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The Trumpet

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



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Pastor's Pen

In his book, *Escape to God*, Pastor Jim Hohnberger argues that Satan uses "busyness" as his main tool to destroy the influence and effectiveness of a Christian. Pastor Hohnberger contends that Satan knows the best way to neutralize the family is to keep them busy. Following are some excerpts from the chapter entitled, "A Life of Simplicity". Much like C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*, it is told from the perspective of Satan rallying his troops to do battle against Christians. I think you will find them both insightful and thought provoking...

"You can't prevent them from holding their doctrines and saying their prayers. We can concede them their prayers, their doctrines and their churchgoing if we can control their time. How do we do this? Simple; Keep them busy in the nonessentials of life and invent a number of schemes to occupy their minds. Encourage them to spend, spend and spend and then work, work, work to pay for it. Teach them that happiness comes from things...induce husbands to work 8, 10, 12 hours a day, six to seven days a week. Make them work two jobs if necessary. Make it appear a necessity for the wives to work. Over stimulate their minds so they cannot hear Jesus whispering to their conscience. Bombard their senses with music playing. Make sure bad news hits them every day, wherever they turn. Corrupt the moral fabric of their marriages and their young people by placing sensual images that invite impure thoughts on billboards, in movies, newspapers or magazine covers, and on television. Use TV talk shows to parade the most deviant members of society through their living rooms. Have them dwell on the trash,

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trivia and trouble of the world. Fill their homes with computers and send them out on an electronic highway where we control most of the exits. Make sure everyone has a pager [cell phones], even children. Fill their days with phone calls. Overwhelm the children with activities... stress them out... send them to preschool and early childhood programs. Get the children away from their parents' influences so by the time they are teenagers, they have nothing in common with Mom and Dad."

I can imagine Satan holding a staff meeting each morning and giving the aforementioned instructions to his helpers. Current trends indicate the strategy has been successful. Family values are shifting, divorce rates are climbing, and parent/child relationships are fracturing; church attendance is waning, and tithing is on the decline. The common denominator to all this is excessively busy lifestyles. What is the solution? "Be still, and know that I am God ..." (Ps. 46: 10)

In Christian Love,
Pastor Jim

Public Relations

The Public Relations team worked diligently to promote the Bible Conference held April 30th through May 3rd. We sent promotional material through the mail, passed posters out locally, emailed 200 posters and timelines with bios for all the speakers, used our website to promote the Ladies events included in the conference, and our church FACEBOOK page was updated for that purpose. Amos Payton worked every night of the conference at the sound booth and spent a few weeks after the conference copying DVD's for all the requests. Michele Ring assisted greatly in the Treasure Valley SBA notifications and placing the ad in Mountain Home newspaper. Violet Solis helped with design of the posters and banners on the corner and I ordered all the yard signs and banners for the corners. We're praising God for the amazing messages and attendance.

We can always use technical help, graphic designers, and creative people to join us. Please let me know if you'd like to contribute to the team.

Committee Chairman,
Sarah Gregory



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 July please bring in school supplies.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

Understanding Donatism

We like to think that Christians will always hold true to the faith, that we will not display weakness and give into the surrounding culture. Sadly, this is not true today nor has it ever been in the history of Christendom. Under persecution many have not been able to stand in the gap. It is obvious that today we are seeing those who are giving in to societal pressure, for we are no better than those in the early church - nor any worse. In the Diocletian persecutions many bishops and laymen turned over their copies of the scriptures to the Romans to be burned. They were called traditors a Latin word that meant to hand over which has come down to us as the word traitor. In 313 the emperor Constantine legalized Christianity and brought about what has become known as the peace of the church. There were many who had buckled under the pressure that now sought to return to the church. Reaction varied but as you can imagine in many cases the defectors were not warmly welcomed. This is not at all dissimilar to what happened in the era of the Vietnam war where many young men sought to evade military service. Fleeing to Canada was a popular way of evading the draft. Eventually, many returned to the United States but often received an unfriendly welcome.

We are even now experiencing something similar. A couple of years ago a Saudi Arabian sponsored golf tour called LIV used huge amounts of money derived from the sale of oil to attract some of the best players in the game. The PGA tour in response was able to get sufficient funds to create some designated tournaments where the prize fund was twenty million dollars creating a first place prize of three million six hundred thousand dollars. But Saudi oil money made things difficult and law suits from both tours against each other were instituted. Now a joining of the two tours was announced which will end the battle resulting in cancelation of the lawsuits. But we can imagine how difficult the relationships between the players who joined LIV and those who remained loyal to the PGA will be. This can give us something of a feel for what it must have been like for the church when the "traitors" sought readmission. Think about the reception players who left the tour will receive on the first tee from those who remained loyal.

In the early church opposition to those who had deserted the faith in the face of persecution varied in strength. One question was whether the deserters were truly repentant or if their desire to be reincorporated in the church only appeared when the pressure was off. Would we say that one measure of judgment as to whether or not a person is actually a believer is their reaction to persecution or other difficulties that believers face? The problem is that Christians vary in the strength of their faith and their ability to withstand persecution. But it is not difficult to understand

how those who did not give in under pressure would have grave doubts about those who did.

The Roman governor of North Africa did not deal harshly with the substantial Christian population under his control during the great Diocletian persecution being satisfied with their turning over the Christian scriptures. When the persecutions ended those who had done so were called traditors. The Donatists were the conservatives who said that the administration of the sacraments by the traditors was invalid. Though sacramental theology had not gotten to where it would eventually reach it still was a most serious thing for anyone to have his or her marriage declared to be null and void because the administering priest was a traditor. Consider the question if the minister that performed your wedding was found to not be a Christian or was guilty of some heinous crime would that invalidate your marriage?

Augustine is considered the greatest theologian of the first thousand years of the church. That does not mean he did not have errors in his understanding. There were two major issues he dealt with in his lifetime, the Pelagian and Donatist controversies. With the Pelagian he rightly held the same position as the 16th century reformers. Martin Luther you will remember was an Augustinian monk. The Donatist controversy had been around for about a century before Augustine had to deal with it. The Donatists rebaptized Christians because for them anyone baptized by a traditor had not really been baptized. This practice was particularly abhorrent to the Roman church. The emperor Constantine had even used the Roman army against them but they suffered martyrdom rather than give up their position. They were so numerous (their numbers were greater than the loyal Roman Catholics) that Constantine was not successful and ceased his efforts in 321, leaving their punishment up to God.

The Donatists left the Roman Catholic church in 316, forty years before Augustine was born and set up their own network of bishops and dioceses. By the year 330 the Donatists had 270 bishops in North Africa. And by 350 there were more Donatists than orthodox Christians. After Augustine became a bishop in 396 he devoted ten years of his life to dealing with Donatism. With the Donatist movement Augustine took the position that it did not matter if the bishop was a traditor the sacraments were still valid. He said the validity was by the working of the works (the performance of the sacrament) rather than by who performed them. By the time of Augustine's death in 430 the Donatists had almost completely disappeared.

The main concern that we have today with what happened with the Donatists is how we treat someone who has in some way denied or left the faith and then wants to return. This is not a simple or easy question to answer and most likely is best dealt with on a case by case basis. Each of us should think about how he or she would handle a situation like this.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 2 No Pot Luck
- 4 Independence Day - Offices Closed
- 10-14 VBS at Emmanuel Baptist (6:00 p.m.)
- 16-21 Youth Camp
- 25 Sunday School Teachers' Training (6:30 p.m.)
- 27 TVSBA Executive Board Meeting
- 30 Benevolence Fund
- 30 5th Sunday Sing

Intercession

What does it mean to intercede? Often believers talk about intercessory prayer. Usually what they mean by this is praying earnestly for someone or something. But the word intercede means to take the place of someone. So, we read in Romans 8:26-27, *"In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the heart knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."* And in Romans 8:34 the scripture says, *"who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, it is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us."* All Christians still sin and so when the Devil accuses us before the Father the Son intercedes for us, because He took our place, He took our sin. If you intercede for someone who is sick, you ask God to give you their sickness. This is something that is extremely difficult to do. There is a huge difference between saying the words and actually meaning them, and if you do God may well put their sickness on you. Has anyone ever truly interceded for someone else? Most likely, yes, but this is a rare thing.

Trustees Report

Nehemiah 4:21-23 – So we labored in the work, and half of *the men* held the spears from daybreak until the stars appeared. At the same time I also said to the people, “Let each man and his servant stay at night in Jerusalem, that they may be our guard by night and a working party by day.” So neither I, my brethren, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me took off our clothes, *except* that everyone took them off for washing. (New King James Version)

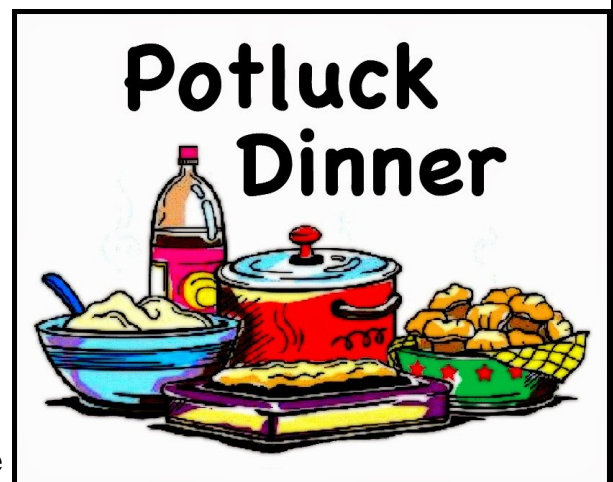


Although we operate in relative obscurity, the Church Board of Trustees operates with the fiduciary responsibility to protect the interest of the church membership as it relates to our property and facilities. The Trustees can be likened to that part of Nehemiah's labor force that “held spears from daybreak until the stars appeared.” Over the past several months, your Trustees have reviewed and approved the annual renewal of our insurance policies covering our property. The Trustees have also worked to incorporate the land given to us into secure and insured title.

It is interesting to note that, in Nehemiah's drive to complete the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem, he and his workmen only removed their clothing for washing. It is an example your Trustees follow. We are never really “out of uniform.” We stand guard and we build together with the entire church membership.

Hostess Committee

In celebration of Pastor Jim's and Sarah's forty fifth wedding anniversary and Pastor Jim's sixteenth year as pastor of First Southern the hostess committee and the church went all out. The food at our pot luck meals is always good but for this special celebration it was over the top good. The decorations on the tables were special, so much so that the adult Sunday School class moved to the sanctuary to make sure nothing was disturbed. A special thank you to the members of the committee and to the entire church for this joyous time.



Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



1. A minister who was fond of pure horseradish always kept a bottle at his dinning room table. He offered some to a guest who took a big spoonful. When the guest was finally able to speak, he gasped, "I've heard many ministers preach hell-fire, but you are the first one to give out a sample of it."
2. "Dear Heavenly Father, so far today I haven't gossiped or lost my temper. I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty or self-centered and I am very happy about that. But in a few minutes I'm going to be getting out of bed. And then I will need a lot of help. Thank you, amen."
3. An elderly, never married woman died last month. She had requested no male pallbearers. "They wouldn't take me out when I was alive, I don't want them to when I'm dead."

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

3 Victor Nostrom
3 Kim Juris
5 Shilo Nagel
9 Janilee Miller
10 Sharon Siebenberg
12 Rose Hare
12 Tyrone Parsons
15 Nathan White
15 Piper Phillips
17 Uriah Clark



18 Wayne Clark
19 Lyle Ferch
22 Logan Postelnick
22 Linda Heath
25 Lindsey Rosenbaum
26 Avra Taylor
28 Sarah Hare
28 Jeannie Zarych
29 Jonni Clark

14 John & Norma Harper
16 Wesley & Holly Phillips
8/3 Clifford & Rose Hare
8/3 Daryl & Cookie Lyerla
8/4 Don & Flo Scheffler



23 Jake & Michelle Sisson
30 Steve & Diane Noland
8/6 Amos & Kathleen Payton
8/7 John & Seven Sanders

Early August Birthdays

5 Jon Juris