniel Kephart IV  
28 Harold Southwick

2 Jonathan & Sarah Sanchez  
4 Garry & Julie Harper



21 Genesis & Jessica Stokes  
25 Larry & Elizabeth Sears

## First Week October Birthdays

2 Jim Clark

5 Stacy Swenson