

February 2021

The Trumpet

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



Volume 15 Issue 2

Pastor's Pen

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The foregoing is part of the salutation the Apostle Paul used in his letter to the Romans. It seems fitting here because when we take a moment to reflect, God's grace and peace is our bedrock in these uncertain times. No one could have predicted the kind of impact COVID-19 would have on our country. Certainly not that it would radically change what we once thought "normal". It does seem like everything nailed down has been pulled up; everything once right-side-up has been turned upside down; everything normal is now abnormal; and everything right is now wrong. We are living in trying times. Some are calling them the "last days". Since I don't know the mind of God, am not His counsellor, or know the day and hour the trumpet will sound, all I can say is...stay the course. We have been called to be faithful to our ministry assignment until the day God calls us home. As a church family, I can say from my heart, faithful we have been; faithful we will be!

The headline news at FSBC-Mtn. Home is not COVID, it is what God is doing through COVID. Last year we completed our remodel project. While we used our budgeted amount of money, somehow the Lord multiplied it so we accomplished over \$100,000.00 more work than we thought we would do. In other words, due to the sell of one small piece of property, and some one-time love offerings we were able to accomplish over \$350,000.00 worth of remodel for \$250,000.00. This included a fully remodeled and updated sanctuary, sound booth and system, new stage, HVAC system, lighting, ceiling, texture, paint, and carpeting. The foyer ar-

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ea was increased in size and all common hallways were textured, painted, and re-carpeted with new carpet. Fellowship Hall was remodeled, adding storage, a new classroom, paint, lighting and carpet. The kitchen was more than doubled in size and remodeled into a gourmet kitchen, complete with new cabinets and granite counter tops. Individual HVAC control was installed in each room of the education wing, the parking lot asphalted, and the whole exterior of the building stuccoed for uniformity. New stain-glass windows and church

sign was installed. All of this completed, for the most part, before the full blow of COVID.

When Covid gut-punched us, it looked like we were going to have to shut down like the rest of the country was doing. We live-streamed our church service for about a month. The sanctuary was essentially empty. But our family was home-sick. We re-opened our doors following all the state and CDC guidelines. Not only did the church family show up, God began adding to our family. We have returned to normal worship and Sunday school service. We look forward to the return of our monthly potlucks and believe it will soon happen.

Exciting days ahead!

In Christ alone,

Pastor Jim

Church Council

As we embark upon this new year, now a month old, we do so with much excitement and optimism. Praying that Covid will soon be behind us, the church council is looking forward to a spectacular 2021. We look forward to our upcoming ***Unlocking Prison Doors*** revival, April 11-14. The theme verse is Matthew 16:19, *"I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven"*. The planning and preparation for this special time of worship is already underway. Many ministries have begun working together to ensure as many lost souls as possible are reached with the life-changing gospel message. Additionally, we are praying that the messages, shared by nationally known speakers, will bless the heart of believers and reignite in them as passion for sharing the good news – Jesus Saves. The Church Council has decided that the planning, preparation and revival meeting will be our church focus for the first quarter

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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 February please bring in toothbrushes.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

Christ Abolished Death

We read in II Timothy 1:10 that Jesus abolished death. The question of course is in what sense is that true? Because every day we see, hear and read of people dying. Obviously, therefore, we are not talking about the death of our physical bodies. Rather the text is addressing the fact that believers now have eternal life. While every believer except for those alive at Christ's return will experience physical death Christians need not fear that. For when our bodies die our souls will be with Jesus. The apostle Paul longed for that but realized the need to remain in this life for the sake of those to whom he was ministering (Philippians 1:22-24). We also have that desire and will see it when the Lord calls us home. What a glorious thing it is that sinners like us should have the greatest privilege imaginable!

The question is then how did Jesus abolish death? We first must remember that when we were born we were already under the death sentence. Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages of sin is death. And since we all had Adam as our spiritual father we inherited what Adam could give us: sin and therefore death. The scripture confirms that when it tells us that "*as in Adam all die,*" (I Cor. 15:22). The "all" means every person who had a human father. Remember that even though Eve sinned first her sin did not plunge the whole human race into darkness. But Adam's sin did. The result of Adam's sin we read about in Ephesians chapter two. Paul tells us that we are dead in our trespasses and sins. There is a sense of finality that we feel when someone we know and care about dies. For we know that no matter how much we want to see them and be with them again, in this life that will never happen. Even Jesus felt that when He came to the tomb of Lazarus. Knowing that in just moments He would raise Lazarus from the dead Jesus still wept. Yet when we are dealing with Christians we have the assurance that though their bodies have died their souls are in heaven with Jesus. We all know friends or family who have died in faith. And there is nothing that can comfort us like knowing that they are at home with Jesus.

Let's look in some depth at II Tim. 1:8-10. *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.* The first thing we notice is the absolute importance of the Gospel both to our salvation and the abolishment of death. The

gospel is the good news that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried and raised on the third day also according to the scriptures (I Cor. 15:1-4). Why are the death burial and resurrection sufficient for salvation? First, they are enough because our sin was reckoned to Christ. He is counted as if he had committed each one of your sins though He never actually sinned. In turn the righteousness of the Lord Jesus was reckoned to our account. Though in this life we are never completely free from sin we stand before God with all our sin paid. No charge can be laid against us because the blood of Christ paid everything we owed to God. The early Christians knew this and in every sermon in the book of Acts we find the death and resurrection of Jesus. Sure, each sermon speaks of other things, but they all teach the basic elements of the gospel.

The second reason that Christ's atoning work is enough is that His righteousness was reckoned to us. Not only did Jesus not sin He achieved what is called positive righteousness. Not only was His passive righteousness (His suffering on the cross) imputed to us we are also counted to have done all the good He did. Not only was His death our death, but His life was also our life. All the times that we failed to do what we should have done were covered by the Lord Jesus. His suffering on the cross removed our sin, but His life gave us righteousness. His suffering is worthy of all honor but in and of itself would have just returned us to where Adam was before the fall. Often it has been said that justification is "just as if I never sinned." Yet it is much more than that. "Just as if I never sinned" would get us to Adam, Jesus did so much more. Yes He bore our sin; He removed our punishment. But in addition He gave us eternal life. That is the abolishment of death. The way Christ abolished death was by giving life and life everlasting. Those that say you can lose your salvation do not understand what happened when you came to faith. When your sin was reckoned to Christ that reckoning was not dependent on you. It was God who counted Jesus as having sinned and did so not based on how well you would behave. For as John tells us he who says he has no sin is a liar. In this life we are never entirely free of sin. Had God required that we would be sinless after coming to faith then no one would go to heaven, no one would be saved. Now there is a balance which says that no true Christian can lead a sinless lifestyle but at the same time no true Christian is free of sin. That keeps the fact that we are totally dependent on God's mercy ever in our consciousness.

We will ever be praising God for all He has done for us. That we still sin and yet will be with the Lord forever has us praising Him now. But when we are at home with the Lord and understand how truly sinful we were, when we understand how deserving of eternal punishment we were and when we understand how great His mercy was to each one of us then we will praise Him evermore.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 1 Church Council & Ministry Lead Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- 2 Women's Bible Study Start (6:30)
- 3 Women's Bible Study (10:00 a.m.)
- 8 Deacons Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 11 Nominating Committee Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- 15 President's Day - Offices Closed No MDO
- 15 Kephart Going Away (5:00 p.m.)
- 18 TVSBA Executive Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 21 Special Evening Service (5:30 p.m.)
- 28 Business Meeting (5:30 p.m.)

(Church Council continued from page 2)

Looking farther forward, we are planning to return to our monthly potlucks. Information about that will be forthcoming. It is our prayer that we will still be able to host Creation Ministries. Covid restrictions shut down their travel last year and placed significant modifications on them this year. Currently we are on their schedule for August 15.

The Council meets every other month on a regular basis and more often if needed. If you have a special concerns or requests please feel free to notify a council member. They are: Pastor Jim, Patrick Holt, Jim Clark, John Crow, Garry Harper and Bob Neubauer.

While we look forward to a complete return to "normal", we understand that Covid changes may require adjustments in our plans. Should that be the case, we will let you know as soon as possible.

It is a joy to minister alongside you.

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for
the edifying of the body of Christ"

Ephesians 4:12

The Church Council

Library Report

In difficult times books are not only still important they are more important than ever. Too much of the time we get our information from images rather than words. Those images give us just a view of just a few seconds of an event that does not give us an accurate picture of what happened because there is no context shown. Books allow us to understand better because their very nature they present much more information. That does not mean we should automatically accept something simply because we have 400 pages instead of 5 seconds of communication. We still must rigorously examine what is written. Every writer brings a perspective, a bias if you will to his work. But when we have enough context it is much easier to see the bias than in a few seconds of visual imagery. Over the last seventy years there has been a radical change in how we get our news. Before television newspapers were the primary way we got information. That has not been the case for a long time. While newspapers could not give us the volume of information that books do they certainly had much more than a 30 second story on the evening news.

A comparison with how we acquire our understanding of the Christian faith and how we obtain news presents a less than ideal picture. Often Christians have beliefs that are not supported by a contextual reading of the scriptures but by a phrase pulled out of a single verse. This is harmful to our walk with Christ and to how we communicate the faith to others. It can not only present a wrong understanding of a doctrine it gives to others a dangerous way of interpreting the Bible. The library at First Southern has a selection of commentaries written by well-trained scholars that will help you have a solid understanding of what God has given us in His word. 2 Tim 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

Youth News

In December, the Youth Class started the *Answers Bible Curriculum* during the Sunday School hour. This study from Answers in Genesis will take the youth on an in-depth study of the entire Bible for the next 4 years.

Over the past few weeks the youth have taken time to clear out their room and repaint the walls. A special thank you to Steve Noland, Jeff Ritzert and John Crowe who cleaned up and textured the walls to prepare for paint.

We are looking forward to seeing how God continues to work in the lives of our youth and the youth of Mountain Home.

In Christ, Jim, Nicole, John & Shannon - 1 Tim 4:12

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



Golf Definitions

1. **Bogey** - The number of strokes needed to finish a hole by a golfer of average skill and above average honesty.
2. **Break** - The shifting or changing of the direction of a putt caused by the slope or slant of a green. The splitting or shattering of the shaft of a putter caused by a player who has just made a triple bogey.
3. **Bunker** - A hazard consisting of an area of ground along a fairway or adjacent to a green from which a large amount of soil has been removed and replaced with sand - designed to trap golfers. Good golfers spend half their time in bunkers, bad golfers much more.
4. **Chip Shot** - A short low approach shot that gets a golfer into position for one or more missed putts.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 Annabelle Brooks
 3 Chad Zachary
 4 Mark Barnes
 6 Alice Williams
 7 Jaydin Blair
 9 Cortana Farnham
 9 Daniel Kelley
 10 Gavriel Nagel
 10 Don Nesbitt



12 Callandor Farnham
 14 Amber Blair
 14 Michelle Sisson
 17 Patrick Holt
 17 Roland Simler
 19 Vincent Brooks
 23 Margaret Berry
 28 Michele Ring

19 John & Shannon Crowe



Early March Birthdays

4 Ruth Heinen

7 Meghan Byrem