

September 2020

# The Trumpet

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



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## Pastor's Pen

I was visiting with a dear sister in Christ the other day. She shared with me a story that had taken place within her extended family. It seems a son asked his father what will happen to him when he dies; where will he go? The father, who by his own admission is an atheist, said he did not know. With that the little boy began to cry. The thought of dying and then ceasing to exist was too much for the little guy to handle. Dad, witnessing all this was moved by the tears of his son, and since he did not believe in God, sought the advice of a “medium”. The question posed to me was, “How best can I use this situation to share the gospel of Christ”

I reminded my dear sister that Jesus said we must come to him with child-like faith. Far too many adults reject the reality of God and the life-giving blessing of Jesus because they cannot square in their mind what science purports to be true and what the Bible declares as truth. Space limitations herein prohibit me from addressing that debate. I will say that what the world of agnosticism and atheism, and in a large part the academic discipline of science, has used for arguments to deny the existence of God and discredit his word, fail every time a child asks “what happens to me when I die?” This question does not come from an inquiring mind so much as it come from an innate understanding that there is more to our existence than just the time we spend on earth. This is a God-given understanding and therefore leads us to him as we seek answers about eternity

Jesus said, “Don't stop the little children from coming to me because they make up the kingdom of God”. The point is if you tell a little child that Jesus loves them

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and wants to take them to heaven to be with him when they die, they will accept that by simple faith. They do not need the origins of the earth and life explained to them. It is enough to share with them the truth that God exists; that his son Jesus paid for their sins; and that believing in him for salvation will get them to heaven when they die.

*And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, “Verily I say unto you,*

*except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receives me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone was hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.” (Matthew 18:2-4)*

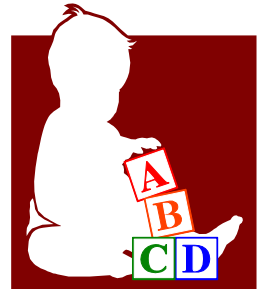
Keep it simple when you share the gospel...come to Jesus with child-like faith. Not only will that answer the question “what happens when I die?” but it will allow you to be called “greatest in the kingdom of heaven”.

Happy in His service,

Pastor Jim

## Early Childhood Ministries

Recent events with COVID meant that nursery services were not available for a time. We phased care back in slowly by having only a few people serving to limit exposure and still be able to provide consistency. With praise, I can now say that all of our volunteers are on board and available to provide quality care during service. It is a blessing to serve with others that have a heart for the youngest of our church family. It is a labor of love and would not be possible without our volunteers.



Thank you!

Shannon Crowe

## 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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### **The Issue of our Day**

There are many issues confronting Christians that test and threaten our faith. The enemies of Christianity have been emboldened by their success in challenging believers. Essentially, most of the attacks can be boiled down to critiques of the scriptures. If the Bible can be shown to have errors then nothing we have to say can be believed. The only way a person can go to heaven and not Hell is when he or she trusts in Christ for their salvation. And only God's Word tells us how that can happen. Natural revelation tells us there is a God who created the universe. It speaks of His power. But if that were all we had everyone would be lost. Instead the scripture clearly lays out the Gospel, the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the gospel is applied to hearts of men and women in the power of the Holy Spirit new life results (Ephesians 2:4-5).

Of course the attack against what God has said goes back to the Garden of Eden when the Devil said to Eve, "Hath God said?" It is obvious to any observer that our culture as a whole has answered Satan's question, No! That is why we see such a radical decline in our nation's behavior. It is why the Supreme Court of the United States has made so many the grossly immoral rulings. Most people including most of the members of the court do not have a Christian world view. It is our world view that gives us the answers to all the important questions in life. The world view of believers is informed by the Bible when it tells what is right and wrong. So, we know murder is wrong because God told us it is. The same goes for stealing, adultery and all the other commands we find in the Bible. Even when we do not have an explicit command we still know what to do because we follow what the Lord Jesus told us when He said to love God with all our heart, soul and minds and to love our neighbors as ourselves. If we do those two things we will not go wrong for they tell us what to do even when we do not have specific commands in scripture.

In our culture it is no longer enough to say, "the Bible says." We have to recognize that the vast majority of people we speak with do not believe the scriptures to be the Word of God. They do not even accept the idea that there is a God. We must therefore keep their presuppositions in mind when we are trying to present the Gospel. We need to listen carefully to what they say. When we do we will find that unbelievers always borrow from our world view. They do that anytime they say that something is wrong. If there is no God, if there is no creator then there is no basis for saying that any action is right or wrong, good or evil. For if there is no God then nothing we do or say really matters. But there is a God and people even though they rebel against Him know there is (Rom. 1:19).

One way the Bible is attacked is to say that we do not know what the writers of scripture actually said. The critics say that the text has been changed so many times that we have lost the original words. The first reason that is not a valid objection is because of the enormous number of existing manuscripts. The latest number of Greek NT manuscripts is 5856. In addition there are about 10,000 Latin manuscripts and approximately 9300 in other languages. We do have a few hundred copies of Homer but even that number is not in the same ballpark as the New Testament. And it is the only other ancient document with a relatively large number of copies. Most other ancient documents have no more than twenty copies. So, if that is the basis on which we question the New Testament then we have no knowledge of anything that was written in that time period.

Another attack is a slight variation which says that we don't know what the New Testament writers actually wrote because their words have been changed so often and so much that we have lost the original text. In response we point out that not only do we have so many copies, we have incredibly early copies that in some cases go back to the second century. No other ancient document even comes close in the antiquity of its copies. Hundreds of years pass for other works of comparable antiquity before we see even a single copy.

A third negative critique that we hear is that there are so many differences between manuscripts that we cannot know what the original said. It is true that there may be as many as 500,000 differences between the manuscripts. But there are only a small number of differences that can be meaningful and valid. Seventy percent of all variations are spelling differences which obviously do not affect meaning. Word order is responsible for many other differences. Unlike English word order in the Greek language has to do with emphasis but not with meaning. Valid in this context means that there is some possibility of a variant being the original wording.

Conservative scholars and even liberal ones who are intellectually honest have by carefully comparing manuscripts determined what the original documents said in all but a relatively small number of instances (about 1500 places). In those places where we cannot say for certain there is no essential doctrine of the faith at risk. Scholars are sure that even when we cannot be positive of the original wording we still have what the apostles gave us. One reason we know this is that we have manuscripts that contain some nonsense readings, but the scribes still kept them rather than risk losing some of the God breathed text.

What all this means is that the God we love, the God who has saved us, made sure that we would have everything we needed in His word. If you are a Christian you have trusted Him for your eternal salvation. And as has just be shown you can also trust that He has faithfully communicated what the apostles wrote.

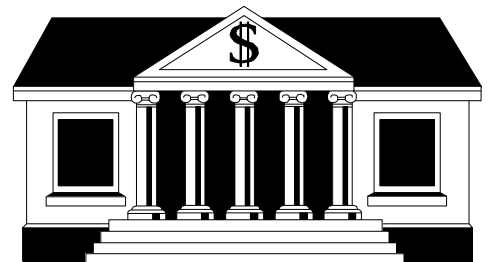
## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 1 Nominating Committee Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- 2 Awana (6:00 p.m.)
- 6-13 Week of Prayer York/Dillman State Offering
- 7 Labor Day - Offices Closed - No MDO
- 9 Awana (6:00 p.m.)
- 11-12 Ladies' in House Retreat
- 13 Lord's Supper
- 16 Awana (6:00 p.m.)
- 23 Awana (6:00 p.m.)
- 30 Awana (6:00 p.m.)

### Finance Committee

Our income is not fully keeping up with our expenses. No doubt this is due in large part to the Covid 19 pandemic. With the activities beginning to reopen we hope to see a reversal of this trend especially since it is not a large shortfall. For now, all organizations of the church are encouraged to keep their expenditures to a minimum. As we look to formulate a budget for next year we will have to make some difficult choices if the finances do not sufficiently improve.

Bob Neubauer  
Chairman



## Children's Ministries Report

We are finally re-opened! Our Sunday School classes are running well, and we are on our way to beginning Children's Church again. We don't have a great interest in it right now, but we have our teachers & lessons prepared and ready to go when the kids start coming. Please pray that the Lord will continue to grow the Children's Ministry and that He will continue to bring new families into our church. Please pray for the patience, lessons and love that our teachers must demonstrate every Sunday in order to help grow and mature the members of the future church.



And as always I want to thank the teachers and helpers for their dedication, support and love for our children.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Jessica Nagel, Children's Ministry Director

## Deacon Family Ministry

The goal of the Deacon Family Ministry is to join with the pastor in ministering to the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of each church member and regular attending family. To meet this goal, we have assigned specific families to each deacon to ensure all are served.

Standing beside and working with the deacons are our Family Ministry Partners. The Family Ministry Partners enable the church to minister to all with just a handful of deacons. It is the sincere hope of the deacons and the Family Ministry Partners that you feel free to call on us if you or anyone in your family is ill, in the hospital, or faces a tragedy. At the same time, if there is great joy or triumph you would like to share, we would love the opportunity to rejoice along with you.

If you have any questions about the Deacon Family Ministry or are unsure of who your deacon and/or Family Ministry Partner is please feel free to contact me or the church office.

God Bless,  
Jim Clark  
Deacon Chairman



## Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



### Golf Definitions

1. **Ace** - Completion of a hole in a single stroke. The odds against this happening are about 45,000 to 1 - somewhat worse than the odds of finding a brand new ball lost in the rough, 27,000 to 1 but considerably better than the odds of hitting a perfect drive from a tee crowded with spectators, 1,195,000 to 1.
2. **Addressing the ball** - A. Assuming the correct stance and placing the head of the club on the ground behind the ball. B. Directing statements at the ball before it is hit or while in flight such as "If you go into that trap I'll never wash you again" or "In a way I hope you miss that cup because I've always wondered what's inside a golf ball."

## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

9 Bob Neubauer  
13 Katie Blalock  
15 Anna Sisson  
22 Carol Ellis



*Happy Birthday*

24 Keith Sisson  
28 Adeline Bates  
28 Dan Kephart IV  
29 Harold Southwick

2 Jonathan & Sara Sanchez  
25 Larry & Liz Sears



4 Garry & Julie Harper

### Early October Birthdays

2 Jim Clark  
4 Jane Jacome

5 Stacy Swenson  
8 Dan Hazelbaker