

August 2020

The Trumpet

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



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Pastor's Pen

I enjoyed my science classes in both high school and college. Human anatomy, physiology, chemistry, kinesiology and physical sciences were all interesting to me. I remember learning in biology that chlorophyll gives the green color to plants, tree leaves, 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. (That's why live plants always make a room smell fresher and you healthier; they thrive on what you breathe out and you thrive on the oxygen they produce.) 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). 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 when we allow sin, cares, concerns, busy schedules, burdens, and lack of priority to so darken our lives that the light of Christ is quelled. When energy for the daily rigors of life should be garnered

Inside This Edition

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Pastor's Pen | page 1 |
| Nominating Committee | page 2 |
| Putting on Full Armor of God | page 3 |
| Calendar | page 5 |
| Sunday School Report | page 6 |
| Birthdays and Anniversaries | page 7 |

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. Truthfully, when Christians should be shored up, braced, undergirded, and reinforced by the photosynthesis of God's Holy Spirit, many are emaciated.

The colors change and soon the trees are stripped bare of their leaves. The plants die and the grass goes dormant. But then spring comes and with it is the

arrival of new blossoms, new leaves, 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 will 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 leaves, new hope, and new life. *“In Him was life; and the life was the light of men”* (John 1:4)

My prayer for you is that the light of Holy God will be the resolution in your life.

Happy in His service,

Pastor Jim

Note: Part of the foregoing taken from *Sermon Illustrations*, Pulpit Helps

NOMINATING NEWS

The Nominating Committee serves the church by recommending people to fill the vacancies in various committees and ministries. These are the positions that are filled by volunteers and not the paid positions. If you are a ministry or committee chairperson we value your input on who you recommend, and you can work in partnership with the committee to help you fill the vacancy. As a general rule, leadership positions and certain non-leadership positions, must be filled by church members. You can check with the Nominating Committee if you need guidance in that area.

The goal of the Nominating Committee is to provide every person the opportunity to use their God given talents and skills in serving in the church. So if you are interested in serving on a committee or a ministry of the church, please let us help. Our committee members are: Sharon Siebenberg, Shannon Crowe, Sarah Gregory, Eric Nagel and Patrick Holt.

Patrick Holt
Chairman Nominating Committee



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 August please bring in school supplies.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS • FROM BOB NEUBAUER

How Important is the Cross?

The centrality of the cross to the Christian faith cannot be overstated. We are not to venerate the cross itself because the pieces of wood have no spiritual value, but our attention must be on what happened on the cross nearly two thousand years ago. For it was on a cross that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified. Two other men were also on crosses on either side of Jesus that day and died for their evil deeds. And while their deaths are remembered because they are found in the scriptures, and because one of them came to faith and the other did not, it is the death of the incarnate Son that became the center point of history. His death affected each of the men crucified with him. One by his rejection of Jesus will spend eternity in Hell. The other by his confession of Christ will spend eternity with his Savior and Lord. We can be certain of his salvation because Jesus affirmed it when He said, *“today you will be with Me in paradise.”*

All men and women will likewise be blessed or condemned. This includes those who never heard the name of Jesus (*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse* Romans 1:18-20). We were all born under a sentence of death because of Adam. If God had saved no one all that could be said would be that His action was just. No sinner can rightly complain if God convicts him because that is exactly what he deserves (Romans 6:23). The Lord is not obligated to save even one soul. In other words mercy must be freely given or it is not mercy. There is nothing in us that makes us worthy or deserving since all our righteousness is filthy rags.

When we say the cross is the center point of history it is because all believers before Christ's coming were looking forward to their savior and all believers after the death of Jesus look back at His sacrifice. All that really matters in life, all that is significant, is determined by the relationship of each individual to the Lord Jesus and his sacrifice at Calvary. For the scripture tells us that it is appointed to man once to die and then judgment. The next thing that will happen prophetically speaking to a man or woman after death is to appear before Jesus to be judged for reward for believers and for their place in Hell for the reprobates. Therefore everything else in our lives is secondary at best.

Was it necessary for Jesus to live a life without sin? Yea and verily it was. One cannot read the scripture without recognizing that a perfect sacrifice was necessary. The Old Testament required a spotless lamb be offered. As the fulfillment of what was pictured from Genesis through Malachi Jesus could not have the slightest blot on what He said, did or thought and still have been qualified as the Lamb of God. In addition to living that perfect life Christ had to offer the sacrifice. Otherwise there would have been no point in living that life. There would have been no point in the Father sending the son. There would have been no point in the Holy Spirit empowering the Son to live a life without sin. Yet Jesus offered that life freely. No one, not even the Father, made the Lord give His life for sinners. The only thing that impelled Christ was His love.

The sacrifice had to be that of a man since only a man could represent other men. That is why all the Old Testament animal sacrifices could never remove sin but only cover it. And that covering was only temporary. Those sacrifices had to be repeated again and again because they never satisfied God. That is why as we read in Hebrews that Jesus is better. The Levitical priests were themselves sinners including the high priest. But Jesus was a priest after the order of Melchizedek. We only read of this mysterious figure a few times in scripture – Genesis 14:18. Psalm 110:4, Hebrews 5:10, 6:20 & 7:1-17. Melchizedek was certainly a type of Christ for we read in Hebrews 7:3 that he was *Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.*

The work of the Lord Jesus is a finished work. His crucifixion obtained eternal redemption (Heb. 9:12), it accomplished redemption for His people (Luke 1:68). That is why Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father. The Levitical priests could never sit because their work was never finished. The Levitical priesthood was still important because it was God ordained and because it pointed to something greater, but it was never enough.

Jesus had to be man to stand in our place, but He had to be God to endure the cross. Though the physical punishment He suffered was great it was no more than many other men had felt. It was the judgment of God for sin that no mere man could ever tolerate. We must always remember that our God is just, perfectly just. He does not and in fact cannot wink at sin. In Islam Allah can forgive sin without requiring punishment for sin. The Christian God always requires that full punishment be paid for sin. If Jesus had not become a man we would all have borne the punishment for our sin. The blood of bulls and goats never propitiated (satisfied) God. He had to live a sinless life since only a perfect sacrifice would do. And then as he was hanging on that cross nearly two thousand years ago the Father laid our sins on His Son. As the hymn says, *What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!*

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 3 Church Council (6:30 p.m.)
- 7-9 Sonfest
- 17 First Day of Public School
- 20 MDO Open House (10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon)
- 23 Business Meeting (5:30 p.m.)
- 24 MDO First Day of School
- 25 Sunday School Teachers' Training (6:00 p.m.)
- 26 Awana Open House/Awards (6:00 p.m.)
- 30 5th Sunday Sing at First Baptist Church Caldwell

The Anchor of our Souls

There is a text in the book of Hebrews that offers great comfort to Christians. Hebrews 6:17-20 *In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

The New Testament was written in Greek because it was the international trade language of the time just as English is today. While Rome had conquered the known world Greek culture still predominated at the time of the writing of the New Testament. Many Greek ports were difficult for ships because of reefs and rough waters. During storms it was often the case that it was too dangerous for a large ship to attempt to enter the harbor. And so a small ship would be sent out and would take the anchor of the larger ship and anchor it in the port while the large ship was yet at sea. The name given to that small ship was the forerunner. In like manner our Savior has gone before us and anchored our souls in the harbor while we are still at sea, while we are still embroiled in all the storms of life. Comfort your soul with these thoughts.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIPETS

Praise God for our Sunday School being able to open again. I hope you are re-adjusting your schedule to include coming to church for Bible study on Sunday mornings. In my humble opinion, having Bible study groups has become much more important in the society we live in today. We so desperately need to know what the Bible says about the issues we all are confronted with. We need to be instructed on how to handle situations from a Biblical standpoint.



In our upcoming teacher training sessions we will be looking at ways Bible study classes grow; both numerically and spiritually. We will discover when Sunday School classes grow, the whole church benefits. Of course, in my biased opinion, the whole church should be attending Sunday School. Sunday School is where you get to know your church family through fellowship and prayer. It's a place where you can find ways to deepen your relationship with Christ and how to apply God's truth in your life. We are so blessed to have dedicated and faithful teachers who are excited about accomplishing the 3 tasks of the Sunday School: reaching people, teaching people and ministering to people. I thank God for each teacher and pray for them as they guide us through the study of God's Word.

So join us next Sunday morning at 9:30 A.M. We'll put the coffee on for you.

God bless,
Brother Patrick

Ministering to Children

How do we minister to children? In the difficult times in which we live this is a question we must all ask. Certainly, parents have the prime responsibility in training and growing their children. They must take every opportunity to teach their children the Christian faith for the world is ever present and seeks to draw them into its net. The work of the Sunday School is a great aid to parents in communicating God's truth. It is another way - and a good way of ministering to children. What they learn there will stand them in good stead throughout their lives.

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



A small town had three churches Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist.

All three had a serious problem with squirrels in the church. Each church in its own fashion had a meeting to deal with the problem.

The Presbyterians decided that it was predestined that squirrels be in the church and that they would just have to live with them.

The Methodists decided they should deal with the squirrels lovingly in the style of Charles Wesley. They humanely trapped them and released them in a park at the edge of town. Within 3 days, they were all back in the church.

The Baptists had the best solution. They voted the squirrels in as members Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

5 Rose Purcell
5 Tara Henry
13 Anny Henry
23 Sarah Sanchez



Happy Birthday

24 Joanie Smith
25 Mary Grohs
26 Rebecca McCall

3 Clifford & Rose Hare
3 Daryl & Cookie Lyerla
4 Don & Flo Scheffler
12 Caleb & Phebe Imel

19 John & Michele Ring
24 Patrick & Tina Holt
31 Jim & Nicole Clark



Early September Anniversaries

9/2 Johnathan & Sarah Sanchez

9/4 Garry & Julie Harper