

THROUGH IT ALL!

It's a good idea to look back over one's life to assess the road traveled & progress made. Our past – *both bitter & sweet* – sets our present & affects our future...so it is worth remembering!

Today we celebrate 105 years of God's faithfulness at FBCT. Those saints who went before us laid the foundation for our church – the ministries & facilities we now enjoy. Thru the Holy Spirit's leading, they dreamed with God about a place of worship for the residents of Tyrone. And when it came to building, they willingly stewarded their resources to see His vision completed. In another 105 yrs from now, we will be the saints remembered by those twenty-second century members as the crowd of Spirit-filled dreamers who sacrificed time, effort & money to secure a future for those reached by the ministry of FBCT! ***I wonder how & for what we will be remembered?***

Those who have gone before us are the history of our church: rather like the Old Testament is the history of the New! They prefigured what it means to be FBCT today *for* tomorrow! ***This connection of the past with the present for the future is a profound biblical idea:*** it links the Old & New covenants, the Garden of Eden & the New Jerusalem, the Promised Land & the new Heaven/Earth, the beginning & the end! But only in/thru Christ is this connection possible: His faithfulness to save & fill His people ensures His presence & guidance...***Through It All!***

The writer of Hebrews offers 3 truths @ connecting the past to the present for the future, and trusting Christ *Thru It All!*

READ: Hebrews 12:1-3 (NLT)

Objective: Let the faithfulness of **past** believers inspire us to persist in the **present** ministries God gives us so that those who come in the **future** will benefit from our faith & service.

Truth 1: Past Saints prove that Christ IS sufficient *Thru It All*

- Past Saints endured even harder circumstances than we do now
 - World wars, military draft, Great Depression, & racism
- Strip off any hindrance that keeps us from faithful following
 - Sin entangles/trips us up! (**James 1:14-16 (NAS)**)

- With His Spirit, run YOUR race – the course God set for you!
 - We don't compete against each other: more than 1 gold
 - **Eric Liddell (Chariots of Fire) quote

CHECK POINT: Are you running the race w/ urgency/passion?
Do you sense God's pleasure & presence as you "run"?

Truth 2: Watch Jesus: He IS your Way *Thru It All*

- Like Peter, we're out of the boat! "...**In** the world...not **Of** it!"
 - Jesus gives us direction: NOT culture, people or circum
- Jesus = Author of faith: His HS is writing our faith stories!
- Jesus = Perfector of faith: HS is maturing us (**Phil 1:6 NAS**).
- "**the joy set before Him**" = embracing us in His E. Life **NOW**

CHECK POINT: Are you growing in your trust & reliance on Jesus? Is your gaze set on Him, you, or your circumstances?

Truth 3: Jesus endured vile abuse; your future is set *Thru It All*

- Because He faced atrocities, so will we! (**1Peter 4:12-13 NAS**)
- Mr. Truth = liar; Mr. Right = wrong; Mr. Good = criminal
- Mr. Life put to death. Let His forbearance & trust fuel yours!

CHECK POINT: Are you winded or knocked down in your fight for righteousness/goodness? The battle is the Lord's thru you!

INVITATION TO RESPOND PERSONALLY:

- Do you need a Savior to embrace you in His Eternal Life?
- Do you need a God who is present & able to make life work?
- Do you need a church-home in which to develop faith/trust?

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NLT)

1) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2) We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. 3) Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

James 1:14-16 (NAS)

14) But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15) Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. 16) Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

*****Eric Liddell said, “God made me for a purpose; but He also made me fast. So when I run, I feel His pleasure! It has been a wonderful experience to compete in the Olympic Games and to bring home a gold medal. But ever since I was a young lad, I have had my eyes on a different prize. You see, each one of us is in a greater race than any I ran in Paris, and this race ends when God gives out the medals.”***
(Chariots of Fire!)

Phil 1:6 (NAS)

6) For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

1Peter 4:12-13 (NAS)

12) Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13) but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing