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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

My daughter Rebekah likes horses. When she was a little girl, we got her and her two her brothers each a horse. The bond between Rebekah and her horse, Sadi, was so close that Sadi would follow her around like a puppy. It was a precious sight; until the day that horse tried to follow Rebekah into the house. Can you imagine Sarah's reaction when her little girl comes into the house with a 700 pound horse? What a sight that was! Horses are used for different tasks. Some are very sure-footed and used in mountain search and rescue. Some horses are used for herding cattle, others are race horses, some are show horses, and still others are plow horses.

It dawns on me that Christians fall into the same categories as many horse breeds. Some are race horses. They start quick but after a few furlongs they are done. Some Christians are like show horses. Everything they do is for people to look at them. They seek attention and find satisfaction in gentle strokes and people-praise. One of the many other breeds is the Draft horse, known informally as a plow horse. Draft horses are famous for their strength, endurance and easygoing nature. They are used for manual labor like plowing, hauling heavy loads, and pulling wagons and, in the old west, stage coaches. Even though they are very big and muscular, they have a docile temperament. There are 16 different breeds of draft horses. The Shire is the largest of them all standing up to 19 hands high and weighing up to 2500 pounds. The Clydesdale draft horse is the most recognizable in America and stands 16-18 hands high weighing up to 2300 pounds.

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I believe Jesus saved us by God's grace and commissioned us to be draft horses. He didn't call us to be flashy and showy seeking the applause and approval of men. He didn't call us to run a few furlongs and then be done. He called and commissioned us to pull the plow. We are to work diligently spreading the gospel, discipling new believers and teaching them how to pull the plow. Too many are focused on empire building when we have been commissioned to concentrate on Kingdom building, *“Go you therefore, and teach all*

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20). These verses are known as the “Great Commission”. Jesus has given us a task and expects us to be steadfast in accomplishing it. Not to come out of the starting gate quickly and then be done in short order; not to prance around drawing attention to ourselves; but setting our hand to the plow and never looking back. Let me ask you, are you a show horse or a plow horse?

*“Jesus said unto him, no man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” **Luke 9:62***

Plowing on,
Pastor Jim

MDO

MDO is off to a great start! We’ve had many returning families and a few new ones this year. We also added a few new things: 1. A theme verse and song for the year – Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go,” with the song “Our God is so Great.” 2. Chapel on Thursday mornings where we review the kid’s Bible stories, memory verses, songs, and prayer. It’s a sweet time of hearing the kids tell us what they remember and what they have learned about God. We are excited to see how God uses these things to write His truths on their hearts, as well as our own. We still have spots available for kids in both classrooms, so if you or anyone you know might be interested in our program, send them our way!

For His Glory,
Violet Solis



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 October pickup and finish filling boxes.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

An Important Text

All of scripture is God's word. There is no text in either the Old or New Testament that was not given to us by our Lord. There are some places where for various reasons scribes have added to what was given, but while those appear in your Bibles they are not part of the God breathed scripture. If you have a good modern study Bible those texts are identified for you with notations such as "the earliest manuscripts do not contain this verse or passage." The vast majority (at least 99%) of what you have in your Bible is what God gave us through the various authors. Yet not all scripture is of equal importance. If, for example, we consider just the writings of the apostle John (the Gospel of John, I, II & III John and Revelation) there is no question that III John is not as valuable as the others. We do not have multi-volume commentaries written on III John. If a pastor preaches on III John he will almost certainly do so in a single sermon. If he preaches on first John there will be many messages. And by contrast with III John Jude, another short book, will take multiple weeks to cover.

Even within books that are important some passages are more important than others. Galatians is a very important book in the New Testament. It along with Romans sparked the Reformation (the reason you are not part of a Roman Catholic church). Martin Luther wrote a commentary on the book which if translated into English would run 1500 pages. He referred to the book as "My Katie" (his wife's name was Katherine Von Bora). Most pastors that do expository preaching have preached verse by verse through Galatians. Every Christian should read the book carefully since it will produce a sound understanding of some of the most important doctrines of the faith.

Yet even within this book there are texts that rise to the top as being most essential to the believer. Galatians 2:15-21 is one such passage. The truth of the Gospel is encapsulated in these verses and then Paul will expand on them in next two chapters. Starting in verse 15 we find a note of irony in Paul's first statement. He is addressing those who are Jews by birth, and the phrase Gentile sinners was the opposite of all that being Jewish implied. Jews, as we read in Romans, had many advantages. First, they had been set apart to God as a people. Second, they had the scriptures entrusted to them. Third, they were adopted as sons. Fourth, they had the covenants, the law, the temple services and the promises. And yet, those great advantages were not enough; Jews still had to be saved by faith. For us today knowing what the scripture says is not enough. Even believing that what the scripture says is true is insufficient. James say, "the demons also believe and

shudder.” Only the regenerated heart united in faith with Christ is adequate.

In the next verse we read the basis for what Paul said in verse 15. Here we see for the first time in this letter the word justified. Everything to this point in Galatians has been in preparation for what he says here. We see the word justified three times and the word law three times in the verse. And we find the word faith for the first time as the indispensable agent in our justification. The word justified is a term borrowed from the courts and means to be declared righteous or innocent. The opposite would be to be declared guilty. The word is used in an objective sense and is measured against a standard. The standard is the righteousness of God - against which every person has fallen short except for Jesus.

What does Paul mean when he says justified by faith in Christ? Is he saying that there is some merit in faith. Not at all. He is comparing two things. The one is trying to be accepted by God by what we do and the other is fleeing to Christ and relying on what He has done for our acceptance. When we believe God imputes the righteousness of Christ to us. He reckons us perfectly just - though we are not just in our behavior. Now we do begin to change, to move away from sin, to repent the moment we come to faith. But we never achieve perfect freedom from sin in what we do in this life.

Here are three things to remember. First, Jesus redeemed us. Second, Jesus satisfied the Father and third the Father justifies us. This experience does not happen to all men. It is true that God justifies, but He does so only as He unites a man or woman to Christ, a union that takes place through the channel of human faith. Faith is the means of justification, not the source. The phrase in the middle of verse 16 “we have believed in Christ” implies an act of personal commitment - not just assenting that the facts concerning Christ are true - but fleeing to Him for refuge and mercy. The threefold repetition of the word justified in the verse shows the importance of this doctrine to Paul. The first use of the word is general - a man is not justified. The second is particular and personal - we may be justified by faith in Christ and the third and final is universal - since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified. The phrase “no flesh” is a universal negative. There is to this statement no exception! Doing good will never, never, never make you acceptable to God. For all your righteousness, that is everything you have ever done or will ever do in this life, is filthy rags before God.

How do we know if a person has come to saving faith. The mark of saving faith is the changed life. The person who says he has come to Christ and yet has not experienced any change in his life is not a Christian. Faith in Christ alone is what God uses to connect us to the righteousness that Jesus accomplished. As the reformers said we are saved by faith alone but not by a faith that is alone. True faith begins the lifelong journey of sanctification, being conformed to the image of Christ.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 1 Potluck Fellowship (12:45 p.m.)
- 3 Ladies' Bible Study (9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.)
- 7 TVSBA Annual Meeting
- 10 Ladies' Bible Study (9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.)
- 14 Thomas Wescott Memorial Service 1:00 p.m.
- 16 Church Council (6:30 p.m.)
- 17 Ladies' Bible Study (9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.)
- 22 Business Meeting (5:30 p.m.)
- 28 Awana Ministry Conference (8:30 a.m.)
- 29 Benevolence Fund Offering
- 29 5th Sunday Sing
- 31 Sunday School Teachers' Training (6:30 p.m.)

Youth News

As we start another school year, we as youth leaders charge the church to pray for our youth. Each youth is in need of prayer regardless of which school they go to. Please pray for godly friendships to develop, spiritual growth, and for them to be truly rooted in God's Word.

This Quarter for Sunday School we are in the Old Testament and will be covering the fall of Judah, Israel in exile, and Daniel. We are using the Answers Bible Curriculum from Answers in Genesis which is taking us on a chronological journey through the Bible with a focus on apologetics and life application.

If you have youth, be on the lookout for a few special events we will be having this fall!

Jim & Nicole Clark and John & Shannon Crowe

Everyone a Greeter -- Some Greeting Ministry Guidelines

The guidelines listed below are curated from a variety of sources, and tend to be garnered from honest input by visitors. Here you go: Preface EACH statement below with...RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT...



- 1—...visitors make almost instant decision about our church. This isn't just about clean and safe facilities, but also about friendliness. Different sources have different times, but all agree we only have 5-15 minutes to make a good impression.
- 2—...churches with the best greeting ministry make every effort to station greeters outside rather than inside. Even entering the building is hard for some people.
- 3--...visitors need good signage to be comfortable. "Where do the children go?" "Where are the bathrooms?" "Into which door should I enter?" Those are all questions that can be answered by a person, but ALSO must have good signage.
- 4--...the most awkward time for many visitors is that time once they are seated in the worship center, but the official service hasn't started yet. It's good to have greeters there, too.
- 5--...the question everybody seems to ask himself is, "Could I find a friend here?"
- 6--...people want to be a name, not just a face. Make EVERY effort to learn and remember names. Write it down, give yourself associations to help you remember it, use it in the conversation when you first meet them, etc.

All of us need to have the mindset and the expectation that company is coming. How we prepare for and welcome "company" or guests to our churches says a lot about how much we value the Great Commission.

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



1. Bill was complaining to George about the flies and mosquitoes at his apartment house. George said, "I've got it really good, my apartment complex doesn't allow flies and mosquitoes on the property." Guess where Bill moved.
2. A local pastor joined a community service club. The members thought they would have some fun with him. Under the name badge they gave him they printed "Hog Caller." The pastor responding by saying, "Usually I'm called the Shepherd of the Sheep but I guess you know your people better than I do."
3. A pastor's long and boring sermon reminded his congregation of the peace and love of God. It reminded them of the peace of God because it passed all understanding and the love of God because it lasted forever.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Jim Clark
 2 Jenaya Miller
 4 Jane Jacome
 8 Dan Hazelbaker
 8 David Heath
 9 Naomi Martinez
 12 Jonathan Sanchez
 3 Sara Postelnick
 15 Carter Stapleton



16 Sarah Gregory
 16 Chris Boesl
 19 Pam Hodge
 20 Sue Groom
 23 Lydia Baszler
 24 Doug Laffoon
 27 Sylvia Landers
 29 Isaiah Grohs

25 Dan & Martha Hazelbaker
 29 Mike & Sai Crouse



31 Thomas & Codi Baszler