



Pastor's Pen

Every time I hear or sing that old hymn *When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder* I think about my grandmother Gregory. I seem to remember her either singing or whistling that song when we made our annual visits to Arkansas. When she sang the last verse, she did it with an indescribable passion in her voice. The last verse says, “Let us labor for the Master from the dawn ‘til setting sun, let us talk of all His wondrous love and care: then when all of life is over and our work on earth is done and the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there.” I am reminded in this verse that true faith in Christ is evidenced in the life we live and the works we accomplish in kingdom building.

I realize there are some who bristle at the mention of faith and works in the same sentence. The truth is, themes of both repeatedly come to the surface in the New Testament book of James. For James it’s not merely faith *and* works, but faith *that* works. Jesus reminded us that by our fruits we will be known. He also told us that the central commandment was the demonstration of love toward God and others. We learn in these words of Jesus that works and faith are inextricably connected to the authentic Christian life.

I heard about a faithful single Christian lady who had come to the end of her life. As she lay dying, she shared with her pastor how little she had been able to do for Jesus. She had no formal education and provided for herself by working in a factory. She saved every penny she could to help support missionaries on the mission field. It certainly wasn’t much but it was everything she had to give. After work

Inside This Edition

Pastor's Pen	page 1
Music Ministry	page 2
Putting on Full Armor of God	page 3
Calendar	page 5
Personnel Committee	page 6
Birthdays and Anniversaries	page 7

she would visit the sick and elderly; often doing their laundry, ironing, and house cleaning.

As she faced her final days of life, she said to the pastor, “I’ve not been able to do much for the Lord. I’ve never had much money to give and all I could do was just common labor.”

The pastor looked at her gnarled, deformed hands. Knowing they were made that way by her faithful work over many years of ministry, the pastor simply and

gently said, “Beloved, when you stand before the Lord, just show him your hands.”

There is coming a day when our works on earth will be revealed. When that day comes, and God says let me see your hands, will they show years of faithful service to the King of Kings?

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Happy in His Service,

Pastor Jim

Music Ministry

The FSBC worship team and music ministry has benefitted greatly from the completion of the sanctuary remodel. In the first few weeks we had to work through a few changes in our system – learning how to manage our new audio/visual capabilities – but one thing hasn’t changed. Our focus remains on the mission of facilitating worship in “spirit and in truth.” Despite the wonderful performance tools available to us, our mission has nothing to do with performance and everything to do with encouraging unity and harmony as we boldly approach the throne of grace together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

With this in mind, we continue to encourage everyone to “make a joyful noise” with praise and thanksgiving. If you would like to join your voice or instrumental talent with ours, please contact Nicole Clark in the FSBC office.

Garry Harper

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 November we will finish packing the boxes.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

He Who Knew No Sin

II Corinthians 5:21 reads, *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* We understand those words and yet we do not. That is, we hear what they are saying but as fallen creatures we cannot truly conceive of not knowing sin. For we were born sinners. Neither our parents nor anyone else had to teach us to sin. Sinning is as natural to us as breathing. But for all eternity the second person of the trinity did not know sin. Not only had He not sinned, He could not sin. By contrast it is easy for fallen man to sin. Even as Christians we struggle to keep from sinning. That is the reason we must live lives of repentance. Not only does God require righteous deeds He demands purity of thought. And though we may not engage in a given overt act of sin we all sin with our minds.

We know from scripture that the second person of the trinity became incarnate, that is He took on a human body. Since He did not have a human father His human nature did not inherit sin as our natures do. So, what does the text mean when it says He became sin on our behalf. It does not mean that He sinned. Jesus was not contaminated by sin as we are. Rather sin was reckoned to Him by imputation. If the text just said that He became sin rather than became sin on our behalf then it would be saying that He actually sinned. We can understand our sin being reckoned to Him because Christ's righteousness was reckoned to us. Christ is counted a sinner though He never sinned. We are counted righteous though we still sin. We are at the same time just (righteous) before God though we still sin every day. In like manner the Lord Jesus was still free from sin, though He was counted a sinner on our behalf. If Jesus had actually sinned, if He was not just reckoned a sinner, then He would have been disqualified as our savior. If He had actually sinned then He would not have even been able to save Himself let alone anyone else.

The great wonder is that He would leave heaven and forever join His divine nature with a human one. Though we are like God in that we have a moral nature we are incredibly unlike Him in most ways. For God and man are two different orders of being. We have much more in common with the animal kingdom than God does with us. When the scripture says we are created in His image it is talking about His moral image, not His order of being. The Mormon church notwithstanding we will never be gods and God was never a man. God is spirit, we are flesh. God is eternal, we are created. God is independent needing nothing, we are de-

pendent needing everything. God has always been free from sin, we needed to be freed from sin. God is infinite, we are finite.

The Father from all eternity planned to send the Son to earth as a man. We often and rightly think of the love of Christ as the imperative that made Him take on flesh, but it was the love of the Father that sent him. Since there is only one God and since each member of the Godhead is equally divine, no one member is more loving toward us than any other member. To say that Christ was more loving than the Father would bring division into the Godhead, something we should never consider. And the Holy Spirit demonstrated His love for us as the agent of regeneration. Is the preaching of the gospel required for us to become believers? Of course, it is. But millions have heard the gospel proclaimed without coming to faith in Christ. As the Baptist Faith & Message says, regeneration (the new birth) precedes faith. Obviously, people who are dead in trespasses and sins cannot regenerate themselves. It is the third person of the trinity who “makes us alive” or “regenerates us” or “takes out our hearts of stone and gives us hearts of flesh.” Once that happens we do receive Christ as our savior. But it was the Holy Spirit out of His love for us that caused us to be born again. The work of salvation is triune for we have a triune God that loves us and has saved us. The Father, the Son and the Spirit have always been and will always be in perfect harmony. When Jesus prayed in the garden, *not my will but thine*, we are hearing his human will, not His divine will. Yes, Jesus had two wills, His divine will from all eternity and His human will from conception in the womb of Mary. To be fully human Jesus had to have a human will, not just a divine will.

Though we struggle with sin in this life we have the promise of lives where we won't have to wrestle with sin in eternity. When we come to faith we are justified, declared righteous, based on the imputed righteousness of our Savior. And the very moment we are justified our sanctification begins. None of us ever achieves perfect sanctification in this life. Some groups claim that a Christian can do that, but they run afoul of the apostle John's statement that *he who says he has no sin is a liar and the truth is not in him*. John was dealing with the proto-agnostics who were claiming that very thing. Our glorification when we are finally home with the Lord is the completion of our sanctification. Then not only will we not sin, we will have no desire for sin. What a glorious thought to contemplate! Our fellowship with our creator and with our brothers and sisters in Christ will be perfect. We will understand to the limit of finite beings what our Savior did for us in becoming sin on our behalf. We will glory in the love of the one triune God, Father, Son and Spirit, who loved us from all eternity. May we ever praise His name!

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 3 | Daylight Savings Time Ends - Turn Clocks Back One Hour |
| 9 | Ladies' Crafting Day (10:00 a.m.) |
| 10 | Shoebox Dedication (11:00 a.m.) |
| 11 | Veterans' Day |
| 25-28 | No MDO |
| 27 | No Awana - No Prayer Meeting |
| 28 | Thanksgiving Day - Offices Closed |

Church Council

We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.
Psalm 55:14

The Church Council is tasked with meeting together at least once a quarter for the consideration and unification of plans for the promotion of the welfare of all ministries of the church. (Article 3; sec.1A) Over the last several months the primary focus has been on the remodel project. Working with and through select ministries phase one of the project is completed and phase two is underway. Please continue to hold our remodel and refurbishing project before the Lord in prayer. Not everyone can swing a hammer or demolish a wall, but everyone can pray for the safety and protection of the laborer's and the guidance, direction, and blessing of God.

The Church Council members work diligently with all ministries and committees to help them achieve their ministry assignments. This covers a wide spectrum including assisting, resourcing, partnering, and much more. Additionally, council members are tasked with maintaining open lines of communication with each team leader and committee chairperson assigned to them.

If you are a ministry leader/chairperson and unaware of your council representative, please contact the church office.

Blessings to all!

Pastor Jim

Personnel Committee

Philippians 3:20 “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

During the coming year the political climate in the U.S. will, no doubt, continue to be a boiling cauldron of angst and vitriol. We see and hear it every day. Political discourse does find its way into the workplace – yes, even in a church.

The enemy of our souls would like to see divisions over politics create divisions within the body. That is exactly why we must never lose sight of Jesus’ real mission. He did not come to validate one political party or philosophy over another – he came to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10).



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If you’re facing a difficult environment at work or oppression because of your commitment to Christ, take joy and comfort in what the Apostle Paul shared with the Philippians. Christ has gone to prepare a place for us in heaven where “the wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock... they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord” (Isaiah 65:25). In the midst of the world’s constant turmoil, we have the assurance that our real home is in heaven with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Garry Harper - Chairman

Total Depravity

What does it mean when the scripture says we were dead in our trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1)? We certainly were not physically dead; we were spiritually dead. How much did that death affect us? Theologians use the term total depravity to describe our state. This does not mean we were as bad as we could be. The term for that condition is utter depravity. It does mean that our fallenness affects our entire person. There is no area of goodness that is excluded. So, the scripture says all our righteousness is as filthy rags. And that is why God had to make us alive (Eph. 2:5) for us to come to faith.

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



1. When should you buy a bird? When it is going cheap.
2. Q. How do you catch an unique bird? A. Unique up on it. Q. How do you catch a tame bird? A. The tame way, unique up on it.
3. What do you give a sick bird? Tweetment.
4. Why did the chicken cross the playground? To get to the other slide.
5. Why do hummingbirds hum? Because they don't know the lyrics.
6. How do crows stick together in a flock? Velcrow.

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Ted Solum
8 Sue Southwick
9 Natalie Sanchez
9 Cookie Lyerla
10 Talayjah Stokes
15 Pete Berry



Happy Birthday

16 Michael Kephart
20 Joe Hodge
22 Doreen Solum
28 Jake Sisson
30 Agnes Simler

9 Daniel & Mistee Kelley

