

February 2023

The Trumpet

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



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Pastor's Pen

There are many ways in which we communicate. For instance, we can send messages to each other through body language, a cold shoulder, an emotional outburst, and hand gestures. However, our most direct form is in the words we speak. Words are powerful! They can commend or condemn, encourage or discourage, build up or tear down, they can help or hurt. Have you ever thought about your words? What do they look like, sound like and accomplish? Our words can be superficial and meaningless or they can be deep and profound. Our words can mislead or misrepresent the actual facts. Some time ago, I read the following:

“To please his father a freshman went out for track. He had no athletic ability, though the father had been a good miler in his day. His first race was a two-man race in which he ran against the school miler. He was badly beaten. Not wanting to disappoint his father, the boy wrote home as follows: "You will be happy to know that I ran against Bill Williams, the best miler in school. He came in next to last, while I came in second."

Bits and Pieces, September 17, 1992, p.12

Profound words do not mislead or misrepresent the facts. By definition, **profound** means something deep; having intellectual depth or insight; characterized by intensity of feeling or quality; all-encompassing or complete. Here we learn profound words are deep, meaningful and impactful. The most profound words we can speak are those that declare truth. Scripture tells us God's word is truth. Jesus

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prayed, “*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth*” (**John 17:17**). Scripture also tells us Jesus is truth. Jesus reminded us, “*I am the way the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me*” (**John 14:6**). The precious words of scripture are profound because they have depth, meaning, power, and truth. As members of the family of God, we are ambassadors of Christ messengers of the Word. It should be our prayer that whether we speak in private or public, our words are profound.

Just as Jesus spoke words with intellectual depth, insight and feeling, so should we. Profound words will build up the listener, not tear them down. If you have hurt someone with your words, you should make it a priority to apologize to them and make things right. God's word instructs us to "...put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth" (**Colossians 3:8**)

Next month I will address words "fitly" spoken.

In Christian love,
Pastor Jim Gregory

Youth Ministries

The Youth had a great Christmas party/game night on Dec 17th. God has been blessing our department. We have been averaging 7 kids on both Sundays and Wednesdays. In March the Awana Youth have an opportunity to travel to Idaho Falls to participate in their games and a fine art competition against other youth in the Idaho/Oregon area.

Your Youth leaders are Jim & Nicole Clark and John & 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 February please bring in toothbrushes.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

The Basics

Have you noticed that there are disagreements between Christians over their beliefs? This has been true since the beginning of the church. One concern you may have is how can I tell which doctrines are those that must be held in order to be a Christian in contrast with those that do not put someone outside the faith? As was mentioned last month there are major differences about the order of the events of Christ's return. But also it was noted that one position, preterism, is outside the faith and those who hold it are not considered to be true Christians. But one doctrine that must be held to be a Christian is that Jesus Christ will return. We must mention here that a person could be ignorant of this truth, especially a new believer.

The doctrine that is considered absolutely essential, more than any other, is justification by faith alone. That is you are righteous because you are trusting in Jesus and what He has done for your salvation and nothing else. Martin Luther was correct when he said it is the doctrine on which the church stands or falls. We were all born sinners and since God abhors sin no unrighteous person can enter heaven. No person apart from God's saving grace, no matter how good they may seem to be, will ever make it into the presence of God. The Bible tells us all our righteousness is as filthy rags meaning we can in and of ourselves never do anything acceptable to the Lord. We must be given a righteousness from outside ourselves, an alien righteousness. God supplies what we need. The Lord Jesus lived a perfect life, not only a life free from sin but one in which He obtained positive righteousness. Adam was created without sin but never achieved positive righteousness. Jesus, the last Adam, did by His active obedience. Everything He ever did was perfectly righteous. That perfect life was offered on the cross for the sins of His people and is credited to our account when we place our trust in Him. Nothing can be added to what Jesus did, no effort on our part is needed or permitted. It has well been said that Jesus Christ supplemented is Jesus Christ supplanted. That is if you add anything to Jesus and what He did then you have replaced Him as Savior with something else, which can never save anyone.

All who have truly been justified will then begin the process of sanctification, becoming more and more like Jesus. This is a lifelong process that will end when we become glorified either when we die and our souls go to heaven or when Christ returns. Those who claim you can be justified but never achieve any measure of sanctification are not Christians.

What about baptism? Christians have practiced baptism from the very beginning of the church. It is one of two ordinances given to us by the Lord Jesus. While there are significant differences in its practice all believers see the practice of baptism as a nonnegotiable. The same can be said about the Lord's supper for while there is wide disparity in understanding the supper and while it is true that the differences are extremely important and while understandings like those of the Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches are wrong, these differences in and of themselves do not put a person outside the faith.

How about the inerrancy of scripture. Many that deny inerrancy are not Christian but it is possible to not hold inerrancy and still be a true believer. Nevertheless a failure to hold to the verbal inspiration of the scripture will produce great and sometimes fatal weaknesses in an individual's faith. The trinity is by contrast a doctrine which must not be denied. A person could be ignorant of this critical truth but a denomination like the United Pentecostals which denies it is a false church. Belief in the trinity is absolutely essential. We are not tri-theists believing in three Gods but monotheists holding that there is only one God eternally existing in three persons. Modalism, the idea that there is only one person who variously manifests himself as father, son or spirit is heresy held by individuals and by United Pentecostals. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force as some would claim.

Of course the deity of Jesus Christ must be affirmed. Those who reject it are not true believers. The first ecumenical council (Nicaea 325 ad) was called in response to this heresy. A well liked presbyter named Arius was the leader of those who said that there was a time when the second person of the trinity did not exist. Probably Arius was concerned that affirming the full deity of Jesus would lessen that of the Father, but his over concern led him to heresy. Though the council affirmed the deity of Christ it took many decades to overcome this heterodox doctrine.

That we are all born sinners is another essential doctrine. Adam was created innocent as was Eve. Eve sinned first but the human race fell in Adam's sin. Jesus is the only person who has been born without a sin nature because He did not have a human father. Only by trusting in the finished work of Christ can anyone be delivered from the justly deserved punishment earned by us all. Also we must all believe in the bodily resurrection from the dead, of the believer to everlasting life with the Lord and of the unbeliever to everlasting condemnation in Gehenna, the lake of fire.

Make sure that you hold to all these essential truths for those who reject any of them do not have eternal life.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 5 Potluck Fellowship (12:45 p.m.)
- 6 Church Council (6:30 p.m.)
- 20 Presidents Day Offices Closed
- 20 Young Adult Game Day
- 23 TVSBA Executive Board Meeting
- 26 Business Meeting (5:30 p.m.)
- 28 Sunday School Teachers' Training (6:30 p.m.)

Ecumenical Church Councils

There have been many church councils in Christian history. Some were local, some regional and some councils of the whole church known to us as ecumenical councils. Though the Roman Catholic Church lists many most Protestants accept the first six councils. The only infallible source with respect to our faith is holy scripture yet the results of these six councils are considered to mostly be an accurate reflection of what the Bible teaches. In order they are:

Council of Nicaea	325
1 st Council of Constantinople	381
Council of Ephesus	431
Chalcedon	451
2 nd Council of Constantinople	553
3 rd Council of Constantinople	680 – 681

The second council of Nicaea in 787 restored the veneration of icons and is rejected by protestants as are all subsequent councils of the Roman church.

Church Council

What a wonderful time to be part of the First Southern Baptist Church family! God greatly blessed our church in 2022 and we look forward to his continued blessings in 2023. Last year our general offering exceeded our budget need by several thousand dollars. Consequently, we were able to expand every line item in the 2023 budget proposal. Additionally, due to the benevolent giving of many, we made additional premium payments on the remodel loan to significantly reduce that balance amount. The Lord blessed us with increased average attendance in Sunday school and worship. Some of the church growth is the result of folks coming to faith in the Lord Jesus and following that decision with obedience in baptism. The spirit of the church is strong and the church family is wonderfully united. All that can be said is, "To God be the glory, great things he has done." Looking forward, the Church Council is praying that God continues to shower his favor down on us. Our goal for the new year is to see the launch of a new and modified Men's Ministry, the addition of more Deacons and Family Ministry Partners (FMP's), an enhanced women's ministry, ongoing growth in our Sunday school, addressing the need for additional meeting rooms, continued growth in our worship service (music and preaching) and a Spring Revival (details forthcoming).



Finally, if you have any questions regarding our oversight structure, there is a leadership template available upon request; this chart will help you understand our organizational format. Please contact Nicole Clark at her office Monday through Thursday to get a copy.

Standing on His promises, The Church Council

The Library

First Southern Baptist Church has a library available to help meet your needs. Are you studying a text and would like more clarity? We have lots of commentaries by solid scholars that can help. For example, Dr. James Montgomery Boice's commentary on the Book of Galatians in the Expositors Bible Commentary series is both readable and profound. D. A. Carson's work on Matthew in the same series is somewhat more technical and not for everyone but well worth the effort to study. We have several translations of the Bible available. Did you know that the King James translators recommended using multiple translations to get the best sense of the text. Whether deep study or more popular literature, check out our library – it's worth your time.

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



The Sunday school teacher was explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal to her class. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces and laid it upon the altar. And then Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times. "Now," said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?" A little girl raised her hand with great enthusiasm and said "To make the gravy!"

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 Annabelle Brooks
 3 Sophia Postelnick
 3 Chad Zachary
 4 Mark Barnes
 4 Doris Laffoon
 7 Jaydin Blair
 9 Cortana Farnham
 9 Daniel Kelley
 10 Gavriel Nagel
 10 Don Nesbitt
 10 Grace Ferch
 12 Callandor Farnham



13 Brent Miller
 13 Holly Phillips
 14 Amber Blair
 14 Michelle Sisson
 17 Patrick Holt
 17 Roland Simler
 19 Vincent Brooks
 21 Rebecca Martinez
 22 Wesley White
 23 Margaret Berry
 26 Rita Kanady
 28 Michele Ring

14 David & Linda Heath



19 John & Shannon Crowe

3/5 Gerry & Betty Finley

Early March Birthdays

4 Ruth Heinen