

# The Trumpet

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



Volume 16 Issue 8

## Pastor’s Pen

About five years ago I preached a sermon on the blessing of Obed-Edom’s household. If you remember, this biblical account (II Samuel 6) concerns the reclaiming and return of the Ark of the Covenant. Under King David’s leadership, the Ark of the Covenant, which had been largely forgotten, was going to be return to Jerusalem. King David and 30,000 chosen men would secure possession of the Ark and oversee its return. Because they began moving it in a manner inconsistent with the way God said the Ark was to be transported, a man lost his life and King David was afraid to transport it any farther. As a result he left the Ark of the Covenant at the home of Obed-Edom. Three months later, after hearing that God had blessed Obed-Edom and his whole household, King David went back to his house and resumed transporting the Ark of the Covenant to the City of David.

There are many lessons to be learned in this biblical account. I would like to focus simply on the contents of the Ark. God directed three primary implements be placed inside the Ark of the Covenant as a reminder to all generations, of His presence, power, and protection. Those three implements were of great significance. First, there were the Ten Commandments. This was the law of God given to Moses on the mountaintop. It represents the word of God. Second, there was the bowl of manna. This was the sweet bread that God dropped from heaven daily to feed the Israelites during their 40-year wilderness journey. The manna represents the provision of God. Third, there was the budding rod of Aaron. This is the rod God caused to bud, blossom, and produce almonds. The purpose was to send a

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clear message to the Israelites, who he had Chosen as the Priestly line and the tribe that would oversee the care of the temple. The budding rod represented the leadership of God.

The reason God blessed Obed-Edom was because he understood the significance of the Ark of the Covenant and its contents. He handled it with care and respect. It is my strong belief that God will bless our homes, family, and whole household when we:

- \* Welcome God's presence
- \* Honor God's word
- \* Acknowledge God's provisions
- \* Follow God's divine leadership

*And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obed-Edom, and all his household. II Samuel 6:11*

In Christ,  
Pastor Jim

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## NOMINATING NEWS

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to assist ministry and committee leaders in providing people an opportunity to serve on the various church committees and ministries and to help fill vacancies occurring throughout the year. The committee will be meeting in August to review and start distributing the annual Ministry Opportunity Survey for year 2023. This survey will be used to indicate where people are volunteering to serve. Even if you are presently serving on a committee and plan on continuing for another year, it is really helpful if you indicate as such on the survey. We are trying to cut down on the number of phone calls while at the same time making sure everyone has the opportunity to serve. So when you receive the survey, prayerfully consider where you can serve in the Lord's church. If you have any questions be sure to ask anyone on the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee members are:

Patrick Holt  
Eric Nagel  
Shannon Crowe  
Sharon Siebenberg  
Chip Brigham  
Sarah Gregory



Patrick Holt  
Nominating Committee Chairman

# PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

## APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

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### Of God's Eternal Decree

*God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass;<sup>1</sup> yet so as thereby is God neither the author of sin nor hath fellowship with any therein;<sup>2</sup> nor is violence offered to the will of the creature, nor yet is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established;<sup>3</sup> in which appears His wisdom in disposing all things, and power and faithfulness in accomplishing His decree.*

This statement from the London Baptist Confession of Faith (chapter 3, paragraph 1) is difficult to accept because we often do not think deeply about all that the scripture teaches. One of the best known and best loved verses in the Bible is Romans 8:28 which tells us that God causes all things to work together for good for those who are called according to His purposes. But it cannot be that God is reacting to circumstances that arise since He is omniscience (all knowing). How long has God been omniscience? How long has He known all things? He has always known everything. He is not learning new information. So if God is working all things for the good of Christians He must have determined all things. When it is said that God ordains everything that happens it is not saying that God directly causes everything. But since God is omnipotent (all powerful) nothing can happen that He does not either cause or permit to take place.

Notice that the statement of the decree does not deny that we have a will. Every action we take, every thought we have is freely made. But our freedom is secondary to the Lord's. Remember what Nebuchadnezzar said after he spent seven years of discipline with the beasts as a wild man. *His reason returned and he raised his eyes toward heaven and said of God, For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation. And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him 'What hast Thou done?'* This statement comes from an unbeliever who nevertheless recognized who it is that controls all that happens. Evil exist only because God permits it to exist. And the day is coming when the King of Heaven will destroy all evil. Satan, the beast, the false prophet, unbelievers, and even death and Hades will be cast into the lake of fire where they will suffer eternal torment.

What are the secondary causes referred to in the statement? The secondary causes are the actions that you and I and all other human beings take. Our actions have meaning and we do what we do freely, that is we are not puppets dangling

from a string. We do what we want to do, always. We sin because we want to sin. Unbelievers cannot do anything but sin. Even actions they take that would seem to be good are not since no non-Christian can do anything pleasing to God because his or her actions come from a sin nature. Part of what happened when we came to faith is that we no longer did only evil but were freed from sin's power over our lives and enabled to do good. Yes, we still sin because sin indwells us (see Romans chapter seven) but since we have a new nature we can obey God. The fact that we still sin leads us to live lives of repentance. One of the evidences that a person has been born again is that life of repentance. Only believers struggle with sin. Also, the sin in our lives causes us to long for that day when we are home with the Lord and will sin no more.

Please note that God's eternal decree has its origin from within God Himself. And since the Lord is righteous, holy, eternal, wise and immutable so His decree is as well. His decree is an expression of His character. But since God is entirely self sufficient and happy in Himself there was no internal or external obligation that caused God to issue the decree, He did so freely. The confession goes on to say, *Although God knoweth whatsoever may or can come to pass, upon all supposed conditions, yet hath He not decreed anything, because He foresaw it as future, or as that which would come to pass upon such conditions.* If this was not true then something outside of God would be controlling Him and that is not possible. But if nothing outside of God controls the Lord then why do we pray? The first reason we pray is because we are commanded to do so. In fact Jesus taught us how to pray. When He did there was no question that prayer was an option. His disciples concern was not if they should pray, rather how should they pray. Paul tells us to not cease from praying. Prayer is common to all of scripture. It is our privilege to communicate with our creator. The second reason we pray is because the more we do so the more our thoughts will be attuned to those of our Lord and Savior. Psalm 37:4 says, *Delight yourself in Yahweh; and He will give you the desires of your heart.* That doesn't mean we can get anything we want from the Lord. Certainly our sinful desires will never be rewarded. But the more we delight ourselves in God the more our thoughts and desires will be in accord with His. And since our desires will be the same as the Lord's He will give us the desires of our hearts.

We all do what we want to do all the time. But to say that our freedom is outside of God's control is to claim that we are greater than God. When it comes to our salvation the Baptist faith and message says, regeneration precedes faith. As Ephesians chapter two tells us when we were dead in sin God made us alive. The only way dead sinners can believe in and place their trust in Christ and His finished work is if they are born again. And because of His eternal decree we can trust that the Lord will work everything to our benefit and His glory. In the difficult times in which we live knowing that Yahweh rules and reigns enables us to live lives that glorify our God.

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

5-7	Sonfest Youth Event
7	Potluck Fellowship (12:30 p.m.)
8	Bible Recap Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
9	Deacons' Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
18	MDO Open House (10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon)
21	Lord's Table
22	MDO Starts
24	Awana Open House (6:00 p.m.)
28	Business Meeting (5:30 p.m.)
29	Bible Recap Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
31	Awana Starts (6:00 p.m.)

### 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.



### Vision Committee

Scripture tells us that we are tasked to do what Jesus did – to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10), to preach the gospel (Matthew 24:14), to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24), and to grow up in spiritual maturity (Ephesians 4:15).

The purpose of the Vision Committee survey is to uncover the feelings of our members and frequent visitors regarding the ways we go about fulfilling our Biblical mission as Christians who are in fellowship together at First Southern Baptist Church and who are members of the body of Christ. Our survey is NOT intended to find out what you like or dislike about our church or its services because that is not the mission of the Church as defined in Scripture.

We want to hear from the youngest of our congregation to the oldest and we want everyone to complete their own survey – please don't fill out just one survey for your family or as a couple. This is intended to be completely anonymous so do not identify yourself anywhere on the survey. Pick up a survey in the lobby of the church or scan this QR code and take the survey from your laptop or phone.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIPETS

In the early 1900's, M.E. Dodd wrote this about Sunday School:

“The Sunday School is the friend of childhood; the inspiration of youth; the strength of middle life and the comfort of declining years.

The Sunday School has God's day for its time, God's house for its place; God's book for its text and God's glory for its aim.

The Sunday School is officered and taught by Christian men and women who are freely giving their time, talents, powers and money to the end that the lost may be saved and the saved may be strengthened.

The Sunday School builds character, instructs the mind, warms the heart, feeds ambition, encourages the fainthearted, shields the tempted and points the way of life for all.

The Sunday School deserves the sympathetic support, the prayerful interest, the loyal co-operation of every loving Christian, of every patriotic citizen, of every aspiring youth and every prattling child.

The Sunday School stretches out the friendly hand to one and all, old or young, and bids them enter in to the Father's house and listen to the Father's voice as He speaks out of His Holy Word.”

At First Southern Baptist we have been so blessed to have such dedicated faithful Bible teachers. We all need to remember to pray each week for them as they labor in love to bring us a lesson from God's Word.

Here is a list of our Sunday School teachers:

ADULT DEPT.	YOUTH MINISTRY	CHILDREN/PRE-SCHOOL DEPT.
Janet Nesbitt	Jim Clark	Jessica Nagel
Don Nesbitt	Nicole Clark	John Ring
Garry Harper	John Crowe	Michele Ring
Eric Nagel	Shannon Crowe	Samantha Simler
		Debbie Blackstock
		Sarah Hare
		Kim Juris

If you are interested in teaching, in our Sunday School, please contact me or Pastor Jim or anyone serving on the Nominating Committee.

Patrick Holt  
Sunday School Director



## Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



1. My handwriting is so bad I could get my physician's license without going to medical school.
2. Do you think we should vote this year? Absolutely! As the old precinct captain said, "Vote early and often."
3. The move to better diets is growing stronger. Some fast food chains are even considering carrying real food.
4. The economy is really tight. Some people are robbing banks so they can get enough money to buy gas for their cars.
5. How bad have things gotten in the world? I ran into a group of Martians the other day. They said not to worry, they wouldn't invade our planet under any circumstances; it's that bad.

## August Birthdays and Anniversaries

5 Jon Juris  
13 Gerry Finley  
14 Blythe Thompson  
16 Blair Byrem  
19 Norma Harper  
23 Bill Goodnough



*Happy Birthday*

23 Sarah Sanchez  
24 Joanie Smith  
25 Mary Grohs  
26 Ronin Byrem  
27 Mark Collier  
30 Seven Sanders

3 Clifford & Rose Hare  
3 Daryl & Cookie Lyerla  
4 Don & Flo Scheffler  
5 Blair & Meghan Byrem  
6 Amos & Kathleen Payton  
7 John & Seven Sanders  
11 Fernando & Violet Solis



19 John & Michele Ring  
24 Patrick & Tina Holt  
29 Lyle & Grace Ferch  
31 Jim & Nicole Clark  
9/2 Jonathan & Sarah Sanchez  
9/4 Garry & Julie Harper

## Early September Birthdays

3 John Harper

4 Allen Keillor