



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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THE BEACON

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Elders: Greg Barneburg, Don Cabbage, Doug Gammon, Wayne Jeans and Rick Jones

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From the Pulpit.....

Recently a coach was sharing of the change in commitment of many young potential athletes today. He noted that there was an increase in attitude whereby there was no desire to work hard or put in the energy needed to be good at what they do. That kind of lack of commitment (or ‘the easy way’) among us contributes to untruth among us. The Apostle Paul mentioned in the letter to Titus (1:11-13) *They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.* ¹² *One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”* ¹³ *This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,* ¹⁴ *not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.*

It takes committed effort to overcome untruth, gossip, and even controlling the tongue. When our culture leans toward a lack of commitment, it contributes to the trials among us. Overcoming these cultural trends is not easy. How will we do it?

The force of the wind and the waves are constant and brutal, yet the lighthouse keeps standing in the trial. Just like the lighthouse, when the stresses of our time beat against what is true and what is right, we must stand. It is important to be steadfast. It isn’t easy.

When the cultural mud flows around us, it is easy to be stuck and even pulled down into it. The language of our lips declares truth, righteousness and worship of God. For many of us this means soaking our minds in scripture and prayer. Only when the water that comes of Jesus (John 4:10) flows outward from within us will the mud be gone. It is important to be of the mind of Jesus. It isn’t easy.

When towing a massive truck, one weak link can snap the chain. The chain of “the gathering” (the church) is only as strong as its weakest link. How do you change a cultural mindset that seems driven to spiritual darkness? It requires that all the links in the chain are strong so that “the gathering” becomes important. It is important to spend time gathered with the church. It isn’t easy.

I would urge you grit your teeth, spiritually shoulder the task, look forward in Jesus and do what is right with God. It won’t be easy.

C U Sunday,
Bill



CHOIR, FOR ALL INTERESTED, resumes September 8th at 5:00 pm. We will review *NOEL & ALLELUIA! JESUS IS BORN* (cantata) and plans for performance. You who are new to choral singing will be placed with your vocal group. We’ll help you if you are new to this. Former members: have you scoured your shelves for previous choir materials? Please get them turned in for safe storage. Let’s glorify God with blended voices of worship and praise.

GRACE HARMONY will be here at FCC on September 25th (Wednesday) for a 6:30 pm concert of easy listening Gospel music. Mike & Sue Filisky began “Grace Harmony” in 2001 in a ministerial capacity, offering hope and encouragement through their music to others. In 2003 they resigned their careers to work full-time for the Lord with an annual “Journey for Jesus.” Bring your friends and neighbors for an inspirational evening of gospel music. A love offering will be received for the ministry of Grace Harmony. We are also planning for a little fellowship with refreshments following their program. Consider signing up to bring some goodies.

FINANCIAL PEACE with DAVE RAMSEY AND HIS TEAM! The start date and time of the series is September 19th, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Please sign up at one of the Welcome Centers and/or speak with me if you are interested in this financial management program. The course costs \$109.00 per kit (adult single or married couple) and will involve a series of nine lessons with homework. You may audit the first session if you are unsure of committing, and, previous FPU students may attend for free to refresh your memories of the plan.

(continued on next page.....)

BIBLE STUDY GROUP SCHEDULES: Let God speak to you through His word. Three groups meet (Mon. & Tues.) in review and application of the Sunday sermons. Join other adults at **Wednesday Night Bible Class** in the Parlor from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in a verse by verse walk through the Bible (book of Matthew), led by Bill. *Soul Sisters* and *Cord Brothers* meet at 6:30 pm on the first and third Thursdays of the month, with the ladies in the Fellowship Hall and the men in the Youth center. Please call the office if you need child care. I would be glad to help you start a group in your own home.

Living for Jesus,
David Rorabaugh

Consider it Joy

James 1:2, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds."

1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

The idea that suffering can be a gift doesn't really sit well with me. By my nature, I don't like conflict. I don't really like the idea of pain or discomfort. I was raised as an individualistic American youth who has been told his whole life that he can do and be whatever he wants, so when the reality of the world sits in, when pain and suffering start to rear their heads, I am a little thrown off. With all of the suffering in the world, and the apparent indifference of the church, I can understand why many people don't believe there is a loving God.

But the truth is that suffering, pain, and sadness are gifts. They teach us what it means to be truly human, to be broken, to feel compassion, and to love deeper. Or at least they should. Sure, we can look at the suffering we have experienced and shake our fist at God, claiming He doesn't love us. But suffering actually helps us relate to our brothers and sisters. Suffering helps us to realize that the person across from us, at any given time, has also suffered. Suffering, ultimately, makes us more human. But most importantly, we worship a God who suffers with us.

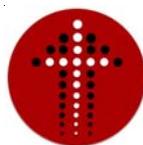
When we mourn, He mourns with us. When we feel pain, He does too. When we brought the world to a point of blatant sinfulness and distress, He sent His son to suffer and die on our behalf. The greatest comfort, the greatest joy, and the greatest source of thanksgiving is the fact that our God has suffered, and continues to suffer with us. We are all, humanity, creation, and God, groaning in anticipation for the return of Jesus Christ and the new life that stretches into eternity. So count it joy when we suffer now. Give thanks in every circumstance. Love deeply and freely. Because the things we suffer today pale in comparison to the glory that lies ahead. "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." Romans 8:18. (Also, read 1 Peter for more insight on suffering as a Christian).

Until He Returns,
Gage Addington



Please join us for the Shepherd's Feed on Sunday, September 22 at Noon. In appreciation, the Elders would like to prepare and serve a scrumptious meal to

all members and their guests. **Make your plans to enjoy this wonderful meal with your church family and be sure to bring a few guests with you!**



Youth groups resume soon.

SeekerGen, for Jr. and Sr. High youth, will begin for this school year on Sunday, September 8 at 5:30-8:30pm in the Youth Center. Little Tree

Ministries, for children ages Kindergarten through 5th grade resume on Wednesday, September 11 at 5:45-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. A meal is served and transportation is available for Little Tree children.



To help support our local **Community Outreach Food Pantry** we are collecting non-perishable food and dry goods. A box is in the parlor for collection.

Suggested September products: Mac & cheese, canned veggies, pork & beans, canned fruit, mustard, pancake mix, and pancake syrup.



CHOIR rehearsals begin on September 8th at 5:00 pm. We will review plans for our next performance. New members will be placed with their vocal group (we'll help you if you are new to this). **Let's all praise the Lord!**

Anyone needing a ride to Sunday School/ Church in our vans, please let us know by calling the church office at 667-3540 **BEFORE NOON on FRIDAY.**

