

The Trumpet

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



Pastor's Pen

When I was a little boy we started our school day with a prayer, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of scripture. High school commencement ceremonies were opened and closed with prayer. Over time, scripture reading went away, prayer went away, commencement benedictions disappeared, and reciting the pledge of allegiance became optional, and thus a nonexistent practice in most schools. Concerning prayer and scripture reading there were three pivotal cases brought before the U.S. Supreme Court:

Engel v. Vitale – "The Regents School Prayer" – 1962

Murray v. Curlett – "School Prayer" – 1963

Abington Township School District v. Schempp – "Bible reading in school" – 1963

The Supreme Court dealt with the last two cases at the same time. When they finally handed down their ruling, they stated that prayer and/or Bible reading was a violation of the establishment clause of the first amendment. This effectively ended prayer and Bible reading in school. It is noteworthy that Atheism has been identified as a religion. So, by legislating God out of the schools, the SCOTUS (Supreme Court of the United States) made atheism a national religion to be practiced in every public school. (That's a discussion for another time.) Not content with their SCOTUS victories, the atheists, agnostics, extreme liberals, and non-Christian groups have attempted to keep prayer out of school regardless of the circumstances.

I was recently sent an article that appeared in a recent Baptist Press publication. Here are some excerpts: ***Football prayer complaint leads to employee training.*** A public-school system has agreed to update employees on applicable constitutional law after a special interest group complained of a Southern Baptist pastor's impromptu prayer over an injured player at a high school football game. The Hamilton County Department of

Inside This Edition

Pastor's Pen	page 1
Hostess Committee	page 2
Putting on Full Armor of God	page 3
Calendar	page 5
Personnel Committee	page 6
Birthdays and Anniversaries	page 7

Education (HCDE) will "provide additional training to its employees on the application of the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses in public schools," HCDE attorney D. Scott Bennett told the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) Jan. 30. The FFRF complained Jan. 27 that students' constitutional rights were violated at a Sept. 9, 2016 football game because of a prayer by Eric Dill, student pastor of Bayside Baptist Church in Harrison, Tenn. ... Dill prayed over a Central High School football player who appeared temporarily paralyzed after a tackle... During these tense minutes, a local youth pastor ***was asked***

to pray for the young man. During the prayer, a number of students circled around the pastor. Out of respect for the injured player and the young men who were praying, many coaches and officials also bowed their heads. No coaches led any prayer. The injured student has since made a full recovery. Dill described the injured player as motionless for nearly 30 minutes after a tackle, crying uncontrollably and unable to move his legs. A game attendee complained anonymously to the FFRF, which in turn filed the complaint from its Madison, Wis., office. The FFRF contended... "While it is laudable for students and coaches to express concern over an injured player, coaches may not use an injury as an opportunity to engage students in a religious exercise... We trust that this was a unique situation given the circumstances of the night and that coaches are not regularly leading their teams in prayer, or participating in team prayer circles initiated by students."

Did you ever think you would see the day when praying, upon request, over a severely injured high school athlete would result in teachers and coaches having to attend special training to teach them not to pray or join in a prayer circle?

Finally, brethren, pray...that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified...And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

II Thessalonians 3:1-2

In Christian love,
Pastor Jim Gregory

Hostess Committee

Our Hostess Committee is comprised of 5 very unselfish ladies, who are willing to be involved in the set-up and clean-up of our monthly potlucks. As we have quite a few new members and attendees in our church, there are a few items to bring to your attention. First, I would encourage each of you to mark each piece of your dish before leaving it in the kitchen. Too often, we have duplicate items and we cannot be sure to return the correct ones without help. Second, because we only have 2 ovens, and they must be available to keep many items at the safe warming temperature until service, (continued on page 5)

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 March please bring in combs & brushes.



Putting on the Full Armor of God

Apologetics - From Bob Neubauer

Come Let Us Reason Together

How important is logical thinking to the Christian faith? Often we hear folks saying they feel something is true. Does your feeling or my feeling determine the truth of a matter? Certainly not. While we should be passionate about our faith, our passion does not determine its truth. Mormons are famous for claiming that the burning in the bosom proves their faith – but God has given us minds that can reason and we are ethically bound to use them in that way. We are to think logically, not illogically.

There are three laws of logic that we should all should know and employ. These laws are not above God, in fact they are given to us by our creator and are rooted in His own nature. Many doctrinal errors and many errors of interpretation could be avoided if we would make use of the laws of logic. Sloppy, emotional thinking does not become the Christian.

The first of these laws is the law of identity. It states that “A is A.” An apple is an apple. In other words, something is what it is. Anything that exists has certain characteristics. Moreover, anything that exists has a single identity. Its characteristics are consistent with itself. So, we don’t confuse a tree with a cat.

The second law of logic is the law of non-contradiction. It was first discovered by the Greek philosopher Aristotle. There is a formula which has a statement followed by two criteria, both of which must be met for something to be a contradiction. The formula will make sense when we flesh it out with examples.

“A” cannot be “b” and non “b”

At the same time and
In the same sense or way.

If, for example, we had a piece of string that was continuous we could shape it as a circle or a square (in the same sense or way) but not at the same time.

On the other hand, God is three and one at the same time, but not in the same sense or way. He is one in being and three in person. He is one “what” and three “who’s.” If we were to say that God was one being and three beings at the same time we would have a contradiction. Or if we would say that God is three persons and one person at the same time we would have a contradiction. What we in fact have is something difficult to understand, but which does not violate the law on non-contradiction.

The third law of logic is the law of the excluded middle. It says that a statement such as “it is raining” is either true or not true. There is no third option, no alternative. So, for example God is either triune or He is not triune – there is no third possibility.

The laws of logic are not like the laws of nature. God by acting miraculously can violate the laws of nature. So, Jesus turned water into wine, walked on water, instantly healed the blind and raised the dead. But because the laws of logic are rooted in His own nature He cannot violate them. Even God cannot make a square circle. It is true that God is all powerful, but that must be understood in light of who He is. So, can God sin? No, He cannot. And the things that God cannot do are all things we don't want Him to do. *Even when we are faithless*, the scripture says, *He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself* (II Tim. 2:13).

When it comes to our salvation it is not an illogical leap of faith to believe that when Paul said, “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved” we can trust in what he said. The scriptures are not just a jumble of random thoughts but a consistent presentation of what God has done for His people.

We are living in an age where emotionalism runs rampant in our culture. The enemies of the faith frequently make use of emotional appeal rather than reason to promote their position. At the same time Christians are said to be people whose beliefs are rooted in “faith” not fact. The facts of Christianity are said to be at odds with science. Yet every challenge that is offered to our faith can be demonstrated to be without merit.

In contrast to the claim that the Christian faith is not intellectually valid there is a very real spirit of anti-intellectualism that infects our culture. Consider all the shows on television where one or more of the characters is supposed to be a genius. In every case the genius is portrayed as having great difficulty in dealing with everyday living. We are not saying brilliant people never have problems in living. But they are not alone in having difficulties; everyone of whatever intelligence has problems. There is an incredible inconsistency for the TV networks to promote education while at the same time denigrating great intelligence.

As Christians we should use all the abilities that God has given us, including our intellectual capacity. If we are to defend our faith when it is under attack, we must know how to interpret scripture correctly. Though the enemies of the faith will use emotion, illogical thinking, straw men and any device they can come up with to try to undermine us, we must deal fairly and honestly with them. We must represent their position accurately even when they fail to do so with ours. We must honor God with what we say and how we say it. For if we do then we will in eternity hear these words from Jesus, “*Well done, thou good and faithful servant.*”

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 3-4 Awana Expedition
- 4 Ladies' First Saturday Workshop (10:00 a.m.)
- 5 Pot Luck Fellowship (12:30 p.m.)
- 5 Business Meeting
- 7 Ladies' Leadership Team Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- 6-10 Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer
- 12 Daylight Savings Time - Spring Forward
- 13 Deacons' Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 16 Roadshow Concert (4:00 p.m.)
- 17-18 TVSBA Men's Retreat
- 18 Awana Games
- 21 Sunday School Teachers' Training (6:30 p.m.)
- 24 Kid's Movie Game Night
- 27-31 Spring Break - No MDO - No Awana
- 31 Ladies Retreat

(continued from page 2) we cannot bake anything—please do that at home.

Third, we have a small kitchen and many items needing our counter space/sink space, so we ask that you assemble your dishes at home, and bring them in ready to be served.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the men and women who, between Sunday School and Church, come in and help set up tables and chairs. Also, those who stay after, wipe and put tables and chairs away and vacuum the floors. All this is truly a great help!

Michele Ring does all our decorations for all our potlucks, special occasions, seasons and in-sanctuary decor. She has just recently formed a committee of ladies to help! We appreciate every one of you.

If you have observed something that you feel needs corrected, or is not addressed properly Concerning the potlucks or other matters, please contact me. Thank all of you who attend, contribute your yummy dishes and participate in great fellowship.

Carol Ellis, Hostess Committee Chairman

Personnel Committee

“Organizational Behavior” is generally an advanced level course at most universities. Professors of that course realize that the classroom itself can be the best laboratory to teach just how dynamic group behaviors can be. One such moment was when a case study involving a church staff was presented for discussion. I don’t even remember the problem to be solved in that case study. But I do remember watching a group of Christian students grapple with their own preconceived ideas of how a church is “different” from other business organizations – and it is very different.

A business has a “pecking order” that’s not just built around who is in charge. It’s also built around the mission of the company. Those who best understand the central mission tend to move up the chain of command. But, make no mistake, most businesses have a mission that is far more focused on selling a product or service than meeting the emotional or spiritual needs of the employees.

The church “pecking order” is also built around a mission and that mission includes presenting the Gospel to those who have never heard it (a bit like “sales”). But, perhaps more important, is that the mission is centered on living the Gospel out with a body of fellow believers. In a church, every member of leadership is also a member of the body with equal value to Christ.

Jesus confirmed this approach directly to his disciples and his words were recorded in Mark 10:43-45. “No so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (NIV)

The Personnel Committee understands this important principle: That those who work at the church, whether as paid staff or on a voluntary basis, must follow the example of Christ and focus first on how they can best serve everyone else. With Christ as our standard, the body of Christ looks a lot more like an inverted pyramid rather than the kind of organizational chart one sees in a company. Those willing to be on the bottom – at the business end of labors – are closely following the example set by our Savior.

Garry Harper - Chairman

Sunday School Spring Quarter

Adult Men Class: Thomas Westcott Explore the Bible

Pairs and Spares: Pastor Jim The Gospel Project

Adult Women Class: Janet Nesbitt The Gospel Project

Answers in Genesis: Daryl Lyerla

Conflict resolution: Jim Clark

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



1. The batteries were given out free of charge.
2. With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
3. You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
4. A will is a dead giveaway.
5. A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Ken Anderson
- 2 Trystan Case
- 4 Sam Artz
- 11 Nicole Clark
- 11 Genesis Stokes
- 14 Kacie Davis



Happy Birthday

- 20 Rose Lindsey
- 22 Austin Case
- 27 James Gregory
- 27 Fernando Solis
- 28 Manuelito Brooks

- 26 David & Heather Tippery



*If you do not see your name here and would like to:
please contact the church office at 587-3828 and let us know your birthday
and/or anniversary.*