November 12, 2023



Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

Evening Worship

Tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall! Join us!

Wednesday Night

This Wednesday, the menu is **Pizza**. Supper is at 5:30 p.m., Adventure Club is at 6:20 p.m., Youth is at 6:30 p.m. and Adult Bible Study is at 6:45 p.m. Sign up in the hall for the meal!

Wednesday on Tuesday Night

Please note that next week, our Wednesday night activities will take place on Tuesday, **November 21!**

Senior Adult Bible Study Announcements

There is no study on **November 16** or **November 23!**

Men's Breakfast and Book Study

Join us for a Men's Two-Part Breakfast series as we discuss the book, *The Masculine Mandate* by Richard Phillips.

Dates & Time:

- Saturday, December 9, 8:00 a.m.
- Saturday, January TBA, 8:00 a.m.

This discussion will provide an opportunity for men of all ages to explore their roles as leaders, husbands, fathers, and servants in light of God's Word. Questions are welcomed! Please bring your copy of the book which you can pick up from the church. Breakfast will be provided. All men of any age are welcome whether or not a member of our church. For more information please contact Steve Posner 912-704-5617 or call the church office.

Christmas Banquet Signup and Bus Service!

Our annual Christmas Banquet is Wednesday, **December 13** at 6:30 p.m. Menu will include Prime Rib, Barbecue, Ham, Vegetables and Desserts. \$7.00 per adult, \$4.00 per child over 3, and no family need pay over \$25! Sign up in the hall. We are offering bus rides to those needing or wanting them. Sign the hall bus list by **December 6** if you live relatively close by and would like to take advantage of that!

FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt Senior Pastor 912-398-4363 bob@fabchurch.com Tom Keller
Assoc. Pastor/Senior Adults
912-308-3767
tom@fabchurch.com

Church Phone: 912-355-0949 office@fabchurch.com www.fabchurch.com

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship 1 Corinthians 15:19-20 Pew Bible p. 961

Hymn, bulletin p. 6

"Christ Our Hope in Life and Death"

Prayer of General Confession

Steve Posner Colossians 2:13-15 Pew Bible p. 984

Hymn, bulletin p. 7

"Hymn for the Persecuted Church"

Scripture Reading Psalm 105:16-45 John Earl Blanton Pew Bible pp. 504-505

Hymn #186, bulletin p. 8

"The Church's One Foundation"

Message
Bob Dimmitt
Blessed or Happy, Part 2
Matthew #18
Matthew 5:7-10, Pew Bible pp. 809-810

Hymn, p. 9

"Now unto Him"

A.M. Notes

Blessed or Happy, Part 2 Matthew #18 Matthew 5:7-10 *Blessed are the merciful=* Proverbs 14:21; Proverbs 17:5 Blessed are the pure in heart= Ps 24:4-5 Blessed are the peacemakers= Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake= The godly character and behavior described here may incite resentment. Persecution does not only happen with unbeliever's coming against the believer. 2 Tim 3:12; Matt 10:34-36 Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you Isa 66:5: 1 Peter 4:14

Do not only brace for afflictions, but rejoice in them.

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Important Upcoming Dates

November:

16	Ghost Pirates hockey game			
26	Cocoa, Coffee, Cookies, & Carols	6:00 p.m.		
December:				
6	Adventure Club Christmas Party			
6	Youth Christmas Party			
9	Men's Book Study, Session I	8:00 a.m.		
10	Christmas Cantata	6:00 p.m.		
13	Christmas Banquet	6:30 p.m.		
15	Young Adult Christmas Party			
18, 20	Caroling			
24	Christmas Eve Service	5:00 p.m.		
31	Annual NYE Cookoff: Chili	7:00 p.m.		



Featured Content from Right Now Media

This week, we are highlighting *A Survey of Church History*, taught by Robert Godfrey, President of Westminster Seminary California. This is a series of 73 videos, each less than 30 minutes long. Study guides are available for purchase.

From the website: Many committed, knowledgeable believers still know little about the history of the church. As a result, they're missing a testament to God's steadfastness over the centuries. Now, a monumental new teaching series sheds crucial light on church history, demonstrating God's promise to build and preserve his church so that "the gates of hell will not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). Join Dr. W. Robert Godfrey as he takes believers through what will be a seventy-three-lecture series covering theology, apologetics, notable church fathers, and much more.

Log in, find our church page by clicking on Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church on the top right menu area, and click the link under our Sharing the Gospel channel. Enjoy!



If you have not yet accessed your free subscription to Right Now Media, please consider availing yourself of this resource! Here we will share a particularly helpful video or series. Anything shared here can be found on our personal Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church page. To set up your subscription, use the link or barcode on page 15! Talk to Dawn or Shawn if you have any trouble signing up.



We wanted to say thank you so much for throwing us such a lovely baby shower! The generosity and love that was poured out for us and our soon to be born baby girl was overwhelming! We love you all and are so glad to be part of this church family!

Avalon and Bobby DeLoach





I would like to thank everyone that prayed for my sister and our family. We appreciate you all. Also thanks to everyone that came to the memorial service for Sandy. It was a blessing to hear her friends, church family, and others saying such uplifting things and sharing their special moments about her. Thanks again!

Beth Lewis

hristianity is not only intellectual....Christianity is being born again on the basis of the finished work of Christ, His substitutionary death in real history. Christianity is the reality of communion with God in the present life; it is the understanding that there is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; it is the understanding that there is the moment-by-moment empowering of the Holy Spirit. Christianity is the understanding that the fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." It is the understanding that the fruit of the Spirit is meant to mean something real to all Christians. It is understanding that prayer is real and not just a devotional exercise. God means for us to affirm life and not negate life. May God show us the living balance and help us to live, by His grace, in that balance.

Francis Schaeffer

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death



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hope

in life

and

death.

Christ our

fess

Hymn for the Persecuted Church

Iain D. Cunningham, 2007

Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612 Har. by Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750



© Iain D. Cunningham 2007

AURELIA SAMUEL J. STONE, 1839-1900 SAMUEL S. WESLEY, 1810-1876 1. The Church -'s one foun - da - tion Is Je-sus Christ her Lord; na - tion, Yet 2. E - lect from ev -'ry one o'er all the earth, toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu-mult of war, 4. Yet she un - ion With on earth hath God the Three in One, She His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word: Her char-ter of sal - va - tion One Lord, one faith, one birth; peace for - ev - er waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of mys-tic sweet com - mun - ion With those whose rest is From heavn He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride; Par - takes one ho - ly food, One ho - ly name she bless - es, with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long -ing eyes are hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that He With His own blood He bought her, And for her life died. And one hope she press - es, With ev -'ry grace en dued. the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at high may dwell with Like them, the meek and low - ly, On

Now Unto Him



Articles

How Valuable Is Bodily Training?

By Scott Aniol

Should Christians care about their bodies? How much emphasis should we place upon bodily exercise?

Some professing Christians in past history have argued that the body is bad—we don't need to give attention to the body, we just need to focus on spiritual things.

But notice what Paul says in 1 Timothy 4:8: "Bodily training is of some value." Don't read that and think Paul is saying bodily training is worthless; he's not. He is acknowledging here that bodily training does have some value.

Why is bodily training valuable? Well, the Bible actually has much to say about our bodies.

Our bodies matter to God

First, God made our bodies. - For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:13–14

Genesis 2 tells us that God formed Adam's body, remember, he did this before sin entered the world. The body is a good thing that God made—he saw it, and it was good. God made our bodies, and therefore our bodies are good.

Sin affects our bodies

But second, sin affects our bodies. - For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:22-23

God created Adam, but Adam disobeyed God; and as a result of Adam's sin, God cursed the whole creation, including our bodies. From the moment of our conception really, our bodies begin to wear down and decay. It's not so bad when we're young and growing, but you hit 40, and it's all downhill from there. I jest, but it's a reality, right? Even the youngest experiences aches and pains. Our bodies get sick. We break bones and sprain ankles. Our bodies are significantly affected by the reality of sin.

Bodily training is of some value

The reality of sin is exactly why bodily training is of some value. Disciplined exertion of our bodies through exercise and athletics can help to hold back some of the worst effects of the curse upon our bodies. If we stay in shape and eat well, that can have positive effects on our bodies.

However, ultimately, no matter how much bodily training we engage in through the course of our lives, no matter how healthy our diet, no matter how well we keep our bodies in shape, they still will wear down. The best we can do with bodily exercise is to slow the breakdown of our bodies, and that does have some value. But one day each one of our bodies will fail, and we will die. And our bodies will be placed in the ground, and they will return to dust.

Christ will redeem our bodies

But there is hope. The third reality that Scripture teaches about our bodies is what Paul said Romans 8:23: we eagerly await for the redemption of our bodies. One day our bodies, along with all creation, will be redeemed. That redemption does not come as a 10

result of anything we do—in other words, the value of bodily exercise is *not* that our own bodily training somehow redeems our bodies. No, Christ will redeem our bodies.

And we know this for one very important reason: Jesus Christ—who is 100% God, and has existed co-equally with God the Father and God the Spirit for all eternity—took on a human body at his incarnation. - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. Philippians 2:5–7

That body was truly human—Jesus was hungry, he was thirsty, he got sick, he had aches and pains—his body was affected by sin just like ours is. Jesus was not a sinner—Jesus did not sin, but his body felt the effects of the curse of sin. And Jesus suffered bodily on the cross and died to pay the penalty of sin that all sinners deserve. - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:8

Jesus died bodily for our sins, his body was buried in a tomb, but on the third day, Jesus rose *bodily* from the dead; but now, instead of a body cursed by sin, Jesus had a perfect, glorified body. And he still has that body, and will so for all eternity. Jesus ascended bodily into heaven, where he sits now bodily at the Father's right hand.

Here's why this gives us hope. The Bible teaches that those who repent of their sins and put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ, will one day be raised bodily just like he was! The redemption of our bodies will take place when God raises us from the dead, just like he raised Jesus from the dead. - And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. 1 Corinthians 6:14

And when we rise again, Jesus will transform our bodies to be just like his. - But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body...Philippians 3:20–21

Godliness Is of Value in Every Way

But this is only true for those who trust in Christ. Only believers in Jesus Christ will be raised bodily; only believers in Jesus Christ will have their bodies redeemed and transformed to be like his glorified body.

And so this is why Paul says in 2 Timothy 4, Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Bodily training does have some value, because God created the body and he will one day redeem the bodies of his people—but what will bring about the redemption of our bodies one day in the life to come is not bodily training. Our bodies are only part of who we are. When God formed Adam's body, he breathed into Adam's body the breath of life, and man became a living *soul*. We are not only physical, we are also spiritual.

And just as our bodies were cursed by sin, so our souls are cursed by sin. We are born loving sin and hating God. And just as the redemption of our bodies comes through faith in Jesus Christ, so the redemption of our souls comes through faith in Christ. Redemption of both our bodies and our souls comes as a result of faith in the person and atoning work of Jesus Christ, the God-man.

And in fact, as Paul said in Romans 8, we are still awaiting the redemption of our bodies. We who are Christians know that when we were converted, a transformation took place in our souls, but we still feel the full effects of sin in our body. Redemption of the body won't happen until Jesus comes again, when he returns bodily to this earth. - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2

But what we can experience now is the redemption of our souls. We don't have to

wait. Those who repent of their sins and put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone as the substitute for the punishment you deserve, then at that very moment, their soul will be redeemed. We can have hope for eternal life with Christ.

What brings the redemption of our souls and eventually our bodies, is godliness, and we do not attain godliness ultimately through any effort of our own. As sinners, we can do nothing in ourselves to please God or attain redemption. Jesus did that for us. Ultimately godliness comes only through faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone for forgiveness of sins. Paul says this in 1 Timothy 4:10 when he notes that we have set our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially those who believe.

Training in Godliness

But in 1 Timothy 4, Paul is talking to those who are trusting in Christ, and he tells us that we ought to *train* ourselves for godliness, that is, a life that is characterizes as being like God in holiness and righteousness. "For to this end we toil and strive," Paul says in verse 10. Paul uses the analogy of bodily training to urge us to apply the same sort of discipline and effort—even more so—in a pursuit of godliness in our everyday lives as those who have already been redeemed by faith in the blood of Christ and who await the redemption of our bodies.

Bodily exercise does have some value. But what has value in *every* way, what holds promise for the present life *and* also for the life to come is training in godliness.

How do we training ourselves for godliness? Well, Paul tells us in 1 Timothy4:6: "being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed." We ultimately train ourselves to be godly by giving attention to the truth of God's Word.

We do this through personal Bible study. We train ourselves for godliness through faithfully sitting under the Word of God preached and taught in church. We do this by opening our Bibles and studying the ultimate man, Jesus Christ, so you can imitate his godliness.

Don't neglect bodily training—God cares about your body. But far more importantly, don't neglect the training of your soul through, first, trusting Christ for the redemption of your soul and body, and second, through regular, disciplined study of God's Word. ❖

Don't Follow Your Heart

By Jon Bloom

"Follow your heart" is a creed embraced by billions of people. It's a statement of faith in one of the great pop cultural myths of the Western world, a gospel proclaimed in many of our stories, movies, and songs.

Essentially, it's a belief that your heart is a compass inside of you that will direct you to your own true north if you just have the courage to follow it. It says that your heart is a true guide that will lead you to true happiness if you just have the courage to listen to it. The creed says that you are lost and your heart will save you.

This creed can sound so simple and beautiful and liberating. For lost people it's a tempting gospel to believe.

Until you consider that your heart has sociopathic tendencies. Think about it for a moment. What does your heart tell you?

Please don't answer. Your heart has likely said things today that you would not wish to repeat. I know mine has. My heart tells me that all of reality ought to serve my desires. My heart likes to think the best of me and worst of others — unless those others happen to think well of me; then they are wonderful people. But if they don't think well

of me, or even if they just disagree with me, well then, something is wrong with them. And while my heart is pondering my virtues and others' errors, it can suddenly find some immoral or horribly angry thought very attractive.

The "follow your heart" creed certainly isn't found in the Bible. The Bible actually thinks our hearts have a disease: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). Jesus, the Great Physician, lists the grim symptoms of this disease: "out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander" (Matthew 15:19). This is not leadership material.

The truth is, no one lies to us more than our own hearts. No one. If our hearts are compasses, they are Jack Sparrow compasses. They don't tell us the truth; they just tell us what we want. If our hearts are guides, they are Gothels. They are not benevolent; they are pathologically selfish. In fact, if we do what our hearts tell us to do, we will pervert and impoverish every desire, every beauty, every person, every wonder, and every joy. Our hearts want to consume these things for our own self-glory and self-indulgence.

Our hearts were never designed to be followed, but to be led. Our hearts were never designed to be gods in whom we believe; they were designed to believe in God.

If we make our hearts gods and ask them to lead us, they will lead us to narcissistic misery and ultimately damnation. They cannot save us, because what's wrong with our hearts is the heart of our problem. But if our hearts believe in God, as they are designed to, then God saves us (Hebrews 7:25) and leads our hearts to exceeding joy (Psalm 43:4).

Therefore, don't believe in your heart; direct your heart to believe in God. Don't follow your heart; follow Jesus. Note that Jesus did not say to his disciples, "Let not your hearts be troubled, just believe in your hearts." He said, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me" (John 14:1).

So, though your heart will try to shepherd you today, do not follow it. It is not a shepherd. It is a pompous sheep that, due to remaining sin, has some wolf-like qualities. Don't follow it, and be careful even listening to it.

Remember, your heart only tells you what you want, not where you should go. So, only listen to it to note what it's telling you about what you want, and then take your wants, both good and evil, to Jesus as requests and confessions.

Jesus is your shepherd (John 10:11). Listen to his voice in his word and follow him (John 10:27). Let him be, in the words of a great hymn, the "heart of [your] own heart whatever befall." He is the truth, he is the way, and he will lead you to life (John 14:6).

Self-knowledge is both a simple gift and a hard-won achievement. It's very difficult to see our motives and even harder to see them for what they are. Though this is generally true it is particularly true when we get angry. Part of the problem comes because our anger feels so "righteous"—bad anger is very self-righteous. Our passionate desire to think well of ourselves, to assert and defend ourselves continually, gets in the way of seeing and facing our motives. This is where we must ask ourselves searching questions so we can uncover expectations that underlie our anger. The right questions will reveal our heart—what we crave, what we trust, what we hate, and what we love. Often our anger not only says we are going astray but who it is that is the center of our universe.

David Powlison, Good and Angry

Missionary of the Week

Kendra Stanford Team Expansion - India

Getting settled in India

The start of the summer consisted of moving back to India and beginning to set up my apartment there. It was also a time to reconnect with old friends, my Indian family, and meet with teams I could potentially work with moving forward. In having those talks, I came to the decision to join Team Expansion and work as a full member of their organization. While I'm thankful for the experiences and various projects I've been blessed to be part of serving in over the past 8 years with World Horizons, I know it's time to make a change and I'm excited to work with Team Expansion and be part of their team in India. I'm excited to see how God will continue to guide and work in this new season!



Attending Trainings

As part of my transition to working with Team Expansion, I've been taking some training courses at their international services office in Louisville as well as online. These courses have been beneficial for my own ministry development as well as facilitating opportunities for me to meet more of their staff and connect with their international support services workers. I'm so thankful for the way I've been welcomed into this new community as I join to move forward as a Team Expansion Recruit.

What's Next?

Moving forward, my longterm goal is still to pursue starting a marketplace ministry project in the form of a hair salon and training school in India. Starting this business will enable me to be more deeply connected in the local community and allow me to build deeper relationships and offer job skills training for women in the community while also having deeper spiritual conversations. I'm so excited to start this new chapter of ministry and return to be more rooted in India!

Prayer Requests

- Pray that God will be working in and through me while I'm in the US preparing to return to India. I'm thankful for opportunities to share my experiences and testimonies of God's goodness to encourage the local church.
- Pray for good unity and communication between me and my new teammates in Lucknow as I prepare to return and they prepare for my arrival. I'm thankful for

technology that allows us to connect and communicate as we plan.

• Pray that God will be preparing the hearts of the people He has for me to connect with as I make connections here in the US and when I return to India.

Praise Reports

- I'm thankful for God's guidance and direction in leading me back to life and ministry in India and in transition to work with Team Expansion.
- I'm thankful for safe journeys on my trips to Iraq and Turkey on my way back from India to the US. My time in Turkey was challenging but I'm thankful for God's timing and grace in allowing me to be there to support dear friends going through a time of shock and grief.
- I'm thankful for ways I've been able to connect with friends and family and for the opportunity to be a part of wedding celebrations for friends while I've been in the US working through paperwork in preparation for returning to India.

Kendra Stanford

real church as set forth in the NT is not a support group. It's not a social club or a counseling center. It's a family of redeemed sinners who have God as their Father through their union with Jesus Christ. It's a body knit together by the Holy Spirit so that together all are built up and strengthened and loved. Church is God's idea.

Nursery November 12 Babies:

Lynn Ernst, Beth Lewis, Jeanie Groover

Toddlers:

Michael & Karrie Walker **Preschoolers:**

Logan & Stacey Kelly

Nursery November 19 Babies:

Eleanor Bowden, Mary Fowler, Kay Stanford **Toddlers:**

Deborah Focht, Tricia Morris **Preschoolers:**

Brittany Hall, Elinor Morris

Right Now Media

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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

This Week at	FABC
Today Coffee Fellowship Morning Worship Evening Worship	9:45 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m.
Joy Class Men's Bible Study Women's Bible Study Deacons' Meeting	9:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Wednesda Supper: Pizza Adventure Club Youth Bible Study	5:30 p.m. 6:20 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:45 p.m.
Thursday Women's Bible Study	6:15 p.m.



Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.

Lockup Deacons for November

Howard Ernst, Ron Fowler

Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

"Systematic Theolog	y"	Fellowship Hall:	Bob Dimmitt
"Young Marrieds"		Gym Overhang:	Tom Keller
"How Do We View t	the Lord's Day?"	Youth House:	Steve Posner
"Rahab"		Organ Overflow:	Tamera Smith

Children and Students

Room 3:	Kay Stanford, Saundra Bridges
Room 24:	Susan Su, Deborah Focht
Room 25:	Michael & Ruth Kleinpeter
Room 28:	John and Pam Humphrey
Room 202:	Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills
Room 204:	Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton
Room 206:	Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion
Room 206:	Jessica Dimmitt, Avalon DeLoach
	Room 24: Room 25: Room 28: Room 202: Room 204: Room 206: