



THE FBC FAMILY NEWSLETTER

PROCLAIMING GOD'S TRUTH.
INSPIRING A PASSION FOR GOD'S GLORY.

ARE YOU DRIFTING?

Tom Buck

I watched in amazement as the news reports began to roll in regarding the recent shipwreck of Costa Concordia, the Italian luxury cruise ship. How could it be in our day and age that something like that could occur? When the Titanic sank, it was during an age with much more primitive technology than we have today. Who would have thought there would ever be anything close to that kind of an accident again? And although the destruction of the Costa Concordia pales in comparison to the Titanic, it was still hard to believe it could occur in our day and age.

But then the reports began to come in that something more was going on. Reports were made of the captain abandoning ship; reports of possible negligence; reports of distractions with an unauthorized female passenger. It quickly became evident that lives were likely lost due to the irresponsible behavior of the captain. To so many, this came as an incredible shock. The unthinkable became a tragic reality all due to the captain not taking great care in the operation of his vessel.

As we sail into the New Year, I pray that we will take our spiritual growth as seriously as we expect a captain to take seriously the care of his ship. Actually, I pray we will take it even more seriously because, as tragic as it was, there is more at stake than the loss of physical lives. Our very spiritual lives are at stake.

In 1 Timothy 1:18-19, Paul warns young pastor Timothy to keep a close watch over his life and to "wage the good warfare,

holding faith and a good conscience." He goes on to give this warning: "By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith." I am ever reminded that one of the ways God causes us to persevere in faith is by warning us that we could make shipwreck of our faith. In other words, God graciously warns us that we could drift away and the reason he does this is so that we might pay careful attention to our life.

I encourage you to keep careful watch over the spiritual growth of your life. If it was necessary for Paul to warn Timothy, surely we should heed the warning for ourselves. What are you doing to keep watch over your soul? Are you spending time in the Word as you should? Are you connecting in the church with other believers who will speak God's truth into your life and speak candidly to you with a spirit of accountability? Are you faithful to have your family regularly sitting under the Word so that you can have opportunities for God to speak into your life? If not, then I urge you to stop being negligent about these things. With all the opportunities afforded to you in our church alone, you should not have any reason to drift into shipwrecking your life.

If you find yourself adrift and needing some help getting back where you need to be, please come and visit one of the pastors so that we can help you. My prayer is that all of us who are a part of this FBC family will all sail safely into shore when we reach eternity.

DATES OF INTEREST

MEN'S BREAKFAST
FEBRUARY 4, 7:30 AM

CHURCH COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 7, 6:00 PM

**SENIOR ADULT CHOIR
AND LUNCHEON**
FEBRUARY 9, 10:30 AM

**CHILI COOK-OFF
FELLOWSHIP**
FEBRUARY 12, 6:00 PM

**WIDOWS BANQUET WITH
DEACONS**
FEBRUARY 13, 6:00 PM

**SENIOR ADULT TIMBERLINE
VALENTINE PARTY**
FEBRUARY 14, 10:30 AM

SENIOR ADULT PLAYDAY
FEBRUARY 23, 9:30 AM

DISCOVER FBC CLASS
FEBRUARY 26, 1:30 PM

**UPWARDS AWARDS
CELEBRATION**
FEBRUARY 27, 7:00 PM

MEN'S BREAKFAST
MARCH, 3, 7:30 AM

CHURCH COUNCIL
MARCH 6, 6:00 PM

**SENIOR ADULT CHOIR AND
LUNCHEON**
MARCH 8, 10:30 AM

NO SERVICES/ACTIVITIES
MARCH 14

SENIOR ADULT PLAYDAY
MARCH 22, 9:30 AM

**QUARTERLY MEMBERS
MEETING**
MARCH 25, 6:00 PM

103 E. VAN ST. | PO BOX 321 | LINDALE, TX 75771

PHONE: 903-882-3396 | FAX: 903-882-1949 | WEB: WWW.FBCLINDALE.COM

BE ACTIVE

Andrew Pressley

Christianity is not a spectator religion. Most of us believe that to be true of our private lives, but I wonder... what's your game plan before you even walk in the door to our worship services? You might be thinking: Why would I *do* anything for a worship service? That's a time where we *bear* and *get fed*, right?

Just as hearing and doing are integral parts of the Christian life, they are also integral parts of the Christian worship service. Yet unfortunately, some of us have developed an unhealthy mentality toward our gatherings. Instead of thinking of ourselves as active participants in every aspect of the service, we treat it as the metaphorical buffet line: take a little bit of what you like; leave what you don't.

Think of how this relates to the sermon. You can hear nearly anyone speak and find some things you agree with and other things you don't. Yet if the Bible is being explained for what it really says, we have an obligation to actively place ourselves under its authority. We should be fighting our own sinful wills so that we submit to it (of course, this is the Holy Spirit's work).

Think of how it relates to our praying. Do you discipline yourself to hear and actively pray yourself with the one who is voicing our prayer? Or do you passively listen until something resonates with you, whispering an "amen" at those things that interest you? The person who is praying is doing so on your behalf. Lift up your hearts and thoughts to the Lord along with them!

Think of how it relates to singing. Do you sing the truth of the songs because they are true, or do you wait for the familiar song that means something to you personally? All believers are called to sing to one another in order to educate, edify, and praise (yes, that includes the tone-deaf). The music is not just the warm-up for the sermon, and it's not a means merely to move your emotions. It's an integral part of what God has called us to do when we gather. The musicians are helping give you the opportunity to sing. Be active along with them.

We could go on: financial faithfulness, baptism and the Lord's Supper, Scripture reading, accountable relationships...

Allow me to be blunt. Though we have grown in this area, FBC Lindale needs to continue this growth. I fear that too many of us come to our worship services with an attitude that is more akin to "Let's see what they have in store for me today" rather than the Biblical attitude: "How can I be speaking (praying, singing, applying, etc.) God's Word into my life and other's lives today?"

Jesus calls us to do, not merely hear. And doing takes many forms, especially when we gather. Come to our services early (yes, I'm calling out you latecomers) and come with a heart that is prepared to participate: to spur one another on to love and good deeds.

PASTORS' Q&A

Q God did not make us like robots, right? We as humans have the intelligence and frankly the gift to make decisions. With that being said, did God choose Moses or did Moses choose God?

A The Bible presents two complimentary realities, neither of which we should deny. From a down-on-earth, day-to-day perspective, we have real decisions and make real choices ("choose this day whom you will serve" -Joshua 24:15). Yet from a bird's eye view, God is sovereign in directing all affairs ("You did not choose me, but I chose you" -John 15:16). How these two truths are resolved is the subject of much (worthwhile) theological debate. However one resolves them, we must not deny that God is sovereign and in complete control - even over Moses' decision - nor should we negate the volitional autonomy of man - Moses willingly chose God. So the short answer to the questions is, "Yes!"

NOTES OF THANKS

Your kind expression of sympathy and friendship will always remain in our memories. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Thank you for the beautiful flowers, food, cards, visits and your prayers. We are blessed to have such a loving, caring church family. With the loss of my mother, your kindness gives us comfort.

David and Linda Malone

Thank you from Charlies' family. Your prayers have sustained us all during his illness and death. He loved you and his church and we want to thank you for the beautiful ivy; the wonderful meal; the cards and calls; but most of all for your love.

Sue Swann and Family

We want to thank each of you for your prayers, phone calls, visits, food and cards and concern for us during my chemo treatments.

We love you in the Lord,
Clarence and Lynnette Evans

CHILD DEDICATION CLASSES

Please call the church office to sign up for the "Shepherding a Child's Heart" class if you plan to have your child dedicated during the Child Dedication service on February 19th. Two sessions will be offered. You may attend the January 30th class from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m., or on February 12th from 1:30-4:00 p.m. Nursery will be provided for children up to 5 years old.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE PLANS

It is never too late to begin reading through the Bible. The following are links for the plans Pastor has suggested you use. Please go to the website and follow the appropriate links.

Discipleship Journal Reading Plan - www.navpress.com

M'Cheyne Bible Reading Plan - www.mountcalvarybaptist.org

Professor Horner's Plan - www.scribd.com/doc/12349985





THE ROCK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Vernon Hughes

On February 19th we will have a Baby and Child Dedication service. As you know we want to be intentional about everything we do here at FBC, that's why we take things like membership so seriously. We want to be especially purposeful with things that we do during a worship service. Therefore we will take a whole service to teach and expound on this subject.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 tells us as parents; **"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."** We want each parent to see their role as their child's shepherd. As parents, God has trusted us with these precious gifts, and our job is to teach and instruct, and at times discipline. With that in mind, we want every parent that wants to dedicate a child (remember the child doesn't have to be a baby, a child of any age can be dedicated) through a parenting class based on the book "Shepherding a Child's Heart" by Tedd Tripp. We want not only those parents, but everyone in our church, to realize that a child dedication, is more about the parent dedicating themselves to raising that child to know and love God. Please be in prayer for these families, for the children as they grow in their understanding of who God is, but also for the parents as they strive to raise their children while pointing them towards God and His Holiness.



CHILDREN ARE A HERITAGE

Ryan Taber

Psalms 127:1-3 "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward."

I love this scripture, but it is easy to forget at 4:30 a.m. when I have been awakened 3 times already and I have an 8:00 a.m. meeting. Our current circumstances don't change the truths of God's word. Whether you are struggling with all night feedings, a three year old who has mastered the art of public fit throwing, or a teenager whose body seems to be inhabited by an alien life form, they are a gift from God, and they belong to God. Let us all be stewards of the gifts that God has entrusted to us and raise them in a manner that will glorify our Father in heaven.

IMMUNIZE YOUR CHILD AGAINST CHRISTIANITY

James Seward

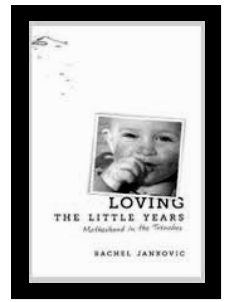
It is quite possible to be raised in a "Christian" family and yet be inculcated against genuine Christianity. A child may grow up and become cynical and distrustful of Christianity, or a child may grow up and embrace a false form of Christianity – both paths are equally perilous. Here are four things that will help immunize your child against genuine Christianity:

1. *Use God to Support Yourself* – Children intuitively pick up on whether God is used in service of the parent's ideas or whether the parent is in service to God. We as parents err – more often than we know. If we are erring, yet invoking God's name to support our error, our children will begin to see God as One we use to support our own ideas and judgments.
2. *Focus on Behavior, not Heart* – Our job as parents involves teaching our children to behave. But well-behaved children whose hearts are not shaped by the gospel and grace – that is, hearts that don't grasp their own desperate sinfulness and are thus not captured by the forgiveness given to them in Christ – are the hardest children to reach with genuine Christianity.
3. *Advocate Traditionalism over the Bible* – There is a cultural, false religion called "Christianity" that makes mention of the Bible but only in support of its already-established platitudes and worldview. Parents who sloppily pass down wisdom they "think" is biblical – without ever wrestling with the Scriptures themselves – will raise children who embrace our culture's dominant religion instead of embracing genuine Christianity.
4. *Refuse to be corrected by God* – As fallen, fallible man, many of the views we hold, the judgments we make, or the actions we take are wrong. If our children see us humble ourselves before God and change course, that will go a long way to helping them see what genuine Christianity looks like. Have our children seen the Holy Spirit convict us? Have they seen us humble ourselves and repent? Have they heard us ask for forgiveness? If not, they will likely grow up with a distorted view of Christianity.
5. *Only Pretend to Prioritize God* – Do you make a priority of being with God's people, or does it take very little for you to skip out on church? Do you give sacrificially to God's Kingdom – with your time, your money, and your abilities? Do sports, your children's activities, academics, etc. eclipse God in actual, day-to-day life? Kids who see these behaviors when they are young will be teenagers who say they prioritize God while living to serve their own desires – and they'll see no contradiction in it.

Note: God's grace is far more powerful than our upbringing – but the behaviors above hinder, not help, our children's right understanding of genuine Christianity.

THE FBC FAMILY NEWSLETTER

AVAILABLE IN OUR LIBRARY: *LOVING THE LITTLE YEARS (RACHEL JANKOVIC)*



This is a small, easy-to-read book with short chapters and lots of riveting, personal examples. But it is also a compelling glimpse into how the gospel should transform how we approach parenting. This is one of those books that you'll read, then buy five extra copies to give away. This is a good read for all parents but especially mothers of little ones.

LIBRARY HOURS:

SUNDAYS
9:00-9:45 AM & 10:30-11:30 AM

WEDNESDAYS
5:30-6:00 PM

"BE KILLING SIN OR IT WILL BE KILLING YOU."

-JOHN OWEN



103 E. VAN ST. | PO BOX 321
LINDALE, TX 75771
PHONE: 903-882-3396 | FAX: 903-882-1949
WEB: WWW.FBCCLINDALE.COM
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

