

February 2025

The Trumpet

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



Volume 19 Issue 1

Leadership Journal

A Christless Society

What would this country or even this world look like if there was no Jesus? Actually there would be no world, no universe if Jesus did not exist. Colossians says that Jesus created the entire universe and in Him all things hold together Col. 1:16-17). He is the nuclear glue that holds everything together. Genesis 1:1 tells us that God created the heavens and the earth, but Colossians tells us that it was the second person of the Trinity who was the agent of creation. He did not use any being to do any of the work because there was no other being than the one true God. He simply spoke it into existence. Consider well the awesome power of the Word of God. The universe is vast beyond our ability to comprehend it. Yet God said, “Let there be...” and the universe in all its vastness appeared. The Lord in His mercy and wisdom gave what we call the Old Testament initially to the Jewish people. Then Jesus came lived a sinless life, died on the cross and rose again on the third day. Starting in Jerusalem the Christian church spread all over the Roman empire. By the end of the first century the New Testament scriptures were written. As Christianity spread society was more and more dominated by what was taught in the scriptures.

Until very recently western culture reflected the Christian faith in its understanding of right and wrong, moral and immoral, etc. All of that has changed over the last few decades to the point where men are calling themselves women and playing in women’s sports. Marriage between men and men and women and women

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has been accepted by the Supreme court of the United States. Abortion, not heart disease, not cancer, has become the leading cause of death in our nation. Politicians talk about the murder of the child in a woman’s womb and call it women’s health.

We can talk about every one of the things just mentioned, analyze it and try to promote solutions. Some of the things we do may reduce the severity of one or more of the problems but this does not get to the root

cause. Underlying everything that has gone wrong is the undeniable fact that we are living in a Christless society. What the scripture teaches about our Lord is no longer central in the lives of many Christians let alone among unbelievers. Church prayer meetings, for example, only get about ten percent of the congregation attending. Yet this is a time when prayer is greatly needed. And what we need to pray for is a great move of the Holy Spirit, the agent of regeneration. Only if we see a revival like the great awakening that took place in the early 1740's - that produced a nation led by men who were believers in Jesus Christ will things change for the better.

If you want to see a person saved, pray for them. If you want to see a nation saved pray for that nation. Faithful praying brings change, lack of prayer does not.

Youth Snippets

The youth are currently studying the New Testament during Sunday School. We have been using the Answers Bible curriculum from Answers in Genesis. This quarter we are learning about Jesus' last year of ministry. We have been averaging 10 in Sunday School and 7 in Awana. The Awana Youth are gearing up for their annual competition Feb 28 & Mar 1. Stay tuned to see how they do!



Nicole Clark
Youth Teacher

With Great Joy

With the election of a new president there were a great many happy **people in the USA. The applause that we heard over the decisions and actions** the president took in the early hours of his administration was extraordinary. (continued on page 6)

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. For March combs & brushes.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

Credo vs Paedo Baptism

A clearer way of understanding the title of this article is believer's baptism vs infant baptism. As Baptists we believe that baptism should only be administered upon a credible profession of faith. This is the pattern we see throughout the New Testament. This raises the question of why Presbyterians and others do not embrace our position. The primary argument offered by paedo baptists says that infant baptism corresponds to circumcision in the Old Testament. Circumcision was applied to all Jewish males many years before there could be a profession of faith. And so the argument is made that since circumcision did place a baby in the Old Covenant then baptism should be administered to babies placing them in the New Covenant.

Let's begin our response by looking at John the Baptist. He came calling for repentance because the kingdom of heaven was at hand and baptizing those who did repent John preached that message to everyone regardless of their station in life. His death came about because he was willing to call for repentance of even the most powerful rulers of his day in light of what God's word says is true and honest and just. He is the one referred to in Isaiah chapter 40 *The voice of one crying in the wilderness "Make ready the way of Yahweh, make His paths straight."* There is a supernatural aspect to his birth because his mother Elizabeth was barren. The angel Gabriel was sent to his father to give him the news but Zacharias did not believe the angel and was rendered mute until John's birth. John the Baptist did not seek to fit in with the Jewish culture and especially not with its leadership. He wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt. You can imagine that without any deodorant how he smelled. He ate locusts and wild honey. It is not likely that many of us would be willing to make locusts a part of our diet.

As John preached repentance many people responded and he baptized them in the Jordan river. John did not have pots lined up on the shore from which he got water and sprinkled those that repented. No, they came into the river where there was enough water to immerse. Notice that it was a baptism of confession of sin. Matthew writes, *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, "You brood of vipers who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance."* This is not infant baptism where a baby is never instructed to live a life of repentance. John speaks to individuals who can hear the truth of God and act in response to it. He then tells them that they cannot rely on being in the Old Covenant by way of circumcision because God can raise up from stones children of Abraham. The New Cove-

nant is not one of ceremony but one that reflects a change of heart - which is the very core of our being. Wearing a cross around your neck does not make you a Christian, only when the Lord takes out a heart of stone and gives a heart of flesh does one become a believer in Jesus Christ.

John does not baptize indiscriminately but only those who come in repentance confessing their sin. Infants cannot confess their sin. And please do not talk about innocent children. Even from the crib a child will try to manipulate its parents with its crying - we are all born with a sin nature. John is not saying come and be baptized and I hope someday you will repent. Lutherans to this day believe in baptismal regeneration. That means they believe when a baby is baptized he or she is born again. That error leads to more error because they have to explain why many "born again" babies do not grow up as Christians. The Lutheran position is that while all baptized babies are regenerated only the elect go to heaven. In the baptisms John performs there is no evidence of infant immersion in the Jordan river. There is nothing in the scripture about joining the covenant community. There is the call to repent. Bring forth fruit of repentance is the command of John.

In the argument we are making for credo (believers) baptism let's look at John chapter four. In verse one we learn that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John. John had baptized many people and we read that years later Paul encounters some of his disciples in Ephesus who were still faithful to what John had preached. John 4:2 tells us that Jesus was not doing the baptism himself, His disciples were. And since the number of baptisms exceeded those done by John this was taking more than a little time.

Now our paedobaptist brethren make the argument that while the normative procedure in the New Testament is baptism upon profession of faith that once the church is established and the apostles are no longer around there is a return to what was done in the Old Testament with baptism corresponding to circumcision. What causes our Presbyterian brothers with whom we agree on many things to not do what they do on other subjects. The normal procedure is to consider what the New Testament says on a subject and to formulate our understanding from that and that alone. But something else enters into the arguments presented by paedobaptists. And that is a thousand years of history where infant baptism was practiced plus the situation in which the 16th century reformers found themselves. In the 16th century baptism in the Roman Catholic church was universal for the population. In fact the baptismal rolls were the tax rolls. And that meant that the government was involved and it wielded the sword, literally. It took great courage for baptists to resist the pressure applied to them and sometimes it cost their lives. May we know our faith well enough that we would be willing to give our lives. But may we also treat our paedobaptist brethren with respect.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

February

- 1 Walk Thru The Bible - New Testament (9:00 a.m.)
- 2 Potluck Fellowship (12:45 p.m.)
- 3 Church Council (6:30 p.m.)
- 11 Women's Ministry Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- 12 Children's Event (1:00 P.M.)
- 17 Presidents Day Offices Closed
- 23 Business Meeting (5:30 p.m.)
- 25 Sunday School Teachers' Training (6:30 p.m.)
- 28 Awana Youth Expedition Weekend (2/28-3/1)

March

- 2 Pot Luck Fellowship (12:45 p.m.)
- 2-9 Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong
- 9 Daylight Savings Starts
- 10 Women's Ministry Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- 18 Sunday School Teachers' Training (6:30 p.m.)
- 24-28 Spring Break - No Awana
- 30 Benevolence Fund Offering
- 30 5th Sunday Sing

Music Ministry

Hello - the music ministry has gone through some changes since October when Garry left First Southern. Since then the ministry has been headed by Steve Noland. You may have noticed that there are several people leading the worship service. Variety can be the spice of life so Patrick Holt, Steve Noland, John Ring, and Betty Finley have all taken part in leading the music. You may see other people taking a turn in leading in the future.

Steve and Diane Noland ask that you contact them if you love to sing or play an instrument. In addition, Instrumentals, Solos, Quartets, Trios, and combinations of these can be used and are welcome as part of the worship at our church.

Please share the talent that the Lord has given you. Music is an important part of worship. Many of the Psalms were written for musical worship in the Old Covenant and are used in churches today. Please join us as we raise our voices to worship the Lord!!!



Steve Noland

Hostess Committee

Our Hostess Committee did an over-the-top job with our Annual Thanksgiving Banquet! We really appreciated all the ladies who not only provided a Delicious and Abundant feast! (as always) but then also helped with set-up, serving and clean-up! A great time of fellowship was had by all!

Jenice and helpers decorated the Hall beautifully! We all had a well-deserved break in December and January and now look forward to serving in the New Year!



Carol Ellis

(continued from page 2) But that happiness, that joy is temporary at best. The president will be out of office in four years and sooner or later someone will assume the office of president who will take our country in the wrong direction. There is, however, a day coming for Christians that is infinitely better. The return of Jesus Christ will for believers bring an incomparable joy that will last forever. Let us look forward to that and may it cause all of us to work for His kingdom. Hallelujah!

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner

A Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest were good friends. They were at a community picnic one day and the priest was eating a ham sandwich. "You know," he said to his friend, "this ham sandwich is simply delicious. I know you're not supposed to eat ham, but I don't understand why something as good as this would be forbidden to you. Why don't you break down and try one?" To which the rabbi replied, "Sure, at your wedding."



February Birthdays

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 Holly Phillips
14 Amber Blair
15 Sally Shuttters
17 Patrick Holt
17 Roland Simler
19 Vincent Brooks
21 Rebecca Martinez
23 Margaret Berry
26 Rita Kanady
28 Michele Ring

March Birthdays

9 Aurora Farnham
11 Nicole Clark
17 Blake Rosenbaum
18 Bunni Farnham
23 Rebekah Anders
23 Ryan Strong

27 James Gregory
27 Fernando Solis
28 Manuelito Brooks
28 Tasha White
28 Louise Carroll
31 Brandi Parks

Anniversaries

14 David & Linda Heath
19 John & Shannon Crowe



3/5 Gerry & Betty Finley
4/1 Victor & Samantha Nostrom