

March 2020

The Trumpet

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



Volume 14 Issue 3

Pastor's Pen

This month I celebrated another birthday. Years ago, I passed the one that enabled me to order off the senior menu, enjoy senior discounts, and officially identify me as Senior Adult. While I don't feel that old, I can't deny the facts. Have you ever wondered how old you would be if you didn't know how old you were? Think about it. There are some people who are 80 *years young* and still enjoying life. There are other people who are 30 *years old* and complain all the time about life and its multiple ills. The truth is it depends on your attitude. Someone young at heart has written:

I have become a little older since I saw you last, and a few changes have come into my life since then. Frankly, I have become quite a frivolous old gal. I am seeing five gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me get out of bed. Then I go to see John. Then Charlie Horse comes along, and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I'm really tired and glad to go to bed with Ben Gay. What a life!

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do all the time. No matter where I am – in the parlor, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement – I ask myself what am I here after?" (From Charles R. Swindoll, *Laugh Again*)

All joking aside; aging is an inescapable fact of life. While it poses unknown challenges and brings unwelcomed hurdles, it also carries a biblical mandate: *“But let your words be in agreement with true and right teaching: That old men are to be simple in their tastes, serious, wise, true in faith, in love, and of a quiet mind. That old women are to*

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be self-respecting in behavior, not saying evil of others, not given to taking much wine, teachers of that which is good, Training the younger women to have love for their husbands and children, To be wise in mind, clean in heart, kind; working in their houses, living under the authority of their husbands; so that no evil may be said of the word of God. To the young men give orders to be wise and serious-minded: In all things see that you are an example of good works; holy in your teaching, serious in behavior, Saying true and right words...” (Titus 2:1-8; BBE

We can easily get caught up on the intellectual side of doing

church, organizing associations, and guiding conventions. However, we must not forget practical biblical application. I hear so much today about how we are losing the young people; about how they are not interested in going to church or learning about God. Is it possible they are disengaging from the church and uninterested in God because parents and grandparents are not training and mentoring them from a biblical perspective?

Sarah and I have been blessed with five grandchild. While this is more evidence we are getting older, it is also a reminder that our responsibility before the Lord and to our family never ends. So, every time I blow out the birthday candles, I will thank God for the aches and pains that remind me of life's experiences; for my precious children and grandchildren that remind me of God's richest blessings; for my dear wife who personifies God's grace and love; for the joy and laughter over the years that reminds me Jesus gives life more abundant. And, when I order a Happy Meal, I'll remember to say, "Don't forget my senior discount!"

Happy in His service,
Pastor Jim

Music Ministry

2 Chronicles 29:26-28 King James Version (KJV)

²⁶ And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

²⁷ And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the Lord began also with the trumpets, and with the instruments ordained by David king of Israel.

²⁸ And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.

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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 March please bring in Combs & Brushes.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

The Meaning of New Testament Miracles

We see a number of miracles in the New Testament. Why do the Gospel writers include the particular miracles we have? Is there a reason why Jesus performed the miracles He did? We first need to remember that the New Testament writers had limited space to tell Christ's story. Unlike today paper was expensive and everything had to be hand copied. While there were no doubt thousands of stories that could be told each writer could only select a few. We also recognize that each writer had a different audience. Matthew wrote to the Jews, Mark to the Romans and Luke to the Greeks. John's Gospel was probably written after the others which influenced his choices of material. We cannot say for certain why his work is so different from the other gospels.

The main purpose of including miracles in the text of the Gospels was to authenticate who Jesus was. Only God could do the things Jesus did. We do need to recognize that the miracles we see in both the Old and New Testaments are not just unexpected events, but things that require the supernatural. Often we hear things being referred to as miracles today that while extraordinary do not require the suspension of the natural order for their accomplishment. One of the things that is wrong about naming an event a miracle when it is not, is that it downgrades our understanding of true miracles. When Jesus turned water into wine He did something that could not happen outside of God's supernatural action. A person who is very sick will often get well even though they were not expected to live. We should not call that a miracle because it did not require a suspension of the natural order. That is not to say that God was not involved. All healing comes from God, but a sick person regaining their health falls into the category of providence – God's control and ordering of all things not directly related to salvation. Even a person's salvation though requiring the supernatural working of the Holy Spirit, should not be called a miracle since that is not the way the word is used in scripture. In the Bible a miracle is something physical. Of course, a person coming to faith involves the supernatural. The Holy Spirit regenerates people who are according to Paul in Ephesians chapter two are dead in their trespasses and sins. Dead people do not make themselves alive, only God can do that. But it is important for us to use terms the way they are used in the Bible. The tendency for people today is to not use words the way they are intended, too often not recognizing the meaning of a word and therefore use it incorrectly. For example, when it is snowing a meteorologist may say we should be careful because conditions could be dangerous. Actually, when it is snowing the conditions are dangerous. Danger does not mean something bad is going to happen but that there is an increased

risk of something bad happening. It is even more important that we rightly use Biblical terms since they have not just temporal meaning but meaning that is eternal.

Two New Testament miracles concern the births of John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus. John's mother, Elizabeth, was barren until God enabled her to conceive. But, with Mary it required a supernatural act of the Holy Spirit for her conception. It was necessary that Mary was a virgin so that Jesus did not have a sin nature. Otherwise the last Adam would have had a sin nature and thus could not borne the punishment for the sins of all believers.

The first miracle than Jesus does is the turning of water into wine. A careful reading of the text (John 2:1-11) tells us that it was real wine, not grape juice. The waiter is surprised at the high quality of the wine because the wine served later in the celebration is normally of lower quality because the guests could not tell the difference. Obviously, that was because the alcohol had dulled their senses. The purpose of the miracle is most likely to show the joy associated with the arrival of the new age.

There are various reasons for the different miracles. The cursing of the fig tree is prophetic and predictive of the destruction of the nation of Israel. The raising of Jarius' daughter (Matt. 9:18) is both a response to his faith and to show the power of Jesus over death. This is also shown in the raising of the son of the widow of Nain and Lazarus. Those three also illustrate the need for saving all kinds of men. All three were dead though some showed it more than others. In like manner we see the need for saving sinners no matter how much or how little they show their depravity.

The stilling of the storm in Mark 4:40 demonstrates the power of God over nature and helps instill faith in the disciples. The feeding of the five thousand shows the Lord's ability to meet our physical needs and His power to multiply even the most meager supplies. It was also used to point out that our focus tends to be on those needs rather than the eternal. For in John 6:26 he tells those who had followed him that they had not done so because they saw signs, but because their bellies were filled.

Of course, there are many other supernatural acts that Christ performed found in the New Testament. The main purpose of this brief treatment of the miracles of Jesus is to demonstrate that these were not arbitrary acts without purpose, but that each one had a specific objective and demonstrated who Jesus was so that we may be sure there is meaning to all that happens and that our Lord has the power to accomplish all He intends. So, what was His greatest miracle? It was His resurrection from the dead - which ensured our resurrection. Amen!

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 1 Loving Our City Discipleship Training (5:30 p.m.)
- 2 Church Council (6:30 p.m.)
- 6-8 Ski & Share March
- 6-7 Awana Expedition
- 1-8 **Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer**
- 20-22 **TVSBA Women's Retreat**
- 23-27 **Spring Break No MDO No Awana**
- 27 Sunday School Teachers' Training (6:30 p.m.)
- 29 Benevolence Fund Offering
- 29 5th Sunday Sing

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| Sunday School | 9:30 a.m. | Sunday |
| Morning Worship | 11:00 a.m. | Sunday |
| Prayer Meeting | 6:30 p.m. | Wednesday |

(Music Ministry continued from page 2)

Like the Levites of old, the music ministry at FSBC seeks to support and encourage others to offer thanksgiving, praise and adoration in Spirit and in Truth. Our efforts are not separate from our Pastor's teaching but complementary to it so that every element of our worship service deepens our understanding of the Word and prepares the soil of our hearts to receive precious seeds sown by the Master of the harvest. It's important to note that the II Chronicles passage does not single out one instrumentalist or singer demonstrating instead the powerful and collective involvement of the congregation. Notice, too, that this worship preceded the burnt offering and continued until the offering was finished.

Garry Harper



For the Garden of Your Daily Living

Plant Three Rows of Peace

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

We Must Also Have Thyme

1. Thyme for God
2. Thyme for each other
3. Thyme for family
4. Thyme for friends

Water Freely With Patience And Cultivate
With Love!!

Carol Ellis



Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



1. To steal from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
2. I didn't say it was your fault. I said I was blaming you.
3. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
4. You are supposed to respect your elders. But at my age it's getting harder and harder to find one.
5. I want to die peacefully in my sleep like my grandfather, not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

4 Sam Artz
 4 Ruth Heinen
 9 Aurora Farnham
 11 Nicole Clark
 11 Genesis Stokes
 18 Bunni Farnham



Happy Birthday

20 Rose Lindsey
 21 Joy Harwood
 25 Johnny Harwood
 27 James Gregory
 28 Manuelito Brooks
 28 Louise Carroll

28 Ted & Doreen Solum



If you have a birthday or anniversary in March but do not see it on this list please contact the church office.