

June 2017

The Trumpet

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



Volume 11 Issue 6

Pastor's Pen

Horace Mann said, “I have never heard anything about the ‘resolutions’ of the Apostles, but I have heard a great deal about the Acts of the Apostles.” When I read that statement for the first time it gave me pause and caused me to think. In this modern age we are so busy doing “things” that it becomes difficult to accomplish anything. This was not the case with the Apostles. They were focused on spreading the gospel and planting churches. The Apostle Paul said, “*This one thing I do...*” (Philippians 3:13). One of the lessons here is focus. Dr. O.S. Hawkins said, “Keeping the main thing the main thing in the midst of other things is always a challenge for the follower of the Lord Jesus Christ”

A key element to spiritual maturity is to remain focused in our Christian life. Focus will help us to set and maintain priorities. Prioritizing our schedules allows us to accomplish the pressing matters first. It also keeps our “Great Commission” work integrated into every aspect of our daily life. Focus helps us to push forward through the chaos that surrounds us and the minutia that drags us down. When we are intentional about being focused we have a greater drive to push a little harder and go a little farther. This is because we have a goal and can see the finish line. Focus brings life into focus. It enables us to see where we are today, what we hope to accomplish tomorrow, while not getting hung up in yesterday. Let us learn from the Acts of the Apostles. In our daily life, family life, church life, association life and convention life may it always be said we keep our eyes on Christ and are steadfast in doing His work.

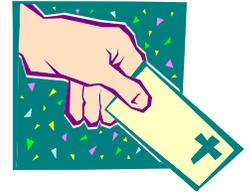
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“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us; Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Hebrews 12:1-2a)

Happy in His Service,
Pastor Jim

A special "Thank You" to all who helped us meet our Special Needs Offering goal. We were able to honor the promise made to John Ring and help underwrite our general budget needs. God Bless!



Library Report

One thing we often see promoted on the news is the need for education. During the economic downturn education funding was reduced in the state budget. As the economy has improved funding has been increased. Whether it is the secular government or the church, we all recognize that children are not born knowing anything and must therefore be educated. One thing the church understands that society does not is that children are not just a blank tablet on which we write information, but instead are born with an innate bias toward sin. People are not basically good as is widely believed, but sinners. Without the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit the most intelligent and best educated child will not be what we want him to be when he grows up. Still, previous generations because most people had a church background and a Christian world view promoted education that was not only ethical but moral. Sadly, this is no longer true. Today, we live in a society where the murder of babies in their mothers' wombs and marriage between homosexuals have been approved by the highest court in the country. Therefore, the need for an even greater effort by the church is needed to give our children a godly education. The library at First Southern has much to help parents raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Bob Neubauer, librarian

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 June please bring in flip flops (one of the most requested items).



Putting on the Full Armor of God

Apologetics - From Bob Neubauer

Essentials of the faith - The God-Man

There is nothing more important for Christians to understand than who Jesus is, for if we get this wrong it does not matter what else we have right – we put ourselves outside of the Christian faith. Church history is replete with heresy on this subject – both in the early church and today. The better we understand who Jesus is the better we will be able to deal with error. It took the church centuries to fully understand our Lord and we need to make sure we benefit from all the work done by the saints of the past.

A correct understanding of Christ can only come from scripture; there is no other source of information. Believers have been diligently pouring over God's word for two millennia, carefully examining every text. One thing that should tell you is that if someone claims to have come up with something new, they haven't. The most important text in the Bible relevant to Christ is found in the Gospel of John. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* The brilliance of this statement lies in its simplicity. It first tells us that the second person of the trinity is eternal – from the beginning. Next, we learn that the second person is God. But then we have the statement that the Word was with God. This clearly distinguishes the Father from the Son. We could write one hundred thousand words on this subject and not be able to make it clearer than John did in one sentence.

Jesus is unique, for He is both God and man. He is fully God and fully man, one person with two natures. The earliest Christians struggled with trying to understand this relationship and it literally took centuries to come to a fully correct understanding of Christ. The Council of Nicaea in 325 was called by the emperor Constantine to resolve the conflict between the followers of Arius who saw Christ as a created being and those who believed that Jesus is eternal, fully God in every sense with the Father. Even though the council came down on the side of orthodoxy it took decades for their creed to become established. For much of this period Arianism held sway in the church. Arius' error is that of subordinationism, that is making one member of the trinity subordinate to another. Both Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses make the same mistake. While Jesus took a lesser role than the Father for our salvation, He is not inherently lesser. The scripture teaches that there is only one God. Within the one being of God are three co-equal and co-eternal persons. If Jesus were as to his nature lesser than the Father, He could not be God since there is only one God.

It is just as important to remember that Jesus is fully man. Interestingly, the

struggle in the early church was more with His humanity than His deity. Greek philosophy saw the spiritual as good and the physical as evil. Sadly, this heresy has infected some of our hymns. The line from the second stanza of “Away in a Manger” that says, *no crying He makes*, denies Christ’s humanity. As a baby, Jesus cried just like every other human baby. To say, *but Jesus was special*, is again a denial of His full humanity. Yes, Jesus was born without a sin nature, but that was because He did not have a human father. As you read the New Testament you will notice that Jesus got tired, that He slept and that he ate food just like every other human being.

Certainly, the Council of Chalcedon in 451 was the most important council in defining who Jesus is. This council had to deal with the Monophysite heresy that said the Savior’s human nature was absorbed into His divine nature creating a divine human nature and the Nestorian heresy which said that if there were two natures there must be two persons. The council said that there was one person with two natures, without mixture, without confusion, without division and without separation, each nature retaining its own attributes. The phrases without mixture or confusion addressed the Monophysite heresy and the phrases without division or separation the Nestorian. The last statement, each nature retaining its own attributes helps us to understand why the Lord’s body cannot be physically present at simultaneous celebrations of the Lord’s Supper. It is important to notice that the Chalcedonian formula defines Christ as much by what He is not as by what He is – the “without” statements in the formula. Despite all the things we can say it is still difficult to understand how one person can have two natures. There is nothing that is analogous to our Lord, therefore no illustrations are possible. We look forward to a better understanding in eternity.

What is equally hard to understand is the depth of our Savior’s love. To leave His eternal abode with the Father and the Spirit, to be born as a man and then having lived a perfect life to suffer the humiliation of crucifixion, a punishment reserved for the worst of criminals, is something beyond our ability to fathom. Today both Christians and non-Christians wear crosses around their necks, trivializing what happened to our Lord. But to be crucified in the Roman empire meant that you were the worst of the worst. Christian writers rightly speak of the scandal of the cross.

What then did Jesus accomplish? Having taken on the body of a man, He lived a sinless life. He offered that life on the cross for the sins of His people. Hebrews 9:11-12 says, “*But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*” What we could not and would not do for ourselves was done for us by our Savior. That is why all praise is due His name.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 3 Ladies' First Saturday Workshop (10:00 a.m.)
- 4 Pot Luck Fellowship (12:30 p.m.)
- 5 Church Council (6:30 p.m.)
- 11 Sonfest Registration Due
- 12-15 SBC Annual Convention – Phoenix AZ
- 12-17 TVSBA Children's Camp
- 16 Ladies' Leadership Team Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- 17 Rummage Sale
- 18 Father's Day
- 18 No Evening Service

Early New Testament Manuscripts

Christians are not known for being at the forefront of technological achievements. But, in the early church they were when it came to the use of the codex (book) form for documents over that of the scroll. Jews still wrote their texts on scrolls, but Christians used the codex for the New Testament, almost exclusively. Those earliest manuscripts were written on papyrus, a very delicate and fragile material. The first discoveries of papyrus manuscripts of the New Testament were made in the 1930's in the Egyptian deserts, where the climate is dry enough to preserve manuscripts. They are designated with the letter "P" and a number which reflects the order in which the manuscripts were found. So, the first papyrus manuscript discovered was P1, the second P2, etc. P52, a credit card size fragment from the Gospel of John, is the earliest NT manuscript dating to about 125 A.D. The front contains portions of seven lines from John 18:31-33 and the back portions of seven lines from John 18:37-38. If John's gospel was written in the nineties as many think, then P52 was copied very close to its writing. Two more papyrus manuscripts have just been listed, P132 & P133. No other ancient document has copies made anywhere as near to the original as the New Testament – in fact the first copy of most is several hundred years after the original. We say again, God has preserved His word.



A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who made this year's Awana club so special and such a great success. The clubbers all worked really hard and did a fantastic job. Here are those that finished a book this year:

Cubbies (3-4 year olds) Honeycomb Ribbon:

Rebecca Davis Kale Gump Addison Hare Shelby Lundberg
 Abigail Moore Jase Peterman Michael Pierce Sam Pierce
 Brynlynn Sykes Waverly Wallaert

Sparks (K-2nd grade)

Book 1 Ribbon:

Ayden Davis Elliot Hutton David Lahtinen William Lahtinen
 Faith Thompson Kaylen Trombly Landon Wing Peyton Wing

Book 2 Ribbon:

Roy Lundberg Grayson Slack Sienna Wing

Book 3/Sparky Plaque: Roman Solis

3rd – 12th grades:

Book 1/Alpha Award: Jaydin Blair

Book 3/Challenge Award: Kent Clark

Book 5/Milestone Award: William Gibson & Zachary Thayer

See you all on at our Open House/Registration on Wednesday, August 30th from 6-7pm.

Nicole Clark— Commander

Mother's Day Out

A daycare with a Christian and Preschool emphasis

Mondays – Thursdays 8:30 – 2:30

18 months – Pre Kindergarten



We are currently registering for our Summer and Fall 2017-2018 sessions. Call 587-3828 or stop by for more information. Discounts available for FSBC church members, FSBC regular attendees, multi-children families and referring a friend.

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



1. If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.
2. A bicycle can't stand alone, it is two tired.
3. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
4. The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Roman Solis
 2 Colton Sheppard
 4 Steve Noland
 5 Rae Ann Stoecker
 6 Sai Crouse
 7 Rebecca Davis
 12 John Ring
 12 Susan Croyle
 13 Marian Mitchell



13 Shannon Crowe
 15 Mike Crouse
 17 Janet Nesbitt
 18 Jackie Grinnell
 19 Martha Hazelbaker
 20 Makayla Clark
 20 Madi Barnes
 22 Richard Hitt
 22 Ken Hayes

2 Harold & Sue Southwick
 12 James & Sara Gregory
 25 Eric & Jessica Nagel



26 Ken & Pam Anderson
 27 Alex & Rachael Hall