



June 21, 2020

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

Church Services

How great it is to be meeting again in person! Please RSVP for next Sunday, **June 28**, by filling out the Signup link we will send in an email early next week. If you cannot do that, please call the church or email office@fabchurch.com.

Here is our live stream schedule:

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Prayer and Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday "Feeding on the Word," 12:00 p.m.

Links to both FaceBook and YouTube can be found on our website:

www.fabchurch.com/live-stream

D3 Camp Begins Tomorrow

Youth camp, D3, will begin tomorrow, **June 22**, at 3:45 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Check with Tim that you have everything in place. Pray for our campers!

Funeral Service

Jeannette Salter passed away on March 17. There is a memorial service for the family scheduled for this Saturday, **June 27**. They will have lunch here at the church after the service, so if you would like to bring a dish with which to bless the family, please bring it over by 11:00 a.m. on that morning. Contact Connie Moore if you would like to help serve.

Evening Service

There will be an informal evening worship service on Sunday, **June 28**, outdoors in the Pavilion. We will have an extended time of singing by request and a devotion. Food will not be served, but this will be an opportunity for fellowship and encouragement through worship. If you would like to request a particular song to be sung, please submit that request to Robert by today, Sunday, **June 21**, so he can put together a song list. You can send an email to robert@fabchurch.com.

FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt
Senior Pastor
912-398-4363
bob@fabchurch.com

Tim Wade
Assoc. Pastor/
Youth
912-231-7199
tim@fabchurch.com

Tom Keller
Assoc. Pastor/
Senior Adults
912-308-3767
tom@fabchurch.com

Steve Posner
Elder
912-704-5617
steve@fabchurch.com

June 21, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship
2 Samuel 22:1-4

Hymn #36, bulletin p. 4
“A Mighty Fortress”

Prayer of General Confession
Steve Posner
Titus 3:4-7

Hymn, bulletin p. 5
“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

Scripture Reading
1 Corinthians 13:4-13
Glen Martin

Hymn #236, bulletin p. 6
“Amazing Grace”

Message
Bob Dimmitt
Our Testimony vs. Our Rights
1 Corinthians 10:14-22, 1 Corinthians 58

Hymn, below
“Doxology”
Old Hundred tune

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen

Our Testimony vs. Our Rights

1 Corinthians #58

1 Corinthians 10:14-22

The principle of freedom (everything is permissible); is to be regulated by love for others.

A focus on personal liberty skews the message of Christ.

“A knowledgeable Christian does not need to alter his convictions.... but he does need to alter his behavior... .”

We cannot glorify God by causing another Christian to stumble.

The claim that something is legal (permissible) does not make it right.

Making permissibility rather than helpfulness one's guide for Christian behavior makes it possible to disconnect Christian doctrine from Christian living. – Dr. Ed Blum

2 Timothy 2:4

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

MARTIN LUTHER, 1483-1546

MARTIN LUTHER, 1483-1546

Trans. by Frederick H. Hedge, 1805-1890

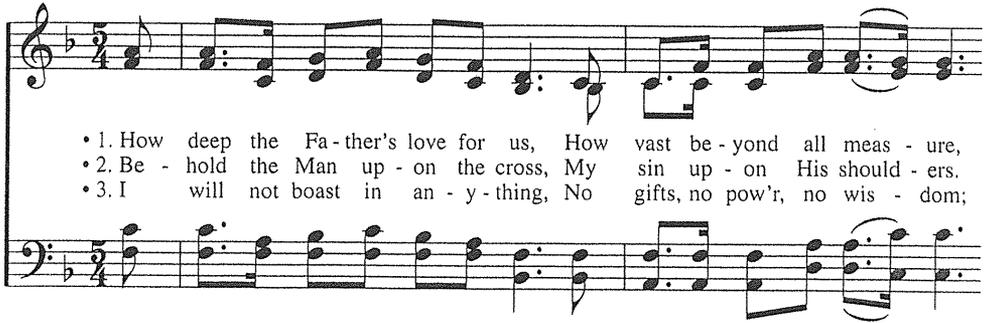
1. A might-y for-tress is our God, A bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;
 2. Did we in our own strength con-fide Our striv-ing would be los-ing,
 3. And tho this world, with dev-ils filled, Should threaten to un-do us,
 4. That word a-bove all earth-ly pow'rs-No thanks to them-a-bid-eth;

Our help-er He a-mid the flood Of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing.
 Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos-ing.
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri-umph thru us.
 The Spir-it and the gifts are ours Thru Him who with us sid-eth.

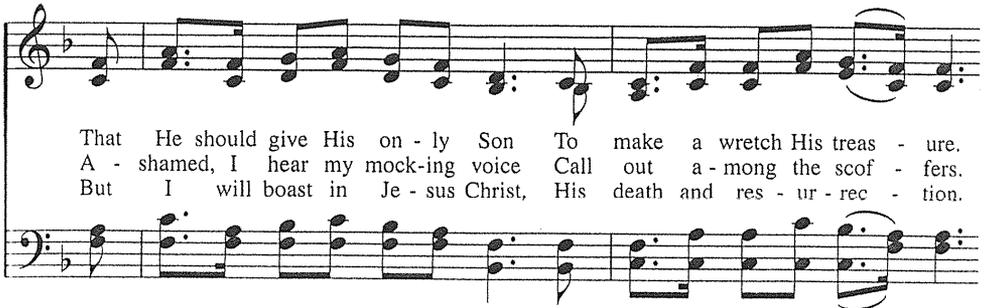
For still our an-cient foe Doth seek to work us woe- His craft and
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is He- Lord Sab-a-
 The prince of dark-ness grim- We trem-ble not for him; His rage we
 Let goods and kin-dred go, This mor-tal life al-so; The bod-y

pow'r are great, And, armed with cru-el hate, On earth is not his e-qual.
 oth His name, From age to age the same- And He must win the bat-tle.
 can en-dure, For lo! his doom is sure- One lit-tle word shall fell him.
 they may kill: God's truth a-bid-eth still- His king-dom is for-ev-er.

How Deep the Father's Love for Us 80



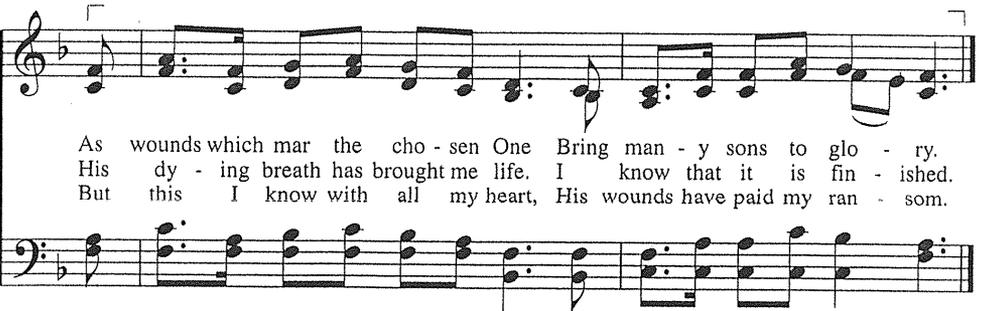
• 1. How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, How vast be - yond all meas - ure,
• 2. Be - hold the Man up - on the cross, My sin up - on His should - ers.
• 3. I will not boast in an - y - thing, No gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom;



That He should give His on - ly Son To make a wretch His treas - ure.
A - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice Call out a - mong the scof - fers.
But I will boast in Je - sus Christ, His death and res - ur - rec - tion.



How great the pain of sear - ing loss, The Fa - ther turns His face a - way
It was my sin that held Him there Un - til it was ac - com - plished.
Why should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer;



As wounds which mar the cho - sen One Bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
His dy - ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
But this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ran - som.

Words and Music: Stuart Townend

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Amazing Grace

AMAZING GRACE

American melody

From Carrell & Clayton's *Virginia Harmony*, 1831

Arr. by Norman Johnson, 1928-

JOHN NEWTON, 1725-1807

1. A - maz - ing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
 3. Thru man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;
 4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing as the sun,

I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.
 How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
 We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

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The Bible is God's book, it is a revelation of God, and our thinking must always start with God. Much of the trouble in the church today is due to the fact that we are so subjective, so interested in ourselves, so egocentric . . . Having forgotten God, and having become so interested in ourselves, we become miserable and wretched, and spend our time in "shallows and in miseries." The message of the Bible from beginning to end is designed to bring us back to God, to humble us before God, and to enable us to see our true relationship to Him. That is the great theme of this Epistle; it holds us face to face with God, and what God is, and what God has done; it emphasizes throughout the glory and greatness of God—God the Eternal One, God the everlasting, God over all—and the indescribable glory of God.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Atrue opium of the people is a belief in nothingness after death—the huge solace of thinking that for our betrayals, greed, cowardice, and murders, we are not going to be judged.

Thus, since God does exist, atheism can be seen as a psychological escape mechanism to avoid taking ultimate responsibility for one's own life.

Polish Nobel Laureate Czeslaw Milosz

Articles

5 Ways Christians are Getting Swept into a Secular Worldview in This Cultural Moment

By Natasha Crain

So much has been said about the tragic death of George Floyd that it almost feels excessive to add to the conversation. Many have already written on how tragic and unjust Floyd's death was. This post is not here to elaborate on that. If you're reading this, I take it that you already agree. Many people are also addressing how un-biblical racism is, and that Christians should actively be working to combat it. This post is not here to elaborate on that either—again, if you're reading this, I take it you agree. I say this up front, because I know some will read the following thoughts and think I don't care about Floyd's death or the problem of racial injustice because I'm not talking about them specifically. Please know that's not the case; *they just aren't the focus of this particular blog post.*

What I do want to focus on are the problems I've seen with many Christians' response to this cultural moment. In particular, it seems Christians are getting swept into a secular worldview as they respond to Floyd's death...without even realizing it. Here are five ways I see that happening. As parents, it's extremely important that we think carefully about these issues in order to raise kids who are prepared to grow up in a culture of this nature.

1. We're too quickly jumping on social bandwagons hitched to secularism.

Christians, we need to open our eyes to a very important fact: research shows that those committed to a biblical worldview are now a minority. This means that if everyone around you is jumping on a bandwagon of some kind, there's a *really good chance* it's not a bandwagon rooted in values consistent with a biblical worldview.

Maybe that's not the case in a given situation, but you won't know unless you take the time to thoughtfully evaluate what's going on and determine if this is a bandwagon a Christian should be on. If you don't, you may unintentionally be espousing the values of a worldview in significant conflict with your own.

How do we do a better job of being mindful of this?

Carefully read statements of belief on the sites of organizations you support and promote. For example, before you champion the organization Black Lives Matter, be sure to read the statement of beliefs on their site (these reach far wider than a statement of black equality—their support for abortion, desire to “disrupt” the traditional family structure, and call to erase all gender lines are just a few of many concerns here).

Before you donate, look at public financial statements to see where funds are being used. An organization's statement of belief might be broad enough to not raise a red flag, but where the money goes speaks volumes.

Don't use hashtags until you understand where they originated, what they represent to the people who created them, and what they (likely) communicate to those around you.

2. We're conflating empathy with agreement on action.

There's a huge emphasis right now on the need to listen to the experiences of people from marginalized communities, and that's a *really* good thing. If you're personally unaffected by the issues these communities face, it's far too easy to live in ignorance and not feel the sense of urgency for change. If we don't take the time to listen, our ignorance will only deepen the wounds.

It's extremely concerning, however, when it's implied that listening with empathy and compassion means **1)** the listener has no further place in the conversation, and **2)** truth is dictated by the experience of the person being listened to. When the call to listen with empathy and compassion turns to, "Be quiet (permanently) because you have no right to speak to an issue if you don't fit a specific profile," there is a major problem from a Christian worldview. Abortion, for example, doesn't suddenly become morally acceptable just because a black person shares their experience of discrimination and injustice, then states that it's oppressive to the black community to be pro-life. This should be a simple matter of logic, if only because multiple people who have experienced discrimination and injustice can have different views on abortion. But beyond this self-evident logic, Christians believe that objective truth exists—truth that applies to all people, regardless of their demographic profile or personal experience.

Compassion doesn't equal agreement on action.

3. We're being shamed into accepting secular definitions of love.

If there's something pretty much everyone *does* agree on right now, it's that we need to love one another. Given the importance of love in Christianity, one might think this is an area where the secular world and Christians can align. Unfortunately that's often not the case.

Matthew 22:36–40. A Pharisee asked Jesus, "*Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?*" *Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*

If Jesus says that one commandment is the greatest, we need to listen closely; it implies that any other commandments should be obeyed within that context. In this case, he's telling us that what it means to love others depends on what it means to first love God. This is why Christians so often clash with culture on what love is—we have different objectives. Christians (should) strive to love others given *God's* standards. The secular world strives to love others given *self-defined* standards.

If someone shames you for not being "loving," remember that Godly love is wanting for others what God wants for them—even when that's not what they want for themselves.

4. We're unknowingly getting caught up in Critical Theory.

Critical Theory is the ideology that underlies many of the popular responses to racial injustice that we're seeing today, and it's a secular view that is unfortunately spilling into the church in shocking degrees. This ideology views reality through the lens of power, dividing people into oppressed groups and oppressor groups along lines like race, class, gender, sexuality orientation, physical ability and age. Truth

becomes relative based on your status in one of these groups. If you're unfamiliar with the term Critical Theory, you'll be blown away when you learn about it and see how it explains so much of what you see happening today.

Dr. Neil Shenvi specializes in this area and has written extensively on his site about it. PLEASE read the introductory resources he has here. He has also reviewed several books on racial injustice on his site, exposing how they conflict with a Christian worldview given their grounding in Critical Theory (e.g., White Fragility). I highly recommend you search his site and read what he has to say about many of the popular books being recommended right now (even by churches).

Additionally, I highly recommend the new ministry of Monique Duson, The Center for Biblical Unity. She came out of Critical Theory herself and is now working toward unity from a biblical perspective.

5. We're neglecting opportunities to demonstrate how a secular worldview fails.

As Christians get swept into secular ways of thinking, we lose sight of the highly relevant opportunities right now to show how a secular worldview fails to explain what everyone is saying they intuitively know: that every human life is valuable, that there are things that are objectively wrong, and that justice matters.

None of those things fit with a godless worldview.

If God doesn't exist, the universe came into existence by chance, the first living cell developed from non-living matter by chance, and all living things are the eventual product of the blind, undirected process of evolution. In such a case, human life is no more valuable than dust, and there is no basis for saying that *any* life matters. Only if there is an author of life who creates and imbues us with a meaning greater than our physical parts can lives *actually* matter, and in an equal way.

If God doesn't exist, there's also no objective standard for labeling an action—such as murder—wrong. If we're all just the product of blind, purposeless forces, morality is just an opinion. Unless there is a higher-than-human moral authority, no one has a basis for claiming that murder is objectively wrong.

Finally, if God doesn't exist, the concept of justice is meaningless because there can be no right or wrong in the first place to require justice. As C.S. Lewis famously said about his conversion to Christianity, "My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?" Justice requires a standard, and there is no objective standard in a purposeless universe.

The desire for justice is a beautiful thing, and is rooted in the reality that our God is a just God. But we can go about seeking justice in some very ungodly ways. As Christians, we must always check our responses to culture to make sure the secular worldview hasn't crept into our own. When we don't, culture will influence the church more than the church will influence culture. ❖

Nobody wins the war against sin and/or persecution in the blink of an eye or in a single circumstance. It's something we'll be engaged in constantly, for the rest of our lives. We're going to have to die daily—we need to die daily because we're not recovered addicts. We're recovering addicts, and what we're addicted to is ourselves—our selfishness, our desires, and our safety.

Missionary of the Week

Jerry Fields
RCE - Spain

Jerry Fields just returned to Savannah from Spain this week, and is in quarantine. Here is a short update I received from him:

Praise the Lord for a strong finish of our internet video distance teaching/learning school year! Even though I would never ask or wish for a three month lockdown, we must allow God to work the way He chooses and willingly submit to His will, not ours, in all circumstances. One parent told me that she believes the lessons her daughter will come away most this semester is the love and care that was shown to her because of Christ. Life lessons we should all continue to learn and practice!

Spain was one of the worst affected countries in the world, but the gospel was still preached and presented in so many new ways. Discipleship through video chats seem to be our new normal, at least for now. Pray with me that people would stop and reflect and be open to the good news of Jesus.

Despite the State of Alarm that is still in place in Spain, we were able to begin our Pave the Road project the last week of May. Pray that this physical need the town is making us complete will be a testimony to Christ in the way that we interact with the contractors and construction workers each day. Pray with us that the road will “pave the way” to good conversations to share our eternal hope within our community.

Because of the global pandemic, I am required to self quarantine for 14 days while noting daily temperatures and symptoms. I’m quite fine (and quite used to being in lockdown). There are bushes to trim and chores to keep me busy. While in the US, I’m still working daily for the school in Spain. As we prepare for next year, there is student scheduling and classes to create. I’m definitely not bored.

As each year comes around, we do ask that you pray with us for wisdom as we review and accept new students. At the moment we have the largest group of new 1st graders scheduled in 10 years! Praise the Lord!

We are also monitoring closely all new declarations from the Spanish government on requirements for social distancing in the classrooms for next year. This will greatly affect how we are able to schedule classes this coming year.

Thank you all so much for praying, giving, and caring for God’s work all around the world!

Can’t wait to see you all (as soon as I finish my quarantine days).



Jerry Fields

This Week at FABC

Today

Morning Worship: Meeting & live stream
on YouTube and Facebook 10:30 a.m.

Monday - Friday

Feeding on the Word: Daily 15-minute
online lunchtime devotionals 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Prayer & Bible Study: Live stream only on
YouTube and Facebook 7:00 p.m.

Bible Reading Schedule

June 2020

2 Timothy

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30

Admitting our real motives of our anger exposes us...who wants others to know what we were thinking at that moment during that last argument? Our anger clearly communicates the following: I demand that you love me on my terms. I will prove that I am right at all costs. Proving that you are inexcusably and outrageously wrong is one way to prove that I'm right, and that I'm a victim of your ridiculous iniquity. I want to be in control. You should obey me, listen to me, and attend to my every want. How dare you cross MY almighty will?

David Powlison, Good & Angry

There is infinitely more evil in the least sin, than there is in the greatest misery and/or affliction that you can ever possibly experience; yes, in fact, there is more evil in the least or smallest sin than there is in all the troubles that have ever been experienced by the world, even more than all the miseries and torments of hell itself...the least or smallest sin can only be washed away and removed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Thomas Brooks

Memorize:

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof,
for correction, and
for training in
righteousness,
¹⁷that the man of God
may be complete,
equipped for every good
work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, ESV



Extra Notes:

Church Phone:

355-0949

Church Email:

office@fabchurch.com

Church Website:

www.fabchurch.com

If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service, drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons

For Hearing Impaired

If you have difficulties hearing, we have listening aid devices available. Ask any of the ushers, or the technician in the sound booth, if you are in need of one of these devices.