



FAITHFUL TIMES

FPC June 2009 Newsletter



Pastor Chris' Column

When we looked at our core value of worship a few weeks back, we touched briefly at how we are worshipping God when we are working. I ran across this article from one of my seminary professors (Jerram Barrs,) that I'd like to pass along to you. Let me know what you think....

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Work: A Holy Calling

Whatever job you do, it is a holy calling, a sacred calling, a responsibility, given to you by God to serve Him there. Too often we think of our work, if we are not working specifically, for the church, as being secular, second-class, having nothing to do with true spirituality, and little to do with being a faithful Christian. You can think of all the incorrect expressions we use to mark this division between the sacred and the secular: We speak of people who are in "full-time ministry" as if only they are "full-time Christians."

We have a heritage in many churches which devalues ordinary work and sees it having little importance in the Kingdom of God. Why is that? Partly because there has been a retreat by Christians from the general culture: "The world is so worldly," we say, "so what really matters to God is what we do in the church." We can tend to fill up our lives with lots of meetings so we will feel more spiritual, as if it is those meetings that are spiritual. This is a very serious misunderstanding of what Scripture teaches.

Perhaps another reason for our low opinion of our work is that we think that only evangelism, only preaching the Gospel, only teaching the Word is of real importance in the Kingdom of God—everything else is secondary. And I am sure you have heard sermons and Bible studies in which you have basically been made to feel that if you were really dedicated to God, you would immediately apply to a mission board or register at a seminary and start training for the ministry. But that simply is not Biblical. God does not call people to proclaim His word—He's called me to do that. But he has equally called people to be in other work and to honor Him, whatever their occupation.

The Value of Work

What is it that gives our work value to God? Is it simply that when we work we earn money so that we can give a tithe to support the ministry of the Word? Is that alone what gives our work value? No. It is true that we are called to support the ministry of the Word; Scripture says so quite clearly. But that is not what ultimately gives our work value.

Is it that in our work-places we have the opportunity to be sort of mini-missionaries, to share the Gospel with the people we work alongside? Is that what gives our work value? NO. While we do pray that God will give opportunities to share His truth because people need to hear it, that is not what primarily gives our work our value.

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Is it simply that we have to work to earn money to support ourselves so that we can get on with the "real work" of being active in our churches—that what we do in our workplaces is not very important, but what we really do that's important is when we are a deacon in the church, when we teach Sunday school, or when we lead a Bible study? Is that what gives our work value? That is not true either.

What is it, then, that gives our work value? It is simply that God Himself declares it to be important, that God desires our service in the whole of our lives, and that we are to present everything to Him in order to serve Him. Paul says this so strongly in Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord and not for men..." "Whatever you do," Paul tells us that it is the Lord Christ you are serving. God has declared our work to have value. It doesn't need some other means outside itself. God's word gives it value.

Secondly, our work has value because we are to offer it to the Lord. Your work and my work is to be holy. That means we are to set it apart so that we may honor God in what we do. Now that's just as true for you if you are running a business as it is for me teaching the word of God. It is not the job itself that is holy, it is offering it to God as service. I may preach the Gospel in a way that is totally unholy, and you may be a person engaged in business in a way that is completely holy. It is a question of whether you dedicated your work to God and whether you serve God righteously in what you do that makes your work holy.

The implications of work being a service to the Lord are many. Two prominent implications relate to both integrity and interpersonal relationships.

Integrity in the Workplace

Regarding integrity, Scripture calls us to such a high standard in the workplace because we are working for the Lord. When I go to my place of work, my first thought should not be, "What does my boss think of me?"—though I should certainly desire to please my boss. My first thought should be that I am called to work, serving God with integrity. It is important that we please those for whom we work, but we are going to have a much more important accounting to give one day. Christ Himself will ask us how we worked. Were you faithful? Did you work hard? Are you someone who just worked to please other people or did you work with genuine righteousness? That is the challenge to all of us in our work, and in every area of our lives.

Treatment of Co-Workers

Serving in the workplace as unto the Lord also has implications upon our interpersonal relationship. As we serve the Lord, how we treat people should be reflective of the God we serve. Paul tells us that if we have people over us, we are to treat them with respect and honor even if they don't deserve it. That is very difficult. Many people work for those who are very demanding, who create all kinds of unreasonable burdens, who never say "thank you," who do not show appreciation, who take people for granted. Scripture tells us that even if we are in such situations, we are to continue to work hard, to work respectfully, and to give honor. Of course there are times when the Christian has to draw lines. If I am asked to do something which is against the Word of God, I have to obey God first. But I must still show respect. Sometimes it may be necessary to say, "Stop treating me like a doormat," but we must continue to work hard and respectfully. We have to pray for wisdom to know when it is right to do that. But generally speaking, we are called to be faithful, submissive, and respectful even in difficult situations.

We are also to treat those under us in a way that pleases God. We have a Master in heaven and He will judge us for the way we treat people. Jesus says in **Matthew 20:25-28**, "...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." Christ is to be our example. If you are in a place of authority and have people who work for you, you are to be their servant. Christ is the Lord of the Universe, but he became a servant. He served those who were under His authority. He served you and me, even by dying for us. He serves us everyday by caring for us and all of our struggles and our needs, and being our Friend, Counselor, and Comforter. And we are called to be like him. We are called to be servants of others. What you should be asking is, "How may I serve those above me, under me, around me? How may I look to their needs? How may I become their friend, support, helper?"

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Full Worship of God

We need to get God's mind about matters in the workplace. Often times on Sunday people feel like everything they have done during the week really does not matter the Bible says we are to worship God in everything, and what we do on Sunday morning when we come to praise Him with our lips is simply bringing the whole of our week to declare His praises together as His people. There should be a seamless robe, if you like, between our workweek and our Sunday service—all of it is the worship of God, and all of it is to be holy. We need to honor that conviction in the way we pray for people in our churches and in the way we commend people. We should praise God for people in business who are righteous in what they do and who serve God in their places of work, or praise God for lawyers who are for widows and orphans. May we really learn to offer our work to God and to honor those who do so.

That is the challenge of God's word to us. As we consider that our work is to be done as unto the Lord, let us be shining lights of integrity, dedication, humility, service and love.



Don't Forget! - June 23rd!

Every 4th Tuesday at 7 P.M. a group of talented musicians are at FPC jamming on good old fashioned Gospel music. Drop by any time after 7 P.M.—stay a little while or stay a long while—and have fun tapping your toes to the beat. It's a fun time!!



Thank You!

Our family would like to thank all of you for your prayers, sympathy, comfort, and love during Bee's illness and her passing into eternal life with our Lord. We appreciate your cards, flowers, donations to the memorial fund, and your presence at her *Celebration of Life* service. We love each of you. God bless you.

Van Wilson

Children's Ministry

by Pam Greenbaum Rue



VBS will probably be in full swing (or about to be) when you receive this newsletter. Please be in prayer for our volunteers, campers and our campers' families.

A big *Thank You* to all who participated in the preparation and week of VBS. Dedicated painters worked long after service was over on May 17th to complete beautiful murals and posters. Our camper numbers have increased and we have needed to close registration. We still need volunteers to provide snacks for our worker volunteers. FPC always "steps up to the plate" to serve our Lord during VBS and it is awesome to stand back and watch!

*****SEE YOU IN SUNDAY SCHOOL*****

Lazy Days of Summer!

The choir continues to take time off. Pastor Chris will let you know when it is time to start up again. Enjoy your Wednesday evenings!!

Some Laughs... some groans

My friend told me he'd dug a hole in my garden and filled it with water. I thought, He means well. (first groan!)

My sister just got Botox. She looks great. I love how I can't see her judging me anymore. (light laugh)

Harry asks his friend Larry to help him with something. "I think the blinker signal on my car is broken." he says. "Stand behind the car. When I turn it on, tell me if the blinker's working."

Larry situates himself behind the car while Harry gets in the driver's seat and hits the blinker.

"Is it working?" he yells back.

"Yes!! No! Yes! No! Yes! No!" says Larry. (second groan)

A **gracious lady** was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady. (smile!)

*Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk!*

Women's Ministry



While most of the Women's activities are on hold during the summer months, they will be collecting beginning sometime at the end of June money to help supply **school uniforms** to several needy families in our area. This is a tradition here at FPC and one that benefits our own community. It may sound like school just got out, but it will start again in August and the women would like the families to be able to shop in July and get that task crossed off their list of things to do to get the children ready for a new school year.

The **Giving Tree** utility collections are now helping 3 families beat the heat with help on their utility bills.

The Circle will begin again in September with Lesson 12 in their current book "A Woman's Call to Prayer". This is a monthly Bible Study which meets once a month on the second Tuesday here at the church at 1:30 P.M. After the study, a member is responsible to bring a dessert to go with coffee. All women are invited to be a part. Talk with Mary Edmundson if interested.

The weekly **Wednesday-morning Bible Study**, led by Daisy Beck, will continue during the summer. A new study has recently begun so it is not too late to join them.

Nikki, Lynn, Joy, Karen, Amy, Faye and Patty will meet during the summer to plan the various activities which will begin in the fall. This is the last of the 2 year term that this council will lead. Please continue to be in prayer for their works here at FPC!

Greeters



Thank you to all who signed up to serve as Greeters for the months of June and July. August dates are still open and the sign-up sheet can be found in the Narthex.

This is an easy way to show all who pass through our door that they are truly welcomed here at Faith Presbyterian Church!

Men's Ministry

The men's breakfast will take place on **June 14th** at 7:45am.

The men also continue to meet on Tuesdays at the church for a Bible Study led by Pastor Chris and then those hungry head out for a dutch-treat lunch.

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 11:30a Men's Bible Study /Lunch 7p Knitting	3 10A Women's Bible Study	4 7p Tallow Creek uses bldg. for mtg.	5	6
7	8 FPC VAC	9 ACTION BIBLE No Bible Study No knitting	10 BLE SC No Bible Study	11 HOO L ALL	12 WEEK	13
14 7:45a Men's Breakfast	15	16 11:30a Men study 7p Session 7p knitting	17 10a Bible study	18	19 7p Movie "Amazing Grace"	20
21	22	23 11:30a Study 7p knitting 7p Gospel Jam	24 10a Bible Study	25	26	27
28 Communion Sun-Rev Bishop preaches	29	30 11:30a Men's study 7p knitting				

**June
Happy Birthday!**

Casey Gruder	4
Mike Taylor	8
Nathan Harris	
Wanda Siverd	10
Amanda Hajjar	13
Mary While	14
Shane O'Hara	14
Amber Greenbaum	18
Mallory Steele	19
Jonathan Miller	22
Ray Baio	28
Patty Frutiger	30

Anniversaries!

Lynette & Barry Ward	14
Andy & Amber Greenbaum	15

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Sunday Times:
Sunday School: 9:00am
Fellowship: 10:00am
Worship: 10:30am

Deadlines

Bulletin announcements need to be in the office by noon on the Wednesday before the Sunday they are to appear.

Newsletter items need to be in the office by the third Thursday of each month!





The Faithful Times
of Faith Presbyterian Church
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