

November 2022

The Trumpet

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



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Pastor's Pen

As you read this Trumpet edition, there are only a few days left until mid-term election. I have been asked countless times who I recommend voting for. The truth is it's not my place, just because I am a pastor, to tell you who to vote for. I might hope in my mind and heart that you cast your vote for my candidate, but it's not right for me to try to persuade you. Neither is it your place to try to persuade someone else. Everyone should vote their conscience after fully investigating each candidate. You should have several filters that you use to measure the worth of the prospects: morality, spirituality, truthfulness, character, integrity, capability, vision, competence, and the ability to unite and work across the aisle. Unfortunately, a number of the candidate choices fail miserably in many of these categories. So, your vote this year may not be so much for a candidate as it will be a vote against the other candidate.

The good news I have for you, dear reader, is that God does not rule and reign from the back of a donkey or an elephant. Neither is God dependent on the Republican or Democratic Party to fix the problems in America. *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” II Chronicles 7:14*

Notice in this scripture, God promises to do three things if we do four things.

We must:

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Humble ourselves – that means a broken and contrite heart

Pray – nothing will improve in America until God's people bow in prayer

Seek – simply put, this means getting in step with God; not an emerging culture that is increasingly sinful.

Turn – this means abandon our sinful behavior. It

doesn't matter how many times or in how many different ways we are told things are right, sin is still sin and it still breaks the heart of God.

God will:

Hear – His ears are always open to the cries (prayers) of His people.

Forgive – sin has always been the barrier between God and Man. It will hinder our fellowship. But when we pray and ask forgiveness, God will hear and forgive. Our fellowship will once again be restored.

Heal – Only God can undo the cancerous effect of sin. We are a sick nation and only God can heal us. He promises to that...if we humble, pray, seek and turn

I encourage every eligible individual to vote. It is our right and our privilege. Remember, should your candidate lose, neither Democrat nor Republican will change America. Only God will, in response to His praying people.

In His Grip,

Pastor Jim

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee has been active with updating the Personnel Manual from the last revision that was accomplished in 2015. Many changes have happened over the years and we want to ensure we are consistent in how we operate as it relates to our written procedures. Although we have made strides, there is still a lot of work to do, so we ask for prayer from the Church body for wisdom and fortitude to see the task to completion. We welcome the addition of Amos Payton to the committee and are excited about the team, going forward, to develop a sound product. Jessica Nagel - Chair

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 November pickup and finish filling boxes.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

The Ten Commandments – God’s Law

Almost everyone in American society has some level of familiarity with the Ten Commandments. God’s law was foundational for our country because at its inception the United States was dominated by Christians and their faith. While men like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were deists, believing that God started everything like a clockmaker starting a clock but then removed himself from its superintendence and governing, they nevertheless held the same basic understanding of law as believers. When we read the Old Testament there are large sections devoted to the many laws the Lord gave us but the ten commandments were the only laws written by God on two stone tablets. All other laws were given by Yahweh verbally and are certainly of great importance but no other laws rise to the same level as the Decalogue.

One reason we are seeing the dissolution of western society is that it was based on the law of God and as He has been rejected by more and more people so has His law. Let’s consider some of the ways this is happening. One of the most obvious that we are dealing with is that the Lord created two genders, male and female, and decreed the way they are to relate to each other. The seventh commandment, thou shalt not commit adultery, assumes that there is a marital relationship between men and women and any violation of that relationship is a sin. When the scripture says, thou shalt not lie with a man as with a woman, that is a corollary to the proper relationship between the two sexes. Not only has homosexuality become acceptable in our culture it is promoted as good and normal and any rejection of it as wrong. One city in Massachusetts now allows plural marriages, more than one man and one woman.

Crime is rampant in our streets because those things that scripture calls crime are rejected as wrongdoing. People are thought to be basically good when the Bible tells us that all our righteousness is as filthy rags. The Old Testament spends much text in laying out what is to be punished and how it should be dealt with. Society mocks the scripture that says, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, calling it vengeance when all it means is that the punishment should fit the crime. There are serious crimes that demand the death penalty. Yet in the United States it is extraordinarily difficult to execute anyone no matter how many people have been murdered. The blame is shifted to people possessing guns and the claim is made that if we just get rid of guns the crime will stop. That is simplistic nonsense. People commit crimes, guns, knives may be the instruments used but as you may have noticed only people are brought before a judge, never the devices used.

Next let's consider the eighth commandment, Thou shalt not steal. This law is also teaching the right of private property. If you and I do not own our homes, furniture or anything else then it cannot be stealing for someone to take it. It is also teaching that there must be a governing authority in order to punish those who steal. Here we must remember that the Bible says that whenever possible we should not just throw the person in jail for a certain period of time but that the criminal should repay with interest that which he or she has taken. If the Biblical method were used our jails would not be as overcrowded as they are, the victims of the theft would be properly recompensed and the thieves would be less likely to repeat their acts.

The ninth commandment is interesting in part because there is some disagreement among believers concerning its application. A small number of Christians believe that this commandment applies to any lying of any kind. So that means that no one could ever invite an individual to an event that was supposed to be one thing but that turned out to be a surprise birthday party for the invitee. This opinion is only held by a very small number of people, but it is held by some. Most interpreters would point out that the commandment is against bearing false witness. This has the idea of causing some kind of harm to another person – and that kind of lying is strictly forbidden whether in a courtroom or elsewhere.

One obvious question is are there Biblical examples of lying that is acceptable? Scripture has two such instances. One is of Rahab who lied to protect the Jewish spies. Her reward for lying was that her life was spared when Jericho was destroyed. Not only that but she is in the line of the Messiah. We can all think of a modern example of this type of lying going back to World War II when people hid Jews from the Nazis and lied about it to the Germans. What would we say about someone who said to the storm troopers, "Oh, yes, so and so is hiding in my basement." The second Biblical example is when Pharaoh ordered the midwives, Shiphrah & Puah to kill the male Jewish babies (Ex. 1:16). Then we read in Exodus 1:17 *But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the King of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live.* When called to account by Pharaoh the midwives lied and said that the Hebrew women gave birth before the midwives could get to them. What was the Lord's response to the actions and words of the midwives? Exodus 1:20 -21 *So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very mighty. And it came about because the midwives feared God, that He established households for them.* Are we saying that Christians should go about lying on a regular basis. Absolutely not! The examples just cited are extremely rare exceptions. The point is that we must not read the ten commandments in a superficial way. They are at the core of how we are to act as believers. And though we are not able to keep them perfectly in this life, that should always be our goal. Importantly, the better we understand what the commandments teach the more we can conform our behavior to God's standard and the stronger will be our ability to explain them to a lost culture.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 6 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 7 Church Council (6:30 p.m.)
- 8 Election Day
- 8 Deacon's Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 11 Veterans Day
- 13 Shoebox Dedication
- 14 Bible Recap Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- 19 Thanksgiving Banquet (5:30 p.m.)
- 20 Lord's Table (11:00 a.m.)
- 21-24 Thanksgiving Break - No MDO No Awana
- 24 Thanksgiving Day - Offices Closed
- 29 Leadership Team Meeting (6:30 p.m.)

Church Council

The scripture tells us in Psalms 68:19, *"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits, even the God of our salvation."* One of the great benefits God has loaded our church with is the Leadership Team. Our organizational structure is such that every ministry team and committee has a chairman/team leader. Every one of those leaders are assigned to one of five church leadership directors. Those directors comprise the Church Council that report directly to the Pastor. FSBC Leadership Directors are: Pat Holt, Jim Clark, Garry Harper, Bob Neubauer, and John Crowe. The Church Council meets once every two months, and more frequently if needed. Generally, the meeting focuses on the directors sharing what is taking place in the ministries they oversee. Planning and strategizing for upcoming events and needs begins at these meetings. All church council meetings, consistent with every church ministry and committee meeting, begins with an opening prayer and scripture reading/devotional. Once a year the pastor meets with the entire leadership team. This year that meeting will be on November 29th at 6:30 p.m. All church members are welcome to attend the meeting.

Respectfully,
The Church Council

Passing The Faith Along To My Brother...

In the New Testament letter to Titus, the Holy Spirit gives us important instructions through the Apostle Paul. In chapter two, we are admonished to “speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine.” As the passage continues, we learn our individual “assignments” depending on the role we fill in the church. Older men and women are to model sobriety, reverence, love, patience, and a soundness of faith. In doing this, the idea is that older members will show the younger members how to behave in this world.

Young women are exhorted to love their husbands and children, to be “discreet, chaste, homemakers, good and obedient to their own husbands so that God is not blasphemed by those in the world who are watching them. Young men are to be sober-minded, prompt in doing good works while demonstrating a grasp of Scripture and doctrine showing integrity in both with reverence and incorruptibility.

The music ministry at FSBC is committed to following these important instructions from the Holy Spirit to all churches. We want to more than simply fill a spot in the praise team or competently carry a tune. Our music ministry is designed and fully committed to having our older members teach the younger so that our church never fails to comprehend and practice the FAITH with sobriety, reverence, patience, humility, and integrity.

Most of all, we want to ensure that our music ministry will never become a platform for performance but will always remain a fully dedicated and able vehicle for worshipping our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. With hands lifted up and our mouths filled with praise, we bless Thee, oh Lord!

Garry Harper

The Difficulty of Forgiving

The scripture commands us to forgive one another just as Christ has forgiven us. This is not an easy command to obey. Because we are fallen creatures our focus is on ourselves. Though we are redeemed we still sin and must wait for eternity before we are entirely free of wrong actions, thoughts and feelings. Nevertheless, we are still accountable for how we treat our fellow believers and those outside the faith as well. We can of course treat others rightly regardless of how we feel. And if we will remember how much God has forgiven us then we can at least in measure learn over time to forgive others from the heart.

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



1. Joe and Harry had a weekly golf game. They were pretty evenly paired, one week Joe would win, the next Harry would come out on top. This one week they were having a very hard fought contest. First Joe was up, then Harry. And back and forth it went right to the eighteenth hole. The score was tied but Harry had a 15 foot putt to win the match. Just as he was about to hit his putt a funeral procession went by. He stopped, took off his hat and held it to heart. After the procession went by he put his hat on and calmly sank the putt. Joe said, "I've never seen anything like that, what a great gesture." Harry responded, "It was the least I could do. We would have been married twenty five years today."

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 William Groom
8 Sue Southwick
9 Natalie Sanchez
9 Cookie Lyerla
15 Pete Berry
20 Michelle Hampton



20 Joe Hodge
22 Richard Kanady
26 Blake Rosenbaum Jr.
28 Jake Sisson
30 Agnes Simler

9 Daniel & Mistee Kelly



12/7 William & Sue Groom

Early December Birthdays

7 Elijah Grohs

7 Samantha Simler